

Wildlife week 2007 — Zoo Outreach Organisation and Partners

Mysore Zoo celebrates Wildlife Week with a diversity of materials and activities.



Mysore Zoo is celebrating the wildlife week every year, thus organizing many programmes involving students, volunteers, general public, NGO's and resource persons. This year wildlife week celebrations included the following programmes from 1-7 October: 1. Free entrance to children, 2. Slogan contest, 3. Thematic painting, 4. Birthday celebrations, 5. Naming ceremony of young ones, 6. Bird watching at Karanji Lake, 7. Photography competition and exhibition.



Although mid term examinations cut into our programmes to an extent, we could celebrate the wildlife week quite successfully, creating awareness about zoo animals and conservation efforts. Zoo Outreach Organisation supplied education materials comprising packets on tiger, primates, monkey manners, bear, t-shirts, stickers and booklets on wildlife. These were made use of organizing educational programmes involving zoo volunteers, youth club members, students from Srikantha Balika Girls High School on 14th October

2007.

In the first instance one of our zoo volunteer Smt. Suma was provided with the guidelines and asked to organize a programme. All the members were given packets, booklets, stickers and t-shirt. They were divided into several groups. They tied rakhis and they marched round inside the zoo wearing masks and t-shirts. At 5 strategic points they presented lectures, dramas and played games, thus attracting the huge Sunday crowd, and spread the messages. Many were found to be enquiring about the programme and the students were totally enjoyed and thrilled. They were asked to retain the t-shirt and education materials. The media covered the programme. **Submitted by Vijay Ranjan Singh IFS, Executive Director, Mysore Zoo.**

Mussoorie Forest Division . Uttaranchal Forest Department observes Wildlife Week 2007

Mussoorie Forest division is a very crucial and important forest division of Uttaranchal forest Department, not only from the point of view of



forest resource but also from the point of view of large number of tourist destinations and educational institutions which are situated in every nook and corner of the forest division. As such the target group during the wildlife week were the students, teachers, parents, tourists and the villagers. This year i.e in 2007 the Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore extended special help to this division by providing several kinds of educational materials, posters, banners, painting books, T-Shirts etc. The materials sent to us by ZOO were judiciously used in several educational programmes held during the week. Several local NGOs and public figures were also invited during the programmes. The educational institutions of Mussoorie specially liked the Monkey Manners educational kits because ever increasing numbers of monkeys and langurs near human habitation has become a problem in Mussoorie.

Educational institutions/Villages participated:

- Suman Kayari Govt High School & Village Pradhan



Forest Protection Committee

- Nautha Block, Villagers & Forest Protection Committee
- Saraswati Shishu Mandir
- Govt. Inter College, Jakhdhar
- Junior High School, Sendul
- Thangaon Villagers & Forest Protection Committee
- Primary School, Mason/ Women Welfare Group
- Primary School, Suakholi/ Village head
- Primary School, Basagad
- Manav Bharti International School, Mussoorie
- Mussoorie Public school
- Oak Grove School, Mussoorie
- Mussoorie Hill Bird School
- Nirmala Devi School, Mussoorie
- Wineberg Allen school, Mussoorie
- Ghananand Govt College, Mussoorie
- R.N Bhargav College, Mussoorie
- Inner Wheel Club, Mussoorie

Submitted by: A.K. Banerjee, Divisional Forest Officer, Mussoorie, Uttaranchal. Email: b.arup@rediffmail.com

Wildlife Week Celebration in Cuddalore, 2007

We have organized wildlife week celebration in two schools in Cuddalore district. The first program was held on October 3rd in the government elementary school in Manthoppu village. This is a remote area where we have to walk at least one kilometer from



the bus stand. The school head master Mrs. Ratha and Panchayat councilor Mr. Suresh Kumar, two school teachers and more than 35 children from 5th and 4th class actively participated in the event. The students can't understand in English materials but they were interested to know about tool kits. Mr. Abraham lingan explained each packet including tiger toolkit, bats toolkit, amphibian ark, monkey manners, etc. Some children made a mini play about the wild animals and they danced as appropriate to the mask they wore. It was really very charming and the viewers enjoyed the entire program. At the end of the program the Head Master Mrs. Ratha shared her experience about animals.

The second program was held on October 4th in Government High School in Thazankuda, Cuddalore Taluk. The aim of the programme was to bring wildlife conservation awareness amongst school children and the public. It is the first time a wildlife program was organized in government schools.



Wildlife exhibition in Pondicherry University The Department of Ecology and Environmental Sciences organized Wildlife Week celebrations on October 7th. The keynote address was given by Mr. Theodore Baskaran. The department students organized an exhibition where they have displayed Zoo Outreach Organisation materials. Celebration in evening school: we have organized same program in 4 evening schools in three villages through volunteer. **Submitted by Abraham Lingam, Cuddalore. Tamil Nadu Email: ablingam@yahoo.co.in**

GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development observes Wildlife Week

A Biodiversity exposure and interpretation campaign was conducted on 6th Oct, 2007 the whole day in the Nature Interpretation Centre Kosi-Katarmal, Almora, (Uttarakhand). Students and Teachers made up the participants and Resource Persons were Scientists, Trained Teachers and Research Scholars. Dr. Upendra Dhar, Director, GBPIED, honoured the function.



The objective of the campaign was to make aware the youth (school children and teacher) on issues pertaining to Biodiversity Conservation. The specific emphasis was to inculcate interest among the school children for diversity of life in their immediate surroundings. Exposure visit of participants to the Nature Interpretation Centre (NIC) of the Institute was the main event. The resource persons (Institute researchers and trained teachers) explained various aspects of natural ecosystems and its components through on-site demonstrations. The visit was followed by various on-spot competitions for the students. Schedule of events included

- Subject about wildlife conservation
- Rakhi tying ceremony
- Exposure visit of NIC (Arboretum and Herbal garden), Drawing and painting competition
- Generate awareness about plant species and their uses, *Jal Hi Jeevan Hai* (Water is Life), *Vanya Jeev Sangrakshan* (Wildlife Conservation)
- Exposure visit of NIC (Arboretum and Herbal garden), Debate competition, Essay
- Generate awareness about plant species and their uses, Biodiversity conservation, Environmental Education
- Exposure visit of NIC (Arboretum and Herbal garden), Creativity (play/display), Extempore

- Generate awareness about plant species and their uses, conservation of biodiversity wildlife, awareness and capacity builders.

Acknowledgements: We acknowledge Zoo Outreach Organization for providing education materials and also sponsors: ALERTIS, Wildlife Conservation Society, Chester Zoo, World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, Awley, Apenheul, and IZE for their support. We sincerely thank the Director GBPIHED, Dr. Uppeendra Dhar, for support and encouragement. **Submitted by: Dr. R.S. Rawal, G. B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development, Kosi-Katarmal, Almora, Email: rsrawal.gbpihed@nic.in**

Field Orientation Programme on Hoolock Gibbon Conservation Organized

A three-day field orientation programme on Biodiversity Conservation with special reference to Hoolock gibbon was organized by Primate Research Centre NE India at Banashree Eco-camp, Guijan, Tinsukia from 12th to 14th October, 2007. The camp was organized in association with the Dibru Saikhowa Wildlife Conservation Society, Tinsukia with support from The Rufford Foundation. The main objective of the programme was to motivate youngsters with respect to biodiversity conservation. Hoolock gibbon was the focal point for this theme as it is a flagship species in Upper Assam. Thus dissemination information about the rich biodiversity of the region as well as the ecological service it provides to us could be done meaningfully.

About 80 student participants from different educational institutions in and around Hoolock gibbon habitat area like Digboi College, Margherita College, Makum College, Makum H.S. School, Kanoi College and Dibrugarh University attended the camp. Some teachers from these education institutions also participated in the programme.

At the informal inaugural function, Mr. Lalit Ch. Sarmah, noted artesian and nature lover welcomed participants and appealed to them to carry forward the message of conservation to local communities. Mr. H. N. Sarma, Principal, JB College Digboi spoke about the necessity of the local student community in conserving the rich diversity of life including cultural diversity. He appealed to the participants to come forward voluntarily to crusade for conservation. Dr. Jihosuo Biswas, Coordinator, Primate Research Centre NE India and the organizer of the programme spoke briefly on the biodiversity and its role in ecosystem functioning as well as the services it provided to us. He also presented slides on the present crisis of biodiversity loss and its implication on nature and how Hoolock gibbon can play a greater role as umbrella species in motivating the conservation of large landscapes. In the program, participants were taught about different aspects of biodiversity conservation using audio-visual aids and participatory activities to understand how nature

works. Some of these were food chain, concept mapping, role play, drama, debate, resource round up and evaluation, which was developed by Wildlife conservation Society and Zoo Outreach Organisation. Mr. Joynal Abedin of Dibru-Saikhowa Wildlife Conservation Society, Mr. Kripal Jyoti Mazumdar of Assam (Central) University, Mr. Rajeeb Rudra Tariatang of Margherita College, Ms. Ranjita Bania of Dibrugarh University, Mr. Arnob Bose of Nature's Foster, Mr. A. K. Das of Namdapha Tiger Reserve and Dr. Jihosuo Biswas of PRCNE acted as resource persons. In the closing ceremony a certificate was distributed and the participant took an oath to boost their commitment to nature.

Submitted by Jihosuo Biswas, Primate Research Centre NE India, Assam. <jihosuo@yahoo.com>