

Identification of plants, trees and birds

Some of our volunteers along with the help of experts have prepared a checklist of plants and tree species present in our zoo. Some have put together a checklist of birds and presented the same to the zoo. This not only adds to the knowledge of volunteers but also helps the zoo authorities in generating a database of uncaged species.

Visits to other zoos

As part of the Animal Keepers Training Programme this year, we had an opportunity to visit other zoos along with 5 animal keepers and an official. This enabled us to understand the various problems faced by different zoos in maintaining animals and visitors. We picked up some positive points from our visit and presented the same to the Director and Member secretary. They would discuss and if required implement some of the gathered information.

Teachers -training programmes and workshops

The Zoo takes initiation in conducting Teachers Training Programmes along with other Organisations. This year a three-day workshop was organised in association with the Centre for Environment Education at the Zoo. The aim of training the teachers is to reach out to more number of students. We help the zoo in organising such workshops and also participate in them.

We represent the zoo by attending workshops like the 'Teachers for Tigers' conducted by Zoo Outreach Organisation and Wildlife Conservation Society at Regional Natural History Museum and one at Ahmedabad 'Youth for Environment' organised by CEE and Asian Common wealth Society.

These are some of the activities, which have been regularised at the zoo. The idea behind writing this article was to encourage more youth groups and zoos to take up such initiatives. This not only helps zoos but also the individual volunteer. From my experience of nine years with this zoo, I feel these activities have become an important means to create awareness among the local public regarding Wildlife and Environment.

Our volunteer group is really happy to work with this institution and do our little bit in joining hands with the efforts of Mysore Zoo in conserving wildlife. I am thankful to Sri. Shivanna, Manager and our Director Sri. Kumar Pushkar who in spite of their busy schedule take a lot of interest and give us ample time to discuss about the programmes and support us in all the educational activities taken up here.

Animal Welfare Fortnightly with Zoo Outreach Organisation

The Animal Welfare Board of India conducts Animal Welfare Fortnightly every year in the last two weeks of January. Every year Zoo Outreach Organisation makes available educational materials to encourage zoos to take up "active learning" education programmes to engage children more fully.

This year we do not have any new packets to offer but we have more of the primate, bat, bear, tiger and behaviour materials left from Wildlife Week. You can try these materials on new groups of kids.

This year we would like to do everything by email, if possible, so if you want some of these materials, please email us and request a instruction letter and a form for ordering materials.

If you do not have email you could fax us or mail us but the time is short. Applicants who live far away from South India should allow extra time for their materials to be delivered.

The materials are without monetary cost but they are not free. We expect you to plan a proper programme for a group of kids or adults with a theme to fit the material you order. You should provide a lecture or presentation about the species or topic and for kids, organise games and activities using materials in the packets. You have to describe the programme in detail, give date, venue, target audience in your proposal and send it to us. You also must pay postage for the materials (never more than about Rs. 300/- and send us a Report, with press clippings and photographs. We will publish your report in one of our publications and you will be considered eligible to apply again for materials from us.

The materials we have for use during this event are :

Status of Bats of Indian Subcontinent - summary of CAMP workshop (for adult programme - you can order up to 35 booklets)

Status of South Asia Primates - summary of CAMP workshop (for adult programme - you can order up to 35 booklets)

Bats about Bats -- bat packet (for kids - you can order up to 100 packets, more in special cases.)



Primates in Peril -- Primate packet for older kids (you can order up to 100 packets, more in special cases.)

Primarily Primates - Primate packet for young kids (you can order up to 100 packets, more in special cases.)

Dare to Care for Bears - Bear packet (for kids - you can order up to 100 packets, more in special cases.)

Tiger Toolkit - Tiger packet (for kids - you can order up to 100 packets, more in special cases.)

Zoo Behaviour - packet for zoo patrol for kids (you can order up to 50 packets)

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