

Wildlife Week Reports

ATREE celebrated wildlife week

ATREE-Agasthyamalai Community-based Conservation Centre (ACCC) conducted drawing competition and procession on 5 October 2012 with the involvement of school students to mark the Wildlife Week. About 100 students from Government High School, Padmaneri, Tirunelveli participated in this event. Bat conservation theme was adopted since 2011-2012 has been declared as International Year of Bat. Drawing competition was conducted in the morning and afternoon a lecture on bats was delivered by Mathivanan, followed by Mr. Sekar, Deputy Director of Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR) who gave a talk on wildlife week and fauna of KMTR. The Deputy Director distributed the prizes to the winners of drawing competition and all participants received the bat kit, sponsored by the Zoo Outreach Organization. Following the ceremony saplings were planted in the school premise and later students participated in the procession on the theme of Bat conservation adorning bat badges and masks. The students voiced the slogans in the procession. After the procession, the School Head master Mr. Arumugam Pillai greeted the students.

Submitted by: M. Mathivanan, Coordinantor. Email: mathi@atree.org.



Students during bat conservation education procession

Wildlife Week Symposium at St. John's College, Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu

During wildlife week on 6 October 2012 a one-day environmental symposium on "Biodiversity Conservation" was held at St. John's College, Palayamkottai. St. John's College conducted this programme with the support from Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore. In this symposium, Mano College, Cheranmahadevi, Rani Anna Govt. College for Women, Sadakathullah

Appa College, St. John's College and Sarah Tucker College students participated. Dr. Manickam, Retd. Head of Tamil Dept. was the special guest. Prof. Selvin Samuel, Nature Club in charge and Head of Botany Dept. gave the welcome address and he spoke about the objectives of this symposium. In his speech he stressed about how biodiversity is important to human well being and development. Special guest talked about the Tamiraparani River's past and present situation and how the river is contaminated with sewage pollution.



Drawing competition on bats at ATREE programme

Prof. Dr. Suthakar Isaac, Dept. of Zoology gave a talk on pollinators. Small creatures such as butterflies, honeybees and beetles play a major role in pollination. Because of various men made catastrophes these creatures are disappearing fast. So he asked the students to take lead role to conserve these species. Mr. Ramesh, Nehaji Snake Trust, Madurai gave a talk about snakes. He spoke about the kinds of snakes, first aid when bitten by snakes with demonstration and conservation of snakes.

S. Marimuthu, Eco club member talked on the subject "Human Elephant Coexistence". In his talk he talked about types of elephants, distribution, behavior, conservation and do's and don't's in human elephant conflict areas in order to save their life. He asked the participants to try to coexist with elephants and other animals. After this, Mr. Mandiri Kumar Rajesh



College students participated in the wildlife week symposium

conducted a quiz competition on wildlife. Mr. Rajan conducted biodiversity conservation oath and Mr. Sudalaikannu gave vote of thanks. Mr. Marimuthu, Mr. Rajan and Mr. Sudalaikannu attended HECx work at Rajapalayam, Tamil Nadu. **Submitted by: S. Marimuthu, Student. Email: maniganesh.muthu@gmail.com**

Green Heart Nature Club, Assam-Wildlife Week Report

Green Heart Nature Club organized a programme themed "Saving Wildlife to Save the Earth- Our only home" at B.P.C.M Babyland English School, Kokrajhar on 16 October 2012. About 100 students participated. The School Principal Ms. Rina Muzumder inaugurated it and she gave a speech on "Role of Students and Teachers for conservation of Wildlife". Followed to this, Mr. Bablu Dey talked about the significance of wildlife week. He covered why wildlife week is being celebrated in each year? What is the significance of the day? Evolution of the species, role of wildlife in ecological balance, biodiversity of Northeast India as Hot Spot, endangered wildlife of Northeast and role of students in conservation of nature and wildlife. Then Zoo Outreach Organization's Daily life Wildlife packet was demonstrated. They were briefed about what are daily life wildlife, village wildlife and its need of conservation, biodiversity of NE India and species richness.

After that puzzles of cut and paste game, ABC quiz-fill in the blanks, question and answer session on wildlife of NE India and discussion on how students and teachers can play an

active role in conservation of wildlife, how they can take part in environment education through field programme etc. After discussion, IX & X students and teachers visited natural wetland and Chakrasilla Wildlife Sanctuary and Nayekgaon Forest to see and study the behavior of the Golden Langur.

Submitted by: Bablu Dey, Exe.Director. Email: ghncne@gmail.com

Chambal Conservation Initiatives, Gwalior, MP.

Wildlife Week was celebrated on 3 October 2012 by the Chambal Conservation Initiatives at the School of Studies in Environmental Science, Jiwaji University, Gwalior. A lecture on Wildlife Conservation in India was

given by the Dr. Faiyaz Ahmad Khudsar, Scientist In charge, Yamuna Biodiversity Park, University of Delhi. He spoke to Master of Environmental Science students about wildlife, need to protect our wildlife, it's importance in our life and the current status of critically endangered species of India.

Dr. Sitaram Taigor discussed various aspects of wildlife such as the importance of Gharial species for Riverine ecosystem, and how the presence of dolphin in a river system signals a healthy ecosystem etc. Since Gharial in the river is at the apex of the aquatic food chain, its presence in adequate numbers symbolizes greater biodiversity in the river system and helps keep the ecosystem in balance. After the talk painting competition for the middle class level students of Gurukul Vidhyadham Junior High School was organised and they made illustrations of various animals like tiger, crocodiles and vulture etc. They visited Gandhi Zoological Park, Gwalior in the field visit and saw wild animals and discussions held with them. Zoo Outreach Organization's education materials were given after the detailed demonstration. **Submitted by: Dr. Sitaram Taigor, Sec. General. Email: srt1979@gmail.com**

Nisargshala, Nashik, Maharashtra

Nisargshala, Nashik organized a programme during wildlife week at S. K. Pande Vidhyalaya and Jr. College, Chehdi. Mr. Bhorisir and Mr. Ghottekar welcomed the participants. After that Mr. Bhor distributed ZOO kits to eco

Participants wearing Dailylife Wildlife education materials



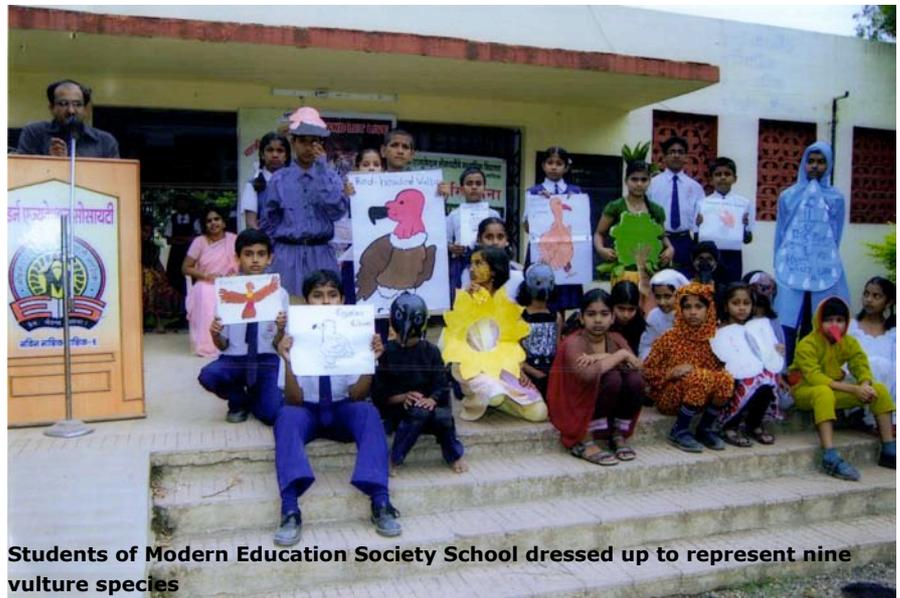


Gurukul Vidyadham students with Zoo's education kits

club students. Students talked about the importance of vulture, pollinators and other wildlife. Mr. Anil Mali explained the importance of biodiversity and how to save it. The school thanked the Zoo Outreach Organisation, Nisarghala and Wildlife Heritage Conservation Society for the support. **Submitted by: Ojas Mali, Nashik, Maharashtra**

Modern Education Society's Secondary School, Nashik

Wildlife Week was celebrated on 4 October. Head Mistress Mrs. Smita S. Gaidhani inaugurated the programme. After that Mr. Anil Mali explained about the importance of biodiversity and food chain. Then, the education kits were



Students of Modern Education Society School dressed up to represent nine vulture species



The importance of Vultures, Pollinators and other wildlife were told to the Nisarghala students

given to the nature club members. With the help of the kits the drawing competition was held on the theme "save the vultures". Followed this a fancy dress competition on wildlife was conducted. Nine students dressed up 9 types of vulture posters and gave the information about the habitat, food and importance of vultures in food chain. The winners of the competition were awarded with prizes. The school thanked Zoo Outreach Organization for the materials. **Submitted by: Anil Mali. Email: anilmali@yahoo.co.in**

Wildlife Week Celebrations at Madras Veterinary College, Chennai

The "Wildlife Club" of Department of wildlife science, Madras Veterinary College celebrated Wildlife Week-2012 along with the students of Madras

Veterinary College to reiterate the need of conservation of wildlife. A weeklong programme was designed with various activities to have active participation of students in every event.

On 3 October, "wildlife quiz" was organised for the 10 std. students of Baynes Memorial Baptist Church Matric. HSSchool, Vepery. A total number of 34 students participated to make the event grand success. Students enjoyed this activity and were highly engrossed and keen to know more about the conservation of the endangered species. On 4 October 2012, an "Essay Writing competition" (topic: Conservation of wildlife) was conducted for the students of Madras Veterinary College, Chennai. Pencil drawing competition was held on 5 October 2012. Nearly

23 students participated in this event to draw on the theme- "Wild animals in their habitat". This event was followed by Collage on the same day with the broader theme of "Wild animals". On 8 October 2012, Wildlife written quiz was organized with 48 students for the students of Madras Veterinary College, Chennai.

On 18 October 2012 valedictory function was held at Madras Veterinary College, Chennai. Dr. R. Thirumurugan, Zoo Veterinarian, Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur delivered a guest lecture on "captive wild animal management" during this function to elucidate interest on *Ex-situ* conservation of wild animals among budding vets. Dr. M.G. Jayathangaraj, Professor and Head, Department of Wildlife Science offered welcome address. The Conservator of Forests and Director of Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur, Mr. K.S.S.V.P. Reddy, I.F.S presided over the function and distributed prizes and certificates to the event winners. The Dean, Faculty of Basic Sciences, Dr. S.A. Asokan, offered felicitations and released 4 E-guide's and digital guides for the vets viz., Chemical immobilization of Captive Lioness, Blood Sampling and Trunk Wash Techniques in Elephant (*Elephas maximus*), Restraint Procedures and Blood -Sampling in Small Indian Kite (*Milvus migrans*), Physical Restraint and Blood Sampling Techniques in Mugger Crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*). Dr K. Senthilkumar, Assistant Professor offered vote of thanks. Awareness was ultimately made on the significance of conservation of wild fauna during this



Chief guest with prize winners at Madras Veterinary College during wildlife week celebration

wildlife week celebrations. **Submitted by: Dr. K. Senthil Kumar, Asst. Professor. Email: drsenthil72@hotmail.com.**

Other Reports: Nethaji Snake Trust, Usilampatti conducted HECx programmes

On 18 September 2012, Nethaji snake trust conducted Human Elephant coexistence programme at Saurashtra College, Madurai. Students from American College, Meenakshi Women College, Madura College and Saurashtra College participated in this one-day interactive workshop. Dr. Ramnath, Principal inaugurated the workshop. Students were taught about brain map, attitude assessment, the facts about Asian and African elephants, past and present Asian elephant ranges through map activity, dramas on elephant habitat loss and habitat improvement, do's and don't's near elephant habitats. At the end of the day the assessments were done again to test their knowledge improvement on the subject. They took an oath to coexist with elephants. They were awarded with certificates.

One more HECx programme was conducted at Megamalai (High Wavy Mountains) in Theni district on 23 September 2012. It was conducted at R.C. Church, Manalaru. About 30 villagers participated in the programme and Mr. Alex, Father inaugurated the one day workshop. The workshop agenda was same as Madurai programme. At the end of the day they took an oath to coexist with elephants and will follow the do's and don't's which were taught in the

ZEN
ZOO Educator Network



Mini drama on Human Elephant Coexistence conducted by Madurai College students

workshop. Our thanks are to Zoo Outreach Organisation for the training and the education materials.

Submitted by P. Ramesh. <ramesh_nsrc@yahoo.com>

UN Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020. Inauguration of Biodiversity Club - 2012

The Biodiversity Club was inaugurated at Krishnammal Ramasubbaiyer School, TVR Nagar, Madurai on 19 October 2012 with the Prayer song by students. Mrs. M. Shanthy, Principal gave the Welcome Address. The chief guest Dr.G.R.Balakrishnan, Advisor of SLF addressed that he never respected a person who never respected the life of others. He was happy about the inauguration of the BIODIVERSITY CLUB in the school. He wanted the club to



A pollinator awareness programme conducted during the inauguration of biodiversity club

function with true spirit and not as a ritual. He sadly recollected an incident about a dog, which was knocked down in the road and ignored by all. Then Mrs. Jessie Jayakaran, member of ZOO's Educator Network, delivered her introductory speech. She greeted the gathering on behalf of Zoo's Educators Network, in the name of nature. She said that God, man and nature are interlocked tightly as a triangle. We should take one step forward and act as co-creators of God to protect nature. Concern is the basic foundation for loving nature. Everyone 'cares', but children to inculcate 'compassion' rather than 'care'. So concern, care and compassion are the 3Cs needed for the Biodiversity Conservation. She promised that every participant of the day program could see a behavioral shift among the students in near future who have concern for nature and act without affecting the feelings of others.

The 4 decades of U.N. initiations were clearly explained. The day was an unforgettable day because of the inauguration of the Biodiversity Club on the concluding session of the congress on Biodiversity Conservation held at Hyderabad, India. Badges on Biodiversity gifted by Jessie Jeyakaran were pinned to the President - Lakshmi Priya B and Secretary - Anukumar G of the KRS Biodiversity Club by the Chief Guest.

The Pollinator kits supplied by Zoo Outreach Organization and sponsored by Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, USA were distributed to the members. Students were instructed to wear all the bands, tag, besides holding the placard. Various questions were asked to the students. She explained in detail the different kinds of pollinators with the booklet. Posters were of great use. The percentage and the significance of Pollinators seem to be the exciting area of

the day's programme. Students were exposed to activities like interactive sessions, role-play on -no pollinator, no plant, no food, no survival etc. All the 9 pollinators were clearly explained. On the spot question session about the tag was so interesting. Winner was given the post cards received from ZOO. Follow up activities like observation of bees, butterflies, wasp in the school garden, at home and at school were given. Future plan of tree plantation and the setting up of the garden to attract the pollinators was the target of the institution. The sessions came to an end with the following slogans: Pollinators ... learn a lesson from them; Green the mind; green the earth; Spare your time and talent for environmental protection i.e. Pollinator's protection; Self correction is the best correction; Do not tease pollinators. The best student performers of the day were: Komuk, C ; Karthigai Priyanka, S; Aravindhakshan, M.S.; Sasirekha, N, Kavin Raghav, S. and Mrs. Girija, R of 8 Std. Recording Secretary and Mrs. Ann, the Teacher coordinator did their best. The discussions about the follow up with the Chief Guest and the Principal reveal that this Biodiversity Club will be a model to others. The day's program was published in Dinamalar on the next day itself.

Vulture Awareness Programme at Chennai School

A wildlife awareness programme was conducted on 15 Oct. to the students of Sri R.K.M. Saratha Vidya H.S.S. Chennai. Knowing about the vulture seems to be an exciting topic for the students as they struggled to differentiate between eagle and vulture. Slowly the habit and habitat of vultures were explained. They were thrilled to know that vultures are the largest bird feeding on chiefly on dead animals. The keen eyesight with well developed sense of smell besides common dining were the area of unknown side for the participants. The habit of living at the top of the mountains, bathing after the meals flying for a long time with straight wings is of special characters. The students were thrilled to know that the unexpected decline of vultures due to anti inflammatory pain killer diclofenac which is extensively used for cattle treatment and low breeding rate. After knowing the decline due to the usage by the Animal Husbandry department the participants decided to gather the news, and spread through cultural program not to use diclofenac for cattle. They thanked the Zoo Outreach Organization for the materials. Mrs. Kannaki Prabahaar, the H.M. thanked the coordinator and gave guidance to the students. **Submitted by: Ms. Jessie Jeyakaran. Email: jessiejey@rediffmail.com.**



Students going through the information in vulture flash cards