

## Wildlife Week 2013 Reports

### Tata Steel Zoological Park, Jhamshepur, Jharkhand

TSZ Park celebrated the 59th National wildlife week by organizing various educational awareness programmes from 1-6 October, 2013. Shri K.K. Chatterjee, Regional CCF, Singhbhum, inaugurated it in the presence of Mr. P.R. Prasad, Hon. Secretary, Tata Steel Zoological Society and Shri. K.Z. Bhutiya, DFO, Dhalbhum Division, Jamshedpur. While addressing the audience the RCCF emphasized on the need to conserve our wildlife and how zoos can stand up to the occasion by educating the visitors and public in general. He mentioned that Tata Steel Zoological Park is doing a great service towards educating the people on Indian wildlife and for its long-term conservation. Then the delegates gave away best eco-club teacher award, prizes for essay writing competitions winners and annual performance award for zoo personnel. The topic of the essay writing competition was "Role of plants as a water conservator" in



**Shri K.K. Chatterjee, RCCF, Singhbhum inaugurating the celebrity**

English and Hindi. Eighty one students from 28 schools participated. Rotary Club of Jamshedpur Main and Management Trainees, Tata Steel coordinated.

The next day, walk for awareness (Prabhat Pheri) was held in the city. The objective was to spread awareness on the necessity of conservation of forests, wildlife

and nature in general. Mr. K. N. Venkatachalam, an ardent Zoo lover flagged off it. One hundred and fifty students, teachers, zoo personnel participated in the procession. Later during the day in collaboration with Inner Wheel Club of Jamshedpur Main, an inter school debate competition was organized on the topic- "*Natural water bodies in cities and their vicinity are a bane or boon for wild*



**Fancy dress competition: Students emulated as wild and domestic animals**





**Participants of on the spot drawing competition with education material**

animals!". 38 students from 14 different schools participated in both the English and Hindi debate put together. On the 3rd day, an interschool quiz competition was organized in collaboration with Rotary Club of Jamshedpur Steel City on the topic-"Wildlife and Nature Conservation". A total of 54 students from 16 schools took part. The quiz was focused on Tata Steel Zoological Park, Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks, wild animals and plants and acts and rules enacted for protection of wildlife in this country.

The fourth day was an interschool slogan writing competition organized in collaboration with Inner Wheel Club of Jamshedpur ZEST. A total of 52 children

representing 9 schools participated. The topic was "The relation between water, forest and wildlife". A Fancy Dress Competition was held on 5th Oct. in collaboration with Lions Club of Jamshedpur Steel City (Main). Theme of the competition was to emulate wild animals and plants, but many students also tried to emulate domestic animals like rabbit, horse, cat etc. 118 students participated from 10 schools. On 6 Oct. on the spot painting competition was held in collaboration with Acharjyo Nandalal Bose Art Gallery, The Bengal Club, Bhartiya Dangi Sangh, Jamshedpur, PepsiCo International and Zoo Outreach Organization. There were four groups and themes. Junior

category- An animal; Primary category- Monkey Family; Middle category- Daily life Wildlife; Senior category- Elephant Landscape.

Like last year, we distributed the materials of Zoo Outreach Organization to the participants before the programme to enhance their creativity and also to generate awareness about their topic as well as biodiversity. The output was as expected, the materials helped their imaginations take flight and it came down on paper in beautiful colours. The material made the programme more beneficial because of its pictorial description and other supportive data added with each material, which created enthusiasm among the participants. 426 children from 55 schools participated

Another important event, which took place on the closing day, was naming the leopard cubs. Students participating in the painting competition put their suggested names in a drop box. Out of these suggested names the jury and guests selected Albastross, Bobby and Satya. The events were coordinated by Dr. M. Palit Dy. Director; Mr. S. K. Mahato, Curator; Miss. Jayashree Ram Mohan, Zoo Volunteer.

**Submitted by: Ms. Seema Rani, Biologist cum Education Officer. Email: cmarani00@rediffmail.com.**

### **Conservation of Nature Society, Calicut, Kerala**

CNS celebrated wildlife week from 2-8 October 2013 by arranging various activities to promote wildlife conservation. On the first day we conducted an awareness programme on the theme "Pollinators" at Botanical Gardens in Olavanna. Also organized programmes at Indian Institute of Spices on 3 and 4 Oct. The Society representatives participated in the seminar 'Wildlife Trade Scenario in India' organized by Forest Department and Zoological Survey of India. The threats faced by the animals in the pet shops including



wild birds were also a main subject. A programme based on ZOO material was conducted.

The 4th Oct being the Animal Day & the Elephant Day, the Society organized a programme at Regional Science Centre mainly concentrating on the ZOO materials like Freshwater Biodiversity & other materials. Press actively participated. The organisers thanked Zoo Outreach Organisation and the sponsors for their well-planned materials. On 5 Oct a pollinator programme was organized at Agriculture Training Centre in Calicut for the farmers as the farmers are destructing them as they feel many pollinators are threat to the agriculture. Their misconceptions about pollinators were cleared through this programme. On 6 and 7, organized wildlife conservation awareness programmes in Waynad area for the people to understand the threats to the Western Ghats like destruction of forests, wildlife as resorts and huge rise buildings come up in the there which includes Waynad airport. ZOO's Freshwater Biodiversity packets were very much useful here. The participants were happy about the recent District Court order to the Kerala Forest Department, which ordered that all monkeys, which are roaming in the city areas, might be captured and re-habilitated in the Forests of Western Ghats (Wayanad town). We have considerably reduced the feeding of the monkeys after our previous programmes. On 8-10-2013 there was a discussion among the society members with regard the help that can be done for the Parashinikadavu Snake Park in Kannur District.

**Submitted by Mr. Vinod Kumar Damodar. Email: mspca5@hotmail.com**

### **Sundarvan, Ahmedabad, Gujarat**

From 2-8 October Sundarvan organized various activities such as exhibition of wildlife photographs, photography



**Students with elekit and primate pocket guide at the Calicut program**



**Wildlife photographic exhibition at Sundarvan**

workshop, face/body painting, snake and bat awareness programmes, expert talk on reptiles, nature watch at Polo forest and quiz and drawing competition for schools. A photographic exhibition of Mr. Mukesh Acharya, Mr. Malhar Raj Jingar, Mr. Kedar Champhekar, Ms. Sneha Dharwadkar, Mr. Jiten Shah was open to the public during wildlife week. Information such as name of the animal or plant, status in the wild and other interesting facts were provided along with the photographs. The exhibition was well received by the visitors. Mr. Mukesh Acharya,

Wildlife Photographer, shared his experience with a group of people who had enrolled for a wildlife photography workshop on 2 Oct. An activity of making tattoos of different animals on face or hands of visitors was carried out on 2, 5 and 6 Oct.

Activities conducted through the week included snake awareness programme and a bat awareness programme on 4 Oct. A nature watch trip was organized to Polo forest, where in 20 participants joined us on 6 Oct. An interesting and informative talk on reptiles was done by Mr. Soham Mukherjee





**Pench Tiger Reserve conducted drawing competition**



**Final round of quiz competition at PTR**



**Competition winners were awarded with plant sapling at PTR**

shared his wide range of experience with different reptiles of India and abroad with a group of interested participants. Quiz on

Indian wildlife and a drawing competition with the theme "Going, Going, Gone" was conducted for school students and

prizes and certificates were given to the participants who got first three places. **Submitted by: Mr. S. Sivakumar and Ms. Meena Nareshwar. Email: sundarvan@ceeindia.org**

### **Pench Tiger Reserve, Seoni, Madhya Pradesh**

PTR celebrated wildlife week during 1-7 October 2013. We conducted drawing and painting, elocution, bird watching and quiz competitions for the junior as well as senior level students. We gave the ZOO materials as a prize to the competition winners after explaining about them. Some other activities we arranged were: Wildlife week messages of Chief Minister and Forest Minister were sent to Eco Committees and Panchayats surrounding the National Park. Free entry was given to all the visitors visiting National Park during wildlife week. Video show about wildlife conservation was screened near National Park's villages. Wildlife week's programme's and wildlife conservation news were given to local print media. Oath was taken to conserve wildlife and nature by students, participants, their parents and others. We also used ZOO material to create awareness among school children about biodiversity conservation. We found the material was very useful. Thanking you for sending the materials and we expect further cooperation. **Submitted by: Field Director. Email: dirpenchNP@mpforest.org**

### **Kambam, Ilamanur and Madurai in Tamil Nadu Schools**

*Programme-1.* Thirty students of Nalanda Matriculation School, Kambam underwent a preparatory session on 10 Oct. The students were explained about biodiversity and its kinds followed by Freshwater Biodiversity and facts about Western Ghats (Sahyadri). As the school is situated in a green area all the students know the names of insects, snails, fish besides the hydrophytes. After a small break all were taken to



Mullai Periyar riverbed in Lower Camp to view and study about 2 kms length of water body, fish, snails, various types of plants, insects etc., collected water samples in different places, collected fish and observed the types, collected dried leaves and clarity test was conducted with the help of the empty container of GREEN water monitoring container and distributed the packets supplied by ZOO. Comparative study of the real situation with the cover page was done. Sponsors were explained.

Tying up of the rakhi, putting up mask and holding the placard were of special interest of the students. As the first 8 pages of the booklet were dealt with in the classroom, Jessie Jeyakaran, the programme coordinator, conducted the rest. She explained about the IUCN and ZOO and after that assignments were given. Short term: observation of dragonfly and damselfly, snail in the campus and paper model of animals of the Freshwater Biodiversity was done. A. Karthikeyan, G. Nagasunder, and S. Subitcha received the prizes for on the spot answers. Students identified the types of plants and fishes on the riverside. The day's programme was published in all the newspaper. The school's Managing committee members Mr. G.Viswanathan, Mr. Sudhahar, Teacher coordinators Nirmala, Subashini and Mr. Jeyakaran, the Rtd. Deputy Registrar of M.K. University, Madurai witnessed the programme. Thanks to Zoo Outreach Organisation for taking a special initiative on Freshwater Biodiversity Conservation-Sahyadri. The more information and impressive educational packet prepared by ZOO has taken the participants to achieve real knowledge. Our sincere thanks to IUCN GSPFBU and ZOO for sowing the seeds in the young minds. The sponsor - Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund-effort is of no waste because the materials will always be fresh in all ways.



**Mr. Dinesh Kumar, student of Pandian Neduncheziyan school reads the bat information**

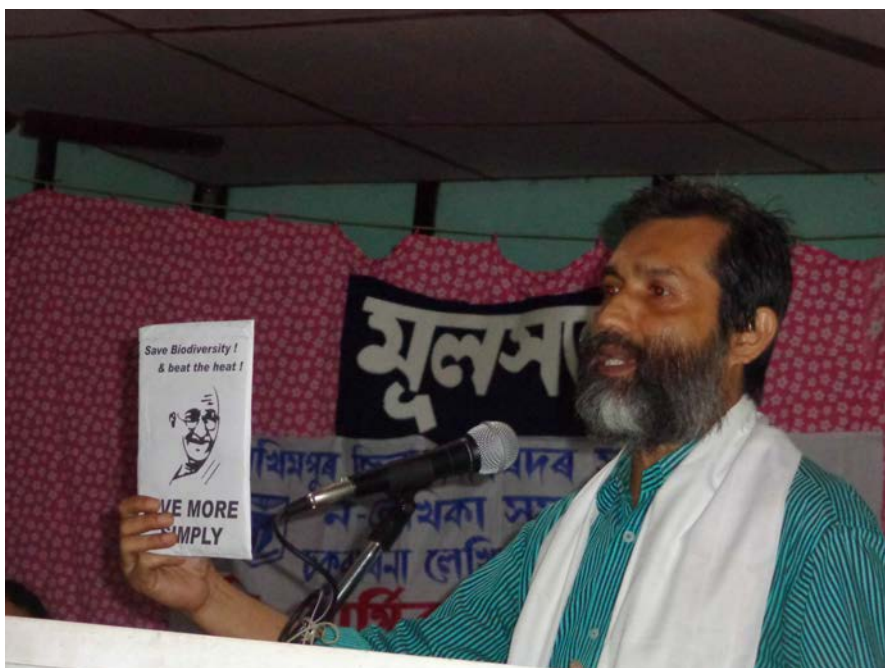


**Nalanda Matric. students were taken to study about freshwater biodiversity**



**Live More Simply programme conducted on Gandhi Jayanthi at Ilamanur School**





**Mr. Debojit Phukan, Megamix Nature Club explaining about LMS packet**

*Programme-2.* During the Gandhi Jayanthi various programmes were going on in the community. One of the Panchayat Union Middle Schools situated in Ilamanur, in Madurai district where the 25 students were so eager to undergo training besides carry out the follow up was coined for the programme. Mrs. Shanthikaleeswari, the Headmistress welcomed the participants. The Eco club coordinator read the follow-up of the programme, which he attended in the month of July ie. The Campus Ecology. The Eco club students along with the coordinator and Mrs. Vijayalakshmi the Biology teacher collected the campus ecology data and submitted the report too. It is so well collected and the way they presented was excellent. With a note on Gandhiji's principles the packets on Live More Simply (LMS) supplied by Zoo Outreach Organisation were distributed and the contents of the same were taught step by step. Students were divided into groups and the teachers with much interest explained about the packet items. Before they disperse for an activity they had a clear idea on wild animals, tamed animals and the animals visiting our houses daily.

The coordinator gave small projects on water and plants. Saplings were planted in the campus besides a technical session about the trees. They took an oath that they would be the catalyst.

*Programme-3.* During the Year of Bat 2011 and 2012 many awareness programmes on biodiversity conservation were conducted. But the threats remain...Whenever we come across things like this we do remember Zoo Outreach Organisation and thank them for their tireless work to save this species. The free materials on bats supplied by them were of more useful during the Wildlife Week 2013 celebration in Pandian Nedunchelian Corporation H.S.S. Madurai. Nearly 50 students participated. Mr. Arumugam, the Agriculture Officer of Uzhavar Sandhai gave a brief note on natural food to animals including man. He also insisted on taking vegetarian food and added that many of the fruits available in the markets are the foods of birds and other animals.

Mrs. Murugeswari, the Headmistress welcomed the participants and distributed the

packets. The cover page description itself revealed most of the points for discussion. The rakhi, mask, placard, sticker and the booklet were so informative. The Truth and the Untruth were of much interest. In order to know the information in depth the material was translated in to Tamil by Jessie Jeyakaran and read by Dinesh Kumar and students took notes of it. Mr. P. Nagaratnam the Eco Club coordinator of Thiru. Ve. Ka. Corp. H.S.S. greeted the students for their response. Mr. N. Narayanan, well wisher of the school presented saplings to be planted in the campus. The Headmistress assured that the day's programme would be shared on the next day to all the students with the inauguration of Eco-garden. The day's programme was published in Maalai Malar newspaper on the next day.

**Submitted by: Mrs. Jessie Jeyakaran. Email: [jessiejey@rediffmail.com](mailto:jessiejey@rediffmail.com)**

#### **MEGAMIX Nature Club, Dhakuakhana, Assam**

We celebrated the 59th National Wildlife Week by targeting the school pupils and women writers. First event was held on 'Gandhi Jayanti' day at Pachim Dhakuakhana Girls High School. About 80 students representing Pachim Dhakuakhana Girls High School and Pachim Dhakuakhana Higher Secondary School including 8 teachers attended the training. Merely not presenting about the wildlife matters, the event designed for such a type so that the target audience became more deeply informed about A to Z of wildlife. For the cause we provided training programme for education and conservation of biological diversity. We began at three levels of biodiversity i.e., ecosystem or habitats, species or life form and genetic level. Finally the presentation cum interaction ended at the deep of interrelationship among the plants, animals and microbes where wildlife got its highlight. Trainers were Mr. Debojit Phukan and

Mr. Mriganabh Gogoi of 'Megamix' and Mr. Niran Dutta and Kabiraj Pegu from Assam Forest Dept. of Lakhimpur division.

On 6 Oct. I was invited for a wildlife talk in the two days biennial event of Dhakuakhana Branch of "Assam Women Writers Association". I demonstrated the ZOO's education packets of wildlife and others where young and senior women writers were the audience. On the last day, a programme was held at Pub Dhakuakhana High School and collaborated by the 'Eco-club' and the DNA club of the school. Thirty-five students of both clubs and 7 teachers attended.

Biodiversity education and conservation was the topic. At the end, the students were trained to survey the richness of biodiversity.

**Submitted by: Mr Debojit Phukan. Email: phukan.debojit@redifmail.com**

#### **Jiwaji University, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh**

The School of Studies in Zoology, Jiwaji University in collaboration with Department of Environmental Sciences and Gandhi Zoological Park, Gwalior organized Wildlife Week Celebrations during 2-8 October 2013. On the first day of the wildlife week, a visit was arranged to the Gandhi Zoological Park, for the students and research scholars of Department of Zoology and Environmental Sciences. The students were provided with the information about the management and various aspects about the animals present in the zoo. On the second day of the wildlife week, a lecture was given by the Prof. R. J. Rao, entitled "Wildlife conservation - Role of IUCN", for Post-graduate and research students. Third day students were taken to National Chambal Sanctuary and Deori Gharial Rearing Centre. Practical training on handling of crocodiles and turtles has been given to the students.



**Jiwaji University Zoology students with ZOO materials**



**Gandhi Zoological Park organized a snake awareness programme**

A seminar was organized on the theme "Wildlife Protected Areas in India" on the 4th day. Students gave presentations enlightening various aspects of conservation and management of wildlife through protected areas in India. An exhibition on the postal stamps, collected by Sri Sharma, CCF, Gwalior, showing wildlife has been displayed including posters on wildlife research studies. Education material provided by ZOO, Coimbatore was distributed to the participants. To mark the 5th day, a snake show was organized at the Gandhi Zoological Park, Gwalior. The show lasts for about one hour and Prof. R.J. Rao and Dr. S.K. Mittal; Zoo Director

provided the students as well as spectators with valuable information regarding snakes.

Training on "Wildlife Management and Interpretation of Zoos" was held at Gandhi Zoological Park, Gwalior on the 6th day for the students. Dr. S. K. Mittal, Zoo Director and I emphasized on the importance of wildlife management and conservation and also on the forest conservation as they provide the vital habitat for the wildlife. They also enumerated that it is the indispensable responsibility of all the citizens of the society to play their role in wildlife protection, conservation and management. At the last day, an essay and a quiz





**Shri. Anil Paranjpe leading the Oath taking session**



**Zoo education kits introduced to the participants**

competition was organized for the students. **Submitted by: Prof. R. J. Rao. Email: soszool@rediffmail.com**

### **The Veermata Jijabai Bhosle Udyan-Zoo, Byculla, Mumbai, Maharashtra**

On 1 October the Wildlife Week flagged off with a pledge taking ceremony led by Shri. Anil Paranjpe, Education-cum-PRO. The Municipal School teachers along with the visitors took oath and promised to "value and conserve the wildlife of our country". Also, the pledges written in Marathi, Hindi and English were displayed at the entrance gate

throughout wildlife week for the visitors to see and take oath. Followed by a zoo awareness programme conducted for Municipal School Teachers & Beat Officer from 'H (West)' ward. The programme included an introductory lecture, zoo guided tour & presentations. In all 20 teachers & two Beat Officers participated.

A day-long workshop was organized on 2 Oct. for 40 4<sup>th</sup> year B.V.Sc. & A.H students and two professors of Bombay Veterinary College, Parel to understand concepts of modern zoo-keeping, enclosure design, care & treatment

of zoo animals and education. The participants took an oath and followed by an introductory lecture in which brief idea about objectives and purpose of modern zoos was given. Further a guided tour of the zoo campus was conducted and the participants were given information about the various zoo animals and also about management and upkeep of the zoo animals and the facilities provided to them. Dr. Komal Raul, Veterinary Officer gave a presentation-cum-lecture on the topic "Animal Health Care and Diagnostics" and Shri. Anil Paranjpe gave a presentation on educational activities of the zoo. Dr. Sanjay Tripathi delivered a presentation on "Restraining & immobilization of zoo animals". The students were shown and explained about different equipments used for animal restraining like tranquilizing gun, syringes, darts, blow pipe, surgical skin staplers, endotracheal tube, etc. The students expressed that the workshop was highly beneficial to them as they came to know about various techniques about the treatment of wild animals in the zoo as well as role of a zoo as a conservation breeding and educational centre. They also expressed their wish to come and help zoo officials voluntarily whenever required.

ZOO education packets "Save Biodiversity & beat the heat" and "Daily Life Wildlife" was used in zoo awareness programme and in the veterinary students training. Information on how to use the materials for creating empathy and awareness about Daily Life Wildlife and environment in general was given to the teachers and students. The teacher participants expressed that the material is highly useful for conducting awareness programmes in their schools. Zookeepers training programme phase-II started on 3 October 2013. A total of 26 animal keepers participated. Shri. A.M. Anjankar, Director (Zoo)



delivered a lecture on the topic "Role of Animal Keepers as per the new Master Plan of V.J.B. Udyan & Zoo". A guided tour was conducted on 4 October 2013 for 10 members of the Dignity Foundation, Mumbai. The education officer and director interacted with the participants and imparted information about new developmental works being taken up by the M.C.G.M. Administration as per the new Master Plan of V.J.B.Udyan & Zoo.

**Submitted by Mr. A.M. Anjankar, Director. Email: vjbudyanzoo@yahoo.co.in**

### **Bharathiar University-Zoology Department, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu**

Postgraduate students of Zoology Department and Nature Club of Bharathiar University organized wildlife awareness programme at Kalveerampalayam Higher Secondary School, on 4 October 2013 for 50 students. School Headmaster inaugurated it and Ms. Divya and Ms. Sasikala highlighted the importance of wildlife conservation in special reference to Asian elephants. They insisted students to improve their knowledge about nature and its values and threats faced by human elephant conflicts in Tamil Nadu. They made all students to think about importance of wildlife conservation.

After that wildlife games were played in order to understand habitat degradation in forest areas. Human-elephant coexistence awareness materials were contributed by Zoo Outreach Organization, which made the students involvement better during the sessions. Winners were awarded with prizes. Finally pledge was taken not to destroy elephant habitats and nature.

**Submitted by: Mr. Salahudeen. Email: salaonmail@gmail.com**



**Kalveerampalayam school students with primate poster and pocket guide**



**HECx programme at the school**

### **Pilikula Biological Park, Mangalore, Karnataka**

The wildlife week 2013 celebration was inaugurated by Sri. J.R. Lobo, MLA, Mangalore South presided by Dr. Sanjay Bijjur, IFS, CCF, Mangalore; Sri Ajith Kumar Hegde, K.S.A.S, Commissioner, Mangalore City Corporation, Mangalore; Sri. Harish, President Taluk Panchayath, Mangalore; Smt. Shambhavi, President, Gram Panchayath, Moodushedde were the other Chief Guests. Sri. S. Krishnamurthy K.A.S, Executive Director, Dr. Shivaram Karanth Pilikula Nisarga Dhama welcomed the gathering and H.J. Bhandary,

Director, Pilikula Biological Park spoke about the importance of wildlife week celebration.

The essay and collage competition were held in three categories; Drawing and fancy dress competition were held in 5 categories; Photography competition was held in general. Nearly 500 children from schools of Mangalore and distant places like Udupi, Bhrmavar, Puttur, Sulia and Honnavar attended this programme. Budding artists exhibited their versatile talent at art via the drawing and fancy dress competition. The quiz





Colleges on the theme wildlife and nature

competition saw eager participants trying to answer the question centered on bats, eagles, bears, pollinators, primates and other endangered animals. Educational kits supplied by Zoo Outreach Organization were distributed to the winners and all the participants. Sri. H.J. Bhandary, Director of the Biological Park thanked Zoo Outreach Organization for providing educational kits.

The new primate enclosure and other visitors amenities like kiosk, resting place, hi-tech washroom were inaugurated by Sri. B. Ramanath Rai, Honorable Minister

for Forest, Ecology and Environment was presided by Sri. K. Abhaya Chandra Jain, Honorable Minister for Youth Services and Fisheries. The winners were honoured with awards, educational kits and certificates

Free Vaccination camp was held on 7 Oct. for dogs and cattles at Moodushedde Gram Panchayath Office premises. Nearly 20 dogs and 30 cows have been vaccinated. **Submitted by: Mr. H. J. Bhandary, Director.**  
**Email: pilikulazoo@gmail.com.**



Sri. B. Ramanath Rai, Hon. Minister inaugurating the primate enclosure



Students with study materials provided by the Zoo Outreach Organisation.



### Sepahijala Zoological Park, Tripura

The Wildlife Week, 2013 was celebrated in a befitting manner in the whole state of Tripura. The Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary and Zoological Park celebrated the whole week in a commendable manner. The programme had many events such as Sit and Draw competition, Marathon Race, Prabhat Feri, Debate and Quiz competition, Wildlife Talk Show and Tug of War. In the closing ceremony the best zookeepers and staff of the Sepahijala Zoological Park were rewarded with Induction stove and a Certificate issued by Dr. A.K.Gupta, IFS, PCCF & CWLW and Mr. K.G. Roy, Director, Sepahijala Zoological Park for their good performances during the previous year. **Submitted by: Mr. K.G. Roy, Director. Email: dszoo141@gmail.com**

### Crysalis School, Yelehanka, Bangalore on a nature tour to learn about Biodiversity

Twenty students (class 5-7) and two school staff of Crysalis School, Yelehanka, Bangalore were taken to Nandigodu in Shimoga district of Karnataka, which comes under



Crysalis school students playing food web game

Western Ghats from 13-18 October. The resource persons were Mr. Mani, Ms. Komal, Mr. Srinidhi Kashyap and myself.

On the first day we made the students how to fix tents in the wild and made them to learn more about the survival in jungles and forests, then we also laid the pit fall traps to study how the forest floor is used by different forest dwelling species at three different places, then on the same day I made them to play activities like

animal behavior and web of life.

On the second day I took them for early morning bird watching and then students played different activities related to nature, after the lunch I took a class on Fresh Water Biodiversity of Western Ghats (The Sahyadri) with the help of the ZOO kits. In the evening we took the students to Sharavaty back waters and explained different issues related to the construction of huge dams and the biodiversity near the water in field.

### Wildlife valedictory at Sepahijala Zoo, Tripura







**Freshwater biodiversity session**



**Pollinators session**

On the third day I took them for a butterfly walk in the morning and on the same day I explained about the pollinators kit after the insects session taken by Mr. Srinidhi, students were more interested on insects so, we took them to field and made them to observe beetles, flies, butterflies, etc. which helps in pollination.

On the last day we took them for trekking in the morning. After that, I took a session on Save Biodiversity and Beat the heat-Live more simply - Mahatma Gandhi kit and explained very simple tips like not to waste water, electricity, paper and other resources, to use cotton or jute

bags instead of polythene carry bags. The programme was a great success with the help of your educational kits and materials and inputs and ideas of the resource persons, I am along with all resource persons and school staff are indebtedly thanking all the organizations, Zoo Outreach Organisation, Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, Critical Ecosystem Partner Fund, Wildlife Information Liaison Development, South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group, IUCN SSC, Freshwater Fish Specialist Group, who provided us with such important information on Biodiversity and Wildlife thereby making the programme a great success. **Submitted by: Shaik Hussain, Wildlife Researcher, Kothagudem, AP. Email: indianwildlifeprotector@gmail.com**

#### **Madras Crocodile Bank Trust celebrated Wildlife Week**

Wildlife week was celebrated at Madras Crocodile Bank Trust from 1-7 October 2013. Since the Joy of Giving Week coincided with Wildlife Week, both themes were combined to create a range of activities. Through these activities Crocodile Bank offered services and materials free of cost to people and students from educational institutions. By



**A Collage of the pictures of the programmes**



indulging in these activities visitors and students directly or indirectly contributed to environmental preservation. We gave 167 sapling bag, seeds and instructions to PSBB (T-Nagar) students, Chennai. These students were also given a presentation on how to take care of the saplings and were asked to create tags, instructions regarding care for the saplings. More than 100 saplings were returned back to Crocodile Bank to be given away to visitors during wildlife week and joy of giving week. Another set of 100 saplings nurtured at Crocodile Bank were also given away to visitors.

A stall was set up and the saplings were stacked up and given away. A poster was made to explain the concept of joy of giving and the role of PSBB students in nurturing and donating the saplings. This stall also had bookmarks, wildlife postcards, booklets, a donation box and a visitor's feedback book. Bookmarks/wildlife postcards were given away as information handouts. Docents and staff from the education department were present at this stall at all times to talk to the visitors. The best tags and plants were selected after the end of wildlife week. These students were given prizes and certificates.

Essay writing competition was organized. Four essays were received from Abacus Montessori School, Chennai. A *Croc Fairy* was set up where the people coming to visit the zoo could write down a wish to be granted by the *Croc fairy*. Visitors could make wishes regarding what they would like to see or experience at Crocodile Bank. A set of 12 wishes has been granted. Emails have been sent out informing the recipients how their wishes have been or will be made true. A wishing wall was set up on the back wall of the Young Reptiles booth and visitors were encouraged to write on this wall. Visitors wrote down their thoughts for different questions. Some of



**KRS Matric School, Madurai students identified and coloured the pond life**

the questions on this wall were - "I would like to give back to Mother Nature by -----", "On this planet I wish I hadn't -----". Docents presented reptile talks, contributed to visitor interaction at the joy of giving stall, transported saplings and helped with the guided tours. Free-guided tours were offered to 3 corporation schools from Chennai and the Govt. School in Vadanemmeli village. Staff from the education department spent a large proportion of their time giving guided tours to interested visitors and interacted with visitors during this week. **Submitted by: Mr. Sandeep Varma, Education Officer. Email: sandeep@madrascrocodilebank.org**

#### **Krishnamal Ramasubbaiyer Matric. School, Madurai freshwater biodiversity follow-up**

Bio-Diversity Club Meeting was held on 06/11/2013 and it was started with prayer. The Bio-Diversity Club members and around 150 students of class 8 and 9 participated. The Principal gave welcome address. Mrs. Jessie Jayakaran- Member of ZOO's Educator Network with the help of Zoo Outreach Organization

education materials conducted the programme.

She started the interactive session with a review of previous meeting and enquiring about the follow-up works done by the members. She conducted a questionnaire session to bring out the details of water bodies in and around Madurai city. She explained the difference between marine water species and freshwater species. Then among the freshwater diversities, pond diversity was discussed. The students discussed about the species what they have noticed in the ponds.

The technical session started with grouping of students. Each group was engaged with the activities such as wearing masks, badge, etc., reading about the fresh water species, identifying and coloring the species found in pond (in the given poster), playing rope and ladder game to learn the importance of saving the species and observing the small species found in the school campus. The students actively participated in the activities and had an awareness of conserving the pond diversity. **Submitted by: The Principal. Email: krsmdu@krsmdu.in, jesseyjey@rediffmail.com**