

and I have never felt homesick being in Coimbatore or with any of the ZOO staff elsewhere.

From Bhargavi Srinivasulu

I mirror the thoughts expressed above by Srini. Further I would like to join a few points that Srini left. The first time I met Sanjay at our Department I was seated behind Srini half concealed by an almirah and speaking through Srini, Sanjay seemed larger than life (he was towering over us!) and he was the editor of Zoos Print (so better be careful and speak thru Srini as the message would get filtered and polished and reach him!). When we got comfortable with him as he always makes everyone so it was fun to know him and talk to him.

Srini was invited to attend the Bat Taxonomy Workshop in Madurai in the year 2000. Must say he was a changed man when he came back. ZOO does that to you. He would speak endlessly and was filled with happiness as he learnt some new things and also made great and new friends. Sanjay and his telephonic conversations became a regular in our lives and whenever he called he would invariably brighten our days.

I happened to get an opportunity to meet Sanjay again in person and Sally whom Srini would never get tired of talking about. The first meeting I was awed and a bit fearful of Sally especially so because I was accompanied by my four-year old son, Aditya, to the bat techniques workshop held at Thrissur, Kerala. Whenever he would squirm in his seat during the lectures I would secretly glance toward Sally, hoping we did not disturb her. When we came back from the workshop we could meet the ZOO family at Coimbatore. It was and is indeed a very

happy family, never felt away from home, very comfortable and all the family members including the family matriarch Sally very loving. I have got benefitted both professionally and personally through our relationship with ZOO. It has been a great learning experience to be associated with ZOO.

From Aditya Srinivasulu

Hi! I am Aditya Srinivasulu. Let me tell you my experience with ZOO. When I was about four, my parents took me to Thrissur to participate in the Bat Conservation Techniques Workshop. I was very lucky to be there at that time. I met many people there. I met Prof. Paul Racey, and after five years since then, I realized that he was a big man in the field of zoologists and professors. I was really happy to be in such a place and more so when Mrs. Sally Walker declared me the mascot of that workshop. Only problem was that I kept getting sick, But Sally ma'am offered me two slices of bread and a banana. She asked me to eat it and to my astonishment, the sickness went away in a few hours. At that time I was carrying a cute little stuffed toy, which I still have now. He is a bipedal leopard, which I got when I was a baby. I call it Lepu. One day, Sally ma'am said that she had many toys in her office, excepting a leopard. So she asked me for my toy. I straightaway said no. I wish to give her a leopard soft toy when I visit ZOO office next. At the workshop I also met Mr. Sanjay Molur, Mr. B.A. Daniel and Dr. Nameer. Then after the workshop ended, we went to the head office of ZOO in Coimbatore. There I met Mrs. Latha Ravikumar and many more. I am still in contact with them. Overall, it was a very wonderful experience and I am inspired by all of them.

Letter to Editor

Dear Editor:

I appreciated the obituaries and tributes to Devra in ZOOS' PRINT Magazine last month. What none has said however is that her career started at The Zoological Society of London where she worked first on bats - describing birth and mother-young relationships in three British species, in the summer of 1966. I arrived to work on reproduction on bats in November 1966 at the Wellcome Institute of Comparative Physiology (one of two research institutes in the zoo). Devra was attached to Desmond Morris' ethology research group (he was curator of mammals), but we worked very closely and published a joint paper on bat husbandry.

I think Devra's paper on her mother-young work was the first on captive bats in the UK. Devra then worked on the behaviour of hystricomorphs for her PhD, and also on the behaviour of bush dogs. I lost contact with her when she returned to the US, but caught up with her when she was in London for a while in the nineties, and more recently in Washington, D.C. Latterly she included me in her Christmas circular.

She was great fun, a valued colleague and I regret her passing.

Paul Racey, Chair, Bat Specialist Group, SSC, IUCN