

Zoo Outreach Organization/Wildlife Information Liaison Development ... a great staff makes a great organisation

Note: from time to time we wake up to find that our office has more people and they should be introduced to our readers. We often feel that we are living with a huge family ... and I guess we really are. We are pleased to introduce our family to our readers in this issue.



Sally Walker, Founder & Director

Sally's bio has appeared in several places; she asked to focus on other staff members.

Dr. Sanjay Molur, Exec. Director (1993)

Sanjay is a native of Bangalore and he earned a Ph.D from Mysore University featuring bats and rodents. He has been working in ZOO for nearly 21 years. Sanjay got married to Payal Bhojwani, who is an Wildlife Educator, and recently they adopted a baby girl named Mahika. Sanjay oversees both technical and practical works, assists in catalyzing new activities in conservation and maintains links with SSC. Sanjay is the Editor of a monthly conservation and taxonomy journal called Journal of Threatened Taxa'. He runs two South Asian networks, for amphibian and reptile researchers and field workers, assists with other taxon networks such as invertebrates and pollinators as well as bats and rodents. He is an expert in Red List assessment and categorization, has facilitated more than 18 conservation assessment workshops (C.A.M.P.s), and has assisted in the assessment of more than 3, 000 taxa in South Asia.



Dr. B.A. Daniel, Scientist (1995)

Daniel is a native of Rajapalyam in Tamil Nadu. He earned a Ph.D. from the University of Kerala and an entomologist. He is the Chair of the South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group (SAsISG) IUCN

SSC and runs a large and successful network of invertebrate experts in South Asia. He does scientific projects on a variety of invertebrates, always with a practical and conservation purpose. Daniel also assists with species assessment projects for any species which are conducted by ZOO. He is also the education coordinator of ZOO and heavily contributed for education projects by way of developing education materials/programmes. He is married to Rebecca with an 22-year old son (Josh) completed a professional course.

Latha Ravikumar, Office Mgr. & Finance Director (1991)

Latha finished her MBA at Bharathiar University. She is from Coimbatore itself and is married (to Ravikumar) with two sons (Rajesh Kanna and Tarun) and spends weekends involved in her family business. Her assigned duties are finance, accounts and administration although the bulk of her time is concerned with a great variety of projects including designing the scientific and education documents and registration and maintenance of societies connected with ZOO. Latha's abilities and versatility are well known to numerous friends of ZOO around the world. She is appreciated by all who work with ZOO for her rapid resolution of problems ranging from travel needs to finding technical information.



R. Marimuthu, Education Officer (2004)

Marimuthu is a M.Sc. in Wildlife Biology from AVC College, Mayiladuthurai and B.Ed from Annamalai University. He was a part-time biologist at Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur in 1988-90. He worked in ZOO from 1990-94 and then spent 10 years in Brunei. He

rejoined ZOO in 2004 as Education coordinator. Marimuthu's enthusiasm endears him to his target audiences who participate in the programmes. He has trained abroad including Jersey Training in Endangered Species Management and in the Wildlife Conservation Society's Education training. He helped with Teachers for Tigers workshops of WCS & ZOO, Hoolock Gibbon educator workshops and Human Elephant Coexistence educator workshops held in South and South East Asian countries.



R. Brawin Kumar, Researcher (2010)

Brawin Kumar is a M.Sc. in Biotechnology and joined Zoo Outreach Organization for the project "IUCN Western Ghats freshwater species assessments" and now currently working on the project "Evaluation of conservation status of Critically Endangered Large Rock Rat

Cremnomys elvira". He is from Kanyakumari and his special interest includes aquatic plants, reptiles, amphibians, and orchids. Education materials by ZOO enthusiastically attract him in many ways and interested in doing education programmes for smaller kids.

Martina Anandam, Researcher (2011)

Martina has been with WILD since 2011 and began her work as an intern working on South Asian primates' historical and current point locality analysis to understand trends in primate population across the subcontinent. In 2012 she moved to Chamba, Himachal Pradesh to study the Chamba Sacred Langur, *Semnopithecus ajax*. The project is the first of its kind in Chamba. She works with her team: Tariq Ahmed Shah, Entomologist, Kashmir and Vishal Ahuja, Botanist, Chamba. Her research interests include primate biogeography, human perspectives of conservation, and conflict mitigation.



Priyanka Iyer, Researcher (2012)

Priyanka joined Zoo Outreach Organization to work on the project titled "Protected Area analysis with respect to Freshwater Biodiversity & Reptile Assessments, & Development of National Policy for inclusion in Legislation Project". Has worked at Bombay Natural History Society and Sanctuary Asia.

Interests include dance, painting and reading. She is an expert dancer in Bharata Natyam and occasionally blends her dancing moves with her office moves. She's funny and loves other funny people.

S. Keerthi Krutha, Researcher (2012)

Keerthi finished her B.Tech (Biotechnology). Her career objective is to be a part of a scientific organization, gain knowledge and expertise, and produce worthy results and at the same time contributes to the process of wildlife conservation. She joined WILD to work on the project "Evaluation and impact of chytridiomycosis on the endemic, highly threatened amphibians of the Western Ghats Project". She has a great sense of humour and loves to laugh.



Manju Siliwal, Research Assoc. (2002)

Manju is a spider taxonomist (Arachnologist) and has a Ph.D. degree in Zoology on spiders of Agroecosystem from Sayajirao University of Baroda in Gujarat. She works with WILD on topics of distribution and status of Mygalomorph spiders in India. Her job involves

field surveys in different parts of India to collect ecological and taxonomical data on Indian Theraphosid spiders. She has several scientific papers, the most important one a complete checklist of South Asian spiders. She also helps researchers and forest department staff in identifying spiders from various parts of India.

Ravi Chandran, Managing Editor (1999)

Ravi's first job was with ZOO and currently works for WILD's Journal of Threatened Taxa. He has graduated from doing miscellaneous activities in the office to becoming the Managing Editor for Journal of Threatened Taxa. He has developed his skills in DTP and other programmes associated with publications. He is married and has a baby girl named Athirsta. He is working on an MBA at Bharathiar University.



Pravin Kumar, Database Manager cum Designer (2005)

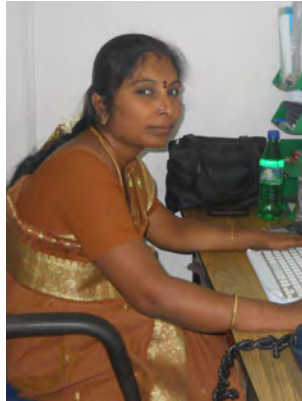
Pravin is a B.Sc. Computer Science graduate and a native of Coimbatore with special interest and skills in designing and DTP. He has rejoined ZOO after a



gap of 6 years and in his present job he is Database manager and coordinator of membership and subscription of ZOO as well as responsibilities of updating and maintaining ZOO's numerous databases. He designs a variety of scientific and education documents.

Geetha Kannan, Accounts (1993)

Geetha has worked many years in our office with a break to start her family. She has 2 children named Veerakumar and Ashok. She has learned a variety of skills from Latha and is Latha's "Woman Friday". Geetha is gentle and patient with all. She does any job willingly and with a cheerful attitude.



Radhika Suresh, Accounts & Admin Exec (2007)

Radhika is a M.Com graduate and a native of Coimbatore. She has taken on responsibilities of maintaining incoming and outgoing communications, stock, keeping up with education reports and mainly helps with general administration and accounts. She is a very quiet person and Sanjay



teases her and imitates her voice but she takes it as a good sport.

Arul Jagadish, Sr. Office Assistant (2000)

Arul's work includes scanning, compiling education packets, typing, maintaining stocks and publications, etc. Arul has a great sense of humour and his colleagues tease him unmercifully about the girls who are interested in him.



In addition to his busy schedule at work he lifts weights, wears his t-shirts sleeves rolled up and rides a cool motorcycle.



K. Raveendran, Office Asst. (Since 2008)

Raveendran is ZOO's "go-to" guy. He serves ZOO in so many ways ... going to the bank, delivering and picking up material that needs circulation and does many errands on our behalf in ZOO so that we can devote more attention to our other works. Raveendran assists along with Saroja and other staff when compiling education

materials for educator training and celebrating special days with educator posters and packets.

Sarojamma, Dispatch Technician (1985)

Sarojamma worked for Sally since 1980 as a housekeeper but demonstrated so much versatility that she became an office helper as well as a housekeeper. She helped Sally care for a variety of wild animals including tiger cubs and became an office helper when Sally founded Friends of Mysore Zoo. She has worked with ZOO since its inception in 1985. Her work runs from making tea to dispatching letters and parcels, collating books, overseeing building maintenance and generally keeping everybody on track!



Vishal Ahuja, Researcher (2012)

Vishal Ahuja hails from Chamba and is a teacher by trade. Vishal joined the Himalayan Langur Project in 2012 and works with Martina in Chamba. He oversees the Himalayan Langur Education Program in schools in Chamba and is passionate about trekking. He is married and has acute little daughter.