

Wildlife Week 2016 reports

National Wildlife Week celebrations with Sundarvan

An initiative by Indian Board for Wild Life (IBWL), National Wildlife Week is celebrated in Sundarvan every year through various activities that bring us close to nature and arouse a general awakening in the common man in favour of protection of wildlife. This year, Sundarvan planned a wilderness field trip and wildlife quizzes to create interest and experiences within in nature.

A wilderness field trip to Polo Forest located in Sabarkantha district of Gujarat, was organized on 2 October 2016. A mixed group of 32 participants including children, youngsters and adults explored the forest with a trek, hike and splash in the stream, visit to echo point, ancient Jain temple ruins, Harnav dam and did a little activity of sending souvenirs home, enjoyed the cool shade of the banyans and



Learning about the medicinal plants at Polo Forest

even tried hanging by its roots. Beautiful mountains forming part of the Aravalli Range are seated within streams and trees of medicinal importance. This helped participants appreciate the spiritual calm of the architectural ruins and sightings of Indian Grey Hornbill, variety of butterflies, forests laden with designs by signature spiders added to their amazement. Participation by everyone in the bus games, their questions and interaction about biodiversity, and their evident enthusiasm was rewarding for our team and we began the Wildlife Week with much gusto.

Quizzes at Sundarvan are a unique knowledge initiative because they are conducted at a zoo on the theme of Wildlife. The idea is to encourage learning and awareness about wildlife conservation and education in a fun and exciting manner. On 8 October 2016, Wildlife quiz each was organised for school students (8th and 9th class) and an open audience, at Sundarvan. Invited Quizmaster, an avid quizzier and founder of Ahmedabad Quiz Club (AQC), Mr. Kushan Patel designed interesting formats including questions on National Parks, wildlife visuals



Finalists of the Inter-school Wildlife Quiz at Sundarvan

and identification, etymology etc. More than 15 schools competed but after intense preliminary written round of eliminations, six teams got selected for the finals. Two students of the Delhi Public School team smoothly won the Inter-school Wildlife Quiz after the final round of identifying actual animals on which Pokemon Go characters are based. The open quiz in the evening had participants of all ages, many of which were old faces attending these quizzes every year. With the audience on the edge of their seat, the quiz was won on a tie-breaker by college students. Excellent prizes in the form of Wilderness Trips to Little Rann of Kutch with safaris were sponsored by Soar Excursions. Several audience questions were also asked and everyone who answered correctly was given wildlife awareness material by Zoo Outreach Organisation.

Whether it is a wilderness trip or a wildlife quiz, interaction and discussion with participants makes us realize the willingness to learn is always there. And when posed with a question, participants often give us the pleasant surprise of working out the perfect solutions too! Our acknowledgements to Sundarvan Volunteers – Kunj Joshi and Neel Panchal.

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Wildlife: Driver of Nature-Lucknow University celebrates Wildlife Week

India's wildlife is under serious threat. Every animal is facing some kind of threat it is hunting, poaching, habitat destruction, habitat loss, fragmentation etc. While time is running out for these creatures, it is not too late to help and for the same wildlife week is celebrated every year in first week of October. Wildlife Week was started in 1952 by government of India to create awareness and conserve wildlife. The Indian government also established an Indian Board for Wild Life to improve awareness towards the



Collage made by participants

preservation of wildlife. Since then it's been celebrated throughout the nation every year. Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation Lab, Department of Zoology, University of Lucknow has also been celebrating wildlife week since 2009. This year also we celebrated in collaboration with U.P. State Biodiversity Board, Regional Science City, Centre for Environment Education, Butterfly Research Centre-Bhimtal, ZOO's Educators Network ZEN, Tamilnadu and Department of Zoology, B.S.N.V. PG College, Lucknow.

As previous years, this year we also came up with wildlife movies, lectures on different aspects of butterflies, vultures, bears, wetlands and various types of birds. Our special emphasis was on wildlife trade and legal aspects. When we started to celebrate we got few collaborators and approx. 75 schools and colleges but now more than 300 schools and colleges enthusiastically participates and made it remarkable.

This year we had various attractions for our participants as well as local people like exhibition on wildlife in Indian mythology, gallery of raptors, gallery of common birds, gallery of wetlands, gallery of turtles and gallery of herpetofauna etc. Hungama quiz for students and general public.

On the first day of wildlife week, inaugural ceremony took place with Prof. S.B. Nimse (Vice Chancellor, University of Lucknow) as a chief guest. All the guests were briefed about biodiversity and wildlife conservation and biodiversity management by the coordinator Prof. Amita Kanaujia. First day started with events like clay modeling and photography competition based on wildlife. Various schools with approx. 200 students participated in these competitions.

On second day the events were debate competition on topic "Animal Dissection as a part of syllabus" and poem recitation (both in English and Hindi format) in which around 100 students from different schools and colleges participated very enthusiastically. Then there was a lecture on lichenology by Dr. S. Nayaka

from NBRI in which he briefed the students about lichens and their importance.

The third day started with zeal and enthusiasm. There was an array of colorful competitions that took place today. The competitions include poster making, collage, greeting card making, face painting and tattoo making. Around 200 students from different schools participated and filled the day with their creativity. By the end of day, participants were shown the movie "Delhi Safari" which depicts the importance of wildlife and conservation in particular.

Events on fourth day were power point presentation competition on the theme 'biodiversity and traditional knowledge' and slogan writing on the theme 'wildlife and its conservation'. Around 100 students from different schools and colleges participated enthusiastically in the competitions and showed their passion for wildlife and its conservation. Later by the end of day, there was a very informative lecture by Dr. Ashish Kumar from University of Lucknow on "Waders" which are also known as shorebirds and which wade on littoral waters like cranes and herons etc.

The fifth day started with imagination and colorful event. Rangoli competition on theme 'Insect biodiversity' and continues with the mind boggling pictorial quiz on theme 'Biodiversity and its



Participants with their Posters

conservation'. About 150 students from various schools participated in the events. Then as our another attraction awaited i.e. a very informative and interesting lecture on butterflies by Mr. Peter Smetacek from Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal, Uttarakhand.

On sixth day there was a special arrangement from us for all the winners in various competitions is an incredible fieldtrip. This year we took the winners to Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary where they saw various water birds, terrestrial birds, raptors, butterflies etc. in their natural habitat as this seems to be going missing under the pressure of vastly developing concrete forests.

On the last day there was felicitation of all the winners in different competitions. Our chief guest for

the valediction was Dr. Sarla Singh, Joint Secretary Higher Education, U.P. Shashan, Prof. U.N. Dwivedi (Pro VC, University of Lucknow) and Mr. Umesh Kumar (Project Coordinator, Regional Science City). The winners of various competitions were awarded with books based on wildlife and biodiversity conservation as prizes. From 2009 to today the important feature of our celebration is we emphasize on books as prizes for students because "Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors and the most patient of teachers": Charles W. Eliot. These books are on various topics which cover different aspects of wildlife and biodiversity, while plants are given as memento. We don't prefer the use of any flower for decoration and on its place we distribute wildlife badges to the participants as well as to common people also.

Every consecutive year we have various events like oath taking ceremony in which students take oath to protect and conserve wildlife by pledging and tying wildlife rakhi to each other and to other people also. There are various plays on wildlife, nukkadnataks and games like snake and ladders, creative writing etc. Vote of thanks was given by the author.

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Murray Rabindra Matriculation school - Wildlife week 2016 celebrations

We celebrated wildlife week on 3-4 October 2016. It was celebrated in view of saving and protecting wildlife of our country.

Jessie Jeyakaran, as a resource person, recalled her previous visit to the school during World Environment Day. The students still remembered the animal and its body parts which are used in illegal wildlife trade such as elephant tusk, tiger skin, bones, peacock feathers.

During her talk, Jessie Jeyakaran emphasized the students that we have to save biodiversity in order to human race live in this planet. Then she showed some recycled items made up of throw away materials. The materials are: left over invites, and program cards were used to create wildlife awareness among public. Pictures of wildlife were stuck on the cards and the children used them during their awareness programme; empty plastics bottles were stuck together and used for decoration; 10 days News papers were used for making eco bulletin boards; ice cream sticks were used for decoration and gifts; plastic containers were used as pen stands and vases (cloth is stuck on these containers as collage); an old mosquito bat was decorated with the colours of the flag and a picture on saving wildlife was stuck on the bat and used for public awareness; a bamboo fruit basket as used to hang cards which had animals stuck on one side; left over areca nut eco plates were used to stick pictures of endangered animals. The students were informed that any item that their parents feel they should throw out, could be used.



Bamboo fruit basket and left over areca nut plate used for spreading the word of wildlife conservation

After the talk the students were taken to local bus stand to create awareness among the public. They hold charts, cards, and pamphlets highlighting on saving wildlife and biodiversity. The students met the people who got in and out of the buses. They distributed pamphlets and told the public not to buy items made from wild animals like rings with elephant hair, ornaments made out of camel bones and tusks of elephants, peacock feathers etc. They shouted out slogans, "Save wildlife, protect wildlife and save biodiversity".

The male staff of the school stood with T-Shirts showing the foot prints of wild animals and one with a tree, the homes of different families of monkeys. The resource person's ideas of using throwaway items has encouraged our school students and they have been collecting these things and doing useful stuff for the school like vases and eco bulletin board for their classes. **Submitted by: Ms. Geetha Leonard. Email: murrayrabindra@gmail.com**