

Education Reports

Snake Survey and Awareness Programme

Sundarvan, Ahmedabad, Gujarat conducts different awareness programmes to spread message on biodiversity and nature conservation among different walk of people. It is popularly known for reptile rescue and awareness programme.

As per the request from Lafarge Indian Pvt. Ltd to Sundarvan to carry out a reptile survey and awareness programme for Sonadih Cement Plant, Bilaspur district, Chhattisgarh the same was conducted from 8-14, August. Twenty-two snakes: Indian Rat Snake *Ptyas mucosa* (6); Striped Keelback *Amphiesma stolatum* (11); Checkered Keelback *Xenochrophis piscator* (2); Common Wolf



Snake awareness programme for security personnel

Snake *Lycodon aulicus* (1); Indian Rock Python *Python molurus* (1); Spectacled cobra *Naja naja* (1) and a monitor lizard *Varanus bengalensis* were rescued from residential and industry area during this period. A total of nine snake awareness programmes were conducted to Ladies Club members (1); School children (4); Employees (2); Medical staff (1) and Security personnel (1) and 815 people were reached. Topics such as introduction to the world of snakes, their diversity, venomous, non-venomous, commonly seen snakes, major symptoms of venomous snakebite, snakebite, first aid, treatment, precautions to avoid bite, myths and facts, ecological services and conservation issues were covered in the session. Along with above topics, guidelines for the snakebite management by the World Health Organization were also discussed with medical staff. Five set of posters each on venomous and non-venomous snakes developed by Sundarvan was given to them to display in prominent places. The same kind of activity was conducted for Lafarge during 2012 and 2014 also. The snake awareness programme was well received. **Submitted by: S. Sivakumar, Park Manager, Sundarvan. Email: s.sivakumar@ceeindia.org**

BIODIVERSITY – Awareness, Welfare and Conservation Exhibition at Tirunelveli, TN

On 20 June 2015, Mr. Rajendra Balaji, Minister inaugurated the annual government exhibition at municipal ground in Tirunelveli in the presence of district collector Mr. Karunakaran, other government officials and people representatives.

Various Government departments, non-government organisations and others set up stalls in this exhibition. Environment Department also setup a stall. In this they displayed photographs of flora and fauna, paper clippings of environmental news, nests of weaver bird, cereal feeder for sparrows, bird nesting foxes, water purifiers, alternatives for plastics, recycled materials, rainwater harvesting, cloth and paper bag which made by cottage industries were kept for exhibition to create an awareness on environmental conservation.

Mrs. Rani Kirubairaj – Retd. Botany Assistant and State Government Environment Award recipient of 2010 exhibited reports of animal welfare, conservation and awareness programmes conducted in various schools, scrap note books, annual report of National Green Corps and Newspaper clippings. Zoo Outreach Organisation's education kits such as tiger,



ZOO's education kits on display at the expo

elephant etiquette, monkey manners, frog, vulture, bear, bat, live more simply, pollinators etc. were displayed at the stall and explained by Govt. College botany lecturer Mr. Murugan and students Mr. Guru Sankar and Mr. Thambu Narayanan. School Teachers, Correspondents enquired about the education materials and were inspired to conduct awareness programmes at their school premise in near future. The collector awarded schools that performed best in environmental activities with cash prize Rs. 10,000. **Submitted by: Mrs. Rani Kirubairaj, Retd. Teacher, Tirunelveli. Email: ranijoel12@gmail.com**

Eco-exhibition at Sri Jeyendra Vidyalaya Matric. School, Sengottai, TN

The School is shadowed by the mountain ranges of the Western Ghats and also recently it received Rs. 10,000/ performance award from the Collector, being one among the best schools of National Green Corps. Further, Ms. Velvilzhi, won Best NGC Coordinator award and Ms. Geetanjali Eco-club, Asst. Coordinator, assists her.

Systematically they observe all environmental days and also the school campus is plastic free. They wanted to exhibit their environmental activities so that all parents, nearby school students may be benefitted. Dr. Vijayalakshmi, Dist. NGC coordinator



Chief guests commenting on student's exhibits

inaugurated the eco exhibition in the presence of Mrs. Rani Kirubairaj, Retd teacher, Correspondent, Principal and Asst. Principal Ms. Deepa. The guests planted saplings at the school campus. She told the students that they must be aware the ecological role of wild animals in pollination, seed dispersal, pest control and others.

Students from class I to XII displayed the exhibits and explained them nicely to the visitors. They exhibited small grains, different kinds of cereals, medicinal herbs, purifying hard water for irrigation purposes, recycle of wastes, SAY 'No' to PLASTICS – Plastics bags into flowers and plastic pet bottles into flower vases. They also displayed alternatives for plastics such as paper cups, boxes, cloth bags, plates made from betel nut tree barks, jute Bags and insisted the visitors to use these materials in day to day life.



Children posing with ZOO's amphibian masks

Regarding wildlife they displayed the exhibits on afforestation, forest conservation, ecosystem, food web, food chain, a collection of bird nests, squirrels nests, grain feeders and rainwater harvesting. Zoo Outreach Organisation's education materials were also displayed. At the school the students maintain



Sapling plantation at the school campus

herbal garden, floral garden and vermicomposting pit for making organic manure. Students took an oath to conserve biodiversity, natural food grains, following Gandhi's principle of simple life; protect water bodies from pollution and forest from forest fires and poaching. Mr. Thangamoorthy, President, Lions Club Kadaya Nallur distributed 20 tree saplings to 15 schools with the promise that if they raising them well will be awarded in the future. **Submitted by: Mrs. Rani Ram Mohan, Principal & Mr. Ram Mohan, Correspondent. Email: ranirammohan@gmail.com**



Student managed vermicomposting pit