

BHOOMITHRASENA CLUB

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES: 2018-19

WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL DAY CELEBRATION

Bhoomithrasena Club of St. Gregorios College celebrated World Environment Day on 5th June, 2018 in the college campus. The Principal Dr. Suman Alexander inaugurated the programme and mentioned about the effects of plastic pollution to the environment. All the members were actively participated in the programme. To mark the occasion Principal planted a tree sapling in the campus and members and teachers also planted various saplings in the campus.



WORLD OZONE DAY CELEBRATION 2018

The Bhoomithrasena club observed World Ozone Day Celebration 2018 on 17th September 2018 with different activities. Club conducted Essay writing competition, Pencil drawing competition and Painting competition as part of the celebration. Students from all the departments participated in the programme. The programme was very fruitful to inculcate a positive approach towards the protection of Earth and the use of Eco-friendly materials in our daily life.

The topic for Essay writing competition was “Keep cool and carry on -the Montreal Protocol”. The topic for Pencil drawing and Painting competition was “Protection of ozone and earth climate”. The programme was conducted between 1.30 to 3.00 pm. Results were announced by the Principal on 1st October 2018. The cash award and certificates for the winners will be distributed during the inauguration of the club activities for the year 2018-19.

Photographs of the competitions



Talent of Students





Painting and pencil drawing competitions

WORLD SOIL DAY CELEBRATION 2018

Bhoomitra sena club observed World Soil Day on 11th December 2018. The co-ordinator Mrs. Lincy Alex, IQAC Co-ordinator Dr. Jean Jose and 25 club members visited Krishi Vigyan Kendra Sadhananthapuram, Kottarakara. Dr. Poornima Yadav Scientist, KVK took an informative class on soil nutrients and its importance for plant growth. She explained macro and micro- nutrients and its roll in plant growth and flowering, soil testing procedures and methods and instruments for soil testing. During the second session, the technicians of the KVK (Kerala Agricultural University) introduced the instruments used for soil testing and the working of these instruments. Students asked doubts about the soil testing methods and they cleared everything. They also purchased vegetable saplings, seeds and pickles from the centre.



BMC members at KVK Sadhanandapuram, Kottarakara

BMC members in Soil testing Laboratory at KVK



AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON PLASTIC POLLUTION

Awareness Programme on Plastic Pollution “**Plastic Pollution – Facts and Figures**” was conducted on 18th December 2018 at 2pm. The talk by Dr. G S Manoj, Asst. Professor in Botany, NSS College Nilamel inspired students. He gave a thought provoking speech on types of plastics, its effects on earth, the importance recycling of plastics and control measures. The official inauguration of activities of Bhoomitrasena club was held on that day. The Principal Dr. Suman Alexander presided over the function and mentioned about the significance of protecting our environment from plastics and e-

wastes. Club coordinator Mrs. Lincy Alex welcomed the gathering and Mrs. Sini George, ASAP Trainer proposed vote of thanks.



Exhibition on reuse of plastics and waste materials

ASAP and Bhoomitrasena club together conducted an exhibition showing the importance of recycling and reusing of plastics and waste cloths. It was so amazing and students from various departments observed the colourful and variety items made by ASAP students. BMC members helped ASAP students for all arrangements.



Exhibition by ASAP & BMC Members

WORLD WETLAND DAY CELEBRATION 2019

World Wetland Day 2019 was observed on 31st January, 4th February and 6th to 8th February 2019. The programme was organized by the Bhoomitrasena Club, St. Gregorios College Kottarakara. The focal theme of the programme for the year was “Wetlands and Climate Change”. The sponsorship and support from the Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE) ensures the success of the programme.

The activities conducted as part of the World Wetland Day were as follows:-

1. Invited Lecture on “ Conservation of Wetlands” on 31st January 2019
2. Interdepartmental poster competition on 4th February 2019
3. Nature Education Camp at Periyar Tiger Reserve- Thekkady East on 6th to 8th February 2019

Activities were charted according to the World Wetland Day 2019 guidelines of KSCSTE. A sponsorship OF Rs. 9000 (Rupees Nine thousand only) was sanctioned by KSCSTE for the conduct of the programme.

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES

WORLD WETLAND DAY –INAUGURAL FUNCTION (31/01/2019)

Inauguration of World Wetland Day Observance 2019 was held on 31st January 2019 at 10.30 am in the Golden Jubilee Seminar Hall of the College. The programme started with the prayer by Miss. Gopika Ajayan, III DC Zoology. The programme was inaugurated by Rev. Fr.



J.Mathewkutty, Administrator of the College. In his inaugural speech, he pointed out the importance of wetland and he shared his childhood memories such as bathing in rivers and wetland birds of his native place etc... The

Principal Dr. Suman Alexander presided over the function and she mentioned about the role of water bodies in the survival of mankind. Felicitation for the programme was given by Prof. Annamma Thomas, HOD, Dept. of Botany and Dr. Jubin Mattappallil, Asst. Professor



in Malayalam. They exhorted students to develop a positive attitude to protect the wetlands of the nearby places. Programme coordinator, Mrs. Lincy Alex welcomed the dignitaries and participants. Ms. Anakha Santhosh, I DC Zoology proposed the vote of thanks.

INVITED LECTURE ON “CONSERVATION OF WETLANDS”

An invited lecture on “Conservation of Wetlands” was delivered by Dr. K S Arunkumar, Assistant Professor, PG and Research Department of Geology, MES Ponnani College Malappuram on the same day after the inaugural session. He mentioned about the Ramsar sites of India and the different types



of wetlands such as marine, estuarine, lacustrine, riverine and palustrine. He explained the provisional services provided by wetlands such as food, fodder, medicine etc and regulatory services such as flood control, soil formation, water purification, waste treatment, ground water maintenance etc. He specified the methods and strategies for the conservation of wetlands. The talk was very fruitful and it gave an insight into the protection of our nearby water bodies.

Dr. Jean Jose J, IQAC Co-ordinator of the college presented memento to the chief guest as a token of appreciation and proposed the vote of thanks.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL POSTER COMPETITION (04/02/2019)

An interdepartmental poster competition was conducted on 4th February 2019 at 11.30 a.m. in the Zoology Department. The topic for the poster competition was “wetlands and climate change”. Students exhibited their already prepared posters and the posters were evaluated by an expert team. Cash awards of Rs. 300 for the first prize and Rs. 200 for the second prize were distributed to the winners.

List of winners are:-

Sl.no	Position	Name of Student	Department
1	First	Anakha Santhosh	I DC Zoology
2	First	Akhila Omanakuttan	I DC Zoology
3	Second	Surya S Sathyan	I DC Physics



NATURE EDUCATION CAMP AT PERIYAR TIGER RESERVE-

THEKKADY EAST

(6TH TO 8TH FEBRUARY 2019)



Nature education camp at Periyar Tiger Reserve- Thekkady East was the most valuable and inspiring programme as part of the World Wetland Day Observance of the year. A team of 37 club members and two teachers participated in the three day camp as per the call letter from the Periyar Tiger Reserve, Kerala

Forest and Wild Life Department. The team reached the destination- Thekkady East-Vallakkadavu at 5.00p m on 6th February 2019. The camp was strictly based on the rules and regulations of the Kerala Forest and Wild Life Department.

6th February 2019



After the refreshments the first session of lecture on Periyar Tiger Reserve and importance of wetlands was given by Dr. Asha, Educational Officer, Periyar Tiger Reserve. The class was very informative and she started the class with an introduction about the Periyar Tiger

Reserve and discussed about the role of wetlands in maintaining the water table and the existence of fauna and flora. She arranged students into three

groups and gave topics related to wetland conservation for discussion. Finally one member from each group presented their ideas and views regarding the topic. Then the forest beat officer, Mrs. Athira shared her experience as a forest officer and explained the activities of the next day. The first day programme was winded up by 9.30 pm.

7th February 2019

Forest Trekking

On this day a forest trekking was arranged in the buffer zone of the forest. Trekking was started at 9am and with the strict instructions from the forest officers. We walked through the dense forest and enjoyed the beauty of the Periyar River flowing near the trekking path. The team was led by the Beat forest officer Mr. Manoj and forest guardS Mr. Vishnu and Prabhu. They explained the peculiarities of the flora and fauna of the forest and explained the wild animal hiding regions. We observed the pugmarks and scats of Wild bear, deer, wild dog, wild fowl, wild pig and spines of porcupine. The most threatening experience we felt was the presence of herd of Elephants in an attacking distance of 15m in our trekking path and we escaped safely by the timely action of the forest officers. We walked around 16 kms and reached up to the Mullaperiyar dam site. The gliding activities and nest of Malabar giant squirrel was so interesting to watch. We returned to the camp site at 2pm. In the afternoon sessions the students were given assignments to submit on the next day. Each group completed their assignments during their particular time.

In the evening session there was a thrilling and encouraging class on Conservation of Tiger led by the Ecologist Mr. Ramesh Babu. He talked about the past and present distribution of tigers, human tiger conflict through power point presentation. He showed some camera trap videos of animals such as tiger, leopard, elephant and bear. After this session a documentary on Periyar Tiger Reserve was exhibited.



Forest trekking at Periyar Tiger Reserve

Wild Life Museum

A well arranged museum was functioning at Periyar Tiger Reserve, which exhibits fauna strictly endemic to Periyar territory. There demonstrated the preserved specimens of Moths, Butterflies, snakes, reptiles, frogs, fishes, rodents, bats and pugmarks of animals. The major interesting feature of the museum was the complete skeleton of Wild Gaur, skull of Sambar deer and tiger

Museum Visit



8th February 2019

Bird watching programme

The last day of the Nature Education Camp began with a bird watching programme led by the Beat Forest Office Mr. Aneesh at 7am. We were directed to the site at Vanchivayal. There we observed 19 species of birds and submitted the data in e-Bird site. By around 9.30am we finished the programme.

The list of birds observed;

- 1) Grey Jungle Fowl
- 2) Green Imperial Pigeon
- 3) Mountain Imperial Pigeon
- 4) Little Cormorant
- 5) Indian Cormorant
- 6) Cattle Egret
- 7) Malabar Grey Hornbill
- 8) White Throated Kingfisher
- 9) Bee Eater
- 10) Vernal Hanging Prrot
- 11) Malabar Wood Shrike
- 12) Orange Minivet
- 13) Ashy Drongo
- 14) Greater Racket Tailed Drongo
- 15) White Bellied Treepie
- 16) Red Whiskered Bulbul
- 17) Malabar Whistling thrush
- 18) Flower Pecker species
- 19) White Browed Wagtail



The valedictory session was started at 11.30am and the program was chaired by Mr. Aneesh, Beat Forest Officer. He gave an inspiring speech on career opportunities in wild life and forest department. During that function students presented their assignments on the topics such as the role of forest to minimize the global warming, plastic pollution and its remedial measures and conservation of wetlands. Two students from the team gave a feedback about the camp and the certificates were distributed to the participants. Finally, the teachers in charge, Dr. Jean Jose J and Mrs. Lincy Alex, Asst. Professors in Zoology proposed vote of thanks.



The three days nature camp was a very good experience for the students. It gave an insight into the wild life, human wild animal conflict and the importance of conservation of forests and related wetlands. Above all it helped students to concentrate on their future career opportunities in this field.

World Forestry Day and Water Day Report 2019

World Forestry Day 2019 was observed on 18th, 21st and 28th March 2019 by the Bhoomitrasena Club, St. Gregorios College Kottarakara. The focal theme of the programme for the year was “Forests and Education”. The water day was celebrated on 22nd March and 3rd April 2019 by the club. The focal theme was “Leaving no one behind.” The sponsorship and support from the Directorate of Environment and Climate change ensures the success of the programme.

WORLD FORESTRY DAY 2019

The international day of Forests is celebrated worldwide every year on 21st March to give awareness among students and public about the values and significance of forests. The activities organized as part of this day are:-

1. Greening the campus programme on 18th March 2019
2. Campus Bird count on 21st and 28th March 2019

Greening the campus programme on 18th March 2019

Greening the campus programme was organized to develop a **miniature forest** in the college campus. The Bhoomitrasena club members and teachers actively participated in this programme. The members dug pits for planting the tree saplings on 14th and 15th March 2019. We selected Fig tree saplings for the purpose to provide shade around the basket ball court and the campus itself. The saplings were purchased from Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute Palode, Thiruvananthapuram.



Campus Bird Count on 21st and 28th March 2019

Campus Bird Count is a coordinated effort to document the birds in the college campus and backyard areas. The programme was organized with the help of Birds Club of the college. Birds Club Coordinator Dr. Jean Jose J led the team and gave the instructions and identification methods to locate



the birds. The trained volunteers of bird's club and bird enthusiasts of BMC walked around the campus to find the birds and to identify the chirping sounds of different birds. The programme was started at 7.30 am and it was continued up to 9.30 am. Refreshments were provided to the members after the programme. The team observed 17 varieties of birds on these days. Finally the members registered the list of birds in the Online International Bird Checklist site **eBird** site.

The list of birds documented is:-

1. Rock Pigeon
2. Asian Koel
3. Black Kite
4. Common Kingfisher
5. White throated Kingfisher
6. White Cheeked Barbet
7. Rose-ringed Parakeet
8. Black-hooded Oriole
9. Black Drongo
10. Rufous Treepie
11. House Crow



12. Large-billed Crow
13. Red-Whiskered Bulbul
14. Jungle Babbler
15. Common Myna
16. Purple Sunbird
17. Long-billed Sunbird



WORLD WATER DAY 2019

World Water Day was observed by Bhoomitrasena club to focus attention on the importance of water. Safe drinking water for all is the aim of the water day observance of this year. As part of this day club conducted **Wetland Bird Survey, water survey** and a **Riverine Ecosystem Study- Puzhayodoppam**

Wetland bird survey

Wetland bird survey was conducted at Govindamangalam region – a wetland area situated near to St. Gregorios College, Kottarakara on 22nd March 2019. Birding was started at 7.45am and continued up to 9.30am. A team of 9 students (2 boys and 7 girls) participated in the program. The birds observed were little egret, black head ibis, pond heron and water hen.



Water Survey

BMC members conducted a water survey on the first week of April 2019. A questionnaire was prepared and survey was conducted based on these questions. It was distributed among 100 houses in Kottarakara Municipal area to give details about their wells, surrounding water sources and its

present situation. Studies showed that most of the wells are between 5 to 50 years old. Survey results were analyzed thoroughly and it was found that 100% people agreed with the change in climate in recent years compared with a 10 years experience. According to their opinion, there is a drastic variation in the availability of water in their locality. Due to water scarcity, only 20% people spend money for water. Nobody mentioned about water harvesting system. The data showed that there is no proper infiltration of rain water to the soil. 85% people mentioned about the presence of water sources in nearby areas. During the survey, many people didn't respond about the illegal sand mining measures. All people agreed with the fact that water is so precious for the existence of life and should take measures to protect natural sources.

Riverine Ecosystem Study - Puzhayodoppam

The main objective of the program was, one day with a river. We selected one of our student's native places at Kudavattoor, Odanavattom. The river – Puthukattu is a tributary of Kallada River. Participated students conducted birding, observed the faunal and floral diversity at the banks and nearby areas. The river is fast flowing and less contaminated as it is protected by many farmers residing near to it. The team recorded many varieties of Dragon flies, butterflies, fishes, water insects, birds, honey bees and ants. They also observed plants such as colaccasia, touch me not plant, grasses, wild pea, coconut trees, mango trees, jack fruit tree, banana plantation, rubber plantation, algae, mosses and varieties of marginal aquatic plants. Students played in river water and enjoyed the coolness of the region in the hot summer prevailed up to 38.9°C.

Riverine Ecosystem study-Puzhayodoppam



Fauna





WORLD METEOROLOGICAL DAY

Bhoomitrasena club observed World Meteorological day on 23rd March 2019 to give an insight in to the contribution that national meteorological and hydrological services make to the safety well-being of society. It helps to give support for environmental protection. To make the day significant, a documentary on “Climate change in Idukki” was exhibited. The documentary helped students to understand changing weather conditions and its drastic effects in the agriculture and daily life routine of people in Idukki. After this each member gave a short description about the effectiveness of the show in their own view points.



BMC ACTIVITIES IN COLLABARATION WITH WWF-INDIA

ECHO volunteering Programme

Bhoomitrasena club of our college was selected for the Environment Conservation Heroes volunteering programme from Kollam Disrict based on the performance of the club during 2017-18 academic year. As part of this, WWF-India conducted two days training programme for the fifty ECHO volunteers of our college. Mr. Sivakumar, Senior Educational Officer handled the sessions and motivated students to perform actively for the “Beat plastic pollution” programme. He discussed about the submission of a project proposal to reduce plastic pollution in Kottarakara area. We submitted the proposal on November 2018. They conducted a review meeting on 11th April 2019 at SN College for Mens, Kollam to evaluate the progress of the ECHO volunteering programme.



KOLLAM BEACH CLEAN – UP DRIVE

Our BMC members participated in the clean up activity at the Kollam Beach on 11th January 2019. WWF State Director Mr. Renjan Mathew Vargese and Senior Education Officer Mr. A K Sivakumar gave instructions for the program and led the clean up activity and college students from different colleges at Kollam participated in the program. It helped students to reveal and experience the importance of keeping our surroundings clean and away from plastics. The members collected plastics from the beach area and dispersed after breakfast.



ONE DAY TRAINING PROGRAMME ON PAPER BAG PRODUCTION

One day training programme on paper bag production for ECHO Volunteers was held on 28th December 2018. Mr. Vinod Mulampuzha was the trainer. He brought all items needed for making paper bags. Twenty volunteers participated in the programme. He gave a good demonstration of it and gave hand on experience to them. Members made 15 paper bags.



CONTRIBUTION OF STEEL GLASSES

BMC members contributed fifty steel glasses to the Principal to reduce the use of plastic and plastic coated paper cups for the distribution of tea or coffee. Now these glasses are used for BMC programmes, IQAC and staff meetings.



ACHIEVEMENTS

Birds Club and Bhoomitra Sena Club together made a documentary on birds in and around college campus and Kottarakara named **SGyile Chirakadikal**. This documentary was short listed and displayed in screen - II PAMBA in the First Rain International Nature Film Festival from 25th – 27th January 2019 at Silver Tips Hotel Munnar Organised by Shri. Jayaraj Rajasekharan Nair {National Award Winner for Best Film Director and

Founder – Birds Club International}. The Documentary was directed by Harikuttan and Sreekuttan and voice was given by Gopika Ajayan (III DC Zoology). The documentary was uploaded in youtube and the link is https://youtu.be/odZ4-DOj6_8



BMC member Harikuttan receiving the certificate from Shri. Jayaraj

Acknowledgements

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