

**MONTH WISE REPORT OF ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY
BHOOMITHRASENA CLUB, CHRISTIAN COLLEGE, CHENGANNUR
FROM SEPTEMBER 2014 to MARCH 2015**

Activity Report (September 2014)

ONAM TREE CHALLENGE AS PART OF ONAM DAY CELEBRATION

An Onam tree challenge programme was arranged by the Bhoomithrasena Club as part of the Onam day celebration organized by the NSS units of the college on 5th September 2015. Dr. Achamma Alex, Principal of the college planted a tree sapling in front of the college and challenged the Chief Guest of the Day, Mrs. Jagadamma to plant a tree. She also planted a tree and she then challenged all teachers and students of the college. They happily accepted the challenge and promised to plant a tree sapling at their home.

WORLD TOURISM DAY –QUIZ ON ECOTOURISM

A quiz programme on ecotourism was arranged as part of World Tourism Day. Questions based on ecotourism spots of national and international importance were asked in the first round. Important ecotourism spots of Kerala was the topic for the second round. Students actively participated in the quiz programme and prizes were distributed to the winners.

Activity Report (October 2014)

WORLD ANIMAL DAY

As part of World Animal Day 2014, a Power point presentation on organisms named after famous people was done by Ms. Chinnu Vishwanathan, BMSC member. In the presentation, she introduced ten organisms which were named after celebrities. Some of them included *Aleiodesshakirae* (a wasp named after the famous singer Shakira), *Anophthalmushitleri* (a beetle named after Adolf Hitler), *Aptostichusbarackobamai* (a spider named after Barack Obama),

Hyloscirtus princecharlesi (a frog named after Prince Charles) etc. The ecological importance of some of these animals were also discussed.

Activity Report (November 2014)

WORLD TOILET DAY

World Toilet Day was observed on 19th November, 2014. An introduction on Toilet day and focal theme of this year's celebration was given by Dr. Abhilash R., FIC of BMSC. The club members made presentations on the history of toilets, Gandhian view on toilets and cleanliness & activities carried out by Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak, a social worker, environmentalist and Founder of the Sulabh International Social Service Organisation. Later, an open discussion on the toilet facilities in Kerala and things that can be done to improve the current situation was also organized as part of the programme.

Activity Report (December 2014)

NATURE CAMP AT NELLIAMPATHY

A three day nature camp was organized for the members of Bhoomithrasena Club from 13th to 15th December, 2014 at Nelliampathy. The team reached Nelliampathy in the evening and spent two days there. Trekking, Bird watching and study of grass land ecosystem were there as part of the nature study camp. A session on wildlife conservation and the challenges was arranged for the students on the last day. Sri. Saravanan, Production Executive, Animal Planet was the resource person and towards the end, there was an active interaction between the resource person and students. Later, the Forest Range Officer of Nelliampathy range, Sri Ranjith B. made a presentation on Wildlife Forensics.

NATURE QUIZ WON BY BMSC MEMBERS

The members of the club namely, Ms. Chinnu Vishwanathan and Ms. Daly Anna Daniel participated in the Intercollegiate Quiz competition on Biodiversity organized by the Nature Club, Bishop Moore College and won the first prize.

Activity Report (January 2015)

WETLANDS ON WHEELS

In association with ATREE, Alappuzha unit, a programme titled Wetlands on Wheels was organised by the Bhoomithrasena Club on 15-01-2015. As part of the programme, exhibition of photos and posters on wetlands, Documentary show on 'Wetlands and Our future' and a talk on Ecosystem Value of Wetlands were arranged at the Amelioration centre of the college.

RUN KERALA RUN

The members of the club actively took part in the Run Kerala Run programme organized on 20-01-2015. The programme started from the college in the morning and ended at ITI Junction. The participants were provided with special RKR badges designed by the club.

PARTICIPATION IN SAMRIDHI PROGRAMME

Fourteen members of the club participated in the Samridhi Fest organized by Chengannur Block Panchayath on 09-01-2015. The programme was held at Puliyoor. In the inaugural session, Dr.N.Gopalakrishnan, Director, Indian Institute of Scientific Heritage, Thiruvananthapuram made a talk on Youth entrepreneurship in agriculture schemes. His presentation was thought provoking and the students made an active interaction with him towards the end of the session. Later students visited various stalls by Farm Information Bureau, Agricultural University, Agro-Bio Energy Industries, Animal Husbandry Department and Kudumbasree units. One of the members of the club, Ms.SreelakshmiR.Nair won first prize in the elocution competition organized as part of the Fest in the afternoon.

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NATURE CAMP AT PAMPADUMCHOLA

A three day Nature Education Camp was organized for the club members at PampadumChola National Park from January 10-12, 2015. On the way to Pampadumchola, the team visited the famous Rose Garden and Floriculture Centre at Munnar, Mattupetty Dam, Echo Point and Top Station. The team reached PampadumChola by evening. The Forest Officer gave a brief introduction regarding the national park. A trekking programme was arranged for the students in the morning through the forest. They could spot Lion Tailed Macaque, NilgiriLangur, Malabar Giant Squirrel and so many birds. In the afternoon the team visited Vattavada, a small hamlet near Pampadumchola. Vattavada is famous for its high altitude agricultural crops. The team visited some strawberry plantations and interacted with the farmers. On the next day, after a few hours of bird watching in the morning the team started their return journey.

PAMPA DARSHAN PROGRAMME

To experience the present status of river Pampa and the threats faced by the river, students of BhoomithrasenaClub attended a one day programme titled Pampa Darshan in association with Pampa ParirakshanaSamithy on 16-01-2015. The Secretary, PPS, Sri. N.K. SukumaranNair, made a presentation on river Pampa and in the afternoon they made a walk through the banks of the river to get the details of the fauna and flora of the area and also the pollution aspects.

SEMINAR ON ELEPHANTS OF KERALA

A one day seminar on the wild and captive elephants of Kerala was jointly organized by Nature club and Bhoomithrasena club on 28-01-2015. Forest officer of Social Forestry Office, Konni and author of a book on elephants, Sri.ChittaarAnandan was the keynote speaker. He shared his field experience with wild elephants. A detailed account on the current status of captive elephants and the threat faced by them were also presented. Students actively participated in the question answer session and cleared their doubts on various aspects of elephants.

Activity Report (February 2015)

WORLD WETLANDS DAY CELEBRATION

The World Wetlands Day celebration 2015 at Christian College, Chengannur organized by Bhoomithrasena Club was held from February 2, 2015 to February 4, 2015.

Inauguration and Invited Talk on the Focal Theme - The inauguration of the WWD-2015 Celebration was held on 02-02-2015 at the seminar hall, Christian College, Chengannur. The inaugural meeting was presided over by Principal Dr. Achamma Alex. The FIC of the club, Dr. Abhilash R. welcomed the gathering. In her presidential address, Dr. Achamma Alex recollected her childhood experience with regard to wetland ecosystem of Alappuzha region. Very Rev.C. K. Mathew in his inaugural address narrated the importance of conserving wetlands in the face of climate change. The inauguration of WWD-2015 programme was unique in the sense that, water collected from the three major Ramsar sites of Kerala namely, Vembanad lake, Ashtamudi lake and Sasthamkotta lake in three earthen pots and a pot full of water collected from Pampa river were together poured into a clay vessel by the principal Dr. Achamma Alex, Very Rev.C.K. Mathew, Master Minon and Prof. Jacob George respectively. The College Governing Council member Prof. Jacob George offered felicitation. It was followed by the invited talk on the focal theme- wetlands for our future. Master Minon, winner of the National film award for best child artist- 2012 presented the topic. In his presentation he gave a detailed account on the history, ecological value and present status of the wetland ecosystem of Kuttanadu region where he was born and brought up. He recited a poem on nature written by him. Towards the end, there was an active discussion on conservation and related issues.

Spider Survey - A preliminary survey regarding the diversity of spiders on a selected site on the banks of river Pampa was carried out with the help of the Division of Arachnology, S.H. College, Thevara. Researchers from the division namely Mr. Pradeep M.S. and Jimmy Paul came to assist us in the field. We could spot forty species of spiders from 0.5 sq. km area on the west bank of Pampa river at Poovattoor near Kozhencherry. One species of spider namely *Feceniaprotensa* Thorell, 1891 is being sited from India for only the third time.

Breakfast with Birds on a Wetland - As part of this programme a team of 23 students and 3 birders from Chengannur accompanied by Dr. Abhilash R., Programme co-ordinator assembled near RandaamPunja, a wetland body situated at Manthuka near Pandalam. A preliminary class on bird watching was given to the students and after that we all reached RandaamPunja to survey the birds. Our programme started at 8:00 AM and it lasted upto 10 am. In this survey we could spot birds like Spotbilled duck, Whiskered tern, Garganey, Pygmy cotton teal, Wood sandpiper, Common coot, Yellow wagtail, Purple heron, Barn swallow, Purple Moore Hen etc. It was a very good experience for the students and the birders namely Mr. Vipin, Mr. Jayakrishnan and Mr. Sajith helped us a lot in identification. After completing the survey, we took our breakfast on the site and thus the programme- breakfasts with birds- come to an end.

Cleaning of a Wetland - The preliminary cleaning work of a temple pond situated in front of ThittamelBhagavathy Temple near Chengannur Railway Station was carried out on 4/02/2015. A group of 20 students comprising of volunteers of Bhoomithrasena club and National Service Scheme took part in the cleaning programme. The temple pond has been left abandoned and waste materials were seen dumped into the pond. As a result of these reasons, the pond was actually restricted to a small area at the centre. The weeds present on the sides of the pond were removed first. Later the waste materials dumped into the ponds was collected by the volunteers and removed from the spot. Even though we could do only a preliminary level cleaning programme in this connection, the public gave full support and offered their continued support in subsequent cleaning programmes.

PARTICIPATION IN CBMP

The members of the club who got the training in Common Bird Monitoring Programme uploaded the collected data to www.ebird.org which is co-ordinating the five day long common bird monitoring programme all over the world from February: 13 to February:17, 2015. Thus the students got the opportunity to be part of a Global Citizen Science Programme. Some of them are still continuing the work and has been uploading the data on common birds of their locality.

Activity Report (March 2015)

WORLD WILDLIFE DAY CELEBRATION – SEMINAR AND SURVEY.

As part of World Wildlife Day celebration, the club organized a seminar on ants titled, “Amazing World of Ants” on March 3, 2015. Mr. ManojVembayam, member of Travancore Natural History Society (TNHS), an NGO that is into studying the natural history and biodiversity of the southern Western Ghats was the keynote speaker. After a two hour class on various aspects of Indian Ants, all of us went to the Botanical Garden area to take a survey on ants of Christian College campus. Twenty one species of ants were identified from the total collection of 125 ants, which belong to 5 subfamily and 15 genera. All belongs to family, Formicidae. Based on observation and analysis, it became clear that *Odontomachushaematodus* (16%) is the most abundant species.

OBSERVATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS, WORLD WATER DAY& WORLD SPARROW DAY.

All these days of ecological importance were jointly celebrated on23-03-2015

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS

International Forestry day was observed by the club with various Programmes. Sruthy S. Nair, Club member gave a brief presentation on forests and its ecosystem value. Later, she introduced some forest heroes who dedicated their life for forest conservation likeMr. PreechaSiri from Indonesia. Ms. Ganga presented some famous quotes on forest and trees. A quiz on forests and wildlife of Kerala was also conducted.

WORLD WATER DAY

As part of the World Water Day observance, Ms. MeenuManiradhan, club member made a presentation on water conservation. She explained various water harvesting techniques adopted in different parts of India. A Caption Contest in this regard was also arranged for the students. The winners of various competitions were awarded with prizes.

WORLD SPARROW DAY

As part of World Sparrow day celebration, Ms. Aswathy M. Kurup, Club member made a presentation on the importance of World Sparrow Day. In her presentation, she gave a detailed account on the sparrows of India, their status and conservation

strategies. The 'KuruvikkoruKoodu' scheme of the Department of forests and wildlife was introduced to the students. Saranya M.G. sang a song on Kuruvi on the occasion.

PARTICIPATION OF F.I.C. AND CLUB MEMBERS IN SEMINARS

SEMINAR ON MARINE BIODIVERSITY

The faculty in charge, Dr. Abhilash R. and three club members attended the National Seminar on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity and its conservation for future generations" organized by the Post Graduate & Research Dept. of Zoology, St. Stephen's College , Pathanapuram, on 27th and 28th of September 2014.

SEMINAR ON WILDLIFE GENOMICS

The faculty in charge, Dr. Abhilash R. attended the One day seminar on Wildlife Genomics organized by University of Kerala in association with SciGenome Research Foundation held at Department of Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, University of Kerala, Karyavattom on 15-11-2014.

F.I.C. AS RESOURCE PERSON

As part of World Environment Day celebration 2014, Dr. Abhilash R. conducted an intercollegiate quiz competition at S.N.D.P. Yogam College, Konni.

Dr. AbhilashR delivered a talk on 'Preservation of Ozone Layer through Ozone Friendly Deeds' at Bishop Moore College, Mavelikkara and Christian College, Kattakkada as part of Ozone Day Observance- 2014.