

## BIODIVERSITY CLUB

### Activities for the year 2017-18

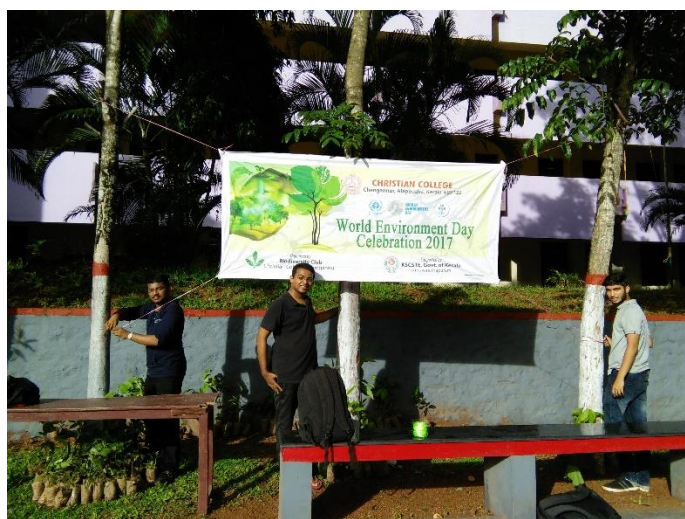
#### World Environment Day Celebrations

‘Connecting People to Nature’, the theme for World Environment Day (WED), 2017, implores us to get outdoors and into the nature, to appreciate its beauty and its importance and to take forward the call to protect the earth that we share.

Nature’s gift are often hard to value in monetary terms. Like clean air, pristine water or rich biodiversity they are often taken for granted, at least until they become scarce. However, economists are developing ways to measure the multi-trillion dollar worth of many so called ‘ecosystem services’, from insects pollinating fruit trees to the leisure, health and spiritual benefits of a hike up a Himalayan valley or Western Ghats mountains. This year’s theme invites us to think about how we are part of nature and how intimately we depend on it.

The Christian College, Biodiversity Club & the college management took decision to conduct World Environment Day-2017 in a befitting manner. The bio-diversity club was able to organise a series of activities because of the support of KCSTE, Thiruvananthapuram an institution that is committed in inculcating scientific, technological & conservation practices amongst the community.

The World Environment Day celebrations kick started on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2017 Saturday by hoisting the environment day banner at the college courtyard. Followed by that a one day programme was arranged named ‘Mazha Anubhavangal’. The one day workshop began with an inaugural session. Prof. Biji Abraham, Programme Co-ordinator welcomed the guests. Principal Dr. Achamma Alex inaugurated the session. Dr. Preetha Karnaver, Convenor of College Nature Club offered felicitation. After that the one day camp had three distinct sessions. In the first session, Sri. T.M. Sathyan of Dynamic Action shared his thought on Rain and its importance in sustaining life. After that Biodiversity club volunteers shared their experience on rain they have experienced at different stages of their life.



The second session was a training on nature related folk songs. Sri. Thankachan Karumadi, a renowned singer of Dynamic Action Group, Thiruvalla trained the students. The members were able to learn and sing melodiously 3 versatile songs praising nature and its beauty.

The final session of the day was the most exiting one. Theatre artist and higher secondary school teacher Sri. Manoj Suni took a bold initiative of training a surreal drama with a theme ‘Development that Displaces People from their environment’. The students actively took part in all these sessions and the first day of the World Environment Day Celebration came to conclusion at 5 PM in the evening. Light refreshments and Lunch was provided to all participants on the day.





International World Environment Day was observed by the whole college on 5<sup>th</sup> June which came on the second day of World Environment Day-2017 celebrations at the college. In the morning Biodiversity volunteers planted tree saplings of numerous varieties of rare, endangered and threatened species. All the volunteers were given light refreshments in between.



The major event took place in the college auditorium by 1 PM. Chief Guest Sri. Ramachandran Nair, MLA-Chengannur came on time to inaugurate the grand function. NSS volunteers sang their theme song 'Manassu Nannavathe' as prayer song. Dr. Preetha Karnavar welcomed the august gathering of students, teachers and non-teaching staff. Principal Dr. Achamma Alex delivered her presidential address. The college management is very much committed in making the Christian College campus a green campus, the principal said. After that Chengannur MLA, Sri. Ramachandran Nair delivered World Environment Day message by quoting nature related lyrics in Malayalam film songs and popular Malayalam poems.





After that, paper bags made by the biodiversity volunteers were released by the Hon. MLA. He appreciated the efforts taken by the club and volunteers in putting up an alternative to plastic carry bags which has turned into a menace in the modern day life. Miss.Chinnu Vishwanathan led the Green Pledge for a greener environment.



Biodiversity club volunteers by their melodious voice and song lyrics pierced into the hearts and minds of the audiences thereby enabling them to experience rain inside the auditorium itself. The Hon. Chengannur MLA gave a heartfelt appreciation to biodiversity choir and the trainers who made the occasion special.

The surreal Musical Drama on the theme ‘Development that displaces people from environment’ was an icing on the cake. Though, hardly few hours were taken for the preparation of the drama, still it communicated well and was well appreciated.

In the evening, a novel experiment of green football was arranged. That match was between staff and students. Staff team was named as Green Arsenal and Student team was named as Eco Chelsea, remembering the final teams that played in English Premier League which had lots of viewership and popularity amongst the students.





The final day of the world environment day celebrations was on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Four teams were taken to the final round of the Quiz competition 'EnviRain Quiz-2017'. Prior to the final round, a selection process of 20 questions were asked to 54 students (27 teams) who came to take part in the 'EnviRain Quiz-2017'. Out of that four teams were selected based on top scores that they have delivered. The final round took place in the biodiversity garden 'Shanthisthal' in the college premise .As the name of the competition indicates as rain poured, the quiz master and contestants had their umbrella handy, during the competition. Winners of the competition were awarded tree saplings and token cash awards.



Followed by the quiz competition, five short documentaries were screened. Documentaries on 'Saving Sea Turtle', 'Rainwater Harvesting', 'Threat to Biodiversity', 'Toxic free nature' and 'community based Alternative development' were the films that were screened.

After the film screening by 1.30 PM focal theme seminar on 'Connecting People to Nature' was arranged. Prof.Dr.Bijukumar, HOD, Department Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, University of Kerala was the Chief Guest of the seminar. Dr.Bijukumar was able to take the audience to the need for conservation and preservation of nature for the sustainability of life and livelihood.



On 23<sup>rd</sup> Friday, June 2017 a field visit to 'Varattar River' was arranged. Varratar river is a 12 kilometre stretch distributary of Pamba river which once supported immensely to the local community which depended on the river for agriculture, fishing, transport of goods and other related livelihood activities. But for the past two decades due to the improper river management and lopsided development had destroyed the once rich river into a swamp where waste being dumped. Along with the Ministry of water resources, Government of Kerala, Local Administrations, Christian College Environment clubs together participated in the on-going 'Varattar Rejuvenation Programme'. Around 400 students volunteered the work for bringing Varattar river back to life.





The World Environment Day celebrations 2017 were observed in various ways to inculcate a passion to protect and care the goodness of nature's flora and fauna. Without the support of KSCSTE, Thiruvananthapuram, the biodiversity club could not have organized the WED-2017 celebration in such a magnitude. The Biodiversity club of Christian College is indebted to KSCSTE and College management in providing financial support and guidance for organizing WED-2017 in a memorable and befitting manner.



List of students of biodiversity club who took lead role for the various programmes conducted as a part of World Environment Day programmes.

Sl. No.	Name of the Club Members	Class
1.	Megha Salim	B. Com.
2.	Sruthy K. A.	B. Com.
3.	Vidya Vinod	B. .
4.	Hemanth Ajayan	Zoology
5.	Athulya Ganesh	History
6.	Devakumar B.	History
7.	Samgeeth	History
8.	Arjun S. Krishnan	History
9.	Sruthymol N. S.	Economics

10.	Athiramol	Economics
11.	Sreelakshmi P.	Economics
12.	Thouheeda K. K.	Economics
13.	Limoj M. S.	Economics
14.	Prasanth P. Kurup	Economics
15.	Anupama Raj	Economics
16.	Akhila Anil	Physics
17.	Anusree A. S.	Physics
18.	Nidhi Remanan	Physics
19.	Akshaya S.	Physics
20.	Revathy C. S.	Chemistry
21.	Abhirami B.	Chemistry
22.	Ancy George	Chemistry
23.	Aleena Shaji	English
24.	Shanthi Krishna	English
25.	Shahana V. S.	English
26.	Ameega R.	English

### Nature Camp

The Biodiversity Club of the college was privileged to have a nature camp towards ***Thattekad Bird Sanctuary*** from 6th morning to 8th evening of October 2017. The Sanctuary, covering an area of barely 25 km<sup>2</sup>, and located about 12 km from Kothamangalam was the first bird sanctuary in Kerala. Salim Ali, one of the best known ornithologist described this sanctuary as the richest bird habitat on peninsular India. Thattekkad literally means flat forest, and the region is an evergreen low-land forest located between the branches of Periyar River, the longest river in Kerala.







The club members had day long trekking in the forest wilderness. The Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary has a rich and varied birdlife. Several species of birds, both forest birds as well as the water birds, visit the sanctuary. The members were fortunate to see plenty of birds and plant species during the trekking. The forest department provided three different sessions in detailing the wild life habitat in Thattekkad sanctuary, need for conservation and importance of forest and wildlife to mankind. The members also visited the medicinal garden, zoo, wild life interpretation centre and butterfly garden which were kept well for the visitors to know about the natural world we live in.



1. Environment Day Observation : 15 Hours
2. Santhisthal : 30 Hours
3. Thattekkad Nature Camp (Oct. 7th to 9th) : 30 Hours

Biji Abraham

5. Green Audit

: 25 Hours

Convenor, Biodiversity Club