



NESARA

Volume 2, Issue 2

April - June 2011

Inside this issue:

Editor's note's : Do we need VTP? 1

Student's Poetry: Liquid dwelling in minute 1

Photograph of the Season : Atlas moth 1

Quarterly Updates 2

Student's Poetry 2

The ATREE experience 3

Nature study 3

Volunteer Experience : Catch them young and tender 4

Special Events

6th Vacation Training Programme



26 April to 14 May 2011

Do we need Vacation Training Programme?

The 6th VTP held in Bangalore as always was an exciting event both for the students and those involved with it. The question that is beginning to be asked is where does all this effort lead to? Does it make the young future guardians of bio-resources or as someone said earth warriors or green citizens? Going by what stu-

dents have said and parents have stressed, the course is a necessity and getting to know about the life and environment around us the way it's taught in the course is rarely done elsewhere. At a time when parents are busy and children have their own peer pressure where talking environment makes little sense, such

courses that pull and push them out to experience a different world that exists around them and look at real issues is essential. It can have a long term effect not only on their thinking and action but also on their parents, teachers and friends. It's important that such initiatives are sustained and nurtured - **Ganesh. T**

Student's poetry: Liquid dwelling in minute

Float about on water
With a timeless enjoying attribute
Where warm woods filled with note of freshness
Share the joy cause of these liquid dwelling in minute
Time has come no luxury now
We can only stand in front of her and bow

We have done all wrong and it's only our fault
Cause we have made her cause yet another drought
This silvery flow has gone grey
We have to act on it and also pray
We stand here now and take this pledge

Promise to save her till the edge

Then she'll be smiling
She'll be caring
She'll do everything to
Save us from dying

Jahnvi Prakash Nair
VTP 2011 student

Photograph of the season - Atlas Moth



The **Atlas moth** (*Attacus atlas*) has the largest wing surface area of all moths and therefore considered the largest moth in the world.

The vacation Training Programme students of 2011 batch were fortunate to spot this moth in VGKK campus at Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Wildlife sanctuary.

Photo: **Dr. Aravind N A**

Quarterly updates



The 6th Vacation Training Programme was conducted from April 26th to May 14th 2011 at (ATREE), Bangalore. Sixteen students from different schools attended the program. The students were exposed to various fields of Biology through 24 lectures, 7 Hands on /Field activities, 6 field trips, and 2 institutional visits.

The lecture sessions dealt with topics related to mammals, reptiles, insects, amphibians, butterflies, molluscs, diatoms, Urban Wildlife, wildlife rehabilitation, urban ecology, restoration ecology, climate change, loss of biodiversity, forest canopies, mass ex-

inction, Genetics, ecosystem services and others. The activities exposed them to new skills such as tree climbing, sketching birds



and plants for identification, trapping insects, collecting and identifying diatoms.

Field trips served as a platform for introducing the students to some of the skills required for doing field related work on Bio-resources. This included trips to

the Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Wildlife Sanctuary, Ramanagara Vulture Nesting area, Ranganathittu, Bannerghatta Butterfly Park, Anuganalu village in Hassan District. And Waste management unit of SAAHAS.

After a break of 2 months DNA club programme was initiated in June. Jaycee School, Ankola had a session on identifying Butterflies and other insects. They went Bird watching and started a vegetable garden at the school campus. Jaycees school, Sringeri started the DNA Programme by screening a film on Global warming and collecting ferns in the school area to identify - **Abhisheka**

Did you know ?



Flamingos eat with their head upside down to strain the water out of their food.

Student's Poetry : Nature

Nature is very beautiful,
Its trees, flowers and all
Her lakes rivers and mountains too
Who always hear her call.
Oh! The beauty of nature
Is totally beyond compare
But why do we always cause her
so much of despair?
Oh! How beautiful is nature
We just cannot decide
None of us can tell the beauty she
holds inside.
Beneath the bows and branches,
In between the cattle and ranches
You can always hear whistling,
The leaves of the plants rustling,
Calling us towards her,
Without us having to err,
About what nature is all about.
Then we hear a clout
Then another, which doesn't
doubt the entry of a brother
Later when they chop and hack
We won't think of the day we
have to pack

When we look back at the days
And our ancestral place
That was full of mango, neem,
and apple trees,
We used to keep asking my
grandpa please
For an apple or a mango,
But he used to drive us away as
though we were Crows.



Then we complain to our grand-
mother,
Who used to take our side for-
ever,
She said "give them one, it wont
harm them."
My grandfather used to cock an
eyebrow and say "ahem!"
The next second we used to be on

the trees,
And wouldn't get down until
grandpa said please.
A great many mangoes we used to
eat
And eating more mangoes than
others could was a great feat.
Looking back at those days I feel
a pain
Pain without which there is no
gain
A gain of concrete jungles and
highways overhead
Which I lie thinking about it in bed.
I still remember why my mother
used to send me there
To teach me some manners, to
teach me to care.
On the other hand, my father sent
me to fare,
In whatever I did, and breathe the
clean air.

Vidyasri K S

VTP 2011 student



The ATREE experience

"I really couldn't think of a better way to spend my summer, and prepare for my future". These were the concluding lines in my application form for the vacation training programme I happened to come across on my school bulletin board. I wanted a summer that did not have anything to do with mindless homework and dreary coaching classes for IIT. I wanted a summer vacation in which I could challenge myself and maybe emerge surprised at what I discovered about myself and what I loved.

Along came ATREE. I knew it would be a plethora of experiences. I knew I would be ex-

posed to things I didn't even know existed. What I wasn't expecting however was the affirmation I would get from this course. Hear-



ing all those researchers talk about their studies and embarking on field trips gave me a sense of purpose, and a very strong dose of inspiration that no amount of laziness and procrastination can get rid of.

ness and procrastination can get rid of.

One thing I learned to do here, that I wasn't able to do before was ask the question "why?". Come to think of it, that's the basis for all things in Ecology. I'd always been able to appreciate nature but questioning it was something I could not do.

I do have a lot of things to take home from this course, each as valuable as the other. It cured me of "writers block" by making me more aware. Taking the road less travelled by really does lead you to some amazing niches!

Vidya B

VTP 2011 student

Did you know?



Butterflies smell and sense vibration with their antennae and taste food with their front feet.

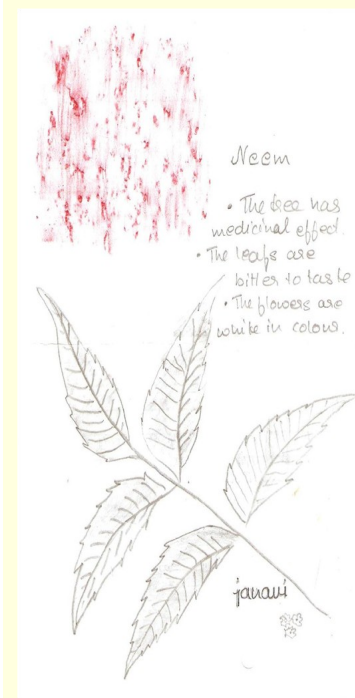
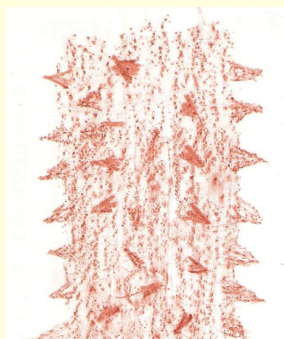
Nature Study



Chethana M



Kaya Umesh



Janavi Prakash Nair



Catch them young and tender



We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children. This is a Native American proverb which suits very well with Vacation Training Programme organized by DBT and ATREE. This was my first exposure to this brilliant venture started by Government of India. Even though, I was just a volunteer and a helping hand to Abhisheka, these few weeks broadened my perspectives and I realized, that education and awareness can be the only tools to protect our environment.

I was enthralled by the idea of this program to bring together a group of children, neither too young and naive to be unable to understand the current environmental scenario, nor too old to be judgemental or have an adamant outlook. So our slate was neat and clean and we have to tread very carefully to inculcate their thought process. The courses and classes

varied and interested a range of students with different ideas, capabilities and perspectives. Since I was spending most of my time with the students, the personal interactions made me realise that this country has a huge resource of man power and intelligence with the only necessary ingredient



being guidance. Every child was special in their own terms and they had the zeal to make an effort for the betterment of the environment. While one wanted to use art and music to convey the thoughts of conservation to the masses, the other was inspired to be an eco-architect. If one dreamed of becoming the next eco-friendly Chief Minister of Karnataka, the other thought of

changing the education system to more of character building. So here, we were, with a mixed bag of adolescents.

The course work was designed so beautifully and every class was intriguing and fascinating. It started from climate change to web designing, eco friendly architecture to tree climbing using single rope technique, about herps and amphibians, and microscopic diatoms to bird watching, of environmental art and solid waste management. So the plate was served and everyone could take their own pick.

The idea was not to create a battalion of ecologists or scientists, but Earth warriors and every year, we are quite successful in our mission. I hope the students remember what they took from this course and always be aware and concerned citizens.

Smrtiy R

Volunteer - VTP

Ashoka Trust For Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE)

Royal Enclave, Srirampura, Jakkur Post,
Bangalore 560 064

Phone : 080-23635555; Fax: 080-23530070

Email: dnaclub@atree.org

Website : www.atree.org

The Academy for Conservation Science and Sustainability Studies at ATREE



Editor: Dr. T. Ganesh

Editorial team: Dr. Aravind N. A., Ms. Abhisheka K.,
Ms. Madhavi Latha G.

Design and presentation: Ms. Abhisheka K.

Contact: abhisheka.k@atree.org

