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### Special Events

7th Vacation Training Programme: 7th -26th May



## Let's keep the flag flying green...

Final exams are over and you feel relaxed and relived but it's also a period when you probably want to do many things that you could not when at school. The department of biotechnology used this 'free time' to engage the restless bright minds in what came to be called as a Vacation Training Programme (VTP) in bio-resources. The 7<sup>th</sup> VTP just got over and as usual we had a bunch of exciting kids throw-

ing all kinds of challenging questions at us. That's the first step and then comes the period when kids gel together to take their own initiative to do something for the environment. Over the years they have participated in many exciting activities from helping researchers, advising parents to be more green conscious, campaigning against plastic, and the list is only getting longer every year. Some have

even formed groups in their college and are actively doing their best to keep Bangalore green. It's a nice feel to know a small initiative like VTP has built an alumni of green ambassadors. This being the last issue of Nesara we hope initiatives like VTP mushroom like apartment blocks and our young ambassadors keep the green flag flying as they move ahead in life.

**Ganesh T**

## Student's Poetry : ಕಾಡು

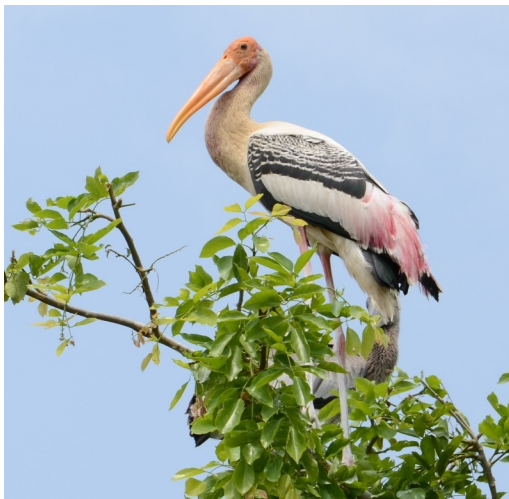
ಕಾಡು ಬೆಳೆಸಿರಿ ನೀವು ನಾಡು  
 ಉಳಿಸಿರಿ  
 ಕಾಡಿನಿಂದಲೇ ನಾಡು,  
 ನಾಡಿನಿಂದಲೇ ನಾವು ಎಂಬುದು  
 ನೀವು ಮರೆಯಬೇಡಿರಿ.  
 ಕಾಡೇ ಹಸಿರು ಮರಗಿಡಗಳೇ

ಉಸಿರು  
 ಪ್ರಾಣಿ ಪಕ್ಷಿಗಳೇ ಜೀವ  
 ನಾಡೇ ಪ್ರಾಣ ಎಂದು  
 ಮರೆಯಬೇಡಿರಿ  
 ಸತ್ಯ ತಿಳಿಯಿರಿ ನೀವು  
 ನಿತ್ಯ ನೆನೆಯಿರಿ

ಬರಗಾಲ ತಡೆಯಿರಿ  
 ನೀವು ಮಣ್ಣಿನ ಸವಕಳಿ ತಪ್ಪಿಸಲು  
 ಕಾಡ ಬೆಳೆಸಿರಿ, ನೀವು ನಾಡು  
 ಬೆಳೆಸಿರಿ.

**Tejaswini K L**, Sree Someshwara High School, Tumkur

## Photograph of the season - Painted Stork



Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*) is a large wading bird belonging to the stork family. They are widely distributed in the plains of Asia. They derive their name from the pink tertial feathers. They feed on fishes in flocks in shallow wetlands and nest in colonies on trees often close to water bodies. They are not migratory and only make short distance movements in some parts of their range in search of food and suitable place for breeding.

Students of VTP had the opportunity to visit Veerapura where storks visit every year to breed and watched Painted storks nesting. These storks are Near Threatened and therefore it is important to protect and conserve this species.

## Quarterly updates



ATREE organised the Vacation Training programme on Bio-resources in Bangalore from 7<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> May 2012. Students from various schools in Bangalore who had written their X Std exams participated in this three week programme.

As Schools were closed for summer vacation during the months of April and May no activities were conducted by the DNA club schools. The activities were resumed in the month of June when schools reopened.

Jaycee school, Ankola started the academic year with Tree



planting program in and around

the school campus and lab experiments while DNA club members of Sree Someshwara High school, Tumkur monitored the biodiversity in the school campus along with conducting lab experiments. Students of Jaycees school, Sringeri had an activity on Bird beaks and claws and the school also organized a drawing competition on wild life and environment. SDM school Ujire celebrated the world environment day.

**Abhisheka K**

### Did you know?



Earthworms digest organic matter, recycle nutrients and make surface soil richer. This is why they are often called the gardener's friend.

## Vacation Training Programme (VTP) Experience

It was a good experience for me being part of 7<sup>th</sup> Vacation Training Programme . It was a great programme which not only concentrated on plants and animals but also tiny insect, birds and invasive species. We were also taught some new topics like map reading, GPS navigation, plant taxonomy, diatoms, forest canopy, watershed services, urban ecology, some interesting activities and many field trips. Activities included collecting insects, plants, identifying them and learning more about them.

As part of field trip we were taken to Kasa Rasa- waste management site of SAAHAS and learnt about the effort taken by S A A H A S t e a m t o segregate waste materials and reusing as a new product, ex: Tetra pack sheet. Now in my home i am segregating the waste and trying to use organic matter as manure for plants. We also went to biome in Vidhyaranapura and met the Green Architects and were shown few Eco houses which were built by them and it was quiet interesting to know about it.

We had two more outdoor trips.

First we went to Veerapura and met Venu, a man who looked after the birds with his own interest and government of Andhra had not helped him in his effort. However recently Forest dept had built a nesting house for the birds which fall of the trees. Seshadri sir taught us how



to draw a simple sketch of any bird and gave more info by asking questions & answering our questions. After this we headed to Timbaktu. I had some expectation of the place and when i went there it was more than my expectation. It was a green environment full of trees, plants & Eco-friendly huts. There were also open schools which were not using any Electronic gadgets. They used only solar power to lead a life of simplicity. Moreover the food was really great

and we met the real hero C.K Ganguly and his family. The other trip was to BRT hills. Before going there we went to Ramnagara, a vulture nesting site. With the help of binocs we traced a vulture nesting and on our way visited Ranganathitti Bird sanctuary. We saw different types of birds and had a lot of learning there. Next we came to BRT hills. On the way we saw wild pigs and Gaur. When we went on Safari we saw giant squirrel and crested serpent eagle. we thoroughly enjoyed and learnt a lot in BRT.

After all class activities and field trips we were assigned to do our projects and on the valedictory day we presented our projects keenly and finally our group- Me, Smithi and Bavya won the prize for the best project work. I got three certificates & two gifts among which were ' The Fall of Sparrow' and 'The Trees of India'. I have learnt some bits and pieces of nature's secret but I am really humbled to learn more about my mother nature.

**Vinod C**

Parikrama Humanity Foundation





## Students Observation: Sunbird



ಪ್ರಾಣಿ ಪಕ್ಷಿಗಳು ಪ್ರಕೃತಿ ಮಾತೆಯ ಸೂಕ್ಷ್ಮವಾದ ಅಂಗಾಂಗಗಳು. ಅವು ಸೊರಗಿದರೆ ಅಥವಾ ಕ್ಷೀಣಿಸಿದರೆ ತಾಯಿಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯವೆಲ್ಲಾಳಿದೀತು? ನಾನು ಹಳ್ಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹುಟ್ಟಿ ಪ್ರಕೃತಿಯ ಆಡಂಬರವನ್ನು ಅಪ್ಪಿಕೊಂಡು ಬೆಳೆದವ ನಾದ್ದರಿಂದ ನಿಸರ್ಗದ ಜೀವಿಗಳ ಕೌತುಕದ ಬದುಕನ್ನು ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯಿಂದ ಉಂಡವ. ಅಂದು ರವಿವಾರ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ ನಾನು ಹಾಗೂ ನನ್ನ ತಮ್ಮ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದ್ದೆವು. ಮನೆಯ ಮುಂದಿನ ಒಂದು ಗಿಡದಲ್ಲಿ Sunbird ಎಂಬ ಹಕ್ಕಿ ಗೂಡು ಕಟ್ಟಿ ಕೊಂಡಿತ್ತು. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಎರಡು ಮರಿಗಳಿದ್ದವು. ಅದನ್ನು ಯಾರೋ

ಬಂದು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಹೋದದ್ದನ್ನು ನನ್ನ ತಮ್ಮ ನೋಡಿ ನನಗೂ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ. ನಾನು ಗಾಬರಿಯಿಂದ ನನ್ನ ತಮ್ಮನಿಗೆ ಆ ಮರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಹಿಂದಕ್ಕೆ ತರಲು ಕಳಿಸಿದೆ. ನನ್ನ ತಮ್ಮ ಹೋಗಿ ಹಕ್ಕಿ ಮರಿಯನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಬಂದ. ಆದರೆ ಅದನ್ನು ಸಾಕುವುದು ಹೇಗೆ ಎಂಬ ಕುತೂಹಲ ನನ್ನನ್ನು ಕಾಡಿತು. ನನ್ನ ತಾಯಿಯ ಸಲಹೆಯಂತೆ ಅದನ್ನು ಅದರ ಮೊದಲ ಗೂಡಿನ ಜಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ರಟ್ಟಿನ ಬಾಕ್ಸ್ ಮತ್ತು ಹತ್ತಿ ಹಾಕಿ ಇಟ್ಟೆ. ಆ ಹಕ್ಕಿಮರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಶಕ್ತಿ ಹೀನವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ನಾನು ರಟ್ಟಿನಗೂಡಿನ ಸಮೇತ ಮೊದಲ ಜಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಇಟ್ಟೆನು.

ತಾಯಿ ಆಹಾರ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದದ್ದನ್ನು ನಾನು ಗಮನಿಸಿದೆ. ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ದಿನವಾದ ಬಳಿಕ ಒಂದು ಹಕ್ಕಿ ಹಾರಿಹೋಯಿತು. ನನಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ತಮ್ಮನಿಗೆ ಎಲ್ಲಿಲ್ಲದ ಸಂತೋಷ. ಆದರೆ ದುಃಖವೆಂದರೆ ಇನ್ನೊಂದು ಶಕ್ತಿಹೀನ ಹಕ್ಕಿ ಚಿಗಳಿಯ ಬಾಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿ ಸತ್ತು ಹೋಯಿತು. ನನ್ನ ತಮ್ಮ ಹಾಗೂ ನಾನು ಹಾರಿ ಹೋದ ಹಕ್ಕಿಯ ಕುರಿತು ನಮ್ಮ ಸ್ನೇಹಿತರಿಗೆ ಹೆಮ್ಮೆಯಿಂದ ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆವು. 3 ವರ್ಷದ ಹಿಂದೆ ಡಿ.ಎನ್.ಎ ಕ್ಲಬ್ ನಮಗೆ ಪಕ್ಷಿಸಂಕುಲದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದ Sunbird ಹಕ್ಕಿಯನ್ನು ಉಳಿಸಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಯಿತು. **Ananya, Jaycee School, Ankola**

### Did you know?



Most of the life of Dragonfly is spent in larval stage underwater. The nymph breath through internal gills and catch prey using extendable jaws.

## Field Trip Experience: Sakkarebylu

Near Gajanur in Shimoga there is a wonderful place where many elephants stay and it is Sakkarebylu Elephant camp. Elephant is a big animal and it is difficult to train and feed, but here they are fed so well. There are 18 elephants and 3 are older than the other. They are very big with

long trunk and have white patches on the upper part of the trunk. There are 2 small ones who are very sharp. We learnt some facts about elephants from their trainers. They require approximately 8-10kg dry grass, jaggery, coconut, rice everyday. The elephants are

2700 to 5000kg in weight. The trunk has the capacity to store 9 litres of water. The elephants are wonderful when they are in good condition. If they are kept in bad condition they will behave badly. So we need to be very careful about them - **Shilpa N, Jaycees school, Sringeri**

## Art work of the Season: ಜೀವವೈವಿಧ್ಯತೆ ಉಳಿಸಿ, ಪರಿಸರ ಸಮತೋಲನ ರಕ್ಷಿಸಿ

ಇಂದು ನಾವು ಜೀವವೈವಿಧ್ಯತೆ ಉಳಿಸಿ ಪರಿಸರ ಸಮತೋಲನ ರಕ್ಷಿಸಬೇಕಿದೆ. ಭೂಮಿಯ ಮೇಲಿನ ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಂದು ಜೀವಿ ಪ್ರಭೇದಗಳನ್ನು ಉಳಿಸಬೇಕಿದೆ. ಆ ಮೂಲಕ ನಮ್ಮ ಪರಿಸರ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಿಸಿ ಮುಂದಿನ ಪೀಳಿಗೆಗೆ ನೀಡಬೇಕಿದೆ. 'Live and Let Live' ಎಂಬುವಂತೆ ಭೂಮಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಂದು ಜೀವಿಗೂ ಬದುಕಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ನೀಡಬೇಕಿದೆ.

**Samyak Jain,**  
SDM High School, Ujire



## Volunteer's Experience : A Bird's View



My first memory of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the VTP was watching the sun's rays being sporadically disturbed by a bunch of young, circumspect, "soft spoken" adolescent characters trickling into ATREE's auditorium.

They went about carefully choosing the seats they would warm in the 3 weeks to follow. The scene was one of calm and promise, of pleasance and ease, of quiet and Zen. Little did I know of the imminent turbulence. Now that I think of it, they, the students that is, had all the traits of the Lantana. Harmless little invasives!

Nature opened up rather quickly to these young minds, through a wonderful host of researchers. Croaking frogs, chirping birds and serene diatoms were just glimpses of what was to follow.

The first weekend of the program was a delightful one - Veerapura gave them a sense of community based conservation and Timbaktu gave them hope of a brighter tomorrow with a lesson in simple co-existence between nature and mankind.

If the first week was a mixed bag of nature, field

activities and NGO visits, the second was focused on the elements of nature – pollination, molluscs, invasives, plants and forest types. Nature uncannily, pulled the right chords in their young hearts and left them wanting more!

When kept busy, the young minds were a pleasure to be around, when idle... well let's just say a few of us lost some valuable hair. For that very reason, the last week was superbly power packed. Tree climbing tired them greatly, Ramanagara and Ranganthittu took their breath away, BRT blew their minds and the final knock out came in the form of their project presentations.

At the end of it all, watching the students from vantage point, I saw them transform from city dwelling kids filled with fun and frolic to fairly mature adolescents with a larger connect to nature, still retaining their wide smiles.

A wonderful 3 weeks may have come to a close on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May but the dainty flavours and delightful learnings will linger on for years to come...

**Naveen Chabbria**



## Student's Observation : ಗುಬ್ಬಿ



ಗುಬ್ಬಿ ಒಂದು ಚಿಕ್ಕದಾದ ಪಕ್ಷಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸುಂದರವಾದ ಪಕ್ಷಿ. ಗುಬ್ಬಿಗಳು ಮೂರು ಅಥವಾ ನಾಲ್ಕು ಬಣ್ಣಗಳಿಂದ ಕೂಡಿರುತ್ತವೆ. ಅದರ ಕಾಲುಗಳು ಕಪ್ಪು ಬಣ್ಣ, ಅದರ ರೆಕ್ಕೆಗಳು ಅರ್ಧ ಹಳದಿ, ಅರ್ಧ ಕಪ್ಪು ಮತ್ತು ಅದರ ಕೆಳಭಾಗ ಬಿಳಿಯ ಬಣ್ಣದಿಂದ ಕೂಡಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ನಾನು ಒಂದು ದಿನ ಗುಬ್ಬಿ ನೋಡಿದೆ. ನಾನು ನೋಡಿದ ದಿನ ಅದು ಗೂಡನ್ನು ಕಟ್ಟಲು ಜಾಗವನ್ನು ನೋಡಿ ಹುಲ್ಲಿನ ಗಂಗಳನ್ನು ತಂದು ಒಂದು ಗೂಡನ್ನು ಕಟ್ಟಿತು. ಕೆಲವು ದಿನಗಳ ನಂತರ ಮೊಟ್ಟೆ ಇಟ್ಟು

ಮರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾಡಿ, ಆ ಮರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಆಹಾರವನ್ನು ತಂದು ಪ್ರತಿದಿನ ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಅದರ ಮರಿಗಳು ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ದಿನದ ನಂತರ ಹಾರಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಿದಾಗ ಒಂದು ಮರಿ ಮರಣ ಹೊಂದಿತು. ಇನ್ನು ಎರಡು ಮರಿಗಳು ತನ್ನ ತಾಯಿಯ ಜೊತೆ ಹಾರಿ ಹೋದವು. ಈ ಪಕ್ಷಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಣೆಯನ್ನು ನಾನು DNA Clubನ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದೇನೆ.

**Shashikumar C C**

Sree Someshwara High School, Tumkur

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