

SOCIETY TO SAVE ROCKS

1236, Road No.60, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad-500 033.

Tel. No. : +91-40-23552923

e-mail: frauqe@saverocks.org

www.saverocks.org

QUARTERLY

Volume 55

NEWSLETTER

April - June 2010

Editors : Frauqe Quader, Padmini B Patell

ARE THE 24 ROCK SITES LISTED AS HERITAGE PRECINCTS BY THE HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY REALLY PROTECTED ?

Who, in actual fact, is responsible for their safety?

Judging from the events at Moulali Hill where a huge Transmission Tower has been built by the Cyberabad Police after the hillock had been put on the Heritage Conservation List, there is obviously no agency eager to check on the safety of Heritage Sites (that's rocks as well as buildings). But we need vigilance and action to protect sites from damage, disfigurement and encroachment. And while officials squabble over responsibilities, we propose that the Society to Save Rocks plays an active role in the monitoring and checking of all listed rock sites. For this, we will form groups of volunteers headed by members of the Managing Committee who will pay regular visits to the Sites. There will be 7 groups in 5 zones:

North Zone: Shamirpet

(Venkateshwaragutta, Deer Park, Reserved Forest)

East Zone: Moula Ali, Sentinel Rock

South Zone: Pahar-e-Shareef

West Zone: A. Jubilee Hills, Hitech

City, Durgam Cheruvu

B. Gachibowli, Sheikpet

C. Golconda area

Central Zone: Dattatreya Temple, Sitarambagh Rocks, Gangabowli Pahad



Mouli Ali with New Transmission Tower

AND FOR THIS, **WE NEED YOU TO VOLUNTEER !!**

Help us look after the Rocks ! Contact Secretary Frauqe Quader on phone or e-mail (23552923/98499-36248; frauqe@saverocks.org), and indicate the area of the city most convenient for you to visit. We will hold a meeting to work out the details.

AWARENESS PROGRAMMES - 70th ALL INDIA INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION



Come Jan. /Feb., every Hyderabadi believes that a shopping visit to Numaish, the annual “Industrial Exhibition” at Nampally, is a must. As a result, thousands of visitors jostle for space at the sea of stalls. Throngs shove along watching the scene munching on junk foods, picking up things here and there. If you are not claustrophobic, this is the ideal place not only for shopping, but also to peddle your wares or ideas. And bringing environmental awareness to Numaish’s many visitors is what the APEC group had in mind. APEC is the “Environment Connect” e- and action group which has been formed a year back by the AP Forest Department. So they put up a stall right near one of the entrance gates, staffed it with volunteers from the most diverse backgrounds (corporates, schools, colleges, NGOs) and taught everyone who wanted to listen about water harvesting, no-plastic options, energy conservation etc. Paper and cloth bags were distributed, children painted “green” and practiced slogan writing.

Taking the opportunity of the APEC’s stall as a base, a few of our members (Vedant, Sundeep and his mother Sowbhagia, Farah Naz, Dr. Sudheer Bhan) braved the crowds on the last Saturday of the Exhibition (13-02-2010) and offered information on the rock preservation cause to the visitors. Our T-shirts and caps were also on sale. Of course, our group worked also for the APEC campaigns. They became so enthusiastic about it all that they volunteered the next day, Sunday, too. Great work, thank you members – surely a lot more visitors have become aware of the rock cause and the work of the Society!

If you are interested in joining AP Environment Connect for “green” discussions and action, e-mail to apenvconnect@googlegroups.com. For information go to <http://groups.google.co.in/group/apenvconnect>

OTHER PROGRAMMES

- A power point presentation on Rocks was screened for a group of 30 students and staff of the Department of Physical Geography, University of Marburg, Germany, at the Taramati Bharadari on 19-02-2010
- Members Hina and Amol Gokhale took guests from Mumbai to Fakhruddin Gutta on 9th Jan.
- A rock walk scheduled to Shamirpet for 50 students of Delhi Public School, Secunderabad was, unfortunately, called off due to one of the Telangana Bandh.

PRESS ECHO

Hyderabadis have been reminded of their rocky heritage in several press publications, this quarter:

- Danik Jagran’s Cityplus, Banjara Hills Edition, featured the rock cause prominently in their paper (“Save Deccan Plateau rocks”), and also published a write-up on our Secretary Frauke Quader and the Rocks (20th Feb and 6th March 2010)

- 040-Explocity, the smart new glossy for the Twin Cities, included the rock story in two editions: in their feature on our Secretary (Jan 2010) and in an article on environmental groups in Hyderabad (March 2010).
- The on-line magazine “for travellers”, The India Tube, published “On the Rocks – Hyderabad’s Monolithic Heritage” on 11.3.2010. You could access this well presented article through <http://www.theindiatube.com/features/on-the-rocks>. It carries photos by J.Adam Huggins who shot them while here for the New York Times article about the fate of the Rocks in “Boomtown Hyderabad”, in August 2007.
- NTV Hyderabad carried a spot on integration of rocks into houses and built-up areas, on 11th March 2010.

Letter to the Editor

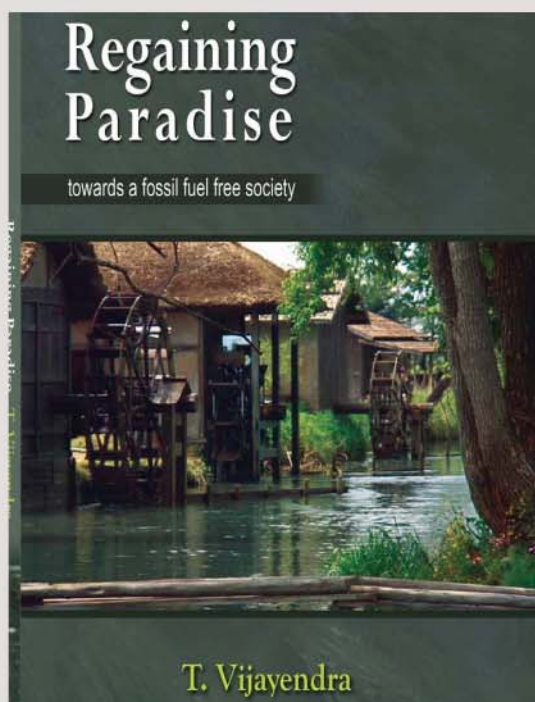
May I request the knowledgeable and experienced members of the Society to do a service to inexperienced members and general public. This service is to prepare and publish/post on the web site a complete description of the various major rock sites.

More important than the photographs is text containing precise and easy to follow directions on how to reach each rock site. While the Oct issue of Wow magazine has pioneered such a job for few sites, it does not seem to be correct. I am sure lot of people both from Hyderabad and outside would benefit from this information.

C. Satish

We will be working on this suggestion. Please do keep the letters coming !

REGAINING PARADISE - T. VIJAYENDRA



This book is an attempt to present in as simple and straight forward a way as possible, the present crisis of global warming and of the capitalist system of the society. It also offers some solutions that the author believes will help Indians to prepare for the transition.

The author of the book, T. Vijayendra, is a life member of the Society since 2002 and was a Committee Member in 2005-2006. He was the brain behind the “Enviro Mela” and took an active part in organising the event. He is a member of the CERANA Foundation an Environmental NGO and an Institutional Member of the Society.

He (born 1943) is a B. Tech. (Electronics) from I.I.T. Kharagpur (1966). Over the past four decades, his work with the trade union movements, alternative journalism, libraries, bookshops, publishing, socio-political research, health, education, and environment have given him unique insights into India’s people and problems. His writings are published regularly in the weekly journal *Frontier* from Kolkata. He now lives on an organic farm in the Western Ghats.

Copies of “Regaining Paradise” are priced at Rs 120/- and available with the Society. (The Author has been kind enough to request that the proceeds go to the Society.)

OBITUARY

Siraj A.Taher passed away on 7th January 2010. He was well known as the long-standing President of the A.P. Birdwatchers' Society, and also became a Founder Life Member of the Society to Save Rocks in 1996. The ardent friend of nature that he was, he would not let us forget that the "rocks are not just barren and lifeless monoliths with only an aesthetic or sentimental value, but contain a plethora of life forms. Geckos and mongooses live among them and Great Horned owls, Spotted Owlets, vultures, mynas and swifts nest in their crevices and openings. What a wealth of wildlife, and we thought the rocks were 'dead matter'!" As a constant reminder to everybody interested in rock preservation, this quote has been printed in our brochure..

We have lost not only a supporter for the cause, an advocate for all things living, but also a close personal friend who played a big part in instilling the love for nature in our children too. Siraj Taher's memory will always be with us.

Frauke Quader

ROCK WALKS IN APRIL, MAY & JUNE 2010 :

Date :	Place :	Time / Meeting Point:
Sunday April 18	Durgam Cheruvu, Jubilee Hills	3.30 p.m. Opp. Petrol Bunk, Jubilee Hills Check Post
Sunday May 16	Hyderabad University Gachibowli	7 a.m. at the Main Gate of Hyderabad Central University
Sunday June 20	Pragatinagar / Kukatpally	3.30 opp. Maitrivanam, Ameerpet 3.45 p.m. at Main Gate of JNTU, Kukatpally

Rock walks are conducted on the third Sunday of every month. They are announced in Channel 6, WOW Hyderabad, The Hindu, Times of India, fullhyd.com and of course on our website. Everybody is welcome. Sensible shoes, a cap, long pants and a water bottle are a must. Please enrol a minimum of 2 days in advance with Frauke Quader at Tel. 23552923 or with C.J. Rao at 98490-37240.

The new Accounting Year starts from 1st April 2010 and as per the Society's regulations all Membership fees for 2010/2011 are to be paid by June 2010.

Managing Committee:

President:	Narendra Luther - 23399778	Members:	
Vice President:	Aparajita Sinha - 9849655363	Lata Marur	- 23350524
Secretary:	Frauke Quader - 9849936248	Uma Maheshwari	- 9866019402
Joint Secretary:	C.J. Rao - 9849037240	Padmini B. Patell	- 9912865299
Treasurer:	Dr. Hina Gokhale - 9440893983	Dr. E. Sathya Prakash-	9440057846

Membership Fees :

Class	Admission	Annual Subscription
Active	Rs. 100	Rs.200
Couple	Rs. 100	Rs.300
Life (Single)	Rs. 2,000 for Life	—
(Couple)	Rs. 3,000 for Life	—
Institution	Rs. 10,000	—
Corporate	Rs. 50,000	—
Student	Rs. 100	Rs. 100