

SOCIETY TO SAVE ROCKS

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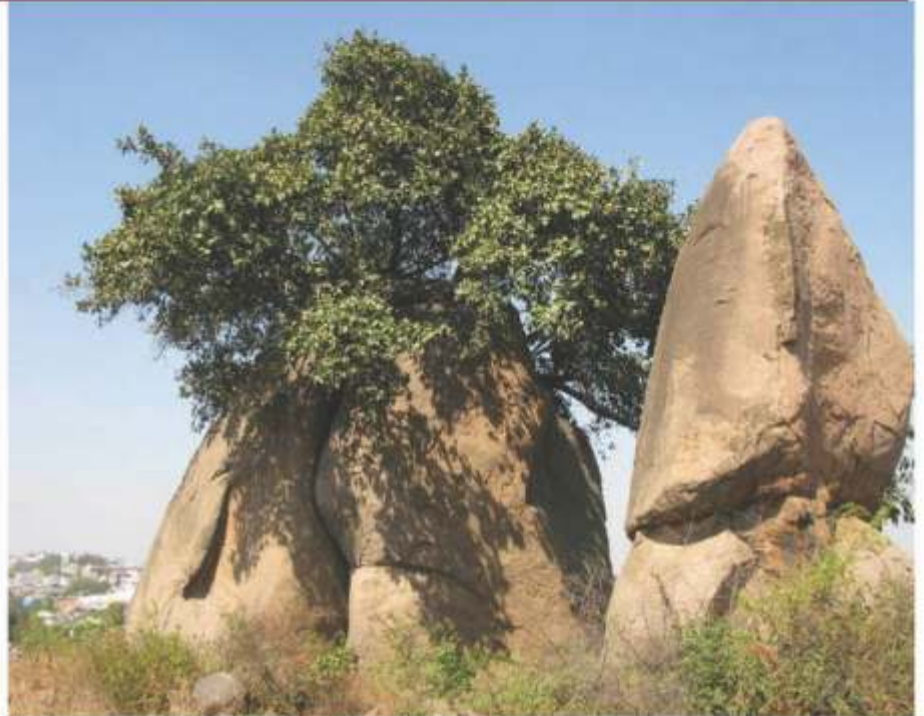
QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER

July - September 2013

Editors : Frauke Quader, Padmini B Patell

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TREES



"Together Rock" at Jubilee Hills



Photos Frauke Quader

Rock at Rachakonda

Unfortunately, this symbiosis also brings home the fact that while at least trees can be replanted rocks are lost forever! It also highlights the reality that Nature goes the extra mile (unlike humans!) to accommodate – a rock encompasses a tree, a river hugs a mountain, even ferocious dogs are known to befriend kittens!

LICHENS ON ROCKS

A great example of symbiosis is exhibited by lichens also called Symbionts meaning two organisms that live together. These are associations of algae and fungi and commonly occur as thin round greenish patches. The alga in a lichen being green prepares food and shares it



with the fungus, while the latter absorbs water and mineral salts from the surrounding medium and also affords protection to the alga.

Crustose lichen is the only plant that will grow on a bare rock. This is accomplished when small amounts of water get into cracks in the rock surface, providing the lichen with minerals and organic materials. Over time this process forms a tiny bit of soil on the rock. These lichen tend to lie flat on their host, looking much like paint splatters, making them hard to remove. They range in color from black, gray, brown to orange, yellow and green. Scientifically lichens are considered trust-worthy indicators of the purity of the air, explaining why we do not see lichens on rocks in polluted areas of the city.

ROCK NEWS

Felicitation : The Chowmahalla Palace was the festive backdrop for the concluding function of the Hyderabad Heritage Week on 18. April 2013. Lata Marur and Frauke Quader of our Society received a Felicitation from the Minister for Tourism Vatti Vasant Kumar on their work for the rocky heritage of Hyderabad.



Rock Outing at National Police Academy :

Our guides Ravi Setlem, Sandeep Raj, Dr. Srinivas Madhusudan and Srikar took a group of more than 70 (!) children of the NPA school on a rock excursion in their campus on 25.5.2013.

ROCKSCAPE OF ANDHRA PRADESH - the coffee table book p
While it makes an excellent gift, it helps spread a



Fakhruddingutta : continued and continuing !

On a hot but breezy April morning (24.4.), we finally were able to visit the dargah hill of Fakhruddingutta together with Special Chief Secretary Tourism Ms. Chandana Khan and her staff. The plans are still on to convert this beautiful sheetrock-cum-boulder hill into a Nature/Adventure/Geology/Tourist Park. Ms. Khan assured the members of the Society (Dr. Sathya Prakash, Sangeeta Varma, Tariq Khan and Frauke Quader were present) that she “shares our passion” and will work towards the realization of these plans. In a

subsequent meeting at her chambers with the Commissioner HMDA it was decided to establish the exact ownership of the hill, and then work towards its protection and development.

Trash War

Early Sunday morning, 9.6.2013, the Hyderabad Runners, supported by members of the Society to Save Rocks and others, collected bags and bags of garbage that was littering the shore of the Durgam Cheruvu near the old dam. Kudos to citizens who feel responsible for the environment and health of our city. Hans India reported about the event.

The Durgam Cheruvu is now extensively overgrown with water hyacinths. The Tourism Department assured us that these prolific aquatic plants (which, by the way, are an indicator of the high pollution of the lake) will be cleared in the next few months.



Photo Sangeeta Varma

Giant Holds Its Ground

If you have recently gone down the Ameerpet main road towards Yusufguda you would have noticed the Giant rock that stands exposed at the foot of Panje Shah. Soil has been excavated right to the base of the rock making it vulnerable. Perhaps acts like these should make us wonder how much of the environmental mess is manmade. And we blame Nature when land slides, the earth quakes and tsunamis lash !

Investigations revealed that soon this giant will be hidden (hopefully not removed) by a commercial complex, part of the Metro Rail project !



Photo Padmini Patell

PRESS ECHO

- 21.4.2013 - Deccan Chronicle : “Rocks tell us about Our Earth”
- 14.5.2013 – The Hans India: “Vanishing Rocks of Hyderabad”
- 10.6.2013 – Deccan Chronicle: “Rock faces a hard time as builder digs for mall”
- 11.6.2013 – The Hans India: “City youth on clean-up drive”

**riced at Rs 600 (members can avail a discount) is now available.
wareness about the Natural marvels of the Deccan.**

OBITUARY

With sadness we remember our Member Meena Anantanarayan who passed away recently. Meena brought Ikebana to Hyderabad and made it flourish. The keen lover of nature that she was, she totally admired the rocks of Hyderabad and joined our crusade early on. May her soul rest in peace.

Rock Walks in July, August and September 2013

Date :	Place :	Time / Meeting Point:
Sunday July 21, 2013	Venkateshwaragutta (near Shamirpet Lake)	2.30 pm Opp. St. Ann's High School S.P. Road, Secunderabad
Sunday August 18, 2013	Bhongir and Organic Farm "Green Acres"	8 am Opp St Ann's High School Return 6 pm. Bring Lunch
Sunday Sept. 15, 2013	Bojjagattu, near Chautuppall	9.30 am Gunpark, Opp. Public Gardens Return 6 pm. Bring Lunch

Rock walks are conducted on the third Sunday of every month. They are announced in Channel 6, WOW Hyderabad, The Hindu, Times of India, Deccan Chronicle, 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 on 23552923 or with C.J. Rao on 98490-37240.

We welcome our new member : Harshita Soni, Active
Conversion of Membership: Pratik Gupte (Life, from Student)
Marlys Erikson/Chris Hurley (Life Couple, from Active)

Managing Committee

President:	Narendra Luther	- 23399778	Members:	C.J. Rao	- 9849037240
Vice President:	Aparajita Sinha	- 9849655363		Dr. Hina Gokhale	- 9440893983
Secretary:	Frauke Quader	- 9849936248		Padmini B. Patell	- 9912865299
Joint Secretary:	Uma Maheshwari	- 9866019402		Dr. Sudheer Bhan	- 8106072537
Treasurer:	Sangeeta Varma	- 9849044624		T.R. Subramaniam	- 9849018199
				Ravi Setlem	- 9866241768

Membership Fees

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

CALENDER INPUTS PLEASE !

Members are requested to identify pro-environment corporates who will be willing to use professionally taken rock photographs for a 2014 calendar – an endeavor that will widen the circle of appreciation and supporters for our cause.