

SOCIETY TO SAVE ROCKS

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QUARTERLY

NEWSLETTER

Volume 8 I

October - December 2016

Editors : Frauke Quader, Padmini B Patell

We are pleased to introduce the **New Managing Committee** which was formed on 26th August, 2016.

It's a known fact that working for the cause of the Rocks can be challenging in more ways than one. It is understandable why there are few takers and while we acknowledge all those who committed their time and effort, we are very grateful to the old and experienced for agreeing to continue despite changing dynamics.

Mr Narendra Luther, Aparajita Sinha & Frauke Quader will be continuing to lead our worthy crusade. We can look forward to some enriching contribution from G.R.B. Pradeep, Joint Secretary, and new Committee Members Anand Madhubushi and Sathya Prakash. We thank outgoing Committee Members Amita Talwar, Dr. Madhusudhan Kandada & Sandeep Raj for their dedicated work for the rock cause for many years.



*Sitting right to left : Aparajita Sinha, Narendra Luther, Frauke Quader, Sangeeta Varma & G.R. B. Pradeep
Standing right to left : Dr. E. Sathya Prakash, Padmini B. Patell, Dr. Sudheer Bhan & Anand Madabhushi*

HYDERABAD ROCKATHON 2016

Yet another exciting Rockathon is coming up on **November 20th**. The annual event in collaboration with the Great Hyderabad Adventure Club is being supported by Telagana Toursim this year too. Exciting new events such as Trail Run, Rock Tattoo, Children's Skits etc. are bound to make it much more fun this year. Plans are on to widen the scope of entertainment with Musical Bands and the new sensation - Beat Boxing. Mark your calendars and get your family and friends to do the same. Registration is open from October 5th onwards.



Mr. Sara & Crew

ROCK FILM IN THE MAKING

Evanescence Studios from Chennai have been chosen to make a short documentary on the Society, its work and the new possibilities for Rock preservation. They have been shortlisted on the basis of their thought-provoking environmental

films for BBC, Discovery, Animal Planet etc. They were invited to spend a week in August to get a feel of our rich Deccan Rock

Heritage and the issues and challenges that we are faced with. Another round of filming will commence once the weather is favourable.

Says Saravana Kumar, Wildlife Filmmaker, Cameraman & Photographer "On every short trip I have ever made to Hyderabad, I never failed to notice the beautiful rock formations. For someone who has spent more than a decade making films on various wildlife and nature related issues, it came as a realisation that even these wonderful rock formations need protection. As a filmmaker, especially a wildlife filmmaker, the great challenge is to make a captivating film about objects that don't move. We are used to shooting tigers and elephants, but the rocks have their own spirit and as long I can capture it, I know the film will do its job of winning friends for the rocks."



Capturing bytes on location

OBITUARY

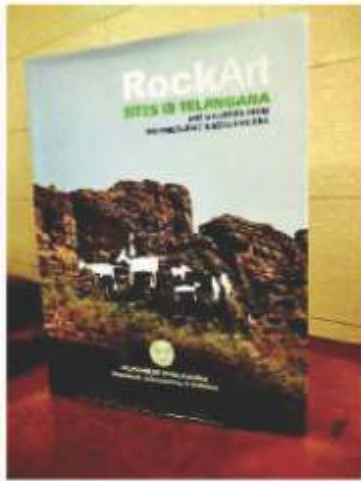
We are profoundly saddened to have to announce the loss of two of our Life Members:

Our very senior member **A.V. Ranga Rao**, retired scientist at DRDL and former President of the Jubilee Hills Society was a great support to us from the beginning of our crusade and was instrumental in designing the Constitution of the Society. All his family members are also Life Members of our Society.

Srikanth Kohle was a well-known artist in Hyderabad and contributed his beautiful and intricate rock drawings to the Exhibition of paintings and photos that we held in 2013 at the Goethe Zentrum. We are grateful to both Members for helping us so effectively in the cause of protecting the Rocks of Hyderabad and the Deccan.

Our sincere condolences go to their families. May their souls rest in peace.

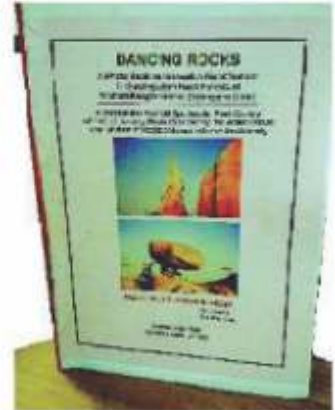
NEW ROCK PUBLICATIONS



RockArt – SITES IN TELANGANA is a well presented coffee table book highlighting the 'Art Galleries from the Paleolithic & Neolithic Era'. It has been brought out by the Government of Telangana, Department of Archeology & Museums.

Mr. B. Bhagavantha Reddy is a long-time Life Member of our Society who is very active in Nature conservation and Rock protection. He has brought out **DANCING ROCKS** in collaboration with Telangana Tourism covering interesting aspects of the stunning rocks of Gaddegudem Forest

near Mehboobnagar. He has given details of the flora & fauna, herbs that grow in the region and animals found there. He also founded two Nature Clubs in his home district working closely with the local Forest Department and Mandal Office.



The serene Past



The devastated Present

SHAMIRPET - the sorry fate!

The September Rock Walk was a stark reminder of the urgency to save our city Rocks. What was once the scenic **Venkateshwara gutta** Heritage Precinct that provided a perfect rock walk until 2 years ago is sadly now a mountain of rubble. Heart breaking for us regulars for whom Shamirpet was a favorite with its close proximity, green cover, serene lake and exciting bouldering possibilities.

This is exactly why our work to spread awareness, gather Government support, fight for Heritage protection, educate the public and cajole Builders becomes even more crucial by the day - if other rock sites are to be saved from a similar sorry fate.

Rock Walks in October Noember and December 2016

Date :	Place :	Time /Meeting Point :
Sunday Oct, 16, 2016	The great Basolith of Bhongir	9.30 a.m. / Opp. St. Ann's School, S.P. Road, Secunderabad. This is a full-day outing; please bring lunch; return appr. 6 p.m.
Sunday Nov, 20, 2016	Rock and Fun Day " Rockathon " at Fakhruddingutta (Khajaguda) - see separate announcement overleaf	7.30 am – 4.30 p.m. Meet you at the venue!
Sunday Dec, 18, 2016	Yedupayala, near Medak	7 a.m. / Main Gate of Vengal Rao Park, Road No.1, Banjara Hills, opp. "Midtown". Return appr. 8 p.m. Please bring lunch and snacks. Bus fees are Rs. 500 per person. Pl. check website www.saverocks.org/programmes for details of payment. Enrol with G.R.B Pradeep at 98667 52114 before 12.12.2016.

Rock walks are conducted on the third Sunday of every month. They are widely announced in the press and social media, and of course on our website. Everybody is welcome. Walking shoes, a cap, long pants and a water bottle are a must. Please enroll with G.R.B. Pradeep on 98667 52114.

Managing Committee

President:	Narendra Luther	- 040-23399778	Members:	
Vice President:	Aparajita Sinha	- 9849655363	Padmini B. Patell	- 9912865299
Secretary:	Frauke Quader	- 9849936248	Dr. Sudheer Bhan	- 8106072537
Joint Secretary:	G.R.B. Pradeep	- 98667 52114	Anand Madabhushi	- 9849033763
Treasurer:	Sangeeta Varma	- 9849044624	Dr. E.Sathya Prakash	- 9440057846

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	—

HAPPY DASSERA & DIWALI