

SOCIETY TO SAVE ROCKS

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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

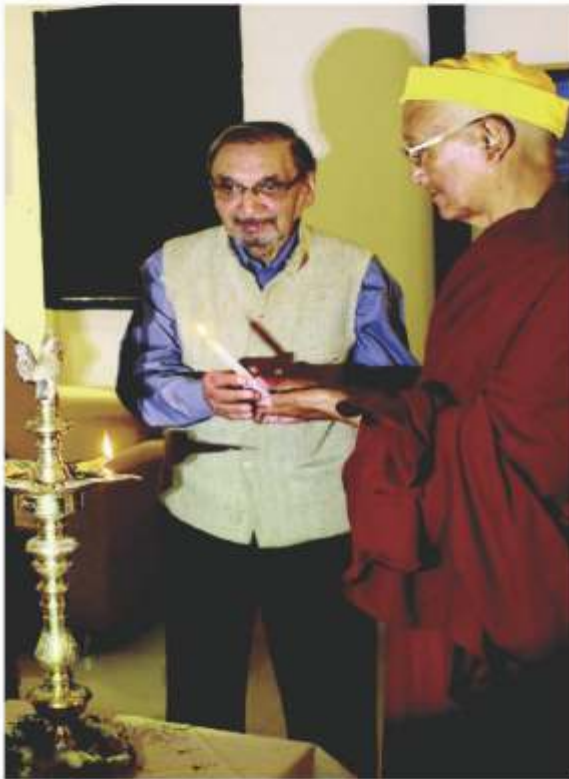
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Editors : Frauke Quader, Padmini B Patell

SPREADING THE LIGHT OF ROCK AWARENESS

A Rock Photo Exhibition was put up at the Phoenix Arena, Hitec City to announce the Society's 21st year of existence. The exhibition was inaugurated by Respected Lama Doboom Tulku, President World Buddhist Culture Trust on 26th January which was well attended by members and well wishers. Lama Tulku shared insights about the importance given to Natural elements in Buddhism and the fact that Interdependence of Man and Nature is placed in high regard. He appreciated the Society's work and spoke about the sheer beauty of the Deccan Rocks that are in need of active preservation and his personal affinity to rocks. In the TV 9 interview the Lama mentioned that Rocks do not need any development and are beautiful the way they are. Lama Tulku along with Narendra Luther and other Committee Members cut a cake to celebrate 21 years of consistent effort and continued determination to conserve our precious 2500 million year old rocks for future generations.



*Rock Photo Exhibition inaugurated by
Lama Tulku & Narendra Luther*

The evening concluded with high tea and much admiration for the stunning photographs displayed along with Rock Art by members. The exhibition which went on for a month received a good number of visitors from the Hitec area introducing new audiences to our cause. The Society is grateful to Phoenix Arena for hosting the exhibition and keeping a few photographs as permanent exhibits for publicizing our cause.

(Photos by Polepeddi Vishwanath)



Appreciating the photographs on display

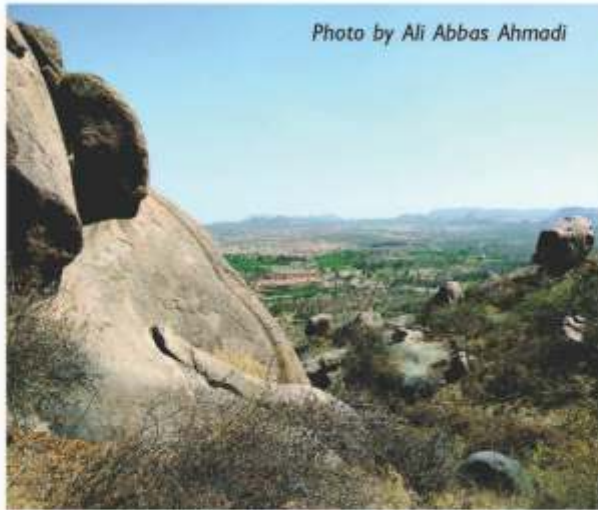


Photo by Ali Abbas Ahmadi

View atop Batasingaram

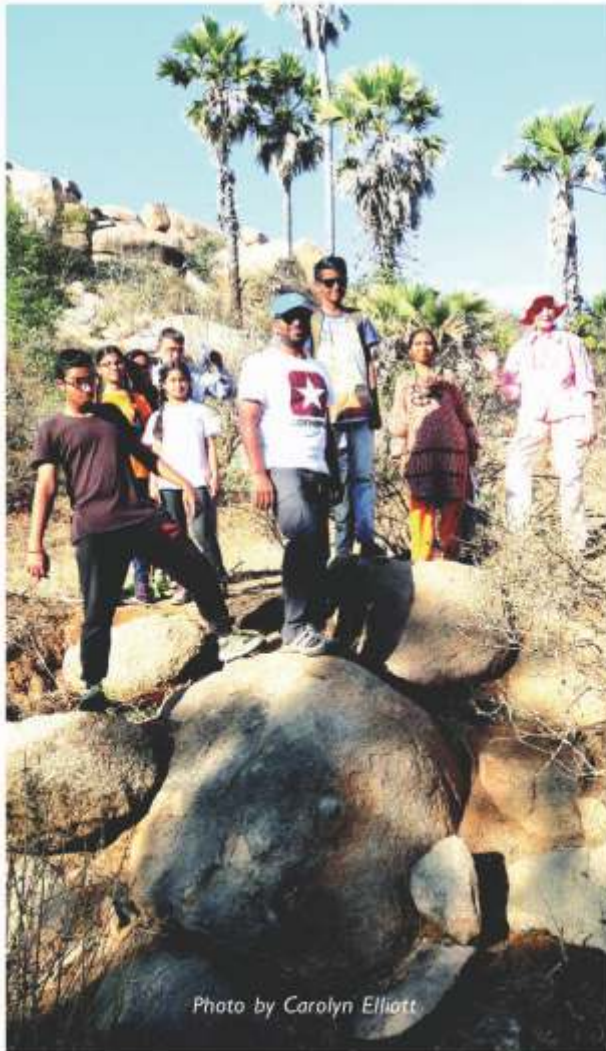


Photo by Carolyn Elliott

Rockwalkers take a photo break

ROCK WALK FEATURE - BHATASINGARAM

February 19th turned out to be an unusually hot day. A group of about 15 rock enthusiasts assembled at Gun Park and after a quick exchange of pleasantries and introductions, were Batasingaram bound. Cliched as it may sound, the city's traffic has increased manifold and as we snaked through the road via Chaderghat, LB Nagar, we couldn't help wonder where were all these people heading to on a Sunday morning. It takes longer to leave the concrete jungle behind these days than it used to. Sigh!

We did finally wriggle out of the city and found ourselves in the sleepy lanes of Batasingaram, a remote village nested not too far from the contrastingly busy Vijaywada highway. Batasingaram is blessed with hills all around and we felt like we were window shopping for our choice hill to climb. We zeroed in on one that seemed to have a friendly incline and interesting rocks on top. However, few chose to stay around the foot of the hill while the rest of us headed upwards.

We soon realized that the climb wasn't an easy one with thorny bushes posing as hurdles. With a lot of teamwork and huffing and puffing, all of us - young and old alike, made it to the top. We took shelter in the shade of a huge rock and admired the view around. It's amazing how cool and breezy it is on top of rocky hills if you choose a strategic spot. While some of the younger lot were leaping from one rock to the other, the rest basked in the admiration of the serenity of the hill. The clear blue sky in the backdrop and the majestic rock formations towering over us painted a beautiful picture in front of us. The tiring climb was soon forgotten and we sat there just soaking in the experience.

We started our descent after some time and headed to an abandoned Igloo like house where we had a sumptuous lunch and tea. Calories stuffed, we were ready to ride back to our urban lives. Looking back, a day well spent in the company of rocks!! - by Ravi Setlem

VOLUNTEERS RECOGNISED

Saturday 4th March was an evening of Rockathon volunteer recognition for leads from both the Society and Great Hyderabad Adventure Club who lent their expertise, time and effort in conducting the activities efficiently. While Frauke Quader recognised the support of all the volunteers and presented them with mementos, she also reiterated their focus on safety which is of utmost importance for the sustained popularity of this annual event. Soon the new Rockathon team will be formed to make plans for the sixth edition of Rockathon later this year and once again there will be excitement in the air.

Volunteers who rocked it !



UPDATE ON THE HYDERABAD-BORDEAUX CONNECTION

As reported earlier the City of Bordeaux (France) is planning a Biennial of architecture, urbanism and design in September called AGORA 2017. Hyderabad is to be represented as an International partner at this Exhibition. The Society has applied to include a presentation on the rocky landscape of Hyderabad in the event that is open to architects, planners, artists and other organisations. Our contribution will be a short video on our stunning rocks, as well as photographs. A decision on the projects will be taken in April by the organizers of the Festival, the Bordeaux Municipality, the Government of Telanagana in association with GHMC. Let's keep our fingers crossed !

PHOTO EXHIBITION AT BITS PILANI, HYDERABAD

Pearl Carnival 2017 the annual Cultural festival of BITS was held from 17th to 19th March, 2017. On this occasion the Society organized a two day Photo exhibition on Rock Formations of Hyderabad under the guidance of Suresh Sarvanand a third year B.Tech student of the BITS NSS unit. Students from BITS and various technical and engineering institutes of Hyderabad, Pune and Mumbai viewed the exhibition. They were amazed to see rocks and humans existing together in Hyderabad's urban conglomeration and equally shocked by their destruction in the name of development. The exhibition's aim was met with the students asking several questions related to rocks and definitely taking home rock food for thought ! This initiative was the handy work of G.R.B.Pradeep and Dr Sudheer Bhan.

NATURAL HERITAGE AS ENDORSED BY WIKIPEDIA (& THE SOCIETY!)

Natural heritage refers to the sum total of the elements of biodiversity, including flora and fauna and ecosystem types, together with associated geological structures and formations (geodiversity). Heritage is that which is inherited from past generations, maintained in the present, and bestowed to future generations. The term "natural heritage", derived from "natural inheritance", pre-dates the term "biodiversity." It is a less scientific term and more easily comprehended in some ways by the wider audience interested in conservation. The term was used in this context in the United States when Jimmy Carter set up the Georgia Heritage Trust [1] while he was governor of Georgia.

The new Accounting Year 2017/18 starts on 1.4.2017. We request all Active and Student Members to pay the Annual Subscription for 2017/18 as well as any arrears before 1.7.2017. Please contact the office at 04023552923 if you would like to know the status of your account.

Rock Walks in April, May and June 2017

| Date : | Place : | Time /Meeting Point : |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday April, 16 , 2017 | Ghaar-e-Mubarak near Taramati Baradari | 7 a.m. / NMDC, Masab Tank. |
| Sunday May, 21, 2017 | Durgam Cheruvu | 7 a.m. / Jubilee Check Post, opp. Petrol Pump. |
| Sunday, June, 18, 2017 | Bodugutta near Pochampally | 9.30 a.m. / Gun Park, opp. Public Garden; Public Garden; return app. 6 p.m. Bring lunch. |

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 |
| | | | *Ravi Setlem | - 9866241768 |

*** At the Managing Committee meeting held on March 1st 2017, Ravi Setlem has been co-opted into the Committee. We can look forward to his active participation !**

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 | — |