

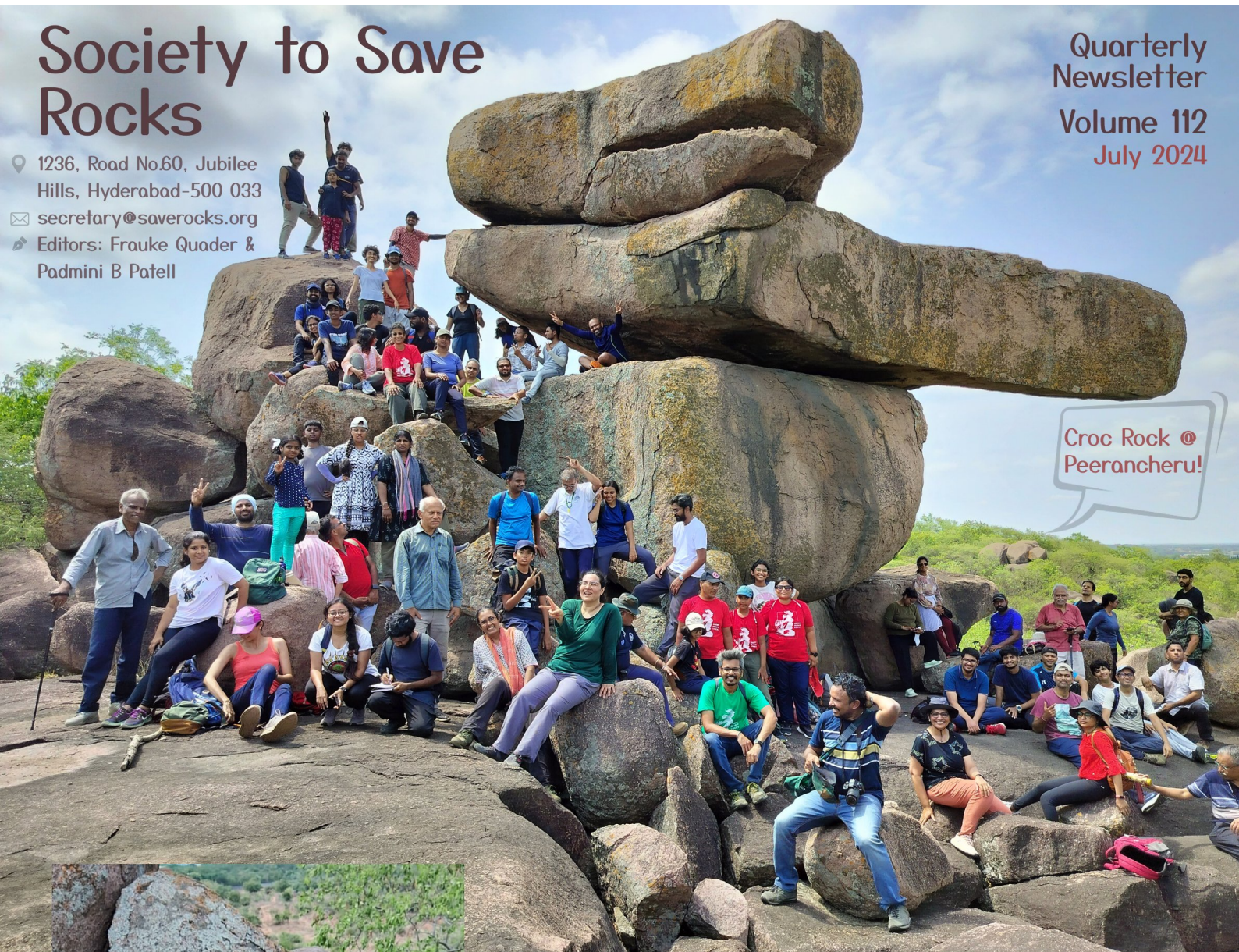
Society to Save Rocks

Quarterly
Newsletter

Volume 112

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📍 1236, Road No.60, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad-500 033
✉ secretary@saverocks.org
👤 Editors: Frauke Quader & Padmini B Patell



Croc Rock @ Peerancheru!

Peerancheru rock walk held on Sunday 16 June 2024:

The rock walk enthusiasts aged between 7 to 75+ visited the serene Peerancheru, a storehouse of ancient rocks. The group found solace amidst these mega rock structures! The motive was to appreciate their natural setting, fancy their long existence and join hands to bring about awareness for conserving the geological heritage of Telangana.

- Trishna Mehta

Lichens – Living Crusts on Rocks

by Kobita Das Kolli, Botanist

Splashes of saffron and patches of verdigris colour the face of boulders large and small. These are crustose Lichens. They are not plants but a symbiosis of two organisms, a fungus plus algae. The fungal partner forms the structure that supports and protects the algae which manufactures food by photosynthesis.

Crust forming lichen are pioneer species, found on all continents, surviving in the most barren and harsh conditions. They grow and thrive with little moisture and can tide over very adverse conditions by lying dormant. Hence, they sequester carbon in areas where plants are unable to survive. Lichens gradually weather their rocky substrate which together with organic material forms the first soil for land plants.

Lichens come in many colours, and grow on a variety of substrates, from rocks and tree trunks to even plastic. Lichens are good bio-indicators of air quality. They provide food and shelter for wildlife as well as material for nesting. In short, lichens enhance biodiversity and enrich our lives!



Highlights from the previous quarter!

No stone unturned 17th April

Ms Ishani Churi, a Bachelor of Design student from **IIT-Hyderabad**, undertook an environmental campaign for Rock Awareness on the IITH campus as part of her final year thesis. Having aptly titled the campaign "No Stone Unturned" Ishani tailor-made a student-friendly rock awareness programme which included a campus rock inventory marked in the timeline of historic rock sites of the world, a rock photography competition, rock installations and invited Society members to a rock panel discussion. This was well received by the management and students of all departments and ignited the curiosity to know more about the Deccan Rocks.



We thank Prof Seema Krishnakumar who was the guide and the Department of Design for encouraging this collaboration by becoming Institutional Members of the Society.



We look forward to engaging with IIT-H on more such activities. Thanks to those of our Members who spent the entire day at the campus located at Kandi near Sangareddy.

(Left) Winning photos



World Earth Day Initiative | 6th April

The Society was invited by **Sri Aurobindo International School, Vidyanagar**, to speak on 6th April to students of classes 8 & 9 in preparation for the World Earth Day programme. The importance of rocks in general, the prominent rock sites of Telangana and Hyderabad, the role of the Society was spoken about by Frauke Quader, Sangeeta Varma, Uma Maheshwari and Padmini Patell. Ideas of Rock Art, Rock Poetry, Rock Slogan writing etc were shared with the teachers and eager students. Our film Hyderabad- City of Rocks was also screened.



On 22nd April Prof Fatima Ali and Harshita Soni were invited to witness the works displayed. The rock theme was well understood and expressed by the children through Art, poetry and slogans. Our members witnessed the street theatre on environmental awareness in both English & Telugu which was found to be an excellent medium to grab the attention of children.

We appreciate the opportunity given by Ms Chalamayi Reddy, Principal and the efforts by the teachers to encourage their students to connect with Nature. We are grateful for the donation made by them for our cause.

Programme feedback

"Namaste, on behalf of the school management, I personally thank you for the session conducted. It created an awareness about the importance of rocks and their role in the sustenance of the environment. This program also created an opportunity to know more about the rocks and it's formations in the Deccan region, impact of them on water table, flora and fauna in students as well as teachers community."

- Jayashree, Headmistress, Sri Aurobindo International School



Conclusion of Summer Fest at Our Sacred Space | 12th May

The Society was invited to participate in the "Mid-Summer Mazurka", the Final Day of the Summer Fest arranged at Our Sacred Space. With a screening our film "Hyderabad City of Rocks", demonstration and talk by our Geologist Ravi Kumar Vundavalli on the origin and history of four amazing granite rocks, and the fun-tattoo painting of rocks on children's cheeks and hands by Gokul and Vishal – the medley audience enjoyed getting to know a little more about our rocky surroundings in spite of the temperatures soaring during the day.



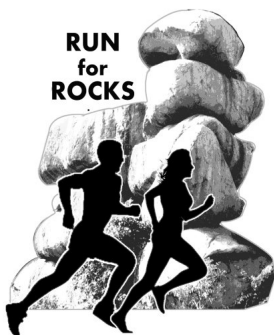
The Trashing Epidemic 9th June

Volunteers of the Society participated in the garbage collection drive in two of our Heritage Rock sites: **Moula Ali** on 31.3.2024 and **Fakhrullingutta** (Khajaguda Rocks) on 9.6.2024. I am really happy that more and more people are visiting our gorgeous rocky hill of Fakhrullingutta to enjoy nature, but the pitiable condition of this beautiful site which is inundated with plastic bottles, plastic bags,-

-shards of hundreds of beer bottles, and all kinds of rubbish, is heart-rending as well as deeply frustrating. After collecting 74 (!) big garbage bags of trash from this favourite Hill of ours recently, we have to admit that the hard work of the 50 odd volunteers from many groups (organized by the Waste Project and joined by our Society, the Eastman Company, the Hyderabad Cycling Revolution a.o.) could only clear a fraction of the hill from this invasion. Can't we even keep our rocky hills from becoming garbage heaps like our whole city threatens to become?



How do we drill the "Don't litter" command into citizens' heads and make them feel concern for their surroundings and the environment? Isn't it everyone's responsibility? Even putting up big garbage bins might not help because these will be destroyed by the hooligans who seem so omnipresent in our society today. Did you say "Why should I sacrifice my Sunday morning to clear up other people's trash?" You are right – and yet, for the sake of our environment, for the beauty of our rocky landscape and healthy lung spaces in and around our city: Come and help. And be ready to put up "plogging" programmes during your outings and excursions, as we will do now during Rock Walks! – F.Q



RUN FOR ROCKS | 7th July

Our annual Run for Rocks in cooperation with the Hyderabad Runners is on July 7, 2024. There will be Runs of 5km, 10km, and 20km. We start at 6 a.m. from Ghaar-e-Mubarak (near Narsingi) and follow the Gandipet road in direction ORR and along the Service Road and back. Join us for the fun of running.

After the runs, there will be short guided walks into the surrounding rock scapes for interested visitors and runners.

“Obituary

Mrs. Bindi Luther, wife of our long-term erstwhile President late Narendra Luther, passed away on 2.6.2024 at age 93. She was our member from the beginning of the Society and never failed to encourage us in our quest for the protection of our beautiful rock scapes. After an eventful life, may she now rest in peace.”



Check out our upcoming rock walks!

We conduct rock walks on the 3rd Sunday of every month! Do join us for a journey through these boulders! Don't forget your walking shoes and a good 'ol bottle of water :)



Let's explore these Deccan giants together (^ ^) / Register with Pradeep @ 9866752114

July 21 **Khilaghanpur** (Wanaparthy District)

6:30 am: NMDC Lane, Masab Tank (Return by 5:00 p.m. approx.)

*this being a day-long outing by van, transport is charged @ Rs.600/- per seat; amount is to be paid using QR code of the Society; bring along lunch; van will halt enroute for breakfast.

Aug 18 **Venkateshwaragutta** (Near Shamirpet Lake)

6:30 am: At YMCA, Opposite Parade Ground Metro Station (Return by 12noon)

Sept 15 **Bowrampeta** (Bachupally Road)

6:30 am: Mehfil Hotel side, JNTU Metro Station (Return by 12 noon)

Updates from the Society

We welcome our new members IIT-Hyderabad, Dept. of Design (Institution)

Annie Slivinski (Life Single)
Banne Jagadish (Life Single)
Ramalakshman Rao Nagulapally & Subhadra (Active Couple)
N. Gnaneshwar (Nanu) (Active Single)
Sampelly Srihitha (Active Single)
Priyank Choudhary and Swetha (Active Couple)
Uday Choudhary (Active Single)
Aadhira Choudhary (Active Single)

Check below to become a member!

Class	Admission	Annual Subscription	Total
Active (Single)	100/-	500/-	600/-
Active (Couple)	100/-	600/-	700/-
Student (<18 Years)	100/-	200/-	300/-
Life (Single)	3000/-	NA	3000/-
Life (Couple)	5000/-	NA	5000/-
Institution	10000/-	NA	10000/-
Corporate	50000/-	NA	50000/-

You can find us on

saverocks @saverocks societytosaverocks

Designed by Sanandana



For more details, here's the QR code to our website



Sign our petition to help to save Fakhruddingutta (Khajaguda Rocks)



QR code for payment to the Society
Please mention your name

