

SOCIETY TO SAVE ROCKS

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

Tel. No. : +91-40-23552923

e-mail: frauke@saverocks.org

www.saverocks.org

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QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER

October - December 2010

Editors : Frauke Quader, Padmini B Patell

The long-awaited Aerial Dance troupe is arriving:

PROJECT BANDALOOOP performs in **GOLCONDA FORT**

on Sunday, November 21, 2010, at 3.00 p.m.

Brought by the U.S. Consulate General, Hyderabad,
staged with the participation of Shankarananda Kalakshetra
and with assistance of the Society to Save Rocks

– The programme is in support of the drive for the protection of the
fascinating rock formations of Hyderabad and the Deccan –

Come and enjoy an evening of unique dance art at Hyderabad's historical Fort.

Admission to venue:

Golconda Fort Entrance Fee: Rs. 5



The Annual General Body Meeting and Elections took place on 20.8.2010. Members have received the Minutes of the meeting by e-mail or will find them enclosed with this Newsletter.

The unanimously elected members to the new Managing Committee are as follows:

Narendra Luther, President	Members:
Aparajita Sinha, Vice President	C.J. Rao
Frauke Quader, Secretary	Dr. Hina Gokhale
T.R. Uma Maheshwari, Joint Secretary	Padmini Patell
Sangeeta Varma, Treasurer	Dr. Sudheer Bhan

The Society is grateful to the two outgoing members, Lata Marur and Dr. Sathya Prakash, for their help and efforts in furthering the aims of the Society and is looking forward to their active involvement in future too.

AWARENESS WALKS

- A. On 11.7.2010 a group of students from Duke University, Durham, USA, under Professor Leela Prasad enjoyed the Hyderabad rocks at Fakhrudgingutta, our ever popular excursion venue..
- B. A group of youngsters from the Netherlands attending the AIESEC International Congress that brought together young leaders from 107 countries at Hyderabad, visited Fakhrudgingutta on 19.8.2010. The Dutch group were totally thrilled.
- C. 46 exchange students from a school in Hamburg/Germany along with their Hyderabad counterparts (Class IX) from Sreenidhi School came on a rock walk organized by the Goethe Zentrum. .

PRESS

Look out for an extensive article on the rocks and the Society in PRISM – The Complete Guide Book for Hyderabad – published on October 1, 2010.

MONITORING OF ROCK HERITAGE SITES

24 Rock formations in and around Hyderabad are now listed as Heritage Precincts under the Heritage Conservation Regulations of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA). To help in the active protection of these rock sites, the Society has formed monitoring groups who will visit the areas regularly and report any adverse development to the Managing Committee. The Committee, in turn, will then take up the matter with the HMDA. The groups have started visiting the sites and taking stock of the present situations there. Further information has to be collected from government offices as to the exact boundaries of the sites/Survey Nos.

It will be a great step forward if the Rock Heritage Sites could be fenced or at least demarcated, especially the more extensive ones. Marking with plaques or slabs has been started by HMDA (see last Newsletter). But the actual protection is not guaranteed by merely announcing on paper or on a plaque that the rock site is notified in the Heritage List: active measures for their protection must be taken.

The groups, so far, consist of the below listed members. **Members are requested to volunteer. We want to enlist local citizens too to help in the supervision of the areas.**

North Zone - Shamirpet area:	Uma Maheshwari, T.R. Subramaniam, Ravi Setlem, Amit Das
East Zone - Moula Ali etc.:	Siva Prasad, Amit Das
South Zone - Pahar-e-Shareef:	Hina Gokhale, Amol Gokhale, Syed Yusuf
West Zone - Durgam Cheruvu:	Beryl Nelson, Vedant Kidambe
- Jubilee Hills/Hitec City:	Ashok and Savita Luthra, Anand and Geeta Madabhushi
- Gachibowli/Shaikpet:	Sathya Prakash, Tariq Khan, Abhijit, Deepa and other students from University of Hyderabad (UoH)
- Golconda Area:	Vasu Nugala, Sangeeta Varma
Central Zone - 3 Hills between Asifnagar and Sitarambagh:	Sudheer Bhan, Padmini Patell and students from UoH

IMPRESSIONS OF THE MARBURG GEOGRAPHY STUDENTS VISIT

by Christian Opp (Professor of Physical Geography, Marburg, Germany)

With the students and Dr. T. Henning from the Faculty of Geography of the Philipps-Universität (University) Marburg, Germany I had visited Hyderabad in February 2010 during a field excursion through South India to study the landscape of the Deccan. The German geographers got an impression of South India's famous inselbergs and monadnock*. They were well aware of landscape evolution, weathering and peneplanation**. The millions of years of genesis of such rocks and their changing appearance under the influence of a changing sea levels, climate, India's continental plate position, and human impact was part of their study. During their visit most of them have seen inselbergs in the Tropics for the first time.

With the help of an excellent presentation, members of the Society to Save Rocks have informed us about their activities. The fact that more and more inselbergs have been destroyed and that even large rock sites listed as heritage precincts are not really protected, shows the need to improve the protection of the existing inselbergs.

* Inselbergs and monadnock: the granite rock domes and boulders of the Deccan plateau

** peneplanation: progressive erosion of mountains into a plane

ANJA HUTH

What's Anja Huth, a geography graduate from Germany doing in Hyderabad? Well what better place than the Deccan Plateau and our rocky heritage clubbed with her keen interest in Geography, Geology & Botany ! It all began with a book she read on Buddhism which lead to more reading and subsequently a dream that someday she would visit India and see the Buddhist pilgrimage centers. The chance came from an unexpected quarter - from her professor, Dr. Christian Opp, who had been to Hyderabad only a few months earlier broaching the subject of contributing some of her time to the Society to Save Rocks while travelling in India prior to taking up a full time job. This seemed to be the perfect combination!

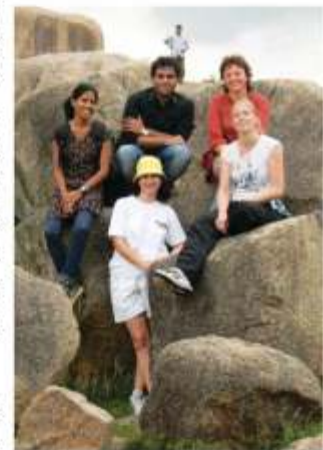
Anja's first impressions of Hyderabad were of chaotic traffic, the economic disparity, the lack of environmental consciousness, which took some getting used to. But two months and several rock sites later Anja is happy she made this trip. "I wonder if there is another place where one can see rocks like the ones in Hyderabad. There is an urgent need for protection, with stronger regulations and more awareness, perhaps even hoardings with messages that scream out to people to care for the rocks. As a Geographer, my concern is of course the environment. The fact that the flora and fauna of these rocks play an important role for the biodiversity of the Deccan Plateau, is something citizens need to realize," she says.



Anja at a snake show

As Anja prepares for her travels to North India, the Society acknowledges the long hours that she has put into updating records, making numerous field trips and, importantly making location sketches for all the Rock Heritage Precincts. And she is delighted that she can finally cross Hyderabad roads independently and is embarking on her much awaited Buddhist trail !

(Anja's detailed sketches will soon be up on our website along with the photos of the Rock Heritage Precincts which will make it easier to find the way to the notified hills in and around Hyderabad. You will also find information as to the accessibility of the sites.)



Anja (top right) on a rock walk

On December 19th, 2010, a full-day Excursion by bus is planned to Koilkonda, a beautiful rocky fort in Mehboobnagar District. Enrolment will be made only until December 12th at our office on payment of Rs. 500 per person. Carry lunch, snacks and drinking water.

Rock Walks in October, November and December 2010

Please note the change in Rock Walk dates to **SECOND SUNDAY** instead of the usual third Sunday due to Dussehra Festival in October and our Dance Programme in Golconda on November 21.(details on page 1)

Date :	Place :	Time / Meeting Point:
Sunday , October 10 (note changed date!)	Peeran Shah Dargah and rocks near AP Police Academy	2.30 p.m.at NMDC Masab Tank, or 3 p.m. at Tippu Khan Bridge
Sunday November 14 (note changed date!)	Rocks around Durgam Cheruvu	3 p.m. at Jubilee Hills, Checkpost
Sunday December 19	Full-day Excursion to Koilkonda, Mehboobnagar Dist. (details above)	7 a.m. at Gun Park, opp. Public Garden Return appr. 8 p.m.

A special Rock Walk is planned with members of the **Andhra Pradesh Birdwatchers Society for Sunday, October 31, 2010 to Fakhruddingutta.**

Everybody is welcome to join. Meet at 7 a.m. at NMDC, Masab Tank, or at 7.30 a.m. at Delhi Public School, Khajaguda near Gachibowli.

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.

Membership Fees :

Class	Admission	Annual Subscription
Active	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	—

OUR GREETING CARDS GO A LONG WAY IN SPREADING ROCK AWARENESS. THEY CAN BE VIEWED ON OUR WEBSITE & ORDERS PLACED FOR THE UPCOMING FESTIVE SEASON.