

SOCIETY TO SAVE ROCKS

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ROCK PARK - A DREAM TO BECOME A REALITY



Rocks and Rock Walkers at Fakhrudingutta

On World Environment Day (5.6.2011), the Oxford Book Store and The Park Hotel in Hyderabad organized a function to felicitate environmentally active citizens. Chief Guest Jayesh Ranjan, Secretary in the Tourism Department, presented a memento to Frauqe Quader, Secretary of the Society. He announced that his Department is to set up a Rock Park in the city. This fits perfectly with our long-term dream of a park highlighting the beauty of Hyderabad's magnificent rocks. The Society has proposed to make Fakhrudingutta near the Gachibowli Road into a rock and adventure park, the area being ideally situated amidst the hub of activity, easy to access yet offering a quick getaway with ample lung space.

The media took up the Rock Park topic enthusiastically (The Hindu, Andhra Jyothi and TV9.), applauding that citizens will soon have a fully protected area in the city to enjoy our unique rockscapes.

HOW SAFE ARE THE HERITAGE ROCKSITES ?

Ghaar-e-Mubarak – stunning rocky ridges behind Taramati Baradari. But contractors and rock cutters do not care that this is a Heritage Precinct, and we discovered on one of our last Rock Walks that a big overhanging boulder had been blasted off with just three strokes of dynamite. Stone cutters were busy splicing the huge lumps of stone now lying on the ground into “coarse rubble stone” to be sold by their contractor.



With the help of the Panchayat Office in village Manchirevulu and the Surveyor of the Mandal Revenue Office of Rajendra Nagar Mandal, and under active assistance of Mr. Raheem from the Heritage

Conservation Committee of HMDA, we were able to establish that this land is indeed owned by the government and that nobody else can lay claim to it. It was made clear to the workers (and their contractor) that no stone cutting or any other development was allowed in this area. The workers left the scene, hopefully never to return.

This scenario brought home to us again how precarious the situation of the rocks is, even those under Heritage Notification. Firstly, the owners (here: the government themselves), do not seem to know about the Heritage status of the areas (HMDA never informed them individually). Secondly, since no demarcation has been done, the public are not aware which areas are Heritage Precincts. Our monitoring groups for the different sites are now busy establishing ownerships and exact extents, so we can push more effectively for demarcation. HMDA has long promised – and also started hesitantly – to put plaques on sites (and buildings). Hopefully, we can report soon that this continues, and at a faster pace !

ACTIVITIES



A stall at the Flea Market in the Goethe Zentrum helped to further our cause through the sales of our promotional material on World Earth Day.



Rock Walk in May to Addagutta, Mahendra Hills : The Deccan Chronicle photo reporter is fascinated by our Rock Walkers scampering over the great boulders.



On invitation, the Secretary gave a talk at an Eco Summer Camp for children of classes IX to XI at the A.P. Forest Academy, Dulapalli.

Our member and keen environment enthusiast Vasu Nugala with a group of 35 organised a clean-up drive near the rocks at Durgam Cheruvu on June 5th – they cleared out 50 bags of garbage mostly plastic and bottles and got them disposed off by the motorized Street Beautifiers of the Jubilee Hills Civic Exnora.

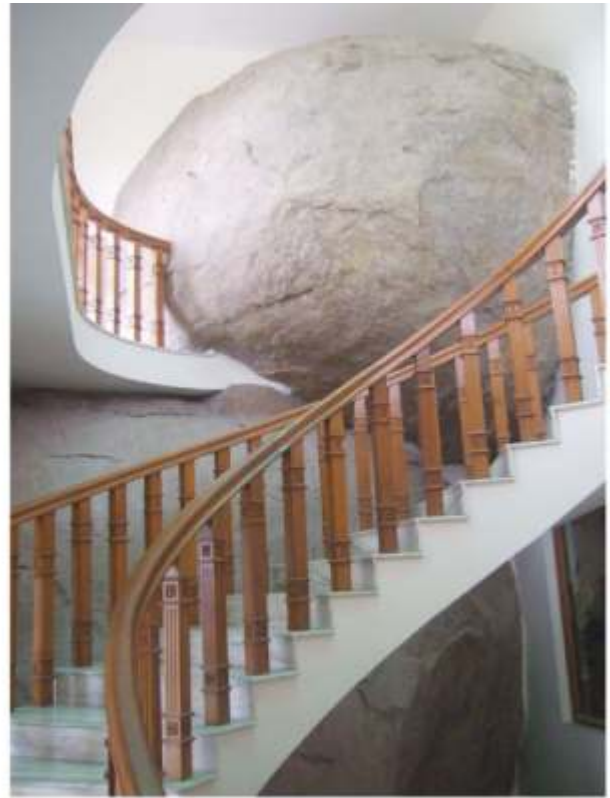


Sujatha's rock extending into neighbour Soma Chatterjee's beautiful garden, where it is carefully preserved.

PROTECT and INTEGRATE -
Inviting rocky nature right into our houses.

In Sujatha Kode's house in Road No.32, Jubilee Hills,

this majestic rock formation is the back drop for three floors of the stair case giving the interior the feel of the outdoors just by this quiet pillar of Deccan granite - an aspect that contributes to the uniqueness of the home !



The same rock decorates the Drawing Room



**PLEASE PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEES BEFORE 1ST SEPTEMBER
FAILING WHICH MEMBERSHIPS WILL BE CLOSED**

Rock Walks in July, August and September 2011

Date :	Place :	Time / Meeting Point:
Sunday July, 17	Venkateshwaragutta near Shamirpet	2.30 pm. opp. St.. Ann's School S.P. Road, Secunderabad
Sunday August, 21	Rocks at Konda Madugu near Bibinagar / Ghatkesar	10.30 am. opp. St. Ann's School S.P. Road, Secunderabad (return appr. 6 pm.) - Bring Lunch! -
Sunday September, 18	Rocks near A.P. Police Academy	2.30 pm. at NMDC Masab Tank

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.

We Welcome Our New Members:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Md. Abdul Rasheed, Student | 6. Y. Sahiti, Student |
| 2. Dr. K. Srinivas Madhusudhan, Active (Couple) | 7. R. Anita, Active |
| 3. Naval Saini, Active | 8. R. Abhinav Reddy, Student |
| 4. Y. Sushma, Active | 9. K. Vinay Krishna, Student |
| 5. Kirshna Sai, Student | 10. Mulugu Raghavendra Rao, Active |
| | 11. Ritu Gopal, Student |

Managing Committee:

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