

# SOCIETY TO SAVE ROCKS

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

Tel. No. : +91-40-23552923

e-mail: frauque@saverocks.org

www.saverocks.org

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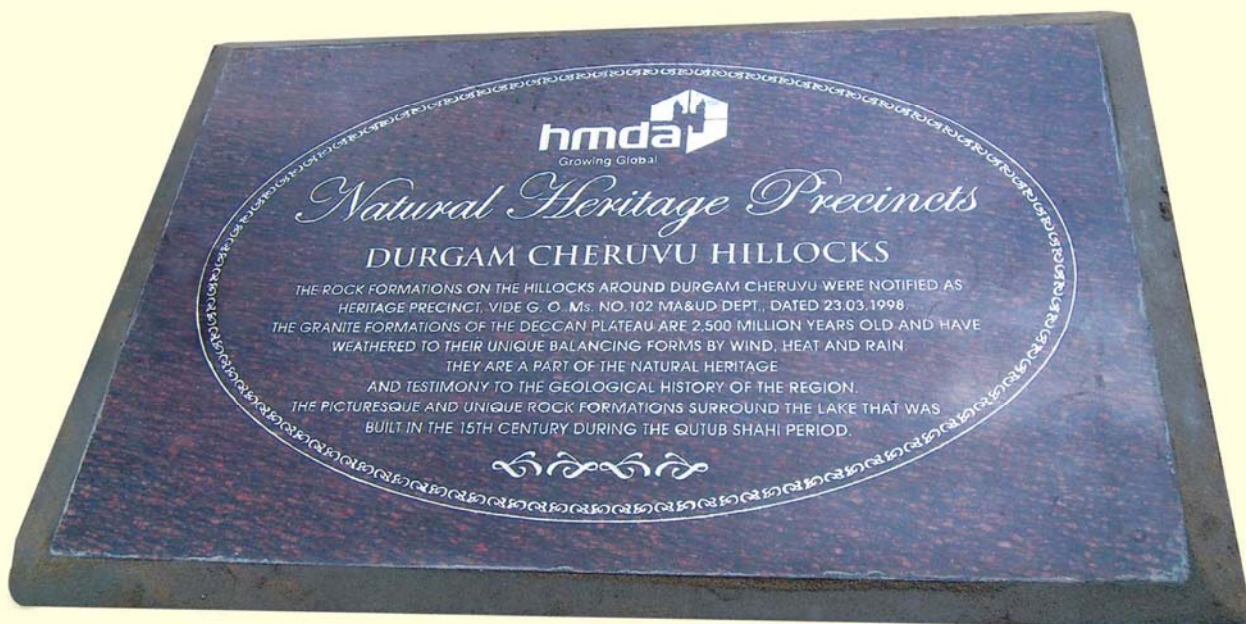
QUARTERLY  
NEWSLETTER

July - September 2010

Editors : Frauque Quader, Padmini B Patell



**Members of HMDA's Heritage Conservation Committee unveil a plaque at the Heritage Rock Precinct "Hillocks around Durgam Cheruvu".**





## PLAQUES ON ROCK SITES

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) has started placing plaques on Heritage Buildings and Heritage Rock Sites for the public to be informed about Hyderabad's Heritage Sites. The first plaque on a rock site was unveiled on June 10, 2010 at the Durgam Cheruvu Lake Resort for the Heritage Precinct "Hillocks around Durgam Cheruvu" (see page 1). This engraved granite slab has been placed at the "View Point" of the Resort from where the visitor has a fascinating view over the lake and its rocky surroundings. Members of the Heritage Conservation Committee were present and appreciated that HMDA intends to place information slabs at all 24 notified rock precincts in and around Hyderabad.

## HERITAGE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (HCC)

The HCC, an advisory body of citizens to the Commissioner HMDA on Heritage issues, has - after a hiatus of over a year - been reconstituted.

We are happy that R. Rajamani IAS Retd., former Secretary Environment, Government of India, and a Life Member of this Society, has been appointed Chairman of the Committee. Frauke Quader, Secretary of the Society, has been reappointed member of the Committee. Thus, the Hyderabad rocks will be strongly represented in the conservation drive of the Government of Andhra Pradesh.



*Googlers in action*

## GOOGLE SERVES

For the second consecutive year, GoogleServe –Google's annual community service event– focussed on cleaning the Baba Fakhruddin Aulia's Dargah Hill on June 1st, two days after the annual Urs had taken place. Our members Vasu Nugala and Beryl Nelson accompanied twenty-five enthusiastic Googlers armed with high spirits and some basic cleaning aids. Vasu gave an overview of the Society and its work, while Beryl filled them in on the history of the Dargah with the geology of the region that results in some of these stunning formations. The group found the site somewhat less messy than a year ago, but sadly with more signs of rocks destroyed on the next hill.

Two hours of concerted cleaning resulted in about 19 bags of garbage (compared with about 30 last year) – mostly plastic bottles, paper, wrappers, pieces of cloth etc. which was transported back to their office for disposal. After work was time for play – with Vasu's die hard encouragement the group enjoyed some rock climbing and going through crevices to the beautiful overlooks nearby, especially the secret tunnel that never fails to amaze. Great job Googlers !

(An excellent example of a personal contribution towards a better environment that can be followed by environment enthusiasts.)



*GoogleServe reaches new heights!*



## GET TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW MEMBER :

### BERYL NELSON

Born and brought up in the city of Buffalo, at the start of the Niagara River close to the Niagara Falls, Beryl Nelson sure has come a long way from home to the City of Nawabs - her second stint in Asia after Japan. Beryl spent her early years in a school founded by Hungarians which she feels gave her an exciting exposure to different aspects of life. She then went on to study Mathematics at MIT and did her Masters in Molecular Genetics at the University of Utah. While at MIT, Beryl did a little fun rock climbing, but was not too serious about outdoor activities.



*Beryl on a rockwalk*

It was not until her brush with English Church Bell Ringing that the importance of mind and body working together struck Beryl. Ringing Church Bells is based on permutations and combinations much like Mathematics, both subjects close to her heart. She says, “I learned to ring at the Old North Church in Boston in 1979, and was a founding member of the MIT Guild of Bell Ringers, and the second Ringing Master.” She was also the head of the North American Guild of Change Ringers (NAGCR) for 4 years, and a couple of years ago was elected to be an honorary life member of the NAGCR.

Moving to Japan gave Beryl and her family an opportunity to spend quality time outdoors encouraged by the Japanese zest for creating open spaces of beauty. “When we relocated to Hyderabad in 2004 the incredible balancing rocks caught my attention. Their orange tinge and texture was very similar to the rocks of Arizona. But what puzzled me was the disinterest of the local people and the callous destruction of this natural beauty,” says Beryl. It was only a year or so after relocating that Beryl decided to join the Society to Save Rocks. She often comes on rock walks with Indian husband Bipin and three daughters Xela, Althea and Bela who are keen rock climbers. They are also adventurous travelers and have been to Sedona, Oak Creek Canyon, Grand Canyon, Painted Desert in Arizona, Ireland, and have visited Gangotri, Gaumukh, Tapovan, Kerala in India

Presently working as Engineering Manager on the Engineering Productivity team at Google, Beryl has been instrumental in inspiring the Google Serve members to make a contribution to the environment by cleaning the Baba Fakhruddin Aulia's Dargah Hill. She has also been a volunteer Educational Counselor for MIT since 2006 which gives her an opportunity to interact with MIT aspirants from Hyderabad. Beryl expresses, “It gives me the opportunity to interact with many bright young people, and explore what they want out of their life and education.”

Her take on the growing environmental degradation and our fast disappearing rockscape: “As I see it, people have to feel committed to the society they live in, and this is fundamental to everything – be it a clean environment, traffic, rocks, lakes etc.”

*by Padmini B Patell*

## PRESS ECHO

**Andhra Jyothi**, a Telugu daily, published a full-page article on rocks and the Society on 8.4.2010, and NTV's women-focussed “Meti Mahila” telecast a 30-minute interview on 30 May.

We hear that the **Discover India** Magazine wrote about Hyderabad's fascinating rocky features and the Society in their January 2010 issue. Good exposure!

**THE ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING (AGM) of the Society will take place in August 2010. Members will receive notices by separate mail.**

**ELECTIONS TO THE MANAGING COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD AT THE AGM – Please think about proposals for candidates.**

### **ROCK WALKS IN JULY, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2010 :**

<b>Date :</b>	<b>Place :</b>	<b>Time / Meeting Point:</b>
Sunday July 18	Venkateshwaragutta Near Shamirpet Lake	2.30 p.m. Opp. St. Ann's High School, S.P. Road, Secunderabad
Sunday August 15	Bhongir	10.30 a.m. Opp. St. Ann's High School, S.P. Road, Secunderabad. Return appr. 6 p.m. <b>BRING LUNCH!</b>
Sunday September 19	Rocks Near Gandipet / Narsingi	7.30 a.m. at NMDC, Masab Tank, Return appr. 1 p.m.

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.

#### **Managing Committee:**

President	Narendra Luther - 23399778	Members:	
Vice President	Aparajita Sinha - 9849655363	Lata Marur	- 23350524
Secretary	Frauke Quader - 9849936248	Uma Maheshwari	- 9866019402
Joint Secretary	C.J. Rao - 9849037240	Padmini B. Patell	- 9912865299
Treasurer	Dr. Hina Gokhale - 9440893983	Dr. E. Sathya Prakash	- 9440057846

#### **Membership Fees :**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Admission</b>	<b>Annual Subscription</b>
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	—