

SOCIETY TO SAVE ROCKS

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QUARTERLY

NEWSLETTER

Volume 62

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WISHING YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR.....

.....just as our rock enthusiasts are seen triumphant on one of the Deccan's many gravity defying wonders (Pillow Rock, Yedupalaya) we wish that you are on top of it all in 2012.

Looking forward to active participation in the new year from those passionate about preserving our priceless rocky heritage for posterity !



Photo by Padmini Patell

SOCIETY'S INVOLVEMENT WITH THE HMDA MASTER PLAN - A CHALLENGE

As our members in India have been informed earlier, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) has requested the Society to identify rocks and rock areas in the newly added zones of Greater Hyderabad for preparation of the **Masterplan 2031**. The metropolitan region of Hyderabad is now the second biggest in India after Bangalore, and our job is extensive – 5000 sq km of land outside the old HUDA area to be explored and surveyed. We have formed groups for different segments of the city's surrounds, and members are eagerly fanning out scouting, photographing, interviewing villagers and consulting many maps.

LECTURES AND TALKS :

- 16.10.2011: Frauke Quader and Padmini Patell gave a rock talk with PP Presentation to students of the Foundation Course for CCS at the **Dr. MCR HRD Institute of A.P.** at Jubilee Hills

- 12.11.2011: Our member Dr. Srinivas Madhusudan talked about the preservation of rocks during a 2-day seminar on **“Responsible Tourism”** organized by our institutional member NITHM (National Institute for Tourism and Hospitality Management) in Gachibowli. He elaborated on the concept of



Geoparks, initiated a few years back by UNESCO. **Geoparks** are nationally protected areas containing geological heritage sites of particular importance, rarity or aesthetic appeal. They aim at conservation of specific geological features, education of the public, and tourism to provide local economic activity. The **Geopark** is an exhibit of responsible tourism and Koilkonda, Rachakonda and Yedupayala are potential areas that satisfy the basic criteria for such a **Geopark**.

- 17.11.2011: Dr. Hina Gokhale and Dr. Amol Gokhale talked about the rocks of Hyderabad to 40 children participating in a “Leadership Course” arranged by the **Aga Khan Academy**. They also took them on a rock walk in the neighbourhood.

PRESS ECHO :

- **THE HINDU'S Young World** carried **Rock On**, a feature on the Deccan Rocks, on 20.12.2011

- **ANDHRA JYOTHI, SURYAA** and **TELANGANA E-PAPER** carried a column on the Society's role in the Masterplan scouting, on 26.12.2011

- **INDIA TODAY**, **“Simply Hyderabad”** supplement of 2.01.2012, recommends the rock walks conducted by the Society, with a photo of our Shameerpet outing

QUIZZING ROCKSCAPE

The correct answer to the quiz in Newsletter 61 is “Ista Hotel”, and the lucky winner of a Meal Voucher from the Hotel was Vyshnavi Mudaliar.

Says Vandana Kilam, Head – Corporate Communication, IHHR Hospitality Pvt. Ltd, “The Ista Hyderabad, our Five Star Luxury Business Hotel, located in the rocky heritage of Deccan Plateau at Gachibowli, Hyderabad, is committed to continually reducing the environmental load by practicing an Effective Environmental management system. The Ista Hotel's design deliberately incorporates the rocks as part of its architecture. This was done despite the fact that water proofing with the rocks cost the hotel much more than it would have to break them down and have them removed. Today, the hotel stands apart because of this feature. It is an oasis of calm in the bustling tech. city because of the natural landscaping that incorporates the famed rocks.”





Truffles Restuarant & Cafe,
Road No.10, Jubilee Hills

PROTECT and INTEGRATE

There are other Hotels where rocks have been made use of, adding to the aesthetics of the space.

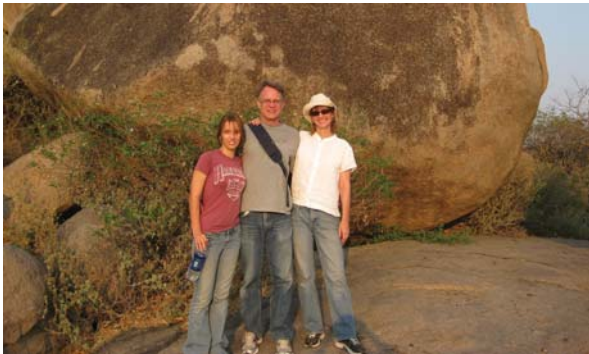


Lobby, Hotel Taj Residency, Banjara Hills

PARTING FROM HYDERABAD'S ROCKY TREASURE

- by John Ellingboe

While visiting Hyderabad for business in 2007, I discovered the Society to Save Rocks and went on my first rock walk. My wife Page and I moved to Hyderabad in May 2010, and I was eager to participate again. The rock walks were the perfect way to explore the natural beauty of the surrounding area. We have thoroughly enjoyed many of these outings. In addition to taking part in these monthly walks, we feel strongly that it is important to also contribute to preserving areas and maintaining them. Last year,



John, Page and niece Eleanor at Baatasingara

we joined the Society as Life Members to help support ongoing efforts to preserve the unique rocks of the Hyderabad area. And in the last two months, along with Sudheer Bhan, we have gone on a number of scouting trips to identify areas in the greater Hyderabad area to recommend for preservation.

Page and I return to the US at the end of December – it is sad to be leaving and we will miss the walks and the company of the many interesting people we have met. However, I expect to be back in Hyderabad for business on occasion, and will make sure that the visit includes the third Sunday of the month !

Rock Quest



A solo show of drawings and paintings
by our member E.Rohini Kumar at
Beyond Coffee, Road No. 36, Jubilee Hills
between 7 am and 11 pm, till 7th January 2012

ROCK WALKS IN JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2012

Date :	Place :	Time / Meeting Point:
Sunday January, 15	Narsingi / Gandipet	2.30 pm. NMDC, Masab Tank
Sunday February, 19	Rocks north of Bibinagar (Bhongir Road)	10.30 a.m. Opp. St. Ann's School, S.P. Road, Secunderabad, return 5-6 p.m. BRING LUNCH !
Sunday March, 18	Moulali	3.30 pm. Opp. St. Ann's School, S.P. Road, Secunderabad

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

M. Srikar, Student
Y.S.R.K. Prasad, Active

Mahender Reddy, Active
Uma Iyer, Life

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

OBITUARY

We are saddened to have to announce the passing away of **Mrs. Radha Rau** in November 2011 in Bangalore. Radha, wife of late D.L.N. Rau and a well-known educationist of Hyderabad, was one of our very early members and keenly interested in all things nature. In fact, she instilled and nurtured the love for the environment in many of our children by organizing the "Young Naturalists" to go on nature trips regularly from an early age. May her soul rest in peace.