

# SOCIETY TO SAVE ROCKS

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## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

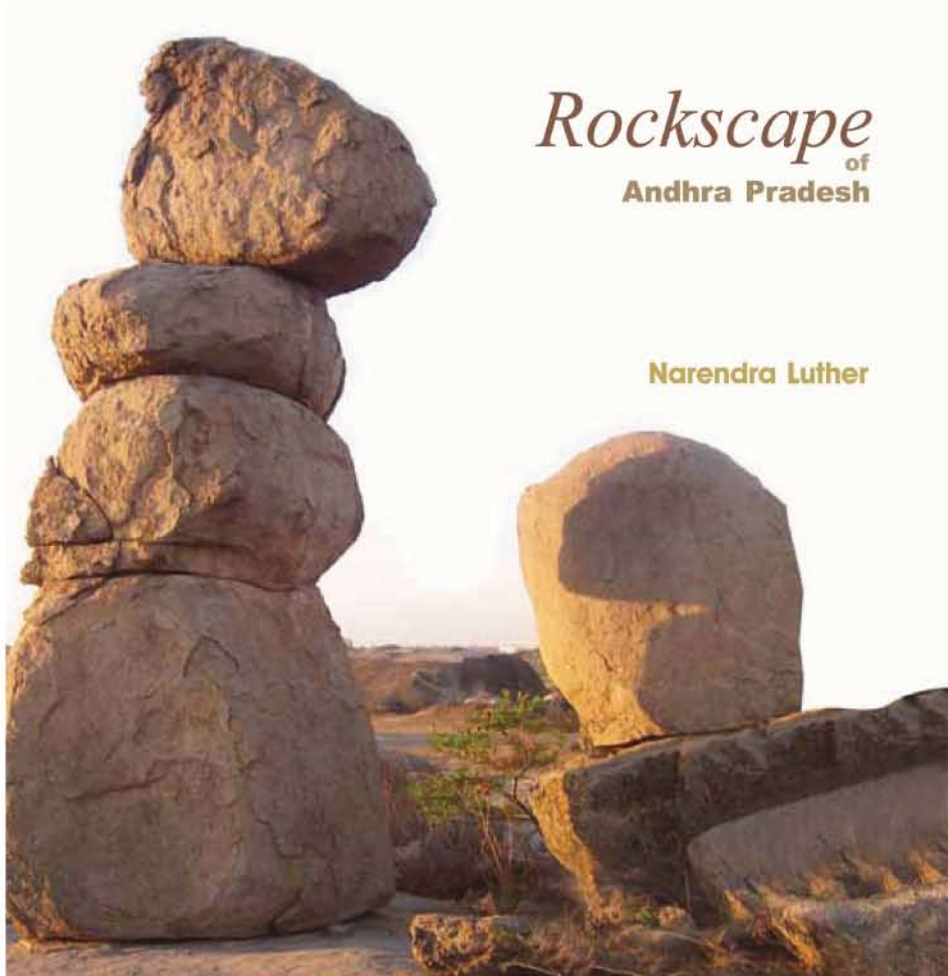
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Editors : Frauке Quader, Padmini B Patell

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A coffee table book called the ***Rockscape of Andhra Pradesh*** has been written by our **President, Narendra Luther** and published by the A.P. Tourism Department to showcase the rich rocky heritage of the Deccan at the CoP-11, the International Biodiversity Convention being held in Hyderabad from 1st to 19th October 2012. The book has been designed by Supriya Bhalerao one of our recent members. Some of our shutterbug members, friends and well-wishers have contributed photographs for the same. It is expected that the book will also be available in the market shortly.

***Rockscape of Andhra Pradesh*** will surely help disseminate our message the world over, hopefully inspiring global support and fostering a conservation mindset towards these natural wonders.

*In view of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in Hyderabad, we have asked Geologist Prof. Dr. R. Pavanaguru to write to us on*

## **ROCKS AND BIODIVERSITY**

*Here an excerpt from his article :*

Our planet is dynamic and the interactions of lithosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere producing the geometrical architecture is the reminder of the lively and special environment we inhabit from the geological past.

The nature of **rocks in the Deccan Plateau** is marvelous — a science in itself. The dwellers among these abiotic systems help to sustain the equilibrium of the ecosystem. Hyderabad, a part of Deccan plateau in peninsular India, mostly comprises of hard crystalline rocks, known popularly as Granites. Due to the paucity of age data (geological data) they are known as unclassified crystalline rocks. However, the relative position of the granites and associated rocks and their chronological studies in Indian stratigraphy suggests an age of about **2500 million years**.

These rock formations have been weathering since millions of years to produce geomorphic expressions that we observe on the surface producing rockitecture. These expressions of the rocks constitute the physiography of the area. The picturesque rocky hillocks of Hyderabad and the surrounding environs were subjected to intense urbanisation and have produced a telling blow on the environment of the living biota and non-living rocks as they have inter-related **biodiversity sustenance systems**.

Few rock formations have been protected by the Government of A.P. under HMDA Heritage Regulations. However, there is a need to conserve the environment for sustenance and survival of the biodiversity associated with them and makes use of them by drawing purposeful plans for the civilization which is crying hoarse about “climate change”.

Landforms, the geomorphic expressions, are the part of rock-scape and are potential sustainable sites of biodiversity. The floristic-faunal elements and medicinal plants are invariably associated with the rock sites were recorded and suggested for protection. Varieties of Rocks occur in nature. Although rocks are abiotic they support **Ecosystems**.

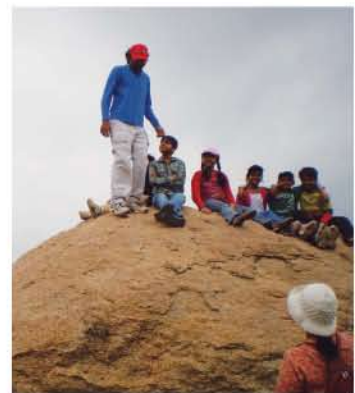
*(Full Length Article on our website)*

The **Annual General Body Meeting** of the Society to Save Rocks took place on 1st September 2012. The Minutes of the Meeting were sent to members by e-mail. To improve the finances of the Society, it was proposed to invite donations from all members of the Society. Members are requested to bring in corporate and institutional memberships and also arrange awareness programmes in schools to motivate children to get hooked on to our rock spaces.





## VIDYARANYA STUDENTS ROCKING AT SHAMEERPET



While learning about rocks through Science and Geography textbooks, we thought why not bring these rocks to life. Society to Save Rocks was only a phone call away. Here we were, a bus full of 10 year olds, a few teachers and members of the Society on our way to experience the Shameerpeta rocks. These rocks are beautifully preserved formations spread over several acres.

A peacock at a massive boulder welcomed us, a hint of the wonderful things that lay in store. The unobstructed view of different sizes and shapes of boulders, one looking like an alligator, one like a turtle, yet another like a bunny - our imaginations ran wild. A small lake with frogs "croaking", a lapwing "did'ing" was just plain beautiful.

The Society members who joined us for the walk were very friendly, helpful and encouraging. The children were excited and adventurous as they were sure of a supporting hand not far away. The children were also made to think about why it is important to preserve these beautiful sights and how by destroying these million year old treasure we are breaking the web of life.

An overall wonderful excursion - energizing, informative and thought provoking. We would love to be part of more walks like these. These places transport us to a world of wonderment.

**Anju Anand, Teacher, Vidyaranya School**

Our **ANNUAL EXCURSION** will be on November 17th and 18th 2012. Details of destination, transport, accomodation and cost will be uploaded on [www.saverocks.org](http://www.saverocks.org) by the last week of October. Please visit the site and join in for a rocking excursion !

## Rock Walks in October, November and December 2012

Date :	Place :	Time / Meeting Point:
Sunday October 21	Rocks near Deshmukh (near Ramoji Film City)	10.30 p.m. at Gun Park (Opp. Public Gardens), or 11 a.m. Opp. Ramoji Film City - Return 5-6 p.m. Bring Lunch!
Saturday /Sunday November 17/18	To be announced on our webiste	To be announced
Sunday December, 16	ROCKATHON – a day full of fun and rocking activities, organized together with the Great Hyderabad Adventure Club at Ghar-e-Mubarak (near Taramati Baradari). Don't miss the walks, runs, climbs, cycle tours, painting and photography events and much more. Check full programme on our website in early December! And enroll till 10.12.2012.	

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 :

Kantilal J. Shah, Life  
K. Sameer, Student

Khanjan C. Antani, Active (Couple)  
P. Mihir, Student

Supriya Bhalerao, Active

### Managing Committee

President: Narendra Luther - 23399778  
Vice President: Aparajita Sinha - 9849655363  
Secretary: Frauke Quader - 9849936248  
Joint Secretary: Uma Maheshwari - 9866019402  
Treasurer: Sangeeta Varma - 9849044624

### Members:

C.J. Rao - 9849037240  
Dr. Hina Gokhale - 9440893983  
Padmini B. Patell - 9912865299  
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	—