

7.2 Best Practices

NATURE CLUB

1. Nature club: Activity 2019-20

Date: 18 July 2019

Programme: Heronry Survey Banaskantha - 2019

Heronry survey 2019 has been carried out by Nature Club Palanpur under the auspices of bird conservation society Gujarat. Members have searched and identified heronry near and surrounding areas of Shashivan. More than 600 nests in two colonies of egrets were found in two farm house near Shashivan. The names of trees on which these nests were found and whether eggs or babies were there inside have been studied. Students and media persons were made educated during this programme as to why we must conserve such plants where we have as many as 40-50 nests. Everyone was very happy to see these many nests on each tree.



Date: 27 July 2019

Programme: Celebration of World Nature Conservation Day-2019

A seminar has been organized by Nature club of R. R. Mehta College of Science and C. L. Parikh College of Commerce managed by Banaskantha District Kelvani Mandal. Students and staff members from six colleges of the campus have been invited for this seminar.

The programme was started with conveying condolence to then time passed away naturalist Shri Lalsinh Mansinh Raol. The programme was followed by presentations on Introduction to the Nature Club and Avifauna around Palanpur given by convener of the club Dr. S. H. Prajapati. In first presentation the members were briefed about Activities of Nature Club, Objectives, and Guidelines of the nature club. In second presentation, interesting information was given about the birds of Palanpur and surrounding area.

Apart from members of nature club, some of the members from Dantiwada Agriculture University and nature lovers also remained present in this programme.

Date: 13 September 2019

Programme: Plantation Programme for making botanical Garden

Plants included in the Botany syllabus of B. Sc. programme were planted to make Botanical garden in College premises. Members of Nature club joined this programme. Convener Dr. S. H. Prajapati, Head of Botany Department Dr. M. K. Patel and senior Assistant Professor Dr. Ritesh Vaidya remained present in this initiative and guided the students as to where and which plant is to be planted.



Date: 02/10/2019

Programme: Wildlife Week-Cleanliness campaign

As a part of celebration of Wildlife week, a programme has been arranged at Balaram Sanctuary by Forest Division Banaskantha. The programme was joined by Deputy Conservator of Forest and other employees, Convener of Nature club Dr. S. H. Prajapati, Dr. K. C. Patel, Mr. Mehul Makwana, Ms. Jigisha Darji. And nature club members. Dr. Anshuman Sharma, DCF-Banaskantha gave introductory lecture and educated the members about Wildlife week. He also pointed the cleanliness approach of our beloved bapu Gandhiji. Everybody joined in the cleanliness campaign carried out between Balaram and Dharmata. During this, the dispersed plastic bags were collected in large amount and was made cleared using appropriate vehicle. Members of nature club received information on vegetation of Balaram and they started thinking on conservation aspects of these plants.



Date: 21 December 2019

Expert Session by Dr. Ashok Kothari and Dr. Naveenbhai Shah

Dr. Ashok Kothari is President of National Society of Friends of Trees, Mumbai and former secretary BNHS (Bombay Natural History Society), Mumbai. Dr. Kothari is popularly known as Dr. Greens owing to his extensive work for the plants and nature. Dr. Naveen Shah is a renowned environmentalist and working in the forest areas of Banakantha District since many years. It was an interactive session with both these eminent personalities.

Dr. Kothari shared his experience while working in the wild life and with nature. He recollected the time when he was young and mentioned about the existence of different wild faunas in the areas of Banaskantha District. He told that in earlier days there uses to be animals such as Lion, Tiger and Cheetah found in our region. According to him the lion was last seen in the year 1890. He also mentioned about the plant such as Borsalli (Bakul, *Mimusops elingi*) which is very important for the region and having life of as much as 400 to 500 years.

Dr. Naveen Shah is one of the most active naturalists who in this old age found roaming in the hilly regions of Jessore Sloth Bear sanctuary and Balaram-Ambaji Wildlife Sanctuary. Dr. Shah has contributed a lot for planting different species in the areas of Deesa and Palanpur. According to him Palanpur was known for the

species such 'Son Champa' for the preparation of Perfumes and Attars (scented liquid).

The programme was graced with the presence of Prin. Dr. Y. B. Dabgar, Dr. S. H. Prajapati (Convener Nature Club), Dr. K.C. Patel-Senior Faculty member of our college, , Mr. Girish Patel (Principal In-charge of Karnavat Science College), Mr. Sanjay Patel-a faculty member of Karnavat College, staff members of various departments and more than 80 students. Apart from this one of the eminent person viz. Mr. Kailash Jani (EC Member, Bird Conservation Society Gujarat) have also attended the expert session.



Date: 26, 27 December 2019

Programme: Nature Education Camp, Balaram-Ambaji Wildlife Sanctuary

It was a two day programme organized by Banaskantha Forest Division. Altogether 52 students' along with Dr. S. H. Prajapati, Dr. J. N. Patel, Ms. Shital Menat and Mr. Mehul Makwan among faculty members of the college and Mr. Sanjay Patel from Karnavat College have participated in this programme. Out of 52 students, 36 students were from our college and remaining 16 students came from Karnavat Science College.

All the participants reached to camp site at 2.30 p.m. on 26 December 2019. After reaching to the venue, the participants got refreshed by having light refreshment and then they went for forest excursion. Mr. Sanjay Patel enriched the knowledge of students by identifying and explaining the plants available in that area whereas Dr. Prajapati spoke on the local birds and animals. A camp fire was arranged after having dinner wherein the teachers and students discussed about the biodiversity of Balaram. The students enjoyed this programme very much.

On December 27, the students were taken to field excursion and trekking after having refreshment in the morning. During this field excursion, as much as 10 km area was covered and biodiversity was studied. Under the guidance of botanist and zoologist, the students saw many different insects, plants, birds and other wildlife. Among different life forms, some of the very important and interesting that were seen during this visit includes Rusty Spotted Cat, Hyena and Blue bull and this has become a lifelong memorable experience for the students.





Date: 19 January 2020

Programme: Bird Census carried out at Gobari Lake, Palanpur

A wetland bird census was carried out by a team of 6 to 7 members along with Dr. S. H. Prajapati and Assistant Director of the campus Shri Apoorva Mehta Sir at 3 to 5.30 p.m. on 19 January 2020 at Gobari Lake. More than 600 birds were counted during this census of which some of the remarkable includes Northern Shoveler (more than 350 in numbers), Comb Duck, Black Winged Stilt, Cormorant, Egrets and Pelicans.





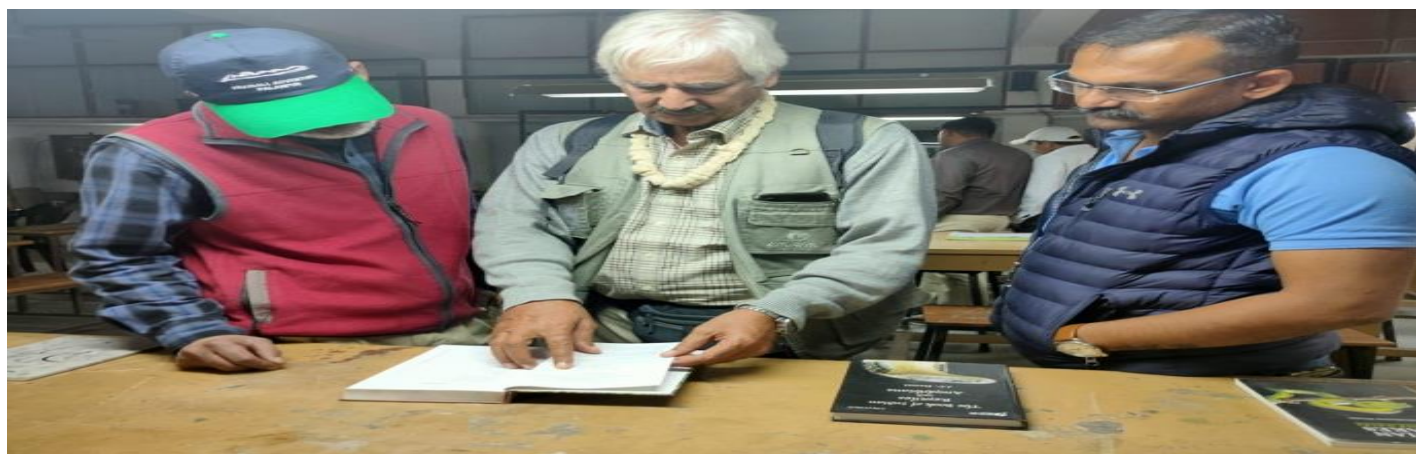
Date: 1, 2 February 2020

Programme: Wetlands Day Celebration

On first day i.e. 1 February 2020, a seminar has been arranged entitled “Vital Role of Wetlands for Life and Planet”. It was our privilege to have Mr. Kandarp Katju, a renowned bird watcher and expert of wetlands conservation. Mr. Swapnil Patel, RFO Thol Bird Sanctuary accompanied him during this very informative session. Mr. Katju is engaged studying Thol Bird Sanctuary since it was only an irrigation pond. His expertise is in studying the life history of Sarus Crane and Government of Gujarat invites him whenever the census is done for this bird. The day’s session has been started by showing a movie on wildlife. Mr. Katju delivered his session on “Wetlands and Birds” with special emphasis on Thol Bird Sanctuary from 1.00 to 2.30 p.m. He spoke in detail on Thol Bird Sanctuary and in particular on Sarus Crane and he emphasize on importance of conservation of wetlands. Dr. S. H. Prajapati delivered a session from 2.30 to 3.30 wherein he spoke about Wetlands watch. Dr. Prajapati explained the students about Ramsar Convention and he mentioned about various **Ramsar sites** of our country. He has also thrown light on wetlands of Palanpur and adjoining areas. A programme of display of books and magazines was arranged during tea break. In last session of the day, students from R. R. Mehta College of Science and Karnavat Science College gave presentations about their visit to **Waghai Botanical Garden for Botany Fest** and of different types of plant life forms existing in Balaram Wildlife Sanctuary.

On second day February 02, 2020, sixty members along with convener, invited guest Mr. Katju and Mr. Kailash Jani visited the belt of Banas River, Dantiwada. The major goal for visiting this site was to learn and know about the birds of these areas. To mention the important species during this visit includes Bar Headed Goose, Godwit, Pelicans, Duck sps. Stork sps. and Demoiselle crane.

Faculty members of Botany and Zoology department and committee members of Nature Club have actively participated in this two day programme.







7.2

Best Practice : 02

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES DURING EPIDEMIC

The Corona epidemic of covid-19 during second phase, we have arranged social activities for the Covid effected people during lockdown 1 to 4 phases from 3-4-20 to 19-5-20. We have established different centres at Delhi Gate, Old Lakshmipura, Gathamam Gate, Becharpura, Gobarioroad etc. in Banaskantha District of Gujarat to guide the Covid effected people. The certificates of Excellence for brilliant and consistent high standard of workmanship during epidemic period of Covid-19 are awarded to 15 students. These certificates were awarded by Vice chancellor of SDAU, Sardarkrushinagar. In this programme the fifteen NSS volunteers, programme officer Prof. R.D.Varsat and Prof. S.I.Gatiyala. This entire programme was under the guidance of Banaskantha District Police and Principal Dr Y B Dabgar, R.R.Mehta College of Science and C.L.Parikh College of Commerce, Palanpur.