



Siruthuli
Clean Kovai. Green Kovai.

Nayyad Times

April 2022



*A once barren spiritual retreat turns into a green haven of peace
-Purna Vidya Foundation*

Urban Lakes: An Oasis of Fresh waters

Urban water bodies have all but become invisible in most cityscapes in India. They seem to be covered under the veil of garbage heaps and building debris in the best case scenarios. The worst cases are when they are encroached upon and concreted into buildings. In such cases, evicting them with civil cases leads to pendency and a long legal battle. As the incidence of climate variability and extreme weather events increases, untimely heavy rains cause urban flooding.

In the last 20 years, the Indian cities have grown manifold. As the city grew beyond its original limits, not much was done to address the absence of adequate drainage systems. Irreversible damage has been done to the city by property builders, property owners, and public agencies by flattening terrain and altering natural drainage routes.

Indian cities are becoming increasingly resistant to water, not just because of increasing built up area but also because of the nature of materials used (hard, non-porous construction material that makes the soil impervious). Even with provisions of rainwater harvesting, adoption at user end remains weak. Also periodic upkeep and maintenance is mandatory to ensure effectiveness.

Under the Smart City Project, Coimbatore, a new lease of life is being given to the seven lakes

within the heart of the city. Beautification of the lakesides by providing walking and resting spaces for the citizens, cyclers' pathway, benches and gardens add to the beauty of the city. Indeed it is a much needed urban space for citizens to relax and rejuvenate. But the point to be noted is that the water quality in the lakes are totally unfit for any purpose, be it for agriculture or for industrial use. Neither is it potable to humans or animals. Untreated drainage and sewage water from city homes, hospitals, offices, and even industries are let into lakes with great impunity.

A sewage treatment plant is mandatory and is the first line of treatment before discharging effluents. An integrated sewage treatment plant must be envisaged and set up in different zones of the city to fully optimize the promise of a smart city. Only under such holistic development can we hope to bring about real changes. Mere beautification of lakebunds and surroundings without treating the water within is like treating the symptoms without removing the disease.

With more and more responsible citizens entering the political arena, it is but natural that we see positive improvements in the days to come and we look forwards to good days ahead.

Jai Hind

Meeting with the Secretary MAWS

Our **Chairman Dr. S V Balasubramaniam**, Along with our **Managing Trustee Smt Vanitha Mohan** and a few Apex members gave a presentation to **Shri Shiv Das Meena IAS**, Secretary of Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department on 8th January 2022 along with the Commissioner of Coimbatore Corporation **Shri Rajagopal Sunkara IAS**, at the Corporation office. The PPT detailed the activities of Siruthuli initiated thus far in the areas of Water conservation, Afforestation and Waste Management. They expressed the concerns faced by Siruthuli in the waterbodies that were desilted especially the ones coming under the Smart City Project – reduction of storage capacity due to concretization as well as sewage water contamination. Although sewage water treatment plants were part of the original plan they have not been implemented. This is causing large scale ground water contamination. Also almost 35 acres of valuable storage capacity has been lost due to filling of tank space for construction of entertainment zones for the public. They also suggested moving entertainment zones to other areas within the Corporation so that maximum water can be stored in the waterbodies.

They also expressed their willingness to develop Miyawaki - urban forests in OSR sites which have power and water facilities. Secretary MAWS was very appreciative of the work executed by Siruthuli and promised to look into the representation made by the Trustees. We are happy that the Corporation has announced that steps will be initiated to protect the existing storage capacity of waterbodies.



Oor Kuttai, Kuppanur



Oor Kuttai was initially used as a garbage dumping site by the locals. Sewage from the nearby areas was also let into this pond. It was also used for open defaecation. After a discussion with the locals who expressed their desire to rejuvenate the pond, Siruthuli received the necessary permissions from the Collectorate to work on this waterbody. The inaugural pooja to start desilting work at **Oor Kuttai, Kuppanur Village, Madhampatty Panchayat** was held on 5th January 2022. The project is sponsored by **BOSCH**. The event was attended by the locals, BOSCH CSR team and members of

Siruthuli. Due to the presence of thorny shrubs and bushes in the water spread area of pond had to be cleared completely using heavy machinery. After this desilting work was done and the silt removed has been used to form and strengthen the bunds. Cement pipes have been laid at the 3 inlet channels. The post desiltation survey was conducted on 9th March 2022. The storage capacity of the water body has increased significantly and the total volume of the pond is 12756 Cu.M. The water stored in this pond will help increase the groundwater levels in the region thereby enhancing the agricultural operations

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National Convention of Rivers @ Hyderabad



The Indian Peninsular River Basins Council (IPRBC) and Indian Himalayan River Basins Council (IHRBC) jointly organized the National Convention of Rivers conducted at Hyderabad on 26th and 27th February 2022. As part of the convention, for the first time in India, a river manifesto was released which highlighted the importance of rejuvenating our Rivers. The Agriculture Minister of Telangana Mr Singireddy Niranjan Reddy, the Water Man of India Dr Rajendra Singh, Telangana Water Resources Development Corporation Chairman - Mr V Prakash Reddy, IHRBC Chairman

Dr. Indira Khurna along with representatives from 26 different states were present at the occasion. Various speakers spoke at the event on various topics concerning water. Topics spanning River health and human health, Importance of water literacy, Integration of GIS technology in Rejuvenation of Rivers etc made the Convention purposeful and the takeaway was extremely beneficial to all the delegates.

Our Managing Trustee Smt. Vanitha Mohan attended the convention in the capacity as Chair of the Noyyal River Basin. She spoke on the need to rejuvenate and restore the River Noyyal and also gave a brief enumeration of the work done so far by NGOs of the Noyyal River basin from the 4 districts through which the river flows.

CRS Poonga

As a green tribute to the memory of our Trustee Shri C R Swaminathan and to also commemorate his 74th birth anniversary on 25th December 2021, a floral garden was created at Gandhi Centenary Memorial School with 80 saplings of 21 varieties. A Nagalingam tree which was a favourite of Late Shri CRS was planted by his sister Smt Kamala Sivasubramaniam. The event was well attended by Office Bearers of various Associations like the Chamber of Commerce, Codissia, CII, RAAC, Indian Institute of Foundrymen, SIEMA besides members of his family, friends and well wishers, Apex members and staff of Siruthuli. It was an emotional moment for all the people whose lives he had touched in more ways than one.

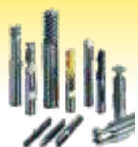


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Water Watch

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Rejuvenation of water bodies in Sivagangai district (project Naneer Phase I):

Mr. Krishnan (COO) along with Mr. Aruchamy visited all the proposed water bodies along with the current project sites of Chettian Kanmai and Vadakudipatty Kanmai. Dewatering process at Chettian Kanmai was started on 25th February 2022 and went on for 2 days to reduce the water level of the tank. The desilting work of Chettian Kanmai will start by 13th March 2022 and is expected to be completed by mid April 2022. As the standing water column at Vadakudipatty Kanmai is at 6-7ft, we have discussed with Parry officials to have a stakeholder meet with the councilor and village leader to seek their opinion and support for draining the water. Meetings are being held regularly with officials from AMM Foundation.



Bharathiyar University:

The post desilting survey and drone shoot for the project has been completed. A team from Siruthuli attended the Second Advisory Committee meeting convened by Bharathiyar University regarding Rain Water Harvesting and made the following recommendations to the committee: conduct an aquifer mapping study for the entire campus, construct Gabion structures along the wild streams flowing through their campus, and convert the existing dry borewells to rain water harvesting structures. The committee members also visited the percolation pond which was recently completed.



Kanchimanadhi:

Boundary marking was done in the stream with the help of government officials. The FMB documents for the project are being collected. The reports of contour mapping, spot levels and elevation mapping for the stream have been received.



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Water Watch

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Nandangarai Check Dam:

Two stone boards were placed at the project site with the details of the rejuvenation work done and also the sponsor details. The surface flow run off from nearby agricultural lands from the Eastern side of the Check Dam was channelized to the surplus channel to ensure that the bunds do not get weakened.



Government Hospital, Coimbatore:

2 Borewells have been drilled to create 2 Open Space rain Water Harvesting structures inside the Government Hospital. The project is sponsored by Trident Pneumatics.

Mariamman Temple, Peelamedu Pudur: Out of the 3 Rain Water harvesting structures to be constructed inside the temple premises, the borewells for structures have been drilled. This project is sponsored by GRG Institutions.

RWH green net at Gandhi school was cleaned and washed for better percolation into the ground on 3rd January 2022.

Installation of filter mesh and white washing of the hollow block structures for 3 RWH structures on Abdul Rahim Road, Race Course was completed.



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Soil types

Soils come in an incredible range of colours and indicate its quality.

In Tamilnadu, generally red soil, black soil, alluvial soil, acid soil, laterite soil, alkaline soil, saline soil, waterlogged soil, calcareous soil, sandy soil, shallow soil, eroded soil etc are found. In Coimbatore mostly red soil, black soil, deep black, deep red, shallow black or red and eroded soil can be found.

Colour is one of the most useful characteristics in the classification and identification of soils.

Colour of soil is also a good tool to determine the physical characteristics of soil. The presence and absence of minerals, the amount of organic matter - decomposed plant litter -soil moisture, climate etc are responsible for the colour of the soil.

Climate determines where and how quickly various organisms can grow. Climate controls the amount of precipitation as well as the amount of water that evaporates from the soil surface.

Black soil often has a strong granular structure. They form under poorly drained condition and range from peaty to mostly clay in texture.

With proper identification and good management, these soils can be highly productive for vegetables and field crops.

Red soil can be beautiful, but are often deficient in nutrients needed for healthy plant life. Usually lacking in Nitrogen, essential for strong leaf development, red soils are also frequently deficient in zinc, sulphur and phosphorus. These nutrients are necessary for proper development of plant leaves, roots and fruits so anyone cultivating in red soil need to add these minerals generously.

Red soil is generally problematic for farming as they are older soils that have gone through intensive weathering. To rehabilitate this soil, extensive aeration is needed to complete biodegradation and provide a healthy environment for plant growth.

-Shanthni Balu

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A Ray of "HOPE"

When it comes to saving the environment, there is no 'you and I'. There is only 'We'. Every breath we take, every atom of Oxygen we inhale is thanks to the evergreens that dot our city, absorbing all the carbon fumes sent their way.

They have watched their brethren being axed, treated with acid and pulled down without mercy. These living beings know only to give. They purify the air, recharge ground water levels, provide shade, while also bearing food that have therapeutic and medicinal properties.

All the afforestation work done until now has taught us to believe in HOPE. Wherever trees have been planted, young forests have grown and brought a transformation in the ecosystem. It is this very 'Hope', of a healthy future for our children, which motivates us to take the next step forward to adding more green spaces in our city.

10.75 acres of land, belonging to the Railways, abutting the Ondipudur flyover had been an eyesore for passersby for many many years- filled with thorny bushes, mainly the invasive Seemai Karuvelam (Propolis Juliflora). It had been the dream of all of us at Siruthuli to see a green lung space, instead, in its space that would serve as an Oxygen factory for the surrounding concrete jungle.

We approached the DRM of Southern Railways, Shri Subba Rao and placed our request as well as a plantation plan. After a series of discussions, analyzing the pros and cons of the proposal with his team members, he finally gave us the, most welcome, go ahead nod.

As is said, 'The Universe Conspires' to bring people together, whose thoughts and intentions are good and for the well-being of mankind.

A Ray of Hope, appeared in the horizon, when Siruthuli was approached by Ms Minal Jeswani, a Coimbatorean, who had moved to the US several years ago, whose heart keeps constantly beating for the eco well-being of the city she grew up in. Having heard about the effectiveness of SIRUTHULI's Miyawaki plantations in the Coimbatore region, she sought our help in creating a Miyawaki plantation within the city. The timing was perfect. We had just received the approval letter from the Railways for our proposed plantation. We shared the proposal with her. Minal immediately came forward to fund the project through a funding agency in The US- Home of Hope- along with Spark Round Table 323 and Rotary Club of Coimbatore Smart City. This site is located at Ondipudur along the Railway track adjacent to Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation.

Bhoomi Puja for the project was done on the 25th of June 2020, soon after the lockdown was lifted. 'Hope Vanam' was the name given to this project to acknowledge the sponsorship by 'Home of Hope'. The function was well attended by the officials from the Railways, members of both, Round Table and Rotary, as well as the Siruthuli team. When work started in right earnest, we were in for a rude shock. What seemed to be a simple task of removing thorny bushes, turned out to be a nightmare, with almost six feet of building debris and garbage below the undergrowth. Our plan to complete land reclamation and development in fifteen days, took us almost three months. Since the debris could not be moved out of the site, as per regulations of Railways, bunds were created on the Northern and Southern boundaries using the debris. There is a sewage channel running through the site carrying a lot of sewage. We designed a low cost sewage filtration system to treat the sewage and use the water for watering the saplings. A sedimentation tank has also been constructed to filter the sludge in the sewage.

Compressed Air and Gas Treatment Solutions



for Ondipudur

Under Phase 1, 15000 pits were dug. In spite of the pandemic, a memorable planting event was organised on 3rd October 2020. Shri Subba Rao, IRSME-Divisional Railway Manager, Salem Division, Shri Annadurai, IRSS Addl DRM, Round Table Area 7 Chairman Mr. Pradeep Rajappa and Rotary Asst. Governor Rtn. Shri Mayilswamy were Chief Guests. Team Siruthuli represented by the Managing Trustee Mrs. Vanitha Mohan, Forests First Convenor Shri V. Chandrasekar, Apex members and staff. The function was well attended by all the stakeholders as well as a good strength of volunteers who came in to help with the planting.

Hope Vanam consisting of various native tree species stands as an Ecological Buffer zone in enriching the micro climate of the region. Over several years the place which had become a dumping ground for garbage and building debris became perilous to many living creatures and started spelling doom for the local residents. The locals never opted for this road along the Railways line as there existed a host of problems like waste water flow, polluted air, obnoxious odour and presence of miscreants. But, now the scenario has changed drastically.

The place has now become a lung space with lush growth of multiple varieties of trees radiating cool breeze to passersby. The train travelers who frequent this route actually turn to take a second look, with disbelief, while crossing the site. That is 'The Change', that has transformed this 10.75 acre landscape within a short period of 15 months.

The planting has been done in three phases.

Phase I- 15000 nos.

Phase II- 6450 nos.

Phase III- 9336 nos.

In total 30786 saplings have been planted consisting of more than 25 native varieties like ..Punnai, Marutham, Maghizham, Pungan, Poovarasan, Neem etc.. The challenges were aplenty- mainly the excessive growth of weeds thanks to the sewage. Kudos to Siruthuli team for painstakingly deweeding the place periodically thus facilitating rapid growth of the trees.

The bunds created using the debris seemed bare compared to the abutting plantation site. (90 Golden Bamboo saplings were planted by Our Senior Trustee Shri Kanaklal Abhaichand's family on the canal bunds to commemorate the 90th birthday of) Thanks to Rotary Club of Mettupalayam, 350+ bamboo saplings have been planted along the Northern bund which will soon enclose the 30,000+ trees providing enriched Oxygen to the locality..

Hope Vanam is now effectively able to reduce air pollution subtly, facilitating carbon sequestration besides producing precious Oxygen. The place has also become a haven for the 4 B's that are essential for bio diversity- birds, bees, butterflies and bats. And eventually over a period of time this would create Carbon sinks.

Hope Vanam was developed with passion and commitment. Siruthuli saw it as a unique and challenging situation and it's concerted efforts brought about a dramatic change in the scenario. This stands as a perfect evidence of how the process of rebuilding of a sterile environment should go with forest establishment. The unique characteristic of Hope Vanam is how sewage contamination which was defiling the environment has turned positive by being treated and used for watering the saplings. Not only has the growth been phenomenal but also averted ground water contamination.



Green Guard

FORESTS FIRST FORUM

SPB Vanam: On the Southern side of the plantation area 250 saplings have been planted. To prevent damage to the saplings from termites, a layer of white wash has been provided to the tree trunk (2ft from the ground level) of around 650 plants. The curb stones of the pathway have been cleaned and white washed.



Thudiyalur Railway Station: A Man hole construction was done around the borewell to prevent any further damages to it. A 7.5 HP bore well motor pump sponsored by AQUASUB, is installed at the site. Saplings for the plantation have been procured. Pitting work for 5000 saplings has been completed of which 2000 saplings are sponsored by Indostar and 3000 saplings are sponsored by BOSCH. Pitting work for laying the pipeline laying works is underway. Drip irrigation material has been acquired.



Vasantha Nagar: Fencing work has been completed. A round of dweeding was also done. A proposal for fencing the project site was submitted to Dr. David Rajan, Chairman and MD – Ortho One. He has agreed to sponsor the cost for fencing.

Reserve site, Balasubramaniam Nagar: The site was cleared of bushes. Pitting work for the saplings and laying of pipelines has been completed. The saplings are spaced at 8ft from each other. Arrangements for laying a pathway and fencing are being currently made. Layout for the plantation with 124 saplings has been designed.



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Green Guard

FORESTS FIRST FORUM

Hope Vanam: The fencing work for Hope Vanam has been completed. The underground cable of the pump station which was damaged during the pitting work has been repaired. A bamboo bund has been created on the Northern side of the plantation in association with the Rotary Club of Mettupalayam on 25th February 2022. A total of 327 bamboo saplings were planted. Chair Rtn Sudharsan, Rtn Srinivasan (Secretary), Rtn Sanjay Shankla (Treasurer), Rtn Dr Vijayagiri (Asst Governor), Mr Rajarathinam Managing Director of Eden Nursery Gardens and other Rotarians of the club attended the event. The event also saw the participation of our Managing Trustee, Convenors, Apex members and staff of Siruthuli.



CRS POONGA: Dry leaves collected from NLC were used for mulching at CRS Poonga.



Nandangarai plantation: The area adjacent to the Check Dam has been chosen for plantation. Site clearing and leveling has been completed. The design for the plantation has been finalized.

Shanthi Panai Vanam



Shanthi Panai Vanam which is being designed to commemorate the memory of Shri P Subramaniam, Founder - Shanthi Gears and Shanthi Social Services at Lakshmpuram, Perur Chettipalayam Panchayat was inaugurated on 27th August 2022. After the bhoomi pooja, the site was cleared of the bushes and levelled. It was decided that the construction of a Panai Information Center - Panaiyagam - will be taken up and completed before commencement of plantation of Panai saplings.

We are in the process of constructing the Panai Information Center. The external structure for the Center has been completed and arrangements are being made for construction of a thatched roof. The project is being funded by M/s Shanthi Gears in association with RAAC (Residents Awareness Association of Coimbatore).



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*Save water,
secure the future*



The Wetlands of Coimbatore a Birdwatcher's Perspective

My journey into birdwatching started in 2013 in a non-descript Kerala Forest department store in Parambikulam. I chanced upon a book which was put up for sale: "Birds of Kerala" by Dr Salim Ali. What caught my attention was the book's volume - It was 600 pages with numerous colour plates and descriptions of birds. Until that point, I was familiar with just a handful of birds: House sparrow, House crow, Pigeon, Peacock etc., Out of sheer curiosity, I purchased the book and was soon surprised to learn that our neighbouring state of Kerala alone has about 600 different species of birds. My mind was already reeling with questions: How would I be able to see these birds? Where would I see them? When? I did not have to wait for long. CII - Young Indians, an organisation I belonged to, had organised a joint event with a Bird watching group called Coimbatore Nature Society in Perur Puttuvikki tank on December 2nd 2013. I joined the bird watching event. In a course of couple of hours in Perur lake, I was able to spot close to 50 different species of birds. It shocked me to realize that all my life, I had been blind to the natural beauty and biodiversity of the wetlands. I was hooked. As they say, there was no turning back.

I soon became a member of Coimbatore Nature Society (CNS) and Salim Ali Naturalist's Forum (SANF). I also enrolled for a Basic Course in Ornithology (BCO) in Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS). CNS does bird watching programs every Sunday from September 2012 onwards. At the time of writing this article, it has completed more than 450 bird watching trips in and around Coimbatore without break. CNS soon became part of the annual exercise Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) from 2014 onwards. We also started doing several Bird surveys for the Tamilnadu and Kerala's Forest departments. We also have been part of TNFD's annual synchronised Wetland surveys for the last three years. All these exercises gave us a unique perspective into the wetlands of Coimbatore district. Having observed these wetlands over eight years, we can now share with confidence what we see happening in wetlands.

At the time of writing this article, Coimbatore Nature society has recorded 417 species of birds within Coimbatore district. Of these, there are 279 resident birds. Resident birds are those which remain in our district throughout the year and breed here. 132 of the birds seen here are migrants. Migrants are those which visit our district during winters from across our states borders, sometimes from beyond our country or continent's borders. Six species of birds seen in our district have a dual status, which means that among each of the six species, there are some populations which are resident and some populations which are migrants. It is worth noting here that the state of Tamilnadu has recorded about 529 species of birds. Among the districts of Tamilnadu, Coimbatore is the district which has recorded the greatest number of species. The main reason of the species richness of Coimbatore is its proximity to the western ghats and the varied habitats seen within our district. Coimbatore's location in proximity to Palakkad gap is also a contributing factor as the Palakkad gap serves as an important passage route for birds travelling to south of Tamilnadu and to Srilanka.

If we focus specifically on waterbirds, we have recorded 94 species of waterbirds in Coimbatore district. 42 species of Water birds are residents, 51 are migrants and one species has a dual status. The resident waterbirds are predominantly found in water bodies throughout the year, and some of them need shallow water and some deep. Most of these migrants come around September and stay until April the next year. The plovers and sandpipers prefer shallow water for wading through while the Ducks prefer good water levels. Terns and Gulls prefer water bodies with plenty of small fishes! We have recorded several rare waterbirds in our district. Some of the notable sightings are Flamingos, Bar-headed geese and Amur falcon.

As the readers may be aware, there are more than 30 wetlands in Coimbatore district. Several of these wetlands are system tanks of Noyyal and Kowsika rivers. As mentioned earlier, CNS has been a part of Asian waterbird census (AWC) from 2014 and have been monitoring the waterbird populations in Coimbatore district for the last 8 years. AWC is an annual exercise conducted in January of every year to assess the waterbird populations in wetlands throughout Asia. This citizen-science event is a part of the global International Waterbird Census (IWC) that supports the conservation and management of wetlands and waterbirds worldwide. CNS has also been consolidating the finding of the census fro Coimbatore district and have been publishing the results in leading dailies every year.



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Our studies indicate that the species count and populations of resident birds have shown an increase over the last six years. We have seen that several resident forest birds are being seen in wetlands near the foothills. However, both the species count and populations of migratory birds have shown a drastic decrease in the same period. The reduction in population is quite drastic (Close to 50%). This is a worrisome trend. If we look at the major wetlands of Coimbatore: Ukkadam, Kannampalayam, Achankulam and Perur Puttuvikki, we can see that there is a reduction in population of both residents and migrants in all the major wetlands apart from Perur Puttuvikki.

In most wetlands, we are seeing that the transition from land to water is quite abrupt. The loss of shorelines in the wetlands makes it difficult for the migratory waders to find food. We are also seeing that the water level is high in most of the wetlands. This again makes these wetlands unsuitable for several groups of waterbirds like sandpipers, plovers and wading birds like storks. Even for birds which prefer deep water, another threat has emerged in the form of the invasive water hyacinth. Several wetlands like Sular, Singanallur, and Irugur lake are partially or completely covered with hyacinth. Fishing happens in several wetlands in Coimbatore, and this comes in as a major threat for birds as their food source is being deprived. The continuous dumping of domestic and industrial waste into our wetlands has resulted in occasional mass fish deaths in several wetlands. Hunting of water birds, even though it is to lesser extent, is a constant threat for water birds.

We are also seeing concretization of the bunds of wetlands. This not only removes the natural vegetation of the wetlands, but also makes it impossible for reeds and other aquatic vegetation to establish. These reeds and aquatic plants serve as important role in water purification. They also serve as valuable nesting and roosting spaces for waterbirds.

We feel that the combination of all these factors could be the main reasons for the drastic reduction of migratory water birds to our wetlands. Water birds serve as an important indicator for the health of our wetlands. Our wetlands serve several important roles such as flood mitigation, groundwater replenishment, irrigation, water purification and provide for aesthetic and recreational purposes. Besides, the faecal matter of the birds enriches the water with nutrients which is very valuable for agricultural lands. The wetlands of Coimbatore district serve as a very critical stopover point for migratory waterfowl. The health of our wetlands will go a long way in ensuring the successful migration and consequent breeding success of numerous birds. It is therefore essential that we ensure safe passage for migratory birds while also providing optimal conditions for breeding success of our resident birds.

About the Author: Balaji P B is an MBA Graduate from F.W. Olin School of Business and holds an Undergraduate degree in Mechatronics engineering. He also holds a certificate in Ornithology from Bombay Natural History society. He is an entrepreneur and runs Poultry and allied businesses near Coimbatore. He is a member of Coimbatore Nature Society and was a past chair of CII-Young Indians, Coimbatore chapter. He was one of the editors of 'Birds of Coimbatore' book. His interests are in Reading, Bird watching and Photography.



*"Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature.
It will never fail you"*

Spread the Word

AWARENESS GENERATION

Website Development: Our new website is under construction by 'Squarely' – the vendor. Mr Saravanan Chandrasekar, our apex member, has been convening regular meetings with the vendor to share with them the functionalities that we need in the website. A presentation was made to the content writing team about Siruthuli's work to help them understand the nature and quantum of our work.

Smt. Vanitha Mohan, Smt. Sujani Balu, Smt. Shanthni Balu, Mr Chandrasekar and Ms. Jennifer attended a **virtual workshop on cocreating Green Spaces city networks** and planning a "Monitoring, Reporting and Verification" (MRV) System for Urban Trees in Coimbatore under Climate Smart City project conducted by GIZ and Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation.

A **virtual meeting was held with HCL team** to discuss CSR proposals for the upcoming financial year. The meeting was attended by Dr Santanu Basu, Ms. Janani, Mr Hitesh and Mr. Prijoe from Harit - HCL Foundation team. The meeting was also attended by the Managing Trustee - Smt Vanitha Mohan, COO - Mr J Krishnan, Project Engineer - Mr. Elamparithi, Admin Coordinator - Mr. Govindaraj, Outreach Coordinator - Ms. Jennifer.

A **meeting with BOSCH team** was held on 23th February 2022 to discuss the water roadmap that can make Keeranatham a water positive region. The meeting was attended by Mr. Jacob Varkey, Mr Bezaleel and Mr Nagoor from the Corporate Social Responsibility team of Robert Bosch Engineering and Business Solutions Pvt Ltd and Smt. Vanitha Mohan - Managing Trustee, Mr. Krishnaswamy - Convenor - WBRC, Mr. Chandrashekar - Convenor - F3, Mr. PP Subramaniam - Convenor - Sponsorships, Smt. Sujani Balu - Convenor - Awareness, COO - Mr. J Krishnan, Mr. Aruchamy, Mr. Elamparithi and Ms. Jennifer. We showcased the completed projects sponsored by BOSCH and prepared a set of proposals for the upcoming financial year.



Mr. Ravikumar - Technical Expert, Climate Smart Cities and Mr. Sebastian Markart - Project Deputy Head, Climate Smart Cities (CSC), from GIZ visited NLC on 28th February 2022. They were given a brief about our afforestation projects after which they headed towards Hope Vanam to study how we have executed the project using the sewage water.

Tree Park Stock details:



Shadow trees - 26174 Nos
Fruit trees - 5196 Nos
Total - 31370 Nos



Sale of Grow bags: 5 Nos
Vermicompost: 5 Kgs
Coirpith: 110 Kgs
Vermicompost: 44 Kgs
EM Solution: 2 Litres
Seeds: 9 Nos.



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