





Friends of Elephants is not an organization and is not proposing to become one, but it is an informal group of people, coming together with varied expertise who are concerned about elephant conservation and welfare. The group is a forum for disseminating knowledge linked to elephant science, conservation and welfare. The objectives are many fold, one among them is to conduct events, on a monthly basis, at a centrally located place in Bangalore where people from different walks of life - children to the aged - everyone can come and participate and get empowered; and how they - even as laymen - can play an important role in elephant conservation and welfare. It proposes to create a network of expertise and derive support for organizations and individuals involved in understanding the ecology of elephants, identifying welfare & conservation issues, law enforcement, training, all on a volunteering basis.



Friends of Elephants presents

CALLING GANESHA

Untold stories of elephants

"ASIAN ELEPHANTS IN PERIL"
SHORT FILM SCREENING

MUSICAL PRESENTATION
BY HANUMAN BROTHERPETER
(AUSTRALIAN)
CULTURAL-ANTHROPOLOGIST & SOCIOLOGIST

"18TH ELEPHANT"
NATIONAL AWARD WINNING
DOCUMENTARY BY P BALAN

PANEL DISCUSSION
P BALAN, HANUMAN BROTHERPETER
& SURENDRA VARMA

Q & A, OPEN HOUSE INTERACTIONS

7TH
APRIL
2014

5.30 PM
TO 8.30 PM

RANGASTHALA @ RANGOLI METRO ART CENTRE
M G ROAD BOULEVARD, BANGALORE

Join us on FB



ENTRY FREE

Our Partners



Design by STF team

Friends of Elephants presents

HUMAN & ELEPHANT

"Elephant Folktales from around the world"
Folk story by Mr. Vikram Sridhar at 06:00 pm

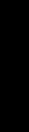
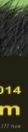
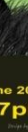
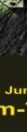
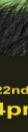
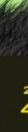
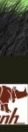
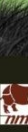
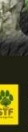
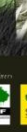
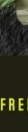
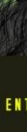
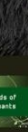
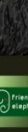
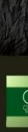
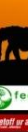
"Conflicts to Coexistence:
Living with elephants in our backyards"
Short documentary & talk by Dr. M Anand Kumar, Wildlife Research Scientist,
Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF) India at 06:20 pm

"Human-Elephant Conflict: Ground realities"
Documentary & talk by Mr. Kalyan Varma, Wildlife Photographer at 06:50 pm

"Human-Elephant Conflict: Patterns & Responses"
Short documentary by Friends of Elephants at 07:10 pm

"Conflict & Coexistence"
Panel discussion by speakers and experts at 07:20 pm

Friday, 27th June 2014
Rangasthala – Rangoli Metro Art Centre, M G Road, Bangalore
ENTRY FREE (Please be seated by 05:45 pm)



Friends of Elephants Presents

An Apology to Elephants

Documentary narrated by Lily Tomlin

Film Screening followed by Panel Discussion of Experts

Venue - Regional Museum of Natural History
Venkalingaiah Layout, Bannur Rd, Siddartha Nagar, Karanji Layout, Mysore, Karnataka 570011

22nd June 2014
4pm-7pm

Friends of Elephants presents

ELEPHANT ROOTS

SATURDAY, 31 MAY 2014, 05:45 - 08:00 PM
RANGASTHALA-RANGOLI METRO ART CENTRE
M G ROAD BOULEVARD, BANGALORE

06:00 pm - Documentary Screening
The Old Elephant Route

07:00 pm - Talk by Lakshmi R.
The Old Elephant Route Revisited

07:15 pm - Prajna Chowta, Lakshmi R. & Surendra Varma in
Panel Discussion

As a young forest officer in Assam in the 1930s P. D. Stracey heard of an ancient migratory route of wild elephants on the border between Burma (Myanmar) and India through Chaukan Pass.

In 2000, elephant researchers Prajna Chowta & Surendra Varma and, an elephant mahout Mubey Khan from South India explored the route (walking 150 miles) and a documentary based on their experience "THE OLD ELEPHANT ROUTE" was made.

In 2013 (13 years later), well known Indian Himalayan explorer Mr. Harish Kapadia, Biotechnologist Lakshmi R. and others explored the same route.

BURMA (Myanmar)

INDIA

CHAUKAN PASS

Friends of Elephants' events with various themes'

Friends of Elephants presents

CARE & CAPTIVITY

06:00 pm "Timber Elephants: logging, survival and reproduction in the forests of Myanmar" talk on captive elephants of Myanmar Dr. Hannah Mumby, University of Sheffield, UK

06:20 pm "Of Oozies (Mahouts) and Elephants" documentary film by Mostly Movies

06:50 pm "Elephant Care - Impressions" talk on elephant health care by Dr. T. Gopal, Former Director, Institute of Animal Health & Veterinary Biotechnology, Habbal, Bangalore

07:10 pm "Care is Rare in Captivity" short film by Friends of Elephants

07:15 pm "Care in Captivity" panel discussion by speakers and other experts

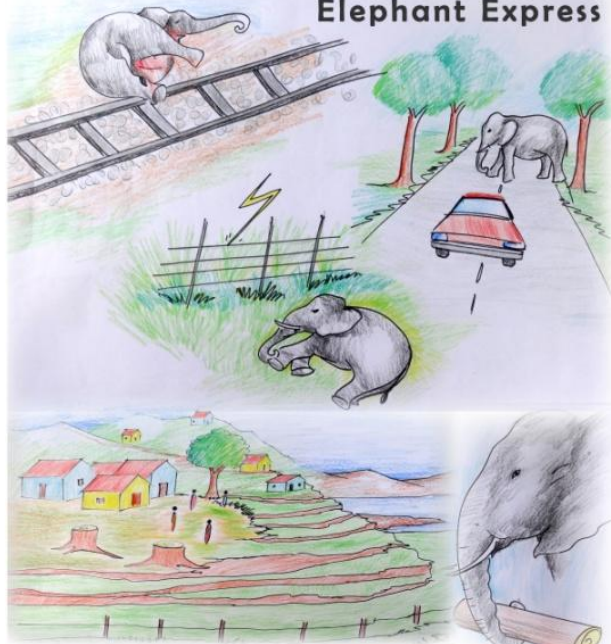
TIME
(Please be seated by 05:45 pm)

ENTRY FREE

Sunday 27th July 2014, Rangasthala
Rangoli Metro Art Centre, M G Road, Bangalore

"Friends of Elephants presents"

Elephant Express



**Saturday 6th September 2014,
Rangasthala – Rangoli Metro Art Centre,
M G Road, Bangalore**

This Poster is designed by
Akash Yadav, Rajah .H, Bhavana Jain, Siddharth S Jain from 10th grade
Chirag .M, Chiranth M, Ankit Jain, Kaushal Kishore and S.R. Dinesh from 9th Grade
All students belong to Deepika School for Special Needs Children, Bangalore

Program Schedule

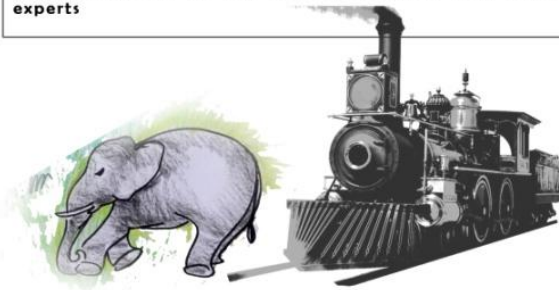
06:00 pm :
"God On the Edge"
Mumbai-based filmmaker Ashok Patel's award winning documentary (46-minute)

06:50 pm
"Mitigation of elephant mortality due to train-hits in India" Talk by Jose Louies, Wildlife Trust of India (WTI)

07:15 pm
"On the Right track" Short Documentary Film by WTI (28 minutes)

07:45 pm
"Prevention of Elephant deaths along the railway tracks of NJP sector, West Bengal, using bio-acoustics"
Talk by SS Mahesh, CEO of Grus Ecosciences

08:00 pm
"Are we on the right track?"
Panel discussion by film makers, speakers and other experts



Partners



Friends of Elephants Presents **ELEPHANT EXPRESS**



VENUE: Rangasthala – Rangoli Metro Art Centre, M G Road, Bangalore
DATE: Saturday 6th September 2014
TIME: 6.00 PM to 8.30 PM

TIME	PROGRAM
06:00 pm	"God On the Edge" Mumbai-based filmmaker Ashok Patel's award winning documentary (46-minute)
06:50 pm	"Mitigation of elephant mortality due to train-hits in India" Talk by Jose Louies, Wildlife Trust of India (WTI)
07:15 pm	"On the Right track" Short Documentary Film by WTI (28 minutes)
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08:00 pm	"Are we on the right track?" Panel discussion by film makers, speakers and other experts



Partners



This poster is designed by
MTAMELAKKIYA, Ph.D SCHOLAR, UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS, CHENNAI
M.SUMANGI XII
CORDITE FACTORY HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, ARUVANKODU 643202 THE NILGIRIS,
M.MALAVASHREE X, M.SAGAR MANAS XII
BRINDAVAN PUBLIC SCHOOL, WELINGTON COONOR 643232 THE NILGIRIS.

This Poster was composed using concept arts which were created by following students and individuals:
From top towards end of poster; **Champa .T** Faculty Don Bosco Institute of management studies, Bangalore; **M. Sumangi**, Grade XII, Cordite Factory Higher Secondary School, Aruvankodu 643202, The Nilgiris; **M. Malavashree**, Grade X, **M.Sagar Manas**, Grade XII Brindavan Public School, Welington, Coonoor 643232; The Nilgiris; **Tamil Elakiya**, Ph.D Scholar, Madras University, Chennai

Akash Yadav, Rajah .H, Bhavana Jain, Siddharth S Jain from 10th grade
Chirag .M, Chiranth M, Ankit Jain, Kaushal Kishore and S.R. Dinesh from 9th Grade
All students belong to Deepika School for Special Needs Children, Bangalore



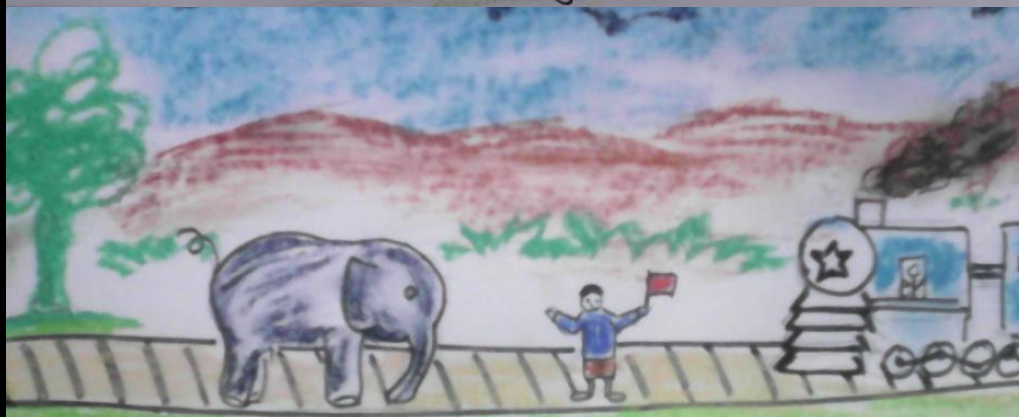
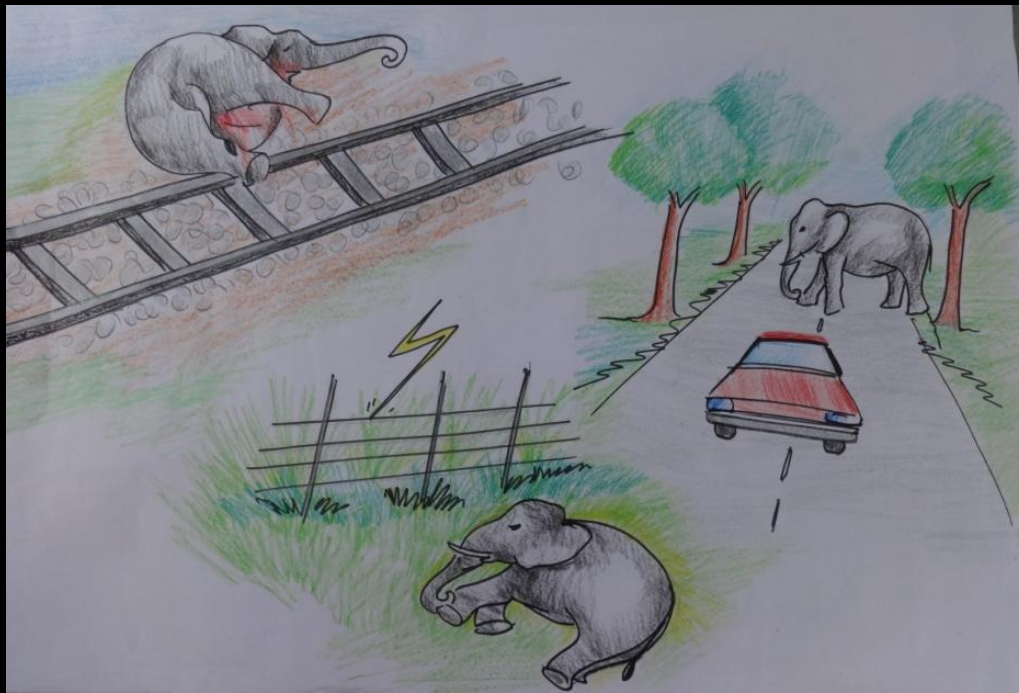
**Saturday 6th September 2014,
Rangasthala – Rangoli Metro Art Centre,
M G Road, Bangalore**

This poster is designed by
MTAMELAKKIYA, Ph.D SCHOLAR, UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS, CHENNAI
M.SUMANGI XII
CORDITE FACTORY HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, ARUVANKODU 643202 THE NILGIRIS,
M.MALAVASHREE X, M.SAGAR MANAS XII
BRINDAVAN PUBLIC SCHOOL, WELINGTON COONOR 643232 THE NILGIRIS.



Partners





Train Train Go Slow
Jumbo is on his Joe



Elephant Express..

SAVE THE SPECIES BEFORE IT IS RUN OVER BY THE MACHINES OF MODERNIZATION....



STOP STEALING THEIR HOMES!!!!!!



Posters/invitations of events designed by children and a few others



Audiences' appreciation for the posters designed by children and a few others

Good initiative Jyoti

Nice Job!
All the best for
name to come - Aditi

Trishul
Jyoti
This is a good effort & award

- arvind bhateja@gmail.com
Arvind

Great Work! Vishnu

Keep it up! - Aditi

gbalagopal-wongarad@gmail.com
sarendra.vg@gmail.com
Sarendra

Tanilekky - keep on going - Wish you all success

Great Work!
Jyoti

Great Work + good and of info well done
Rashmi

Keep drawing and connecting
with the wild life in
Habitat (vicar's Sri Lanka)

- arvind bhateja@gmail.com
Arvind

Sch - EXCELLENT work
(S. Sathya)

- Srikanth M Hallur
Srikanth

EXCELLENT
Nishala

keep up the good work!

Well done!
Best wishes, T. Gadh
Security and Compassion is the need for our children
This initiative taken by the organization has created such an
impression. I feel that younger generation is more aware of the
importance of nature. I wish these children to keep
to bring to public awareness of elephant and nature.
Chand
Rishi

Great Work!
Jyoti

Excellent
Rishika

- S. Sathya

S. Sathya

I wish you All the Best.
Keep in touch. Good luck.
Sri Mahalingam
Good encouragement from the organization
durga gang
Srikanth



Great work
Keep it up!
Vishnu

- Srikanth M Hallur
Srikanth

Appreciate the Art work, good luck
and all the best.
S. Sathya
EXCELLENT
Nishala

S. Sathya

Very Nice poster keep it up
- Aditi

Trishul
Jyoti
This is a good effort & award

Arvind
Jyoti
This is a good effort & award

Good initiative Jyoti

Great work!
Jyoti

Emphani

All the best Champ!

Satish SK

Sch (S. Sathya)

Good initiative!
At a time!

Shruti

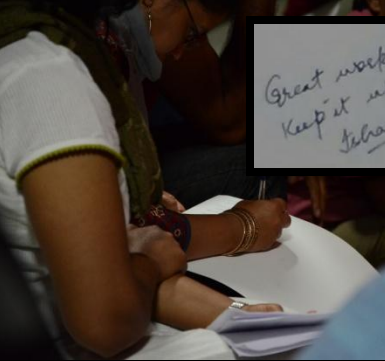
All the best
Jyoti

B. Sathya

B. Sathya

Great job! Thanks!
Deepak

All the best
Jyoti



HUMAN & ELEPHANT

Friends of Elephants Newsletter
July 2014 Vol I Issue 3

3rd Event of Friends of Elephants
was held on Sunday 27th June
2014 at Bangalore

Friends of Elephants' events will
be held on a monthly basis

E-mail id:
friendsofelephants@gmail.com
Facebook Group:

friends of
elephants



ELEPHANT ROOTS

Friends of Elephants Newsletter
June 2014 Vol I Issue 2



2nd event of Friends of Elephants was held on
Saturday 31st May 2014 at Bangalore

Friends of Elephants events will be held on a monthly basis

friends of
elephants

E-mail id: friendsofelephants@gmail.com

Facebook Group:
www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofelephants

Friends of Elephants

Origin & objectives:
The support we received while organizing the program 'Elephant Enigma' in January this year (2014) motivated us to initiate an informal group called FRIENDS OF ELEPHANTS. In our experience, there are small things (i.e., lots of Gods of small things) that could be done to make a difference in the Asian Elephant's conservation and welfare.



Providing technical support in conducting science, conservation, welfare and educational programs on elephants, empowering forest watchers and help in providing educational support to their families, generating resource in helping the mahout's family (including their children's education), efforts to motivate mahouts to treat their elephant with better care, conducting workshops on elephant conservation and welfare, are some of the conservation and welfare initiatives, that FRIENDS OF ELEPHANTS proposes to involve itself formally or informally.

If you wish to be a part of this informal group and share your time (even a small portion), we could connect ourselves by regular updates, events on elephant science, conservation and welfare, share publications, photos, videos, news items of the species or we could even attempt to conduct a course on elephants (for various levels of people) which will encompass

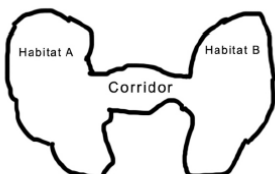
Panel Discussion

Later a panel discussion was organised with the panelists P. Balan, Hanuman Brothepeter and Surendra Varma; a mélange of individuals from different walks of life - but all associated with elephants in their own right. One of the concerns raised by an audience member pointed out whether culture, soaked in the religious sphere, really contravened the cruelty that goes behind making elephants perform in these festivities. It can be argued that any good religion should support the 'culture' of elephants, but nevertheless the issue of captivity has only left onlookers to contemplate the plight of elephants vis-a-vis religion/culture. Western zoos have largely depicted captivity of species in the most glorious sense; however, presentation of the invisible cruelty have been skewed or in a sense been omitted. Cruelty could be categorized as visible and invisible as per the act of defamation of a species, in this case an elephant being either physically or nutritionally abused.

The need to educate about visible and invisible cruelty and reach out to the younger generation, as well as the use of social media to champion the need for change amongst adults for the plight of the elephant was also addressed. It was felt that welfare could be achieved by education. Interestingly, Kerala has a population of 3 crores and only 450 people own elephants. If one looks at highlighting education as a tool to improve welfare - do we target 3 crores or just 450 people? It will be ideal if a consistent educational program is provided for 450 owners along with mass education program to ensure that the general audience enforces change in owners' attitudes towards their elephants.

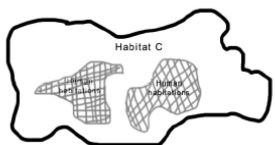
In any attempt to educate the public, it must be kept in mind that their response can be impulsive, restricted to short duration, highly emotion based and with a negative feeling about owners. In the long run, this approach has no value. Consistent education for owners and sustained involvement of people will achieve desired results.

"Elephant Corridor" is defined as 'a narrow path' that connects two different elephant habitats. This could be a thin natural forest cover connecting two of them. This narrow path could also be of cultivated or forested or non-forested private lands. Only this narrow path facilitates movement of elephants across these two elephant habitats.



Pictorial representation of an 'Elephant Corridor'

If a given habitat is seasonal, for e.g., during dry season in some of the prime elephant habitats, there is scarcity of water resources and the habitat becomes uninhabitable. This forces the elephants to move out of the habitat and move into human habitations. The narrow path is very crucial and such paths are to be identified, acquired, monitored and managed.



Pictorial representation of an 'Elephant Corridor'

It was also felt, that legal systems have been engulfed with a humongous task of protection and implementation of regimes that 'go well' for the elephant; but lack of knowledge, poor science and more emotions have considerably lead to the decline of the elephant systems in the country. Citizen science initiatives and people participation could refine regimes that could in a sense redefine this onslaught, followed by systematic approach to the cause. It can be safe to assume that things could change positively, as 'care and affection' is universal. One of the panelists also made the audience understand that self-respecting systems work well independently with constant mentoring, which could lead to a positive outgrowth for the status of elephants in captivity and this approach would go a long way in conserving the species holistically.

Outcome

The significance and impact of this program was highlighted by many members of the audience wanting to participate in the movement of protecting the Asian Elephant in our country and the willingness to carry this cause forward through the 'Friends of Elephant' group. Through the web of connectedness as individuals a mighty change can be made collectively.

We thank Sagarika Phalke, Avinash Krishnan and Sujata Iyengar for their inputs, Ramesh Belagere, Vasanth M K and Ramachandra M N for videography and photographs. Save Tiger First (STF) team designed the poster and newsletter. Asian Nature Conservation Foundation (ANCF) provided the technical support.

7th April 2014 event was sponsored by



Please contact us for sponsoring our future events.

Supported by



Audience at the event

Calling Ganesha

Hanuman Brothepeter, an Australian, is a cultural anthropologist and a keen follower of the Vedic way of life; he started the program with the recital of bhajans dedicated to 'Lord Ganesha' - the elephant God, interspersed his talk with his experiences and documented cases of the gentleness of these large mammals. As an animal trainer, he believes in the science of positive behavioral techniques to deal with elephants in captivity as opposed to negative practices that are still being carried out.

During his presentation, an important aspect that he highlighted was - if you keep elephants in captivity for longer duration, moving such elephants to more natural systems of keeping, imposes a lot of stress on them. Once elephants are shifted from captivity to more natural systems, their isolation from familiar surroundings and non-involvement in day-to-day natural activities will lead to increased mortality of the animals. Elephants cannot live in captivity under human control and still manage to sustain themselves in natural settings. Even though welfare is linked to providing natural settings in care centers in the form of food, water, shade, socializing opportunities etc., all such features should be introduced gradually to elephants exposed to unnatural environments.



Glimpses of 7th April 2014 event

Friends of Elephants
Newsletter May 2014
Vol I - Issue 1



CALLING GANESHA

1st event of
Friends of Elephants
was held on
Monday 7th April 2014
at Bangalore

Friends of Elephants events
will be held on a monthly basis

E-mail id: friendsofelephants@gmail.com
Facebook Group:
www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofelephants

friends of
elephants

Care can help in creating resourceful solutions instead of damaging the very issue that we want to protect.

The documentary "18th Elephant" showcased the cruel fate that follows the temple elephants, a symbol of divinity and status. Asian Elephants have had strong geographical & cultural association with human beings since time immemorial, which has in a sense contributed to its captivity. The documentary addressed the welfare and management status of elephants in captivity in the state of Kerala. The flow of events was depicted in the form of monologues to better understand the percept of elephants. Captive elephants in Kerala have contributed to the state's rich culture & heritage. The film focuses on the irony, & gives food for thought on whether this enrichment has been biased only towards the human perspective or has it really addressed the welfare of the animal.



Elephant mud bath

CARE & CAPTIVITY

Friends of Elephants Newsletter

September 2014 Vol I Issue 4

4th Event of Friends of Elephants



held on Sunday
27th July 2014
at Bangalore

Friends of
Elephants' events will be
held on a monthly basis

E-mail id:

friendsofelephants@gmail.com

Facebook Group:

www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofelephants



Friends of Elephants:

Origin & objectives: The support we received while organizing the program



involve themselves formally or informally to propose to achieve through different individuals and ins

If you wish to be a part of the group and share your time and portion), we could connect you with regular updates, events, science, conservation and publications, photos, videos of the species or we could conduct a course on elephant levels of people) which will research, conservation and species.

in Captivity - welfare programme organized for elephants on the 27th July at the Rangoli Met

1

designed the poster. Asian Nature Conservation Foundation (ANCF) provided the technical support.

27th July 2014 event was sponsored by



Myanmar timber elephant at work (photo: Myanmar timber elephant project)



however, how, poor of travel-begging mahout welfare was

Suggested readings

1. Fowler M.E., and Mikota, S. K. (2006). Biology, Medicine, and Surgery of Elephants Published by Blackwell Publishing.
2. Kurt, F., and Garai, M.E. (2007). The Asian elephant in captivity—a field study. Foundation Books, Cambridge University Press, New Delhi.
3. Mar, K. U. (2007). The demography and life history strategies of timber elephants in Myanmar. [PhD thesis], UCL, London.
4. Mumby, H.S., Courtiol, A., Mar, K.U. and Lummaa, V. (2013). Climatic variation and age-specific survival in Asian elephants from Myanmar. Ecology, 94: 1131-1141.
5. Varma, S., Sujata, S.R., Sathyanarayana, M.C., Easwaran, E. K., Rajeev, T.S., Agarwa, M., Mohanraj, N., and Bhanage, N. (2009). 21 Elephants of Temples of India: An Investigation into the Status, Management and Welfare Significance, CUPA/ANCF-Technical Report No 13. Compassion Unlimited Plus Action (CUPA) and Asian Nature Conservation Foundation (ANCF), Bangalore, India.



Welcome note at one of the events





Audiences and a speaker



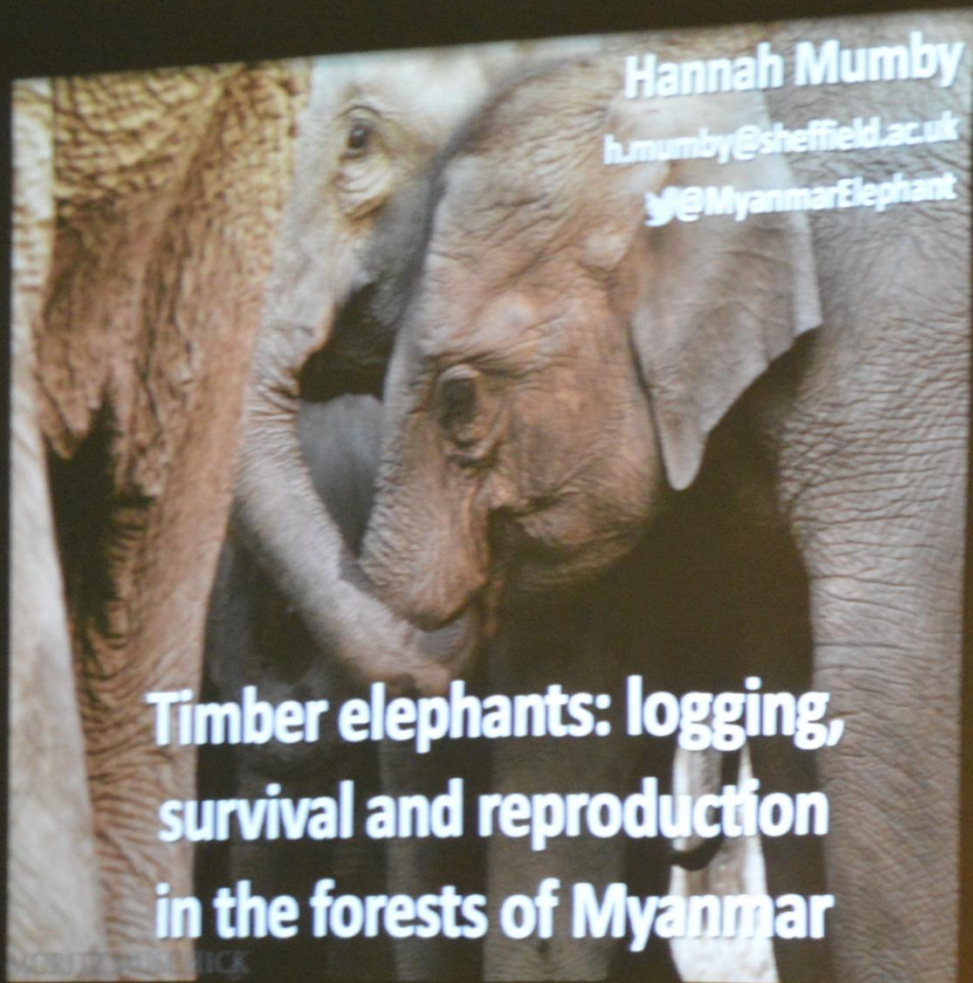
A section of the audience



A section of the audience

Our speakers





Our speakers



Our speakers

Bio- acoustics

- Natural calls that are of use in dispersing birds
- Alarm calls
- Distress calls
- Predator calls



Our speakers



Vikram Sridhar is a Performance storyteller and theatre practitioner based in Bangalore. He has been working with a number of theatre groups across India for about a decade now. He performs his stories across various spaces and cities in India. He has been written about in various media for his high energy interactive style of Storytelling. He has volunteered and worked with different organizations in the conservation space. He combines the two in his Storytelling to make a difference. Around the Story Tree is his initiative to reach out to children and adults from different backgrounds through storytelling, using folktales in a contemporary form as a strong medium for conservation to connect listeners to their environment.



M Ananda Kumar is a Wildlife Biologist for over a decade. His current work includes documenting human-elephant interactions ranging from assessing distributions to studying disturbances in altered landscapes in south India. His works feature in the academia in the form of 19 peer-reviewed national and international research articles, several technical reports, and popular talks. He initiated the Anamalai Elephant Programme which is dedicated to promote human-elephant coexistence in the Anamalais and other interspersing areas of elephant and human landscapes. Their team has initiated elephant information network with the involvement of the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, local communities, plantation management, and media by adapting innovative approaches to mitigate human-elephant conflict. The long term work on elephants in human dominated plantation landscape in the Anamalai hills earned him the Carl Zeiss Wildlife Conservation Award in 2012.

Dr. T. Gopal, former Director of Institute of Animal Health & Veterinary Biologicals, Bangalore, belonged to the first batch of veterinary students of Karnataka from Mysore University. Subsequently, he obtained his Master's degree in Pathology, and a second Master's degree (Toxicology – Pathology) & Ph. D. in Pathology, from the Kansas State University. He was also awarded the prestigious Membership of the societies of Sigma XI and Phi Zeta.



A seasoned veterinarian, Dr. Gopal was actively engaged in research related to animal health covering a wide range of research areas in Pathology, Toxicology and Immunology with the main thrust to investigate the cause of death in captive animals and, other environmental interactions in causing animal disease, during his professional career of 4 decades.

He is the technical advisor to ANCF and CES and a visiting Professor at Centre for Wildlife Studies, NCBS.



Speakers profile and the panelists

Dr. Hannah Mumby is a Research Scientist, obtained her undergraduate and Masters degrees from King's College, Cambridge University. She investigated first, the trade-off between growth and reproduction in primates. She also won the prize for best Masters student for her work on the effect of alleles associated with obesity on timing of maturation in humans.

Following this, Hannah shifted her focus to another long-lived mammal - the elephant. She worked first under Iain Douglas-Hamilton in Kenya and then in Myanmar and Thailand for her PhD at the University of Sheffield. Hannah has spent the last 4 years working on the ecological and physiological correlates of survival and reproduction in logging elephants.

She recently took up a Leverhulme Trust funded post-doctoral fellowship and plans to continue work on the Myanmar elephants to include studies on male fertility and paternity patterns as well as expanding her collaborations with work in Thailand and Botswana.





Audiences' interactions with panelists



Audiences' interactions with panelists



Cultural program and
elephant folktales in a few of the events



All for a jumbo cause

These Friends of Elephants Work For The Gentle Giants

Saswati Mukherjee B | TNN

Bangalore: At an event on January 26, many curious minds gathered at the Rangoli Art Centre on MG Road to be a part of Elephant Enigma. It was an art and information exhibition featuring large photographic panels and texts detailing the magnificence and intelligence of elephants, their struggles and challenges in an ever-changing world, and their long yet complex relationship with humans.

Two months later, the people who got together that day joined hands to form Friends of Elephants (FOE), an informal group whose members have a common dream — to contribute towards elephant conservation and welfare.

The group proposes to design educational and research programmes on elephants, empower forest watchers, conduct training sessions, help in providing educational support to



BEING HUMAN: The group set up recently has 25 active members

contribute but didn't know how. Now I can help alcohol-prone mahouts by engaging them in de-addiction programmes or putting them on medication," said Dr Sunil Mallesh, MD of Gayathri Hospital, Vijaynagar. An avid wildlife photographer, Dr Sunil has been on many safaris around the world. FOE proposes to meet once in two months to discuss elephant-conservation programmes.

First step: On Monday, FOE will screen Calling Ganesha, a short film on the dangers faced by Asian elephants, followed by a panel discussion and an open-house session at the Rangoli Art Centre, MG Road.

"We can discuss the kind of problems these elephants face and create awareness too. We intend to hold a lot of meetings and connect with those who want to work on elephant conservation."

The duo designs posters and makes movies, aiding the discourse on conservation in a creative way.

saswati.mukherjee@timesgroup.com

A CLOSE LOOK

● The trunk of a jumbo is a fusion of the nose and upper lip. It's the longest nose in the animal kingdom with over 40,000 muscles that enables the elephant to feed, drink and defend itself

● Elephants walk on their toes. The spongy, elastic cushion that encases their feet enables them to walk silently

● Elephants spend about 16 to 18 hours a day eating

● They have small eyes and poor eyesight

THE BIGGER PICTURE

"We propose to extend the ambit of Friends of Elephants, and include chapters in different cities. We are very excited about the prospect of an informal coalition and a network of international affiliations with the purpose of sharing expertise and resources to secure the future of elephants"

Dr Dag Goering | VETERINARIAN AND CONSERVATIONIST

Music, mysticism, elephants!

The Sanskrit culture of India drew an Australian into seeking a practical spirituality. **BHUMIKA K.** meets the fascinating Hanuman Brotherpeter, who believes spirituality can be fun



BUILDING BRIDGES Between worlds PHOTO: SAMPATH KUMAR G.P.

Hanuman Brotherpeter. The name alone is enough to get anyone curious about the man who bears it. Especially since he's Australian, plays many instruments, including the tabla. And is set to give a musical performance in Bangalore as part of an initiative to conserve elephants.

If all that sounds so like so much packed into one human being, a meeting with the 70-year-old Hanuman Brotherpeter humbles you. During the course of conversation, you realise he's well-versed with the "Sanskritic culture" of India and Hindu scriptures, much more than we could ever be.

His bright green business card says he lives in Coolbellup, Western Australia (near Perth). And like the two sides of his card printed with several contrasting credentials, his life too has two sides that he seems to have integrated rather effortlessly.

"I have two streams to my life — one is this professional and industrial life (which includes building, mining exploration, city planning, marine and air transport etc) and on the other hand I'm a cultural anthropologist and a social scientist (he lists spiritual ideas and lore, natural medicines, music and rhythm therapy among others)," he says, his blue eyes peering over his glasses.

It's easy to dismiss him as a westerner looking for nirvana in India. But Hanuman Brotherpeter's quest doesn't seem to be headed toward that nebulous something. "As I worked through the various stages or ashramas of my life — and I have lived quite an adventurous life," he pauses with a twinkle in his eyes, "I wanted more discipline. The Christian system didn't have a structure for me; so I decided to embrace the four ashramas as I saw the wisdom in them. Most societies were only interested in freedom and individual rights."

As always in any dramatic change, there is a catalyst in life. "About 30 years ago I was suffering the challenges of a material society. I had the confusion of being brought up by a Marxist-socialist papa and a Catholic mamma. Western religion was degenerating rapidly and the institution of the church was being dishonoured. Therefore we didn't want to be a part of that deception. I was looking for a fulfilling and achievable spiritual life." When the Hindu community started developing in Western Australia, he says he was welcomed by them as a curious cultural anthropologist. He had been looking at many social systems already; he believed in a broader Biblical culture that embraced more than just Christianity. He had had long conversations with priests and Church heads and not found convincing answers.

Soon he started working closely with the Brahmins in the community because as an anthropologist he "wanted to see the highest form of ideals and compare them with their achievements. Being a practical fel-

low, I embraced what looked practical, achievable and edifying. I read the Bhagavatam, the Ramayana, the Mahabharata and started getting involved in concerts and plays. They asked me to blow the shankh and the nadaswaram during the aarti. I was doing seva, and I found that Sanskrit traditions were rewarding, especially the devotional folk systems. I was a master craftsman by qualification, and I would often mend their instruments and learnt how they work." Many of his friends had become disciples of Osho and Swami Prabhupada. "But many of their gurus had fallen. So I decided to take the Shastras as my guru."

Today he runs the Sevanam Foundation in Australia, "set up to support and encourage the conservation and implementation of sustainable spiritually-based systems like the Sanatana Dharma, which is in contrast to trendy materialistic systems," he says.

His other life, though, continues to support a system of compassion for animals, especially elephants. Having completed a post-graduate diploma in ecologically sustainable development, he says he became aware of early 20th-century work in animal behaviour and psychology, particularly that of Skinner, and the late 20th-century training methods of his 'guru', the famous Australian horseman Dr. Andrew McLean. "Dr. Andrew has been recently demonstrating his new system of training elephants to the Indian and Nepali governments. I am a supporter and devotee of his system and a volunteer to elephant welfare and conservation programmes."

He's worked in Africa, India, Thailand, apart from his home country. In his earlier life in Australia, he had managed and trained animals ranging from sheep, goats, cattle, dogs, and horses — initially on horseback, then using vehicles, and later aircraft.

But Hanuman. Why Hanuman? (It's his official name on his passport.) "As you go along your spiritual life, it's not all about the hard life. You're also supposed to have fun. Hanuman, at a surface level, is one of the fun personalities and his name suited me. I prefer practical things to lofty intellectual pursuits. Self-realisation will come as a matter of course."

Hanuman Brotherpeter will perform in Bangalore as part of "Calling Ganesha" organised by 'Friends of Elephants' on April 7. P. Balan's documentary 18th Elephant will be screened, followed by interactions with the filmmaker, Brotherpeter, and elephant research scientist Surendra Varma. The event starts at 5.30 p.m. at Rangasthala, Rangoli Metro Art Centre, M.G. Road Boulevard.

Entry is free.

News items on Friends of Elephants, its events and speakers

watchers' families and also sponsor a child's education.

Captive elephants weigh heavily on their minds. "One key person in this equation is the mahout. We can look for resources and manpower to help the mahout's family. This way we can motivate them to treat elephants better. Holding informal workshops, offering family-care suggestions and saving resources are ways where we can help. We are already in touch with the Save Tiger Varanasi Trust. The duo designs posters and makes movies, aiding the discourse on conservation in a creative way.

Ever since the news about this group started doing the rounds, many Bangaloreans have shown interest in the cause. Today, FOE has 25 active members spreading the good word on conservation.

"I have always wanted to



Friends of Elephants

Join Group + Create Group

Members (503)

Friends

Prabhakar Manjunath, Sharada Ramadas, Avinash Krishnan, Ramesh Belagere, Padma Ashok, Karthikeyan Sivagnanam, Sanjeeta Sharma Pokharel, Ashok Hallur, Rajkumar Devaraje Urs, Lori Srianni, Ramesh Babu, Freeda Maria Swarna, Shakunthala Sridhara

ABOUT

Closed Group

let's learn how to keep another great species from fading away

let's come together to save our ... See More

SUGGESTED GROUPS

Bangalore- photos from a bygone age, Vikram Sridhar and 2 other friends, Friends of the Trust of India, Ashok Hallur and 8 other friends, Birdwatchers India, Ashok Hallur and 4 other friends

Facebook page and news items, and the discussions of the event/s

VIKRAM SRIDHAR

A theatre personality, a storyteller and passionate about conservation, Vikram Sridhar's varied passions inform his storytelling. He always had a love for storytelling, but the decision to pursue it professionally came after a session he did with Book-alore. "Aditi De asked me to narrate a story to children without the book. I kept the book aside and told the story. The children loved it." And there was no looking back for him since. Vikram initiated Around the Story Tree that uses storytelling to convey the importance of conservation and celebrates traditional human-to-human interaction. "Stories often depict animals in a particular, stereotyped way. For example, foxes are sly and snakes are dangerous. I want to correct these assumptions in my stories." Moving away from the world of gadgets, which consumes much of our modern lives, Vikram wears handloom clothes and serves traditional food, during his storytelling sessions. "I had recently done a session on the origin of the vada pav at Atta Galatta, where we actually served vada pav," says the co-founder of the theatre group Tahatto. He will be conducting a session on June 27 at 6 pm at Rangasthala, Rangoli Metro Art Centre, elephant folk tales from around the world as part of an event presented by Friends of Elephants.



ಚೌಕನ್‌ಪಾಸ್ ಆನೆ ಕಾರಿಡಾರ್‌ಗೆ ಆಪತ್ತು

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾರ್ತೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: 'ದೇಶದ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಪ್ರಾಚೀನವಾದ ಅರುಣಾಚಲ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಚೌಕನ್‌ಪಾಸ್ ಆನೆ ಕಾರಿಡಾರ್' ಟೀ ತೋಟಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಅರಿವಿನ ಕೃಷಿಯ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದ ಆಪತ್ತು ಎದುರಿಸುವಂತಾಗಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ಸಂಶೋಧಕಿ ಆರ್.ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀ ಹೇಳಿದರು.

ಫ್ರೆಂಡ್ಸ್ ಆಫ್ ಎಲಿಫೆಂಟ್ಸ್ ಸಂಘಟನೆ ನಗರದ 'ನಮ್ಮ ಮೆಟ್ರೋ' ರಂಗೋಲಿ ಕಲಾಕೇಂದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಶನಿವಾರ ಆಯೋಜಿಸಿದ್ದ 'ಎಲಿಫೆಂಟ್ ರೂಟ್ಸ್' ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರು ಮಾತನಾಡಿದರು.

'ಭಾರತ ಮತ್ತು ಮ್ಯಾನ್ಯಾರ್‌ನ ಗಡಿಭಾಗದ ದಟ್ಟ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಪ್ರದೇಶವಾದ ಚೌಕನ್‌ಪಾಸ್ ಆನೆ ಕಾರಿಡಾರ್ ಆಗಿತ್ತು ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು 1930ರಲ್ಲಿ ಗುರುತಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ನೈಋತ್ಯ ಹರಿದ್ವರ್ಣ ಅರಣ್ಯವಾದ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಈಗ ಅಸ್ತಾನೆ ಮಾಯವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಟೀ ತೋಟಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಅರಿವಿನ ಕೃಷಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದ



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THE HINDU METROPLUS

MELANGE

September 6, 2014

Train tracks and elephants

Friends of Elephants, a voluntary group in Bangalore that supports elephant conservation, is organising an event "Elephant Express" that concentrates on elephant deaths caused when they cross railway tracks and their prevention.

There will be a screening of Mumbai-based filmmaker Ashok Patel's award-winning film *God On The Edge* followed by a talk on "Mitigation of elephant mortality due to train hits in India". The talk will be given by Jose Louies of the Wildlife Trust of India.

This will be followed by the screening of another film made by WTI - *On The Right Track*.

There will be another talk on "Prevention of elephant deaths along railway tracks of NJP sector, West Bengal using bio-acoustics".

The talk will be given by S.S. Mahesh, CEO of Grus Ecoscience.

This will be followed by a panel discussion by the filmmakers, speakers and other experts.

The programme begins at 6 p.m. on September 6 at Rangasthala, Rangoli Metro Art Centre, M.G. Road. and is free and open to all.



Radio interview of origin and
objectives of Friends of Elephants.

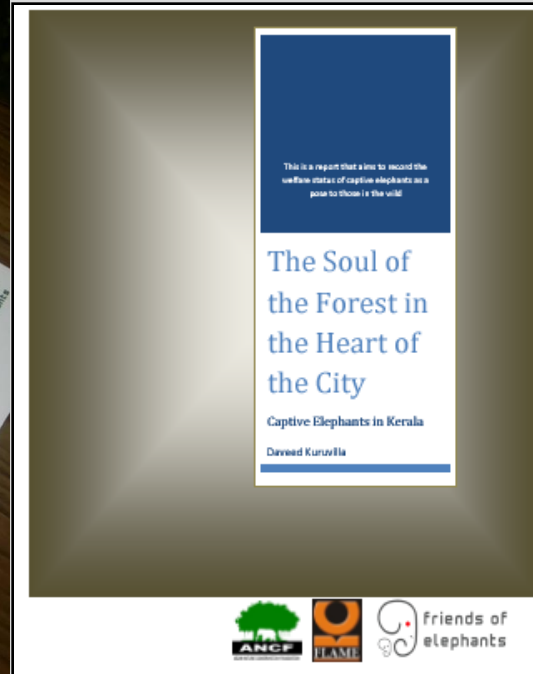
**Friends of Elephants
on Radio Active CR 90.4 MHz**

*Friends of Elephants radio interview
was aired on
Saturday, 28th June 2014
on Radio Active CR 90.4 Mhz
between 12:00 - 12:30 pm.*

*The audio file of this program has been
uploaded on the website www.edaa.in*



Projects & publications





Education on elephants
for
educational institutions





Education on elephants
for
educational institutions

A young Friends of Elephants' voice in UN

One of our interns (Kiruthika Chandrasekaran, 9th grade from MVM School, Hosur, Tamil Nadu), has been selected to present her future research paper at the International Natural Science Conference for Youth- ISSCY (part of research paper presentation competition) organized by the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA), which is held in Korea August 2014, she is one among 85 young students around the world, who have been selected.

15 IDEAS For August 15

AKSHARA MATH KITS



The Akshara Math Kit is a colorful, interactive learning tool designed for children aged 5 to 10. It features a variety of mathematical concepts, including fractions, decimals, and percentages, presented in a fun and engaging way. The kit includes a set of cards, a workbook, and a set of dice, all of which are designed to help children learn and understand math in a practical and hands-on manner.

RANG DE

Rang De is a vibrant and colorful art project that aims to promote social harmony and community development. It is a collaborative effort between artists and community members, where they work together to create a large-scale mural that represents the diverse cultures and traditions of the region. The project is designed to be a platform for dialogue and understanding, where people can share their stories and experiences, and learn from one another.

ANIMAL AID ALLIANCE

The Animal Aid Alliance is a non-profit organization that focuses on the welfare of animals, particularly those in need of medical attention. The organization provides a range of services, including medical care, surgery, and rehabilitation, for animals that are injured, sick, or in pain. It also offers support and advice to pet owners and animal rescue groups, and works to raise awareness about the importance of animal welfare.

SEVA CAPE

Seva Cape is a community-based organization that provides a range of social and welfare services to people in need. The organization offers a variety of programs, including food banks, clothing drives, and job training, to help people overcome poverty and improve their quality of life. It also provides support and advice to people who are experiencing difficulties, and works to build a sense of community and mutual support among its members.

FEARLESS COLLECTIVE

The Fearless Collective is a group of young people who are passionate about social justice and community development. They are working together to create a positive and inclusive environment for all, and are focused on addressing the needs and concerns of marginalized groups. The collective is involved in a range of activities, including advocacy, education, and community organizing, and is committed to making a difference in the lives of people in their community.

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ORGANIC TERRACE GARDENING

Organic Terrace Gardening is a sustainable and eco-friendly way to grow food and plants in urban areas. It involves using natural materials and techniques to create a garden on a balcony or terrace, which can provide fresh produce and a beautiful view. The practice is designed to be a fun and rewarding activity, and is a great way to connect with nature and the environment.

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SAKALA

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COMMUNITY WASTE MANAGEMENT

Community Waste Management is a program that aims to improve the way waste is handled in a community. It involves working with local residents and businesses to reduce waste, recycle materials, and dispose of waste safely. The program is designed to be a collaborative effort, where everyone has a role to play in keeping the community clean and healthy.

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SAVE BANGALORE LAKES TRUST

Save Bangalore Lakes Trust is a non-profit organization that focuses on the conservation and restoration of the lakes in Bangalore. The trust is dedicated to protecting the natural environment, and is working to ensure that the lakes are healthy and sustainable for future generations. It offers a range of programs, including education, research, and conservation, to help people understand the importance of the lakes and how to protect them.

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GREENSCRAPS

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TRINITY CARE FOUNDATION

Trinity Care Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides a range of social and welfare services to people in need. The foundation offers a variety of programs, including food banks, clothing drives, and job training, to help people overcome poverty and improve their quality of life. It also provides support and advice to people who are experiencing difficulties, and works to build a sense of community and mutual support among its members.

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FRIENDS OF ELEPHANTS

Friends of Elephants (FOE) is an informal group of animal lovers whose members have a common dream - to contribute towards elephant conservation and welfare. The group proposes to design educational and research programmes on elephants, conduct training sessions, help in providing educational support to watchers' families and sponsor a child's education. The group helps maintain and their families, so that they can be employed to treat elephants under their care better. FOE was started by a group of people who were passionate about the welfare of elephants and wanted to do something to help them.

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Friends of Elephants is one of 15 ideas for August 15



WELCOMES YOU!

E-mail id: friendsofelephants@gmail.com

Facebook Group: www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofelephants



Collaborators



ಬೃಹತ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ
Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike
Forest Cell

Technical support



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