

ALVA'S INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

(Affiliated to Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi Approved by AICTE, New Delhi & Recognised by Government of Karnataka)
Shobhavana Campus, Mijar – 574225, Moodbidri.
Dakshina Kannada Karnataka, India.



A Report on SRISHTI

-The Nature Club



ACADEMIC YEAR 2017-18

FACULTY Coordinator: Prof. Yuvaraj T

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SRISHTI- The Nature Club

About the Club:

Human being is one among the dependent species of the world. He needs valuable natural resources such as water fruits minerals etc for his living. He also depends on nature for his living and is also protected by the nature. Many a times he forgets his duty towards the very nature that has protected him so far. Greed overcomes need and results in destruction of nature. SRISHTI a venture of the Alva's Education Foundation aims to remind the students of AIET about their responsibility towards conservation and development of nature by conducting various activities like guest lecturers, nature visits, workshops and many other competitions. It believes that this is possible only when we understand and appreciate the selfless contribution in our life towards nature.

“SRISHTI” is a nature and environmental club of Alva's Education Foundation (AEF) which offers wide spectrum of environmental and nature activities and platform to enhance, exhibit the relationship with Mother Nature.

The club conducts various learning and adventurous activities for students of Alva's Education Foundation (AEF) which attempts for overall development of students.

The Vision is to be a role model club by initiating innovative, creative and contemporary practices to secure Mother Nature.

The Mission is to emphasize in creating the awareness on environmental issues and its impact to the students of AEF.

The objective of the club is to conducts various programmes in an attempt to create awareness on environmental issues through

- Expert views on environmental issues.
- Sensitizing students on burning environmental issues through audio-visual programmes.
- To launch environmental awareness campaigns through posters and drawing competitions.
- Organize trekking camps at surrounding forest belts to explore the beauty of nature.
- To plant saplings and rejuvenate the forest belts.
- To celebrate World Environment Day (June 5th) at the Institute.



Alva's Education Foundation

Presents

SRISHTI

A JOURNEY TOWARDS BUILDING GREENER WORLD



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Vision: To be a role model club by initiating innovative, creative and contemporary practices to secure Mother Nature.

Mission: To emphasize in creating the awareness on environmental issues and its impact to Alva's Education Foundation (AEF) students.

"Go Green" is our motto. This club gives an opportunity to explore nature and it's beauty. Srishti aims at protecting green and enriches the sense of responsibility of a student towards mother nature

" Test your Nature Quotient and Get your Green Cap"



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Activities of SRISHTI for the academic year 2017-18

Inaugural talk by Dr.M D Subhash Chandra

Venue: MBA Seminar Hall

Topic: Rich biodiversity of Western Ghats.

Date: 02nd September 2017

Report:

The inaugural talk of the academic year was presented by Dr.M D Subhash Chandra, a research scientist who shared his experience and knowledge on the rich bio-diversity of western ghats.

Introduction of the speaker:

Dr. Subhash was born in Palghat district, Kerala. He did all his primary schooling in Kerala and then completed his BSc & MSc Botany from Kerala University. Years after he pursued his Ph.D. from Karnataka University, Dharwad on forest ecology.

Work experience:

- Technical officer, Food Corporation of India at Calicut
- Main career: Taught botany in Dr Baliga College of Arts & Science for three decades
- Worked on deputation to Indian Institute of Science for two years
- Consultant for EMPRI (Environment Management & Policy Research Institute, Govt of Karnataka) during 2003-2006.
- Working as Consulting Scientist for Indian Institute of Science (from 2006 onwards).

Awards

- Govt. of Karnataka Best teacher for Science, award at collegiate level for 2002-03.
- Karnataka Rajyotsava Award for 2013 (in Environment & Agriculture Sector)

Event:

Nature is an integral part of our lives, it's the world around us. It

keeps changing from season to season, from minute to minute. And to be a part of this change, to appreciate its immense power and spread awareness of its deterioration 'SRISHTI-The nature's club' was craved.

Older than the Himalaya mountains, the mountain chain of the Western Ghats are well known for their rich biodiversity, and one such person having an immense insight over it is Dr. M D Subash Chandran from Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science Bangalore who presided over the inaugural of SRISHTI-2017 as the guest speaker accompanied by Mr. Vivek Alva and Mr. Yuvaraj.

As rightly put across by Subash Sir that the planet is ours and we need to take the community in the right path. He drove us through a couple of presentation slides, few of them which included the circum-Atlantic Appalachian terrain, the continents breaks, diversity, flexibility and harmony and so on which was quite a visual treat to see and admire its emergence over the years.

During the talk, he also threw light on endemic fishes, recalling one of the engineering student's work on current science-fish indulgence and its relation to habitat. We were also reminded of the fact that the more simple the ecosystem -the more danger we are in and the complex it is-more is the stability. Wherein Rajasthan being the desert land now was once a rainforest which reminds us of the destruction we've caused to the nature to fulfill our needs.

The split of India from Tethys Sea was also one among the highlights of the talk. We gained knowledge on the evidence of vertical split with Madagascar, the silent valley and landslide in karwar, the asteroid crash in Yucatan and much more.

It was overwhelming to hear that we from Karnataka and those from Kerala are the proud owners of the original rocks and the maharashtrians proudly conquering the volcanic rocks. Nilgirstahr and Himalayan tahr were also the highlights.

Overall we all were into understanding Western Ghats-West Coast for developing management criteria for the day and yes it was enlightening to listen to MD Subash as he reminded us of our responsibility towards nature as well the importance to keep the dynamic balance.

Join us in the Green Faith Pledge to make our surrounding a better place to live in for today and tomorrow. About 250 students from AIET and Alva's Degree college attended the talk on this topic.

63rd Vanyajeevi Saaptha

Venue: Karkala, Karnataka

Date: 05/10/2017

Report:

As per the notice from the Forest department of Karkala the students of the nature club were taken to the “63rd Vanyajeevi Saapthi” an awareness program conducted by the Karnataka Government every year with a motive to spread awareness among the youth about wildlife conservation and its importance.

Guest talk by Prof. Raghavendra

Venue: MBA Seminar Hall, AIET

Date: 06/03/2018

Topic: Threats to wildlife

Report:

The guest talk at Srishti-the nature club by Prof. Raghavendra. The session had the presence of Mr. Vivek Alva, Managing Trustee, Alva's Education Foundation.

Introduction of the guest:

Prof. Raghavendra was born in Sigdal (koppa tq, Chickmagalore Dist). He completed his schooling in Chickmagalore and then pursued his masters in Environmental Science and now and Currently Working as Lecturer in Sri JCBM College, Sringeri. In collaboration with Karnataka Forest Department he did various Wildlife Awareness Programs to School and College Students across chickmagalore and Dakshina kannada Districts. He has participated in Tiger census 2014, Elephant Census and Volunteerly worked with forest department in Fire Patrolling Activities . Currently in collaboration with Sri Math Hariharapura he is working in water assessment in river Tunga project.

Event:

Prof. Raghavendra said "Nobody knows how many species are being lost each year, nor the total number of specie that exist" . Besides poaching, loss of habitat, toxins cause deaths It is not just India's national animal tiger which is in danger at the hands of poachers in the country. Officials figures suggest that the future of other animals in the wild - elephants, rhinos and critically-endangered gharials - is also not so safe despite efforts being put in by the Centre and state governments. Between December 2007 and February 2008, as many as 105 gharials have been reported dead. However, the reason for the decline in their numbers is attributed to possibility of nephro-toxin entering the food chain and loss of habitat due to illegal sand mining. Official records

reveal that in the past three years, the number of poaching cases related to elephants has been steadily rising. During 2004-05, 18 elephants were poached, during 2005-06, the number of dead tuskers was 16 and in 2006-07, it increased up to 23. The 2007 Census said there are 18,663 elephants in the country, minus the Northeastern states. Similar has been the case with rhinos. As per the information released by the Assam Government, 18 rhinos were poached in 2007 and four rhinos have already fallen prey to the poachers' greed till date in 2008 in the Kaziranga National Park and adjacent areas in Assam. Regarding the critically endangered gharials, the MoEF said that as per the last Census in 2007, the number of gharials in National Chambal Sanctuary is 1457, Son Gharial Sanctuary 106, Ken Gharial Sanctuary 12 and Katerniaghat Sanctuary 70 to 80. About 105 gharials have been reported dead between December 2007 and February 2008. While no particular reason can be attributed to their mortality, the possibility of nephro-toxin entering via the food-chain cannot be ruled out, officials say, adding that another reason has been the loss of habitat due to illegal sand mining. The Central Government has taken several initiatives, including constitution of multidisciplinary Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) comprising officers from the police, forest, customs and other enforcement agencies to effectively control illegal trade in wildlife. The government is also providing financial and technical assistance to state governments under the various Centrally sponsored schemes - Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant. State governments too claim to be taking measures, including increase in patrolling and coordination with other law enforcing agencies, which clearly are not enough. And it is not just poaching that wild animals are at risk with. As per information available, four tigers and 21 elephants were killed due to train and road accidents during the past three years in the 514 wildlife

sanctuaries in the country.

Around 150 students from AIET has attended the talk on this topic.

Guest talk by Mr. Govindraj

Venue: MBA Seminar Hall

Date: 09/03/2018

Topic: Bonsai Art

Report:

A guest talk was organized on bonsai art by Mr. Govindraj who gave his views about how the concept of Bonsai art can be cultivated among students.

Event:

Mr, Govindraj said, when I was young, I had always thought that Bonsai was a certain type of tree that, through genetics, remained small while still resembling a larger mature tree. As I progressed through life, I learned more and more about what bonsai is and what it takes to create it. And I have grown more interested and fascinated by the art form with the passing of every year. The word bonsai is a Japanese expression that literally translates to “tray planting.” The name may seem mundane, but the true beauty and joy behind the idea of bonsai is found in trying and attempting to perfect the craft. Bonsai is the art of growing certain trees and shrubs, of many varieties, in small, shallow containers. It is through careful and precise training and pruning, that the plant is slowly shaped and manipulated to give the appearance of an older, mature tree. The tree takes on a shape that is more in tune with how a tree would look growing out in nature. Training a growing tree or shrub into a desired shape over several years takes a calm patience, with every aspect being well thought out and every action precise and deliberate.

Around 150 students from AIET had attended this talk on Bonsai art.

A guest talk by Mr. Nanda

Venue: MBA Seminar Hall

Date: 11/04/2018

Topic: Phenology of Tropical Trees

Report:

A guest talk was delivered by Mr. Nanda, a botanist who on the phenology of tropical trees. He explained how a climate change and other changing environmental factors can be studied by observing the tropical trees.

Introduction of the guest:

Nanda was born in Bhadravathi taluk, Shimogga district, Karnataka in the year 1977. He did his schooling in Bhadravathi, completed his bachelors of science in 2000 from Kuvempu University, masters of science in 2002 from Kuvemou university, Doctor of philosophy 2009 from Kuvemou university. He holds a fellowship as a junior and senior research fellow 2004-06.

Event:

As climate change progresses and its deleterious effects become more evident, advocacy groups, politicians, and international organizations are beginning to call our current situation what it really is - a crisis. Changing the verbiage doesn't make it any less problematic, but calling it a climate crisis (or emergency) connotes a certain sense of urgency, pushing people to take action. And that's great! In case you needed any more convincing that the warming of our planet is in fact a crisis - or maybe you need to convince someone else - here are 5 facts you may not have known. And because we are all about making a difference, included are 5 solutions that could improve our chances of fixing the damage already done. Deforestation is a leading driver of global GHG emissions. While estimates vary, more than 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions caused by human activity can be attributed to deforestation. As you probably know, trees are remarkably adept at storing carbon dioxide. Approximately 50% of

a tree's dry mass (trees being about 65% water) is made of carbon, but when they are cut down, that carbon is released back into the atmosphere causing elevated levels of GHGs to warm the planet. Losing some tree coverage is natural, and even sustainable forestry is acceptable when done correctly. However, the rate at which humans are cutting down trees is unprecedented and untenable. On average, we are losing one football field of forest each and every second, which means an area the size of Italy is destroyed every year. The rate of deforestation has doubled over the last 15 years, and destruction of critical tropical forests (mostly rainforests) has doubled in just the past decade. Despite the high rate of deforestation and how critical trees are for capturing CO₂ emissions, just 2% of funding for climate action goes towards protecting and expanding global forest coverage. The whole lot of students was briefed about their responsibilities and fundamental duties as the children of nature.

Around 120 students from AIET had attended the talk on this topic.

Guest talk by Mr. Sammilan Shetty

Venue: MBA Seminar Hall

Date: 10/05/2018

Topic: Butterflies and their roles in natural world

Report:

A butterfly enthusiast Mr. Sammilan Shetty addressed the student members of srishti on “Butterflies and their roles in natural world”. He explained the life cycle of butterflies and roles of butterflies in the nature to maintain a balance.

Introduction of the guest:

In 2004 Sammilan Shetty found sudden interest in butterflies on his frequent visits to the area as part of a regular zoology assignment. The youngster went on to become a full-time lecturer, but in 2011 he quit the job and started this environmental venture that has become the southern state’s first private butterfly park.

Event:

Don’t need an exotic plantation to host butterflies,” says Shetty, 32. “Regular saplings or even wild plants that you find in your home backyard would do for these beautiful insects to breed. Unfortunately, most people uproot them, terming them as unwanted weeds. Even my family was initially reluctant towards my going ahead with this passion for butterflies.” Today, into the seventh year of its existence, the park has its visitors being familiarised with the names and behaviour pattern of certain butterflies. Prior to the walk, one will be introduced to the details through audio-video media. “The idea is to enable them to relate to the creatures and the ambience during their actual encounter with the species out there in the wild,” says Shetty. A 30-minute walk through the park gives a unique opportunity for the visitors to see the transformation of an egg to caterpillar-pupae and then the adult butterfly emerging out of it. While the “host plant” is where the butterflies lay their eggs, the male milkweed butterflies suck alkaloid from the plants rich in it. "Alkaloids are essential for male

milkweed butterflies to attract their female counterparts,” points out Shetty. “Lower the alkaloid, the male butterflies might fail to impress their prospective female-mates.”

Around 200 students from AIET had attended the talk on this topic.