



# REFLECTIONS

(News Letter by Yelahanka Puttenahalli Lake and Bird Conservation Trust)

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**November 2013**

Let me wish all our members and well-wishers a Happy and Eco Friendly Diwali.

As we are reaching the end of the year 2013, I wish to share some of the happenings to have a clean and green Yelahanka Puttenahalli Lake. REFLECTIONS of our lake will be captured and shared with you all and many more as the journey keeps progressing. We will stop the day we have a fresh air to breath in Bangalore and neighboring villages.

**- YPLBCT Team**

## LAKE CLEAN UP DRIVE

On 15 Aug 2013, a beginning was made for the first time to focus the attention of concerned authorities in particular and bangaloreans at large on the pitiable state of this bio-diversity lake, by organizing a mass campaign to clean up the surrounding area with active participation from students of Seshadripuram college, members from nearby RWA and few residents of Yelahanka and the CRPF. The campaign was a grand success and we take this opportunity to thank all the participants and the media for their coverage in newspapers and Kannada TV channels. To mark the occasion a membership drive was also conducted and we are happy to announce new members joined our trust which would certainly give a boost to move forward.



Dr. K.S Sangunni and Prof Santanu Das with Seshadripuram College Students

**Save our Lake- Save Birds**

## BANGALORE LAKES – An Update

In Apr 2012 a division bench of the High court had directed the authorities of Karnataka State Govt. and BBMP to ensure District Lake and State level Apex protection committees were appointed immediately so that public at large would be able to seek appropriate remedies to stop the widespread encroachment, pollution and destruction of lakes in Karnataka. Since, the Chief Secretary failed even after one year to constitute these committees, the 'Environmental Support Group' had filed contempt proceedings, and accordingly the Karnataka High Court had issued contempt notice to Karnataka Chief Secretary for not complying with court directives. Taking advantage of the current situation, we have followed up our crusade by forwarding a petition on behalf of Yelahanka residents to The Chief Secretary, Karnataka Government to take immediate steps as directed by Karnataka High Court towards rejuvenation of the Puttanahalli Lake. Soon the trustees plan to have a meeting with him for appraising the present position of the lake.

Unless the flow of sewage into the lake is not stopped we cannot proceed with the restoration process. Therefore, we have also forwarded a petition to Chairman, BWSS to initiate steps for repairing the defunct 'Sewage Treatment Plant' behind the Puttanahalli bus depot and to repair the leaks from the sewage pipe lines which flow into the lake.

## GREEN GLOW AN UPDATE

The Training Program for Teachers titled, "The Green Leaders Training Program", focuses on four key aspects of Environmental Education, viz. Biodiversity Education, Impact of Climate Change & Global Warming, Waste Management and Energy Conservation. This is a five year program where citizens and authorities work together to transform Yelahanka New Town into a model town. Citizens Forum Yelahanka New Town started a project called Clean Green Yelahanka New Town to address this issue in 2007. Subsequently in 2009 GREEN GLOW project was formulated focusing on educating children about nature and the future.



### **What we did?**

This project is to end in 2015. Last year ( 2011-12), the theme of the project was "creative recycling" where students were asked to create useful materials from waste. Green-glow had announced a competition among schools to carry out individual projects involving "creative recycling" of various components of "common domestic solid wastes. This was a drive to remove the physical and psychological distance the children of today have with their own solid wastes. The children also participated in an essay writing competition entitled "My dream town". Aware of the challenges ahead towards reaching the new horizon, our Forum ventured to explore the dreaming minds of the young generation, to introduce the "Adults" to the whole new environment to live in, as expected by the dreaming "KIDS. One can see the anguish, a determined commitment as the under currents in the souls stirring in each participating child, impatient to contribute for a better tomorrow. We salute the schools & the teachers for moulding these future citizens of Yelahanka New Town, so well.

The next move is about the rejuvenation of lakes. The residents here have done a survey four years back and found the need to rejuvenate Allalsandra Lake and Puttanahalli Yelhanka lake. The residents here say that the Puttenahalli lake in Yelahanka is an abode for many rare bird species which migrate to this place. But the industrial waste poses a threat to the very species.

Year 2012-13, we took the topic “Lakes and Water”. The students were guided with resource material and guidance by the Indian Institute Science professors and resource persons during which they were exposed to various scientific experiments and data collection in the course of a three month contact program. The first contact program was on 5th January 2013, at Sesadripuram PU college auditorium. On 31st January morning the students were taken to Puttanahalli lake and professors and students from Indian Institute of Science took practical classes for the students and explained various flora and fauna near the lake. Students presented their report on 7th of September to the audience and to the Scientists. Indian Institute of Science will grade the project for the award.

It is our endeavor to see that the lake is restored to its original glory and once again it becomes an abode for all species of birds which used to be frequent visitors to this lake. However, due to involvement of multiple government agencies it may not be possible to turn around overnight but better late than never. Once again the trust takes this opportunity to thank the members for their active support and we shall keep you informed on the progress at regular intervals.

#### Yellahanka Puttenahalli Lake - Pictures



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