

biodiversity conservation. Since the participants were non-science students, they required some introduction to kingdom of life, species, habitats, classification and basics of conservation concepts. These scientific concepts were explained to them using cards and games and hence they understood the concepts easily. The contents and activities of the manual helped them to understand hard subjects easily.

Other topics covered in the programme are map reading to understand about Western Ghats and the river basins. Subsequently value of freshwater was explained to them using some mathematical calculations. The ways to calculate water footprints were explained to them. They were also given a chance to calculate water footprints of certain products that they use on daily basis. In

continuation of this types of freshwater found in the Western Ghats Hotspot were explained to them through card activity. Through illustrations they were also made to understand the entire history of the Western Ghats starting from 12000 BC. The participants took part in this very actively and worked on colourful illustrations. Using the manual and additional supplementary packet materials developed exclusively for this programme was used to introduce the four major freshwater groups such as Odonates, molluscs, fish and aquatic plants. The participants used the masks, friendship bands and then committed to protect species and its habitats.

The author would like to thank the Head of the Department Zoology, Mrs. M. Muthunagai and Mrs. Kavitha for coordinating the entire programme and for methodically selecting the participants.

Back to USA and then to India and then ...

Sally R. Walker, Editor, ZOOS' PRINT

Greetings to all of you who are reading my new column in ZOO's PRINT. It has been a long time since I wrote for ZOO's PRINT myself and maybe the first time I am writing in ZOO's PRINT *about* myself. ZOO's PRINT has been coming out regularly for decades ... since 1986. Before that I had started another magazine called the FRIENDS OF MYSORE ZOO. Some friend of mine convinced me that I should drop the FRIENDS OF MYSORE ZOO and create a real magazine that could be enjoyed by anyone who had interest in zoos and also interest in writing themselves.



I was the Editor until I left India to help my elderly parents in USA, and asked my office colleagues to take over. My mother passed away first. After some time, my dad said he didn't mind staying in a hospital where he had stayed when he had some health difficulties. We decided that I could go back to India for three months and then back to USA after three months so my Dad could come home three months. This worked relatively well but when he passed away, I didn't feel like leaving our home! Over the past several years I have been bouncing around from USA to India and it has been ok.

My colleagues in the office now know everything and they do a good job. When I visit India I don't work as before and instead of me telling them what to do, they tell me how it is and if something is difficult we settle it.

Last month, I visited my office in India after one and a half years! Truth be told, I wanted to get out of the horrible climate ... it was so hot. One of my colleagues told me the weather was fine in Coimbatore so I decided to have my yearly visit there. When I reached Coimbatore, the weather was even hotter than USA and I was miserable. I managed to stay three weeks and had a nice time with my staff but the heat was too much. I returned to USA thinking that it would be nice by that time but it was even worse! I can't win!

Now, I am counting the days till October, hoping that cool weather will come upon us and lead to even cooler weather for a long time. I love cold weather and if all goes well I can have at least six months of it. When India has its cool weather, (IF there is any cool weather left in India), I will visit yet again and hope for the best!

For my next article I will introduce our readers to all of my staff (with pictures) and see if I can embarrass them. And for the next article I will introduce you to my adorable cats, Baby Cat and Hot Shot. By that time I am sure you will count the days for my next article in ZOOS' PRINT!!