

A Brief Report on Celebration of World Wetlands Day-2014 (2nd February, 2014)



The year 2014 is the UN International Year of Family Farming – so the Ramsar Convention chose *Wetlands & Agriculture* as the *World Wetlands Day theme for 2014*.

The U.P. State Biodiversity Board celebrated *World Wetlands Day on 2nd February, 2014* in collaboration with Department of Zoology, University of Lucknow and Regional Science City, Aliganj, Lucknow. The programme aimed at creating awareness for the wetland conservation among the students of schools and colleges and local people of the Lucknow.

The celebration of World Wetlands Day started on *1st February, 2014* with various competitions like Rangoli, PPT Poster Display and at Spot Painting Competition. The competitions were organized in three groups i.e. **Group A- (class 6th to 8th)**, **Group B- (class 9th to 12th)** and **Group C- (Graduation and Post-Graduation Student)** at Regional Science City Aliganj Lucknow.

A total of 200 (approx.) students of various Schools, Colleges and University actively participated in different events throughout the programme. Prizes along with the certificates were distributed to the winners by Mrs. Pratibha Singh, Conservator of Forests, Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow. The list of prize winners of the Wetlands Day competitions is given below:



Group A: Rangoli

Name of the student	School	Class	Result
Somya Srivastava	H.A.L School	VIII	First
Mansi Gaur	H.A.L School	VIII	Second
Kirti Pandey	H.A.L School	VIII	Third
Ayushi Tripathi	H.A.L School	VIII	Consolation
Sahiba Khan	Awadh Academy Inter College	VIII	Consolation

Group B: Rangoli

Name of the student	School	Class	Result
Harshita Rajnesh	Seth M. R. Jaipuria School	-	First
Riya Patel	Seth M.R. Jaipuria School	-	Second
Monalisha	H.A.L School	XI	Third
Archana	H.A.L School	XI	Consolation
Aman Gupta	H.A.L School	XI	Consolation

Group B: PPT Poster Display

Name of the student	School	Class	Result
Ujjawal Singh	H.A.L School	XI	First
Utkarsh Asthana	H.A.L School	XI	Second
Priyanshu Sahu	H.A.L School	XI	Third
Vashishtha Narayan	H.A.L School	XI	Third
Mahima Singh	H.A.L School	XI	Consolation
Prashant Kaushal	AwadhAcademy Inter College	XI	Consolation

Kishan Yadav	Awadh Academy Inter College	XII	Consolation
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Group A: Painting

Name of the student	School	Class	Result
Sonam Agrawal	Seth M. R. Jaipuria School	VIII	First
Harshi Lal	Seth M. R. Jaipuria School	VIII	Second
Vardaan Mishra	H.A.L School	VII	Third
Aditi Pandey	H.A.L School	VII	Consolation
Saloni Kashyap	H.A.L School	VI	Consolation
Anshika Gupta	H.A.L School	VII	Consolation

Group B: Painting

Name of the student	School	Class	Result
Unnati Jain	H.A.L School	XI	First
Aman Gupta	H.A.L School	XI	Second
Swarnima Singh	H.A.L School	XI	Third
Riya Patel	Seth M. R. Jaipuria School	XI	Consolation
Shivaani	H.A.L School	XI	Consolation
Asmita	Seth M. R. Jaipuria School	IX	Consolation

Glimpses of different competitions organised on 1st February 2014**A view of Rangoli competition***Students taking part in Rangoli competition***Display of Poster Presentation**



Poster judgement by the experts at Regional Science City, Aliganj, Lucknow

Students taking part in Painting competition



Judgement of Rangoli by the experts



Paintings made by students

Prize Distribution



Prize distribution to winners



Photograph of the winners of the events

On 2nd February 2014, the programme started with flagging off of wetlands awareness and wetlands birds' diversity surveying vehicles from the campus of University of Lucknow. Mrs. Pratibha Singh, Conservator of Forests, Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow motivated the volunteers to explore the wetlands and the probable threats. Four teams with volunteers set out at 6:30 am to various places to discover the wetland's biodiversity.

During the survey, observations were made, for a full day, at 4 sites in and around Lucknow. Total 14 conserved and non conserved wetlands were explored by the 04 groups of 19 people. The survey was carried out at appropriate time i.e. starting at 7:00 A.M to view the morning diversity and the survey was completed at 5:30 P.M to see the diversity before dawn. The surveys were carried on foot and vehicle as feasible according to the area. Awareness for

wetlands conservation was also created through distribution of awareness materials such as flyers and pamphlets to the local people as well as students.

The awareness vehicles visited following areas in and around Lucknow:-

1. Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary (Conserved),
2. Purain Jheel in Unnao
3. Bhadesha Jheel in Unnao
4. Dahi pond in Unnao.
5. Maghaiya Purva Jheel in Gosaiganj, Lucknow
6. Nawab Ali ka Purva in Gosaiganj, Lucknow
7. Dhan Talab
8. Aneeya Jheel in Amethi, Lucknow
9. Sakri Jheel in Amethi, Lucknow
10. Salarpur Jheel in Deva Barabaanki
11. Kodwa Jheel in Deva Barabaanki
12. Bhaghar Jheel in Fatehganj
13. Puraina Jheel in Deva Barabaanki
14. Khebali Jheel in Deva Barabaanki

Followed by different field visits/surveys, a power point presentation was also held on 11-02-2012 at U P State Biodiversity Board's Conference Hall. Teams that visited the field shared their experience. Certificates of participation were awarded to the participants by Mrs. Pratibha Singh, Conservator of Forests, U.P. State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow

Presentations by groups



Recommendations of students from survey:

- 1) Prevention of high level of pesticides and fertilizers in fields that are along the wetlands.
- 2) To prevent the over exploitation and sustainable use of wetlands for fish and water chestnut cultivation, irrigation purpose.
- 3) To prevent soil digging from wetlands.
- 4) There are many dead Pisces, birds and reptiles found in wetlands so it should be necessary to test water quality of all wetlands.
- 5) Do not used wetlands as a dustbin for dumping of polluted water of city.
- 6) To check soil erosion or filling of wetlands.
- 7) Fish seeds should be applied in the wetlands with prior consult of Fisheries Department.
- 8) Sustainable use of water for irrigation.
- 9) Preventing the drainage for agriculture and construction work
- 10) Prevention of soil erosion and siltation.
- 11) Proper co-ordination should be between Forest Department, Fisheries Department and Construction agencies. Lack of co-ordination and complicity and contradictory

objectives of policies have led to unwise, unsustainable and destructive exploitation of wetlands.

- 12) There should be management inputs.
- 13) Wetlands should be restored and recreated.
- 14) In most wetland reserves, vegetation (e.g. *Paspalum distichum*, *Vetiveria zizanoides*, etc.) needs to be cleared periodically and moderate grazing encouraged. Some wetlands require digging or dredging in the dry season, and encroaching *Prosopis juliflora* annually removed.
- 15) Efforts are needed to control hunting, including by patrolling wetland protected areas and intercepting illegal hunters, and by monitoring and controlling the sale of water birds.
- 16) Measures are required to minimize conflicts between Sarus Cranes and local people, including setting aside small areas of uncultivated wetland and grassland for nesting, and education programmes stressing the threatened status of this species and the traditional relationship between cranes and man.
- 17) Surveys are required to identify key feeding and roosting areas for residential and migratory birds.
- 18) Promoting the cultivation of water spinach, *Jussiaea*, *Cyperus* and other similar weeds on which water birds feed.

Besides, U.P. State Biodiversity Board also organized poster and essay competitions in different schools/colleges. A total of **131** students from different schools of Lucknow actively participated in these competitions. Out of which, **55** students of Group A (Class VI to VIII) and **32** students of Group B (Class IX to XII) participated in the Essay Competition. A total of **44** students of class IX- XII participated in the Poster Competition. The winners were awarded prizes accordingly. The results of the programme are as under:

Results

A) Essay Competition

Group A (Class VI- VIII)

Sl No.	Name of Student	Name of the School	Class	Result
1	Hritik Mohan	Rani Laxmi Bai Memorial School, Sec-14, Indira Nagar, Lucknow	VIII-E	First
2	Kshitij Nargwani	Rani Laxmi Bai Memorial School, Sec-14, Indira Nagar, Lucknow	VIII-A	Second
3	Satyam Yadav	Riverside Academy, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow	VIII	Third
4	Saumya Mall	Rani Laxmi Bai Memorial School, C-Block, Indira Nagar, Lucknow	VII-C	Consolation
5	Heeya Bhalla	City Montessori School, Indira Nagar, Lucknow	VII-C	Consolation

Group B (Class IX- XII)

Sl No.	Name of Student	Name of the School	Class	Result
1	Hrithika Singh	Rani Laxmi Bai Memorial School, C-Block, Indira Nagar, Lucknow	IX-D	First
2	Soni Yadav	Awadh Academy Inter College, Lucknow	XI-A	Second

3	Sadaf Parvez	Riverside Academy, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow	XI	Third
4	Aanchal Soni	Awadh Academy Inter College, Lucknow	IX-A	Consolation
5	Anjali Verma	T.D. Girls Inter College, Lucknow	XI-B	Consolation

B) Poster Competition

Category- Class- IX- XII

Sl No.	Name of Student	Name of the School	Class	Result
1	Twisha Gupta	Kendriya Vidyalaya Gomti Nagar, Lucknow	X-E	First
2	Anjali Verma	TD Girls Inter College, Lucknow	XI-B	Second
3	Suraj Shah	Awadh Academy Inter College, Lucknow	IX	Third
4	Dimple Bharti	Riverside Academy Gomti Nagar, Lucknow	IX	Consolation
5	Pooja Yadav	TD Girls Inter College, Lucknow	IX-B	Consolation

Winners of the poster competition



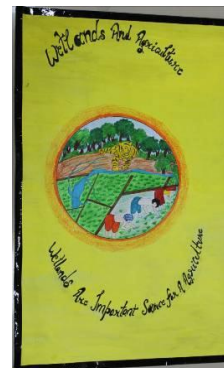
First Prize, Twisha Gupta



Second Prize, Anjali Verma



Third Prize, Suraj Shah



Consolation Prize, Dimple Bharti



Consolation Prize, Pooja Yadav

Press Clippings of WWD-2014:

1- Times of India: 02nd February, 2014

2- Pioneer: 02nd February 2014



3- Hindustan Times: 02nd February, 2014

