

## Soil conservation extension class to Students of St Mary's School, Chiyaram

### Topic soil conservation

Date 28/4/2015

Class on methods of soil conservation and light in aquatic life was conducted by Dalie Dominic A for St Mary's Square Out Reach sponsorship Project- Summer camp on 28th April 2015. The classes included the study on the aquatic life. Students visited the college fish culture units and also understood the functioning of the distillation apparatus in the lab.





## **World Environment Day Celebration- 2015**

### **Intercollegiate PowerPoint Presentation Competition on Soil Conservation**

**Sponsored by KSCSTE**

As a part of world environment day celebration- 2015, an Intercollegiate PowerPoint Presentation Competition on Soil conservation, sponsored by KSCSTE, was organized by the Department of Zoology on 26/6/2015.

Soil is the crucial factor to life giving system. There can be no life without soil and no soil without life for they have evolved together. Plants are rooted in the soil and obtain nutrients from it. Animals get nutrients from plants or from animals that eat plants. Without good soil we cannot produce enough food and the survival of each organism is affected.

Students from various colleges participated in the competition Intercollegiate PowerPoint Presentation Competition on Soil conservation.

Safa Hussain Little Flower College, Guruvayoor won first prize, Athira Shaji, Little Flower College won second prize and Chandini Nandilath, St. Mary's College won third prize.

## **STUDENTS INITIATIVE IN PROTECTION OF NATIVE BUTTERFLIES**

Colourfull butterflies are ever haunting creatures that invites attention and admiration of everyone. Conservation of butterflies has forever been on high pitch discussion all over the world. There are approximately 1,800 species and subspecies of Indian butterflies. There are about 350 butterflies living luxuriously in the vast landscape of western ghats. Still many species of butterfly are presently in the status of threatened category. Issues concerning loss of lepidopteran diversity due to anthropogenic invasions has kept conservationist always on the tiptoe to device methods for protecting the species and implementing awareness among the public.

Conservation programs for a particular species can have positive effects on multitude of organism. And the programme for conservation of butterflies involves a complete enhancement of the ecosystem creating home for umpteen species. The butterflies survives and spreads by formation of innumerable linkages with the abiotic and biotic factors. The web of interconnecting creatures comes into existence for the propagation of life. Enrichment of habitat with culture of plants that attract butterflies protect these species that are subject to predation, pollution & stress.

The butterfly garden of St. Mary's college is an attempt to create this web of life through planting of hundreds of butterfly host plants. The students of St. Mary's college have turned a model for conserving native species of butterflies. The butterfly host plants invites butterflies providing them safe food and shelter amidst the city skyscrapers. Butterfly garden an interdisciplinary venture of the Zoology and Botany department proved way for initiation of a project for conservation and release of native butterflies.

Rare butterflies that host up on RET category plants like Aristolochia and Thottea have found home in the college.

**BUTTERFLY RELEASE FOR FLY A BUTTERFLY PROGRAMME BY THRISSUR  
DISTRICT COLLECTOR- MS. JAYA IAS ON 1/7/2015**



### **Release of Southern Birdwing (*Troides minos*)**

The Southern Birdwing (*Troides minos*) is a large and striking Swallowtail butterfly it is a species endemic to Peninsular India. The wingspan of the butterfly is about 140–190 mm, larger than even some small birds and that's why it's named so. It occurs in black and yellow combination. The species is more common in the Western Ghats which is a biodiversity hotspot with a high degree of endemism. It was a great event for the students when the butterfly that had been reared in the College, fluttered and flew out to the sky through the Fly a butterfly programme. The other reared species of butterflies include common mormon, common jay, common mime, blue tiger, lemon emigrant.

A photography exhibition including the different types of butterflies and the different life cycle stages was conducted to create awareness among students and to inculcate and improvise conservation aspects to make them equipped in conservation of biodiversity.





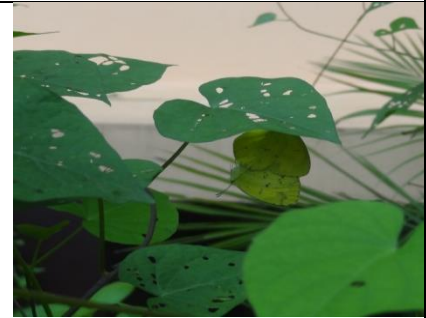
**SOUTHERN BIRDWING RELEASE AND EXHIBITION ON LIFE STAGES**



**FLY A BUTTERFLY PROGRAMME – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**



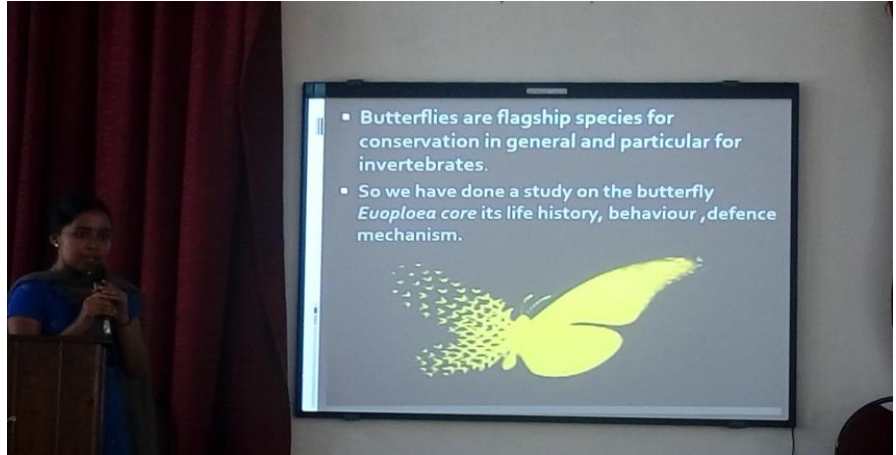
BUTTERFLIES REARED IN  
THE CAMPUS



## A COURSE ON BUTTERFLY GARDENING

A course on butterfly gardening has been started in the college for all passionate in conserving nature. This is a unique step and initial venture in the direction of lepidopteran conservation.

STUDENTS  
PRESENTING PAPER  
ON BUTTERFLY  
DIVERSITY IN  
NATIONAL  
SEMINAR



## Classes on biodiversity conservation to Schools



## **DOCUMENTARY RELEASE**

A Documentary on conservation of butterflies was created by the department for the purpose of creating awareness in students. Release of fly a butterfly documentary for conservation of butterflies was conducted on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

## **A FILM ON BUTTERFLIES AS INDICATORS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**



**My land my own pride- Power point presentation competition in connection with World wild life day, March 3, 2016**

A Power point presentation competition on the topic my land my own was conducted. Students presented a detailed presentation of the village of their origin. This competition created a genuine interest in the student to describe and detail the natural, cultural, industrial, aesthetic, and social wealth of their own land.

<b>My land my own pride- World wild life day, March 3, 2016</b>				
SI NO.	PRIZE	NAME	CLASS	
	I	AYANA ELMA SHAJI	II DC BOTANY	
	II	CHINNU THOMAS	I DC BOTANY	
	III	ANJU M.P	II DC BOTANY	
		ATHIRA NARAYAN	II DC BOTANY	

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## My land my own pride- Power point presentation competition



## Inauguration of butterfly corner

A butterfly corner for planting butterfly plants was set up in the college. Numerous butterfly plants were set in the space



## **WORLD WETLANDS DAY CELEBRATIONS - 2016**

### **ORGANISED BY DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND ZOOLOGY**

In connection with World Wetland Day Celebrations, Department of Zoology, St. Mary's College, Thrissur had conducted various programmes with financial support from KSCSTE. Programmes were organized from 30<sup>th</sup> January to February 20<sup>th</sup> 2016. The programmes include:

- A trip was arranged to Chettua –local wet land in Thrissur district. Students, nature club members, teaching and non teaching staff members actively participated in the trip and contributed to biodiversity monitoring of Chettua locality. Chettua wetlands are famous for fisheries, tourism, mangroves etc. Rajah Island in Chettua estuary is a tourist place. Mangrove islands and seasonal migratory birds attracts nature lovers and bird watchers to this area.
- With the help of faculty nature club members monitored nearby estuarine flora and fauna.
- Participants interacted with local people to know more about this unique ecosystem. Local people shared how they find out their lively hood from wet lands. Many of them are involved in fishing, Chemmeen kettu (prawn Hatching), mussle collection from mussel buds, boating, tourism etc.
- Our guide “Usman”-was a local person with knowledge of local fauna and fauna and he interacted with students and motivated them to conserve wet lands for future generations.
- Smt. Swapna Johny (HOD of Zoology Department, L. F. College, Guruvayoor) gave an invited talk on the subject “Regional Wetlands of Thrissur with emphasis on Kol wetlands”. This ppt aided classes and her personal research experience in indigenous fishes of Kol lands gave a great insight about our local wetlands and motivate us to stand for its protection.
- A documentary screening and slide show were also arranged regarding various aspects of wetlands. Topics selected were Incredible wetlands, wetlands and migratory birds, Fishes of Wetlands and fishing, mangroves-the unique ecosystem, Wetlands-biodiversity hotspots etc.

- The third invited talk was given by Dr. Jain J Therattil-a life member of World Wild Life Federation (Assistant Professor in zoology, St. Aloysius College, Thrissur) on the topic “Wetland Biodiversity”.
- Thematic exhibition on the selected title “WETLANDS FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS” was organized in the jubilee hall. Awareness on different types of Wetlands, its flora and fauna, mangroves, its unique features, relevance, economic importance, indigenous fishes of wetlands, mangroves, different wetland plants etc were exhibited.
- An exhibition of wetland fishes of Kerala was conducted in the college. Students identified the different types of fishes their economic and nutritive values and the importance of wetlands for their survival.
- Principal Dr. Sr. Chrislin released he booklet “INCREDIBLE WETLANDS” prepared by faculty members of Botany and Zoology. The booklet comprised different parameters of wetland.