



MAHARASHTRA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

One Day Workshop

On "Biodiversity : Conservation and Management"
October 23, 2008

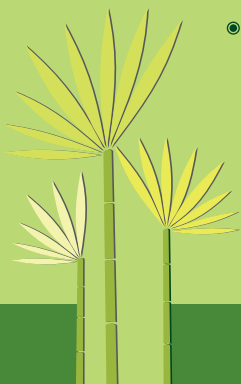
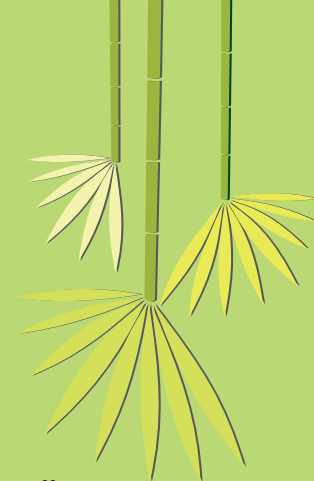
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About The Workshop

One needs to do all that we can to preserve environments and retaining communities in as close to their natural state as possible. Whether it is the tropical rain forest, flora and fauna of Western Ghats, ocean depths or the polar region, the danger of losing not only the species but also the whole system is alarming. In the past few years there has been considerable concern all over the world about the rate at which the species are lost on global scale. Some efforts are seen to be taken by the government and education departments by introducing this subject in school curriculum. However, much needs to be improved and the teachers have to be updated with the appropriate information. As Al Gore said

"You look at that river gently flowing by. You notice the leaves rustling with the wind. You hear the birds; you hear the tree frogs. In the distance you hear a cow. You feel the grass. The mud gives a little bit on the river bank. It's quiet; it's peaceful. And all of a sudden, it's a gear shift inside you. And it's like taking a deep breath and going... 'Oh yeah, I forgot about this'" -Al Gore in "An Inconvenient Truth"

A one day State-level workshop on 'BIODIVERSITY : CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT' is being organized by Maharashtra Academy of Sciences on October 23, 2008. The deliberations will be on biodiversity of Plants, Birds, Insects and Microorganisms with special reference to Maharashtra and Western Ghats.

About Maharashtra Academy of Sciences

The Maharashtra Academy of Sciences is the premier scientific learned society of the state of Maharashtra. It was established in 1976 with the specific aim to highlight the scientific and technological issues confronting the state. The academy recommends appropriate steps necessary to be undertaken by the concerned authorities for the promotion of science and technology. The academy has a very wide spectrum of interests and has scientists of eminence as its fellows in all the major scientific disciplines. The list of fellows includes eminent scientists in and outside of Maharashtra who are interested in the promotion of science and technology.

Besides promoting science and technology, the academy addresses various issues related to the development of Maharashtra in the areas of education, industry, communication, agriculture, rural development, human resource development, health, etc. Some of the activities undertaken by the academy so far include the following :

Presentation of recommendations about groundwater resources of Maharashtra.

- Assessment of Thal-Vaishet fertilizer complex and its impact on the Alibag Magnetic Observatory
- Presentation of geological sites in the state
- National seminar on Biodiversity
- Celebration of the century of the discovery of X-ray
- Science education discussions from time to time and publication of detail report in the book by Prof. M. R. Bhiday
- Several seminars on important topics such as "Plastics: Bane or Benefactor"
- Professor M. R. Bhiday memorial lecture



Some of the illustrious past Presidents of the Academy have been: Dr. H. N. Sethna, Prof. B. M. Udgaonkar, Prof. V. G. Bhide, Dr. R. A. Mashelkar, Prof. C. Mande and Dr. B. D. Kulkarni.

Late Prof. V. G. Bhide was associated with the Maharashtra Academy of Sciences from its inception. He directed many of its activities till very recent times. The "Bal Vidnyan Chalwal" initiated by him was actively supported by the Maharashtra Academy of Sciences and many of MASc Fellows are already associated with the movement. They have interacted with many organizations such as Marathi Vidnyan Parishad, Jnana Prabodhini, College Consortium, Institute of Education, etc. "Prof. V. G. Bhide Memorial Lecture" is delivered every year on the 14th November, that is "Children's Day". Currently, Prof. G. D. Yadav an eminent academician and researcher from UICT, Mumbai, is the President of the Academy.

Registration Fee

(Includes workshop handouts, lunch and tea)

- For registration on or before October 10, 2008 : Rs. 200/-
- Spot Registration : Rs. 300/-

Who Can Attend?

The school, college and University teachers, post-graduate students, NGOs, agriculture practitioners, and others can register .

All the Fellows and Young Associates of Maharashtra Academy of Sciences are invited to attend the lectures.

Faculty

Prof. H .N. Gour (Member, Biodiversity Board, Udaipur), Prof. Madhav Gadgil (Eminent Ecologist, Pune), Dr. Aditi Pant (Former Head, Biochemical Sciences, NCL, Pune), Dr. Hema Sane (Former Head, Botany Dept., Garware College, Pune), Dr. Satish Pande (Nature Conservationist and Founder President ELA Foundation, Pune), Dr. Hemant Ghate (Dept. of Zoology, Modern College, Pune), Dr. Yogesh Shouche (Senior Scientist, NCCS, Pune) and Dr. Mukund Deshpande (Senior Scientist, Biochemical Sciences Division, NCL, Pune) will share their knowledge and experience with the audience.

Workshop Contents

- Introduction By *Prof. H. N. Gour*
- Plant diversity : Wild is beautiful By *Dr. Hema Sane*
- Avian diversity of western ghats By *Dr. Satish Pande*
- Insect diversity By *Dr. Hemant Ghate*
- Diversity of Antarctica By *Dr. Aditi Pant*
- Diversity of fungi with special reference to insect pathogenic fungi By *Dr. Mukund Deshpande*
- Microbial diversity of unique ecological niches By *Dr. Yogesh Shouche*
- Concluding remarks By *Prof. Madhav Gadgil*

