



Wetlands

Sungei Buloh Nature Park. Vol.4 No.2 August 1997. MITA(P) No.280/12/96



Editorial Committee
Advisors

Mr Wong Tuan Wah
 Ms Sharon Chan
 Dr Wong Hon Mun
 Mrs Daisy Ling

Editors

Ms Ong Chui Leng
 Ms Colleen Goh

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Sungei Buloh
 Nature Park

Be forewarned...
 this will be a
 crabby issue.
 Read on...
 for the brave at heart.

Our spotlight is
 on again,
 this time on the crabs
 and other interesting
 flora and fauna found
 in the mangrove
 swamp.

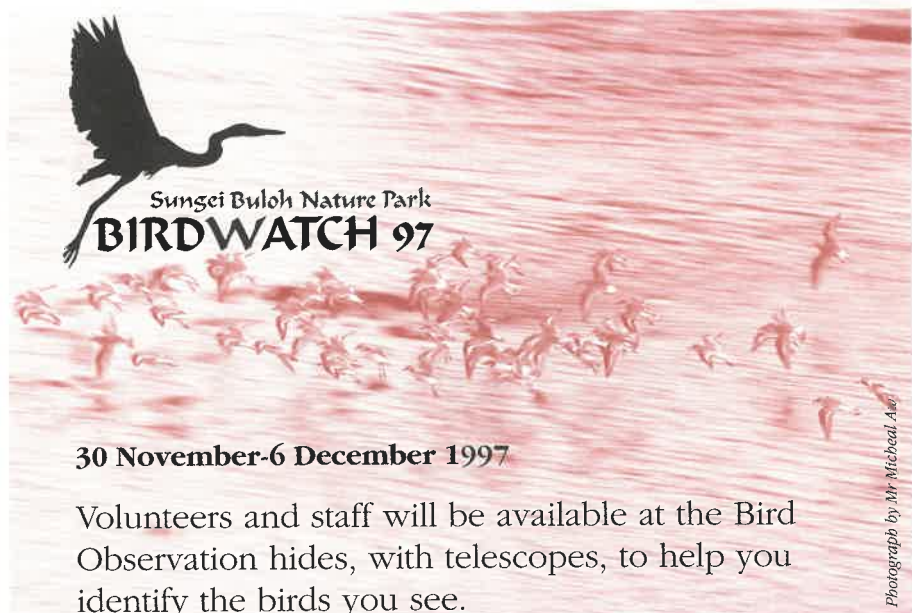
Get the latest update
 on the happenings
 in the Park, the
 volunteer outing, the
 vacation workshop
 and more...

Cover Photograph by
 Mr Micheal Aw
 Picture of a
Chiriromantes sp.

They are here.

It's the time of the year when we get our long
 awaited opportunity to meet the migrants again.

Come September, we will be welcoming our
 feathered friends from afar, as they make their way
 down south to escape the cold winter in their
 northern hometown.



30 November-6 December 1997

Volunteers and staff will be available at the Bird
 Observation hides, with telescopes, to help you
 identify the birds you see.

Geographical boundaries make sense only to man, not the birds.

The **WILD** side of **LIFE**

What?

Vacation Workshop

Why?

To provide children with the opportunity
 to get close to nature.

When?

9 & 12 December 1997

Where?

Sungei Buloh Nature Park

Whom?

Children aged 11-12

How?

Call Ms Colleen Goh at 7937377
 ext. 14

What happened...

Come Experience the WILD side of LIFE

Colleen Goh

The June Vacation Workshop

Children of urban Singapore studying science in a vacuum. Failure to relate textbook materials with reality. These are but some problems we discovered while bringing our school children around the Park.

Photograph by Ms Hanitab Ahmad



So that's what a lotus looks like!

To address these issues and to bring children closer to nature, one-day nature workshops based on the theme, "Adaptation in Nature" were conducted on 3 & 5 June for the 11 to 12 year olds.

Each day, 20 children were at the Park from 9.00am to 5.00 pm for a complete nature study experience, with opportunities to take part in activities they would usually not have time for during their school excursions.

Their day of learning consisted of games and nature rambles, based on the theme, "Adaptations in Nature". The children enjoyed themselves immensely, especially the nature rambles. For many of them, it was the first time they had the chance to get up close and personal with unusual but interesting creatures like mudskippers, horseshoe crabs, archerfish, creeper shells and changeable lizards.

"For many of them, it was the first time they had the chance to get up close and personal with unusual but interesting creatures like mudskippers, horseshoe crabs, archerfish, creeper shells and changeable lizards."

Our next series of workshops will be held in December, based on the theme "Bird Migration". Participants (aged 11-12) will have a choice of either 9 or 12 Dec 1997. The workshop will be held at the Park from 9.00 am to 5 pm. The fee of \$40 will include meals and relevant materials required for the one-day workshop (transportation not included). Those who are interested may contact Ms Colleen Goh at 793 7377 ext. 14 for more details. Do make your bookings early, as spaces are limited.

Dawning Rendezvous

Linda Gob

23 February 1997

7.00am

Grey Skies threatened the day.

With fingers crossed, I made my way to Singapore's only remaining patch of primary rainforest to meet up with our Park volunteers.

7.30 am

The sky cleared.

Our guide, Mr Eugene Tang had already arrived. Eugene conducted a short briefing before setting off with the group. My sister and I stayed behind to 'catch' the late comers.

As we made our way up to catch up with the rest, we were greeted by a chorus of cicadas. We were excited with the experience of the hilly wonders. The whole forest was pulsating with life!

Eugene took time to introduce the *Dipterocarp* family, a characteristic species of the primary forest. Towering above us were the majestic *Shorea curtisii*, the most common member of the family.

Treading on the Kruing Path, we spotted the Bat Lily, named for its resemblance to bats with ears sticking out. Growing below the canopy layer, many species of fungi flourish. The Bracket fungus grew in layers on dead tree trunks.

continue on page 6...



Just a crabby note.....

Linda Gob

Have you ever experience walking along the Mangrove Boardwalk when it is high tide and have the creepy feeling that many eyes are following you? Well, fear not. Look hard and you will soon discover they are only well-camouflaged mangrove crabs peering at you.

Some of these crab are seen climbing up the mangrove trees and sometimes even the boardwalk to avoid the incoming tide. They are known to crawl just high enough to remain above the sea level. One possible reason for this could be to escape predators that lurk in the deep mysterioius waters of the mangroves.

To survive on atmospheric air, these sesarmines possess net-like patterns on the sides of their shells, which enables them to recirculate water in the gill chambers so that they can breath on land.

Two commonly observed mangrove crabs found in the Park are the *Episesarma sp.* and *Chiromantes sp.* Ecologically, these crabs are known to be important. By feeding on the mangrove leaves that have fallen from the canopy, these sesarmid crabs help to initiate the breakdown of these leaves, which are otherwise difficult to decompose.

Photograph by Mr. Micheal Au



Photograph by Mr. Micheal Au

Photograph by Mr. N. Sivasubhi



Mudlobster



Mussels.



Photograph by Mr. Micheal Au

Roots of the *Rhizophora* sp.

Crabby Stuff

My neighbour didn't mind me digging and scraping at his home today, quite unlike his usual self. The grouchy, muddy Mr. Mudlobster is minding his own business, excavating another tunnel to expand his territory. The homes we share are like volcanoes springing up on the mangrove swamp.

People, adults and children alike, would walk on strange-looking structures they call boardwalks to look at me. I hate their stares and will normally go back into my home without much ado. Sure hope they'll mind their own

business. Of course there are times when I can't run from the stares. When it is high tide and my home is flooded, I will have to climb up the branches of my favourite *Rhizophora apiculata* (a mangrove tree, for those ignorant you!). Mr. Rhizophora Sir, by the way, is very grateful for my existence. I like to eat the leaves that have fallen off him. In return, I process (pass out!) the leaves for him in easily absorbed form. You could say we all live in harmony and what humans call co-existence in an ecosystem. What a mouthful!

Photograph by Mr. Micheal Au



Barnacles.



Photograph by Mr. Wong Tuan Wab

Mudskipper

What happened...

TIMBERLAND EARTH DAY PROGRAMME

Linda Goh



Photograph by Ms Ong Chui Leng

Together for a common cause, conservation education.

20 classic mini cars dotted the carpark at the Sungei Buloh Nature Park!

The occasion? Timberland's Earth Day celebration at the Park. As reported in Berita Harian, 20th April 1997 was indeed a fine Sunday for at least 40 children who were waltzed to the Park in a convoy of 20 classic mini cars.

The day started on a high note with the children from Bukit Ho Swee Social Centre and Toa Payoh CDAC being introduced to the Park by our staff. The children were taken around Route 1 where they were greeted by some of our feathered friends who were probably on their last flight back home. They also learnt about the different habitats that are found in the Park.

This event was jointly organised by Timberland and Sungei Buloh Nature Park to educate these children, aged 8 to 10, on the importance of conserving our natural heritage. What better way to expose our young to nature than to let them have a feel of it first hand.

From 21 March to 22 April 1997, the public was encouraged to make their contributions towards nature conservation by dropping their loose change into pledge boxes located at Timberland stores. Proceeds from the sale of the exclusive Timberland caps were also donated to the Park. The funds collected from this event will be channelled towards the Park's conservation education efforts.

We thank Timberland and the public for their support.



contd. from page 3

With much heaving and panting, we managed a steep rocky path. Lactic acid had started accumulating in our muscles and we decided to take a break and to have a group picture taken.



Taking a breather

Cool breeze. Beautiful sights. The summit provided a breath-taking view of Singapore. Unfortunately we did not spot any birds.

11.00 am

We quickened our footsteps to get back to the Visitor's Centre, where food awaits.

Upon reaching the bottom of the hill, we proceeded to the seminar room and, through a well-produced slide presentation, were once again taken along the trails of the reserve.

The whole event ended at about noon and we were all looking forward to our next gathering in September. Destination? Pulau Ubin.

To all volunteers reading this, keep your calls coming in.



Waxing lyrical...

Many mangroves are standing on stilts
And they are very tall and green
No mangrove can survive in freshwater
Growing as fast as a rocket flying to space
Roots tangly as hair knots
On top of the mangroves are where birds like to live
View on mangroves are green as the sparkling sea
Every insects and animals likes to live there
Sungei buloh is an interesting place to visit.

Gal Lev 5f
Overseas Family School

See the exquisite, beautiful birds
Underneath the golden sun
Naturally full of creatures
Glorious fish in the sea
Endless paths of splendid jungle
Incredible birds singing to you

Beautiful flowers blossoming today
Unbelievable! Wow! Adult spiders
Lobster mounds are very near
Oh, oh too much to see and do
At Sungei Buloh we are here for you

Aidan Dowdle 5f
Overseas Family School



A TRIP TO SUNGEI BULOH

Last holiday, our teacher brought us to Sungei Buloh Nature Park. After paying the entrance fee, we walk through the exhibition which informed us of the birds, the sounds they make and their habitats.

Next, we proceeded to the Theatre to watch the audio-visual show which gave an overview of the Park. Our teacher gave us each a map of the Park. First we went to the Main Hide, 1A. I saw a lot of birds. As we continued our journey, we spotted different types of birds. We saw the Little Egret, Great Egret, the Common Sandpiper, a White-Bellied Sea-Eagle and a Purple Heron perched on the tree. We also saw some monitor lizards.

Then we walked back to the Visitor Centre to have some food. We went to the Mangrove Boardwalk after lunch. We saw mudskippers, changeable lizards, snakes, monitor lizards and the prop roots of the *Rhizophora*. We returned to the Visitor Centre before making our way back.

I enjoyed this trip very much. It was very educational and it taught us a lot about birds and their habitats. I will definitely bring my friend here the next time. I hope they will get a chance to learn about those wonderful birds that I saw.

Yap Yong Quan
Pri 6D
Bendemeer Primary School

NO ACCIDENTAL TOURIST

Lim Haw Chuan

Common migrants at the Park:

Little Heron
 Chinese Pond-Heron
 Cattle Egret
 Great Egret
 Black-Crowned Night-Heron
 Schrenck's Bittern
 Black Bittern
 Black Baza
 Japanese Sparrowhawk
 Watercock
 Pacific Golden Plover
 Little Ringed Plover
 Mongolian Plover
 Whimbrel
 Black-tailed Godwit
 Spotted Redshank
 Common Redshank
 Marsh Sandpiper
 Common Greenshank
 Wood Sandpiper
 Terek Sandpiper
 Common Sandpiper
 Asian Dowitcher
 Rufous-necked Stint
 Broad-billed Sandpiper
 Common Koel
 Common Kingfisher
 Black-capped Kingfisher
 Blue-tailed Bee-eater
 Blue-throated Bee-eater
 Hirundinidae: Swallows
 Barn Swallow
 Brown Shrike
 Tiger Shrike



Park Information

Opening Hours

7.30 am to 7.00 pm on weekdays
7.00 am to 7.00 pm on weekends
and Public Holidays

Admission

\$1.00 per adult
\$0.50 per child/student/
senior citizen

Audio-visual Show

Mondays to Saturdays:
9.00 am, 11.00 am, 1.00 pm,
3.00 pm, 5.00 pm

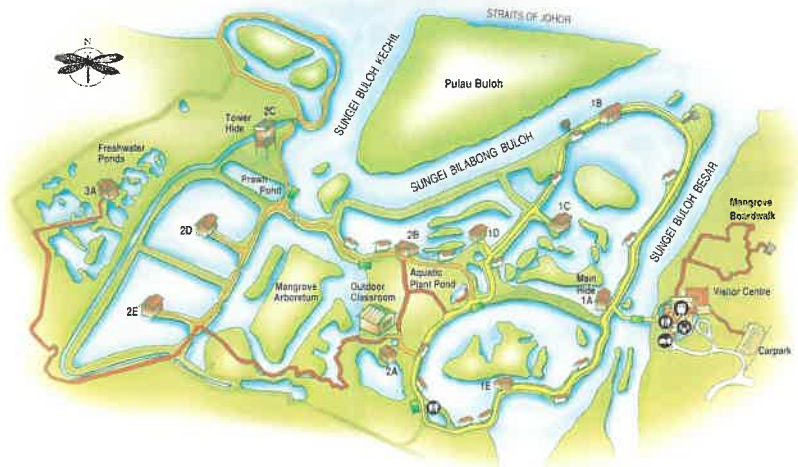
Getting to the Park

Mondays to Saturdays
TIBS 925 from Kranji Dam
carpark (15 min walk to the Park)
Sundays and Public Holidays
TIBS 925 to the Park's entrance

Sungei Buloh Nature Park

1 Neo Tiew Crescent
Singapore 718925
Tel: 793 7377
Fax: 793 7271
E-mail: sbnp@pacific.net.sg
Website: <http://www.sbnp.org>

Map of the Park



Map to the Park

