

## Our Environment



The flora from Western PUNE

### Pangara



With receding winter and increasing heat, beauty of several trees starts exhibiting. Most of these trees shade their leaves during flowering and the beauty of flowering is revealed distinctly. Pangara is one of them. Dazzling red flowers appear at the tip of naked branches. Flowers are very small & delicate and appear in clusters. It looks like red sparkles at the tip of branches. It is also called as Indian coral tree due to its coral like red color.

There are three species of Pangara, that are commonly found in and around Pune. One *Erythrina* (erythrin = red) *stricta* which is found more towards west of Pune and is recognized by its thorny bark. *Erythrina suberosa* is found in and around Pune and could be identified from its corky bark. *Erythrina indica* is non-native species having greenish, smooth bark and found only in city limits. It is interesting to note, that this non-native species has virus attack on leaves but our natives are resistible to the same virus and are standing healthy.

Pangara is valued as medicinal plant. Leaves have diuretic and laxative properties and used as antidote for snakebites. Bark, stem, leaves, and their juice used as medicines. Leaves and bark are good for the stomach, for relieving pain in joints. Fresh juice of leaves reduces excess fat. Juice of bark used to kill worms in sores.

Leaves are used as fodder. The bark and the wood are economically important.

The bark yields a good cordage fiber. The wood, ash and bark are used for dyeing and tanning. Wood is used for jars, butter (ghee) pots, insulator boards etc. The wood is useful for packing cases, sieve frames, fisherman's floats etc. Being very light in weight, it is used in making toys and cricket bats. It is useful as a support for pepper, betel and grape vines.

Its ecological value is also significant. It is capable of growing in the driest soils. It is good for first stage plantation in restoration, a nitrogen-fixing tree. It is fast growing tree. It also attracts many birds during flowering. Birds, like Rosy pasters, favor it.

Cuttings & seeds can do propagation.

It is recommended to use this tree as medicinal plant, avenue tree, and fodder plant and in ecological restoration.

Contributed by Oikos

Beautiful flowering trees and shrubs have been planted on both sides of this walkway, giving the look of a garden path to this way. Few weeks back, I noticed many 'Bottle Brush' trees in full bloom with bright yellow flowers. I also notice along the way, many varieties of Acacias and Crotons with their multicoloured leaves. Behind these shrubs, lush green grass grows on sloping land forming a nice backdrop. At few places, spiders lay out their white fluffy webs on the moist grass hoping for a meal. The webs shine and glisten in the early morning sunlight. The walkway is serenely quiet except for chirpings of all kinds of birds as a backstage musical score. Sometimes, battalions of birds start it at the same time to reach a crescendo, creating a virtual cacophony, which usually lasts for a few moments, later returning the walkway to normal calm. The calm sometimes gets disturbed with huffing and puffing of an odd jogger or when a bicycler whizzes past you.

After a distance, the walkway turns sharply to the right. Not far from here, the land breaks and a clear open view of the sea channel with details of Malaysian coast emerge before my eyes. This sight of the sea always brings a sense of freedom to my mind. However, this is the point of return for me and I stop and turn back. A feeling of contented satisfaction lingers in my mind.

Shekhar Athavale

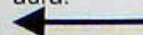


Almost anything under the Sun

### Road to Sembawang

I am not new to Singapore. For last few years, I have been spending a significant part of each year in this place. Yet, this place keeps on surprising me repeatedly, with its natural beauty. I live these days, in the northern part of this island. Compared to the south and the east, this part of the island is less built up with many open spaces between the dwellings and patches of tropical rain forests spread all around. The northern sea channel between Malaysia and Singapore or 'Selat Johar', as it is called, is just about three Kilometers from my house. Next to my house, I can see a storm drain canal, built to carry the floodwaters to the sea. A beautiful walkway with mettle surface has been laid on the embankment of this canal. A leisurely walk along this walkway, takes one straight to 'Sembawang' Beach. This beach is really just a tiny patch of white sand and is flanked by the 'Sembawang Port'. Thick tropical rain forest, with some trees as tall as sixty to seventy feet, could be seen just before this beach. This makes this entire area staggeringly beautiful.

I take my daily morning walks on this walkway. When I get out of my apartment each morning, melodious tunes of 'Nadswaram', coming from a temple of 'Kartikeya' across the road, invariably lift my mood to sublime serenity. Earlier, when I was staying in California, I used to take my daily walks along a picturesque street, lined with maple trees and had always considered that street (particularly in fall time) to be the most beautiful path on which I have ever walked. Yet beauty of this 'Sembawag' garden connector (as it is called here), in some ways, certainly surpasses that of maple street. This connector walkway has been laid along a side of the floodwater canal. On the other side of this canal, sheer majesty of a tropical rainforest gives me company all along. The tall trees and the thick grasses create certain kind of mystic air and as the dawn breaks, water vapours gently rise up from the rain sodden and moist forest, enveloping it in a foggy blanket, which further accentuates the mystic aura.





## The Editor's Musings



From yours truly

### Requiem for a Fireside Meeting

Few weeks after I had joined our club, our founder president Late Dada Damle, telephoned me and invited me for a Fireside meeting in his house. Being new to Rotary, I was rather curious about this meeting and this peculiar name. I found that he had also invited the then President, Late Dr. Achyut Deodhar, two other senior Rotarians and two new comers including me. But surprisingly, I did not find any fire anywhere. The meeting went on for about an hour or so but when I returned home, I realized that I had learned a lot about Rotary that evening.

A name sometimes reveals or suggests the heritage and the traditions of an institution. Rotary was started as a meeting of few professionals, gathering together and talking about things in general. They usually sat by a fireside. As Rotary spread world-wide, the scenario, the weather and the context all changed but the name remained. Even if the Rotarians met on a hot sunny afternoon in a tropical country. They proudly called their meeting a Fireside meeting. After all 'What is in a name?'

In my early days in our club, we used to have these meetings quite frequently. It was an unwritten rule, that all new comers would at least be invited to couple of these meetings in their initial stint. In fact, I learned my ropes in our club,

mainly through such meetings. This certainly was one of the most charming way to assimilate a new member.

Some of these Fireside meetings also turned out to be quite controversial. A meeting organized in the garden, adjacent to the Farm house, belonging to one of our members, became topic of hot discussion in our club. There was a severe drought raging in Maharashtra at that time and some of the members felt that such an extravagant party should not have taken place. The President had to intervene and explain that this Fireside meeting was arranged for our guests who had come to attend the District Conference in PUNE.

Most of the Fireside meetings were just for small groups. The President, Secretary and the Board members made it a point that at least one of them attends each and every fireside meeting. This way, they learned about plus points of new members and also what members thought about any topic affecting the club. New members could be sounded for new Rotary assignments.

This wonderful instrument to improve fellowship in a club unfortunately appears to be now dead. We have fellowship meetings in the club. There are also groups of members who get together once in a week. But here, same people meet again and again. I do not undermine their getting together. But according to me, they are no substitute for the old fashioned Fireside meetings.

This is my last song, a requiem, for this beautiful old tradition of Rotary, now dead and gone.

Yours Truly

## Our Environment



The flora from Western PUNE.



### Taman

Very few people know that flower of 'Taman' is known to be Maharashtra's state flower. It is also called as Pride of India and Queen's flower.

It's a medium sized deciduous tree with stem peeling off in flakes. This tree is mostly habituated along streams or rivers in Kokan area. But due to its beauty it is cultivated and planted all over in India as well as Maharashtra. It flowers during May till October. But the full blossom could be experienced during the month of May and August. Sight of bright purple pink clusters of papery flowers can't be missed during those months.

These trees could be seen occasionally in Pune.

Locations: Corner of Karvenagar hsg. society near Navsahyadri chowk, Off Bhandarkar road, on road opposite to ICICI building, Jakat naka on old Mumbai - Pune highway near Dapodi.

Taman is also known as a medicinal tree. Leaves, fruits and bark contain tannin. They are purgative. Root is prescribed as an astringent. It is considered stimulant and febrifuge. Decoction of bark is used in fever. Fruit is used as local application in mouth. Seeds are narcotic. Leaves and ripe fruits are used in diabetes along with other drugs.

Contributed by - OIKOS



## The Editor's Musings



From yours truly

### Catch them young!

Recently we heard a strong plea from our Assistant Governor that Rotary is aging and we must take younger people on board to maintain the vigour and vitality of the club. In principle, this is a totally acceptable and welcome suggestion. Few years back, when Rotary clubs in Pune could be counted by fingers on our hand, the average age of members in some clubs was nearer to seventy. In such scenario, same set of aging members had to take up same set of assignments every year. They obviously found these assignments very mundane and routine with no real enthusiasm left for the job. This made the club environment a very stale and musty affair. What our Assistant Governor is warning us is a repetition of such a scenario, only on a much bigger and larger scale.

Further, in his speech, our Assistant Governor also gave a suggestion. He felt that we should henceforth look in a new direction to locate potential members. His suggestion was to look to service and IT industries. While there can be no argument regarding availability of highly talented youth with very high incomes in IT sector, it is common knowledge that these young people are extremely overworked, sometimes putting in even 12 working hours on a single day. They also work in a highly stressed work environment. It is therefore obvious that such candidates are unlikely to accept Rotary Club invitations and even if they join, chances are that

they may exit the club in a short while. That leaves only service sector professionals. If we just try to find out about the vocations of new members, who have joined our club in recent years, we would find that majority of these are professionals from various services such as Chartered accountancy or Practising-Law or Advertising. This is happening because only this sector can provide suitable young candidates with high incomes and available spare time for Rotary. However, as per guiding principle of Rotary, there is a limit on numbers, beyond which we cannot accept members from such sectors. This puts a virtual glass ceiling on these sectors. If we look to any other sector, most likely candidates are likely to be middle aged or even younger (If I may call them so, seniors). These candidates surely would not bring the average age of the members down.

This is the dilemma faced by most of the clubs in a metro like Pune. Each club needs to induct members just to balance out normal attrition. Growth can come only later. If another constraint such as youthfulness is incorporated in the selection process, we would find it tough to get enough suitable candidates for membership. In addition, our experience shows that many of the new members, who joined our club at an advanced age, were and are still extremely active.

While looking for new members therefore, we might still keep a bias for age but it cannot be a pre-condition of the selection process. After all what is in the age. What matters is whether the person is young at heart or not, his age notwithstanding.

Yours truly

## WESTWORDS

### Our Environment



The flora from Western PUNE

#### Wad



Almost everybody in India knows the holy tree - Wad. But the fact that it is our 'national tree' is seldom known. Wad is commonly found all over India in all climatic zones. It is commonly planted along roadsides, settlements, temples in towns and villages.

It is also known as Banyan tree. The tree's name "banyan" refers to the merchants (= *bantias*) who set up shop under the spreading trees (Riffle 1998). Botanical name of Wad is *Ficus benghalensis* belonging to mulberry family, Moraceae.

Most striking feature of the Wad is its aerial roots growing from branches towards ground. Once these extensions reach the ground, they actually take root and grow in thickness until they are literally tree trunks. Such way the spread of this tree can be extended over an acre of the land. The largest such tree is now found in Kolkata in India. One famous banyan tree was planted in 1873 in Lahaina's Courthouse Square in Hawaii, and has grown to now cover two-thirds of an acre.

The Hindus regard this tree sacred. Tree is worshipped in some festivals like Watpournima.

It is a common misunderstanding that Wad or similar *Ficus* species never flower. However, fact is that

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it's flowering and fruiting takes place inside the same structure called Fig, looking like a fruit. Its fruiting is very conspicuous due to bright red color during December.

Wad is also medicinally valued. The juice is used in medicine, being applied externally for pains and bruises and for rheumatism. An infusion of the bark is tonic in the treatment of diabetes. Latex used in foot crack healing. Bark juice with turmeric and garlic used on diabetes. Bark applied on snakebites. Leaves poultice used in boils.

In addition, there are other uses of banyan. The latex yields an inferior rubber. The twigs and leaves make good fodder for cattle. Wood is durable under water so used for well curbs.

Ecologically, it is very important tree. It is very good for creating shade in rocky areas as it can grow in hard murrum or rocky substrata where hardly any tree can grow.

It is a larval host for butterflies like Common Indian crow (*Euploea core*), Double branded crow (*Euploea sylvestris*), Silverstreak blue (*Iraota timoleon*). Profusely fruiting trees attract a lot of fruit eating birds like Green pigeons - our State Bird. One or two trees will keep on bearing fruits almost round the year providing food for all. Roosting colonies of flying foxes are many times found in this tree.

This tree is mostly propagated by cuttings and naturally it is spread by seeds from animal or birds excreta.

It is recommended to plant this tree as Ornamental, Fodder, Medicinal, Religious plant.

Contributed by Oikos





## The Editor's Musings



From yours truly

### On Assimilation

Few months back, I went to attend a meeting that was totally unconnected with Rotary. After I reached the venue, I was pleasantly surprised to find two of our Ex-Rotarians, who warmly welcomed me and requested me to sit next to them. Another person, an acquaintance of these two Ex-Rotarians, who was sitting on the other side, looked at this warm welcome with slightly raised eyebrows. The explanation given by these Ex-Rotarians to him, really set me thinking. They told him that all of us were from the same Rotary Club. I was quite sure, that these two Ex-Rotarians had left our club at least ten years back. Therefore, it was a pleasant surprise to me, that even after such a long interval, they still identified themselves with Rotary Club of Poona West.

My wife had a similar experience recently, when she went to attend a lecture organized by University women's association. She met there at least five or six of our Ex-Rotary Annes. Some of them were very senior ladies and belonged to our club far back in Seventies and eighties. All of them easily recognized my wife and welcomed her very warmly. My wife felt the old bond of fellowship still very much alive.

I do not think that these two experiences are unique to us only and I am sure that all of us must have had similar experiences. It is a beautiful feeling that the bond of fellowship, formed in Rotary long ago, still keeps ticking even after so many years and these Ex-members still proudly proclaim their past association with Rotary. There has to be something special about these friendships.

Not long ago, I had an occasion to visit an old colleague of mine, with whom I

used to work in a company in Pune. I found, that he had also invited quite a few old faces. After initial gestures of surprise, some pleasantries were exchanged and then the conversation got stuck in a groove and the whole 'get together' became a very dull and uninspiring affair. I got bored and left quite early with some excuse. I realized later, that this meeting became a social failure, because no person was really interested in others and we had no common interests.

On some days, my wife and myself go for a walk in the evening, which usually leads to BMCC. We always meet some of our Ex-members there, who are now quite aged. Conversation invariably leads to our Rotary club, present leaders of the club and the old timers like me who still continue their membership. We always feel that these Ex-members have genuine interest and love for the Rotary.

In all the incidences narrated above, one thing is certain. All these Ex members were thoroughly assimilated in the club before they had to leave the club for personal reasons. As against that, every year, we see many new faces appearing in the club like a nine day wonder and we also see them suddenly disappear. Such people are not likely to even remember later, that sometime in the past, they were a part of Rotary. On the contrary, once a member gets truly assimilated in Rotary, he becomes a true Rotarian and stays a true Rotarian throughout his life, notwithstanding, whether he continues to be a member of the club or not.

All of us should therefore create an environment for any new member so that he develops common interests with others and a bond of fellowship is formed. Then only, the induction of that new member can be considered as complete.

Yours Truly



## Our Environment



The flora from Western PUNE.



### Babhul

Babhul is one of the most common, still most neglected, tree in urban areas. Scientifically known as *Acacia nilotica*, it is found almost everywhere in Pune, mostly along river sides, on hills and in open barren spaces.

The beauty of babhul lies not only in its flowering but also in its ecological value and other uses. It is a very hardy evergreen tree flowering almost throughout the year but with considerable flowering during September. Small golden yellow flower balls look stunning. Pods (sheng) of the tree are also very peculiar, just like a pearl string and shining.

Babhul is also a very good medicinal tree. Bark and pods are used in skin diseases, bleeding piles, asthma and bronchitis, decoction in diarrhea, dysentery, and urinary discharges, urinogenital disorders. Gum is also medicinal. Used in sore throat, diarrhea and dysentery, also useful in diabetes. It is given with latex of *Calotropis*, to cure asthma. Gum is also used as binding material in the

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tablets. Bruised leaves are applied to sore eyes in children, eaten in throat infection and poultice used in sore eyes. Paste of burnt leaves is effective ointment in itch. Various parts are used in hair-fall, earache, symphysis, dysentery, cholera, leprosy and Powder of the bark (Dantmanjan / Rasadanti) is prepared to clean teeth. Even toothpaste is prepared. The thin twigs are directly used to clean the teeth in villages.

Gum i.e. *dink* which used in making *laddoos* is also extracted from Babhul. It is nutritious and medicinal.

Pods are readily eaten by goats. So the tree also has got fodder value.

Wood is known to be good hard timber. Used in making cupboards, table etc.

Ecologically this tree is of great importance since it grows even in degraded conditions. And it is a very important green canopy along riversides in drier areas. It is roost for many birds and insects. It is a larval host for butterfly Common grass yellow.

Contributed by OIKOS



The Editor's Musings

From yours truly



Importance of Decorum

In the December issue of 'Westwords', our Hon. Secretary had written a fine article about her visit to Rotary Club of Dubai. In her own words, that visit was mighty impressive and was a very pleasant experience for her. When I read this article, I felt awed by the fine details to which Rotary Club of Dubai have gone, in planning their meetings. Right from the welcome offered to the visiting Rotarian to the sitting arrangements for the meeting, everything was preplanned meticulously.

However, it can be argued that the weekly meetings of a Rotary club are primarily for the members of that club and not for visiting Rotarians, so any environment for the meeting, which is comfortable to the members, should suffice. I somehow do not agree with this viewpoint. For years, we have been meeting in the library hall on the ground floor. In spite of our periodic efforts to spruce up the decor by offering to paint the room and buying new plastic chairs instead of those old rickety wooden chairs, the general decor remained quite dilapidated and worn. This kind of environment percolates to a staid and dull feeling all around and reflects on the decorum of the meeting.

During early days of our club, we did make an effort to establish some resemblance of ambience in the same old library hall. We used to have stands on which flags of different Rotary clubs would be hung. We used to have a record player to play the national anthem. Moreover, most important of all, we used to have an executive secretary to look after visiting Rotarians and procedural matters. As years passed by, one by one all these little things disappeared due to some reason or other. During these low years, a new Rotary club was started in Pune, which used to meet at a five star hotel.

Once I went to this club for a make up and was amazed to see the difference in the ambience at the meetings of this club and our meetings. Since that day, I have always believed that a Rotary meeting should have ambience and decorum that would make the members feel proud to attend the meetings.

Luckily, we could shift the venue of our meeting to a better place couple of years back. This room has reasonable standard of decor. Perhaps, we still lag in small procedural matters. We certainly have excellent and intellectually satisfying programmes. However, some improvement may be warranted in the way in which we sing national anthem or the way in which office bearers on the dais are dressed and our perennial Achilles' heel the PA system, improved. We have really no set procedure to welcome the visitors, who always feel lonely and stranded when they come to attend the meeting. Appointing an executive secretary may also be considered. (I am sure that some members would strongly oppose to any such proposal on financial grounds.) However, these matters are for the board of directors to ponder.

I feel that a proper ambience and decorum at a Rotary meeting always makes the meeting much more dignified and intellectually satisfying and I certainly look forward to a day when a Rotarian form some other club would visit us and write in his club bulletin about his visit to our club.

Yours truly,

Calender

Feb. 2008

Birthdays

- 10 Shaila Athavale
- 10 Asha Deshpande
- 10 Mukund Ingalgonkar
- 14 R.B. Soundalgekar

Anniversaries

- 07 Medha & Chandrashekhar Naniwadekar
- 08 Ravinder Kaur & Harpal Singh Kohli
- 10 Madhulika & Ashok Selukar
- 15 Bharati & Sadanand Hegde
- 21 Leena & Gautam Lonkar
- 24 Rita & Ashok Kothary
- 27 Rupa & Rajesh Patankar
- 28 Sushma & Sudhir Gole



Our Environment



The flora from Western PUNE

Palas



Botanical name of the Palas is appropriate ... *Butea monosperma*. It is one of the most beautiful trees in deciduous forests. When a group of Palas trees flowers in forest during summer season, it literally appears as if fire in the forest. So is the common English name "Flame of the forest". In some parts of Maharashtra and M.P., it is also called as Dhak / Dhag. Its flowers are bright orange red colored and the shape is like beak of Parrot. So is the Sanskrit name 'Kimshuk' (Kim = Whether, Shuk = Parrot)

This tree is native to deciduous forests of low rainfall area but now almost common all throughout the Maharashtra even in high rainfall areas due to degradation. It is strong light demander tree.

Tree has many medicinal properties. Almost all parts of the tree are medicinal. Seeds used in treatment of worms, snakebite and cold cough. Gum is useful in diarrhea. Leaves are used to treat boils, good for stomach and heat eruption in children. It is also used in preparation of ayurvedic medicines like Krumikuthar, Krumimudgar rasa (used for treating vomiting, worms, white patches on skin), Asanadvati etc.

Palas flowers yield a yellow dye. Also, the color extracted from flowers is used

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to in Holi festival. So, it has got cultural significance. Wood is economically important. Bark is used in making ropes. Leaves are largely used for making bowls and plates for serving food and as fodder for buffaloes and elephants. The wood lasts well under water and is used for well curbs and water scoops. It is also used for miscellaneous construction work and as fuel. Commonly used as fuel wood in Uttar Pradesh. The tree is highly valued as a host tree for the lac insect yielding good quality lac.

Palas is also an ecologically valued tree due to its use in afforestation of saline and waterlogged regions. It is a larval host for butterflies - Common emigrant (*Catopsilia Pontona*) Gram blue (*Euchrysops chejus*) Pea blue (*Lampides boeticus*) Dark cerulean (*Jamides bochus*) Common cerulean (*Jamides celeno*). It can be propagated by seeds and stumps. It is recommended to use this tree for various purposes like Ornamental, Medicinal, Roadside plantation, NTFP, Fuelwood, Fodder.

Palas is commonly seen towards west of Pune on Mulshi road or Kamshet road. Some trees also can be located on 'Bambhurda hill'. One tree is right near the entrance of ILS Law college

Contributed by @1808



# रंगूनि रंगात साऱ्या

मला रोटरी क्लबमध्ये यायला लागून फक्त साडेतीन वर्ष झाली पण त्यात मला खूप काही नवे शिकायला व अनुभवायला मिळाले. माणसांच्या घोळक्यात रमणाऱ्या मला रोटरीमध्ये अनेक नव्या मित्रमैत्रिणी मिळाल्या व जुन्या ओळखी ताज्यातवान्या झाल्या. व्यवसाय, संसार, मुले, क्लब असे चाकोरीबद्ध जीवन जगणाऱ्या मला इथे खूपच गोष्टींची नव्याने ओळख झाली.

मी वेगवेगळ्या विषयांवरील व्याख्याने, शीळवादन, एक पात्री प्रयोग, कारगिलच्या युद्धावरील अनुभव हे सर्व शुक्रवारच्या मिटींगमध्ये ऐकले. अशा गोष्टी आपल्याला आवडणारच नाहीत असा पूर्वग्रह केव्हाच दूर झाला आणि काव्यवाचन, पावसाची गाणी अशा कार्यक्रमांचा मी मनापासून आनंद घेऊ लागले. नाटक कसे बसवतात, त्याची प्रॅक्टिस कशी करतात, त्यासाठी किती मेहनत घ्यावी लागते व ह्या सर्वात किती मजा असते हे मी रोटरीत अनुभवले. नव्या मैत्रिणींबरोबर गप्पाचा अड्डा, जेवायला वा सिनेमाला जाणे अशा आवडीच्या गोष्टी तर केल्याच पण त्याच बरोबर संगीत महोत्सव, वेगवेगळी स्किट्स व स्पर्धेसाठी पाठवलेल्या नाटकांनाही हजेरी लावली.

रंगाचे मला लहानपणापासूनच आकर्षण आहे. त्यामुळेच मला अँक्रिलिक व ऑइल पेंटिंग करण्याचा नाद लागला. माझ्या कुंचल्यातून चितारल्या गेलेल्या अशाच कांही चित्रांना रोटरीने आयोजित केलेल्या कला प्रदर्शनात, बाल गंधर्व कलादालनात जायची संधी मिळाली हे माझे भाग्यच म्हणले पाहिजे. या सगळ्याच्या पलिकडे जाऊन स्वतःहून कोणत्याही प्रकारचे सामाजिक कार्य करणे हे मला तसे नविनच होते. अशा कांही संस्थांना मी पूर्वीपासूनच मदत पाठवते पण मागच्या वर्षी कम्युनिटी सर्व्हिसची डायरेक्टर असल्याने जीवनज्योत शाळा, वृद्धाश्रम, संस्कार प्रतिष्ठान, देसाई डोळ्यांचे हॉस्पिटल अशा ठिकाणी प्रत्यक्ष जाण्याचा योग

आला. ह्या ठिकाणी निरपेक्षपणे सामाजिक कार्य करणाऱ्या अनेक व्यक्तींची भेट झाली. त्यांना हे काम करताना किती अडचणींना तोंड द्यावे लागते हे समजले. शारिरीक व मानसिक विकलांग लोक. कर्णबधीर व अंध मुले व त्यांच्या शाळा बघितल्या. हे लोक करत असलेली कामे व सृजनसारख्या प्रदर्शनात त्यांनी तयार केलेल्या वस्तू बघून तर त्यांचे फारच कौतुक वाटले. रोटरीच्या माध्यमातून जो सामाजिक कार्याचा अनुभव मिळाला त्यामुळे माझी आयुष्याकडे बघण्याची दृष्टी बदलली. सामाजिक बांधीलकीची जाणीव झाली. नुसती मदत न पाठवता समाजातील काहींच्या समस्या सोडविण्यासाठी व त्या समस्यांची तीव्रता कमी करण्यासाठी स्वतः हातभार लावण्याची जरूर आहे हे प्रकर्षाने जाणवले.

अशा तऱ्हेने रोटरीमुळे रंगात रंगून जाणाऱ्या मला जीवनात एका वेगळ्याच रंगाची छटा दिसायला लागली.

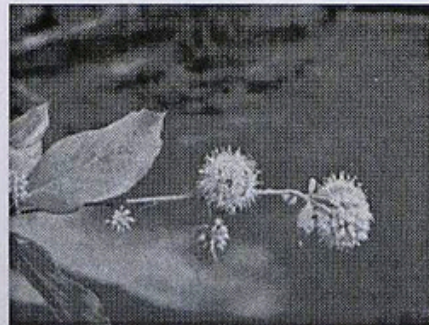
रोटेरियन मणाल तळपळे

rocky ridges of the Aravalli Range.

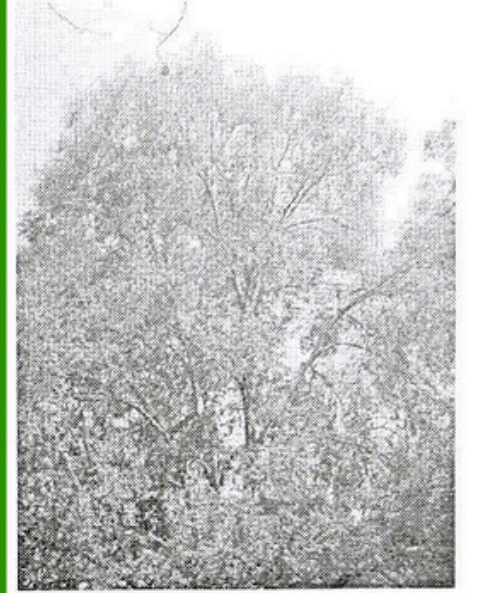
This tree can be used for restoration purpose. Restoration is a technique to bring back the original state of nature or landscape i.e. ecosystem. For such kind, hardy and sturdy plants like Dhawda are required, which can sustain degraded conditions.

This tree is recommended to plant as ornamental and timber.

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The flora from Western PUNE



## Dhawda

Dhawda is common tree species found in dry deciduous forests. It is large tree with drooping branches so the scientific name *Anogeissus pendula*. Pendula stands for pendulous i.e. drooping branches. Flower shoots are very beautiful with small rounded flowers of yellowish color. Flowers are lightly fragrant. This tree grows in well drained poor soils.

In Pune, trees can be seen roadsides. One very huge tree is located in the back yard of Mahatma Phule Museum, Ghole road.

This tree has got good timber value. It attracts many bees and butterflies while flowering.

Though uses of this tree are not very significant for human beings apart from timber, ecologically it is important part of dry deciduous forests. It is also known as kardhai or dhok and is common in the Kathiarbar-Gir dry deciduous forests of western India, where it often forms pure stands in the



## The Horizons



About Club Projects, Programmes,  
Rotarians and Annes

According to a demographic survey carried out by Rotary International in October 2006, the average age of a Rotarian was 62.56 years. Further, 66.45% of Rotarians worldwide were from an age group of 50 to 70 years. The figures conclusively prove that Rotary is an aging organization. Our AG Rtn. Deepak Shikarpur brought this point home when he spoke to our club during his official visit on 28<sup>th</sup> September. His solution to overcome this anomaly is simple. We should induct more young people in the club. He felt that IT industry in our area would provide suitable candidates for membership easily.

Our charter member, PP Madhubhau Marathe, recently completed 75 years of age. To celebrate this occasion, PP Rajiv Deshmukh, interviewed Madhubhau and Anne Pushpatai. Madhubhau described during his interview, the early years of our club. PP Bal Dharap, PP Santosh Marathe and Anne Tanuja Marathe also spoke on the occasion. PP Bhalba Bedekar felicitated Madhubhau at the end of the meeting.

On 5<sup>th</sup> of October, our club presented in 'Bharat natya Mandir', our official entry for a one-act play competition organized by Rotary Club of Shivajinagar. Two of our members, Rtn. PP Rajiv Deshmukh & Rtn. Vishwas Deval acted in this Play, written by Shri. Satish Alekar. Two aging men meet to watch a cricket match. One of them has been rejected by his kin and has been forced to take refuge in an 'Old Age Home'. Other old man is happy and living with his family. Their interactions, while watching the cricket match, were very powerfully projected by both actors. Rtn. Rajeev won third prize for acting his part.

Our District Governor Rtn. Vinay Kulkarni, paid his official visit to our club on 12<sup>th</sup> of October. In his speech,

Governor expressed his happiness about smooth functioning of the club. He respected our emphasis on giving help to small service organizations who need it badly and promised all possible help for our matching grant project for G.R. Palkar School. He appreciated our club bulletin and mentioned that he reads the bulletin regularly and in particular, he very much likes to read, the regular column 'Albate-Galbate' written by Rtn. Shekhar Naniwadekar. He also appreciated the professional organization of the district assembly 2007, done by our club. In the second part of his speech, he gave a presentation about Rotary. In the end, before concluding, he cited his own example and asked for substantial donations to Rotary Foundation. Quite few of our members came forward and conceded to his request. The meeting was followed by fellowship and dinner.

Hollywood producers, when they make a blockbuster movie like 'My Fair Lady' or 'Cleopatra', sometimes release another movie, about making of that blockbuster. Our programme on 19<sup>th</sup> October was reminiscent of that even though on a Nano scale. Rtn. Vishwas Deval, Rtn. PP Rajiv Deshmukh and Shri Dhananjay Gole, spoke to us about the hurdles they faced while producing the one act play 'Samanaa' for our club.

### Super achievers from our club

Kaumudi, daughter of Dr. Gauri and Deepak Walokar has received her first break in the world of celluloid. She has been signed for a role in the film 'Tuzya Mazyat'. This film, with title roles being played by renowned actors like Mrinal Kulkarni and Sachin Khedekar, is being directed by Pramod Joshi.

Shriya, daughter of Shweta and Samir Chitale, has been selected from about five hundred contestants to represent Pune City in The National Geographic Quiz Contest. She takes part now, in the national level quiz contest. Shriya is studying at present in the seventh standard.

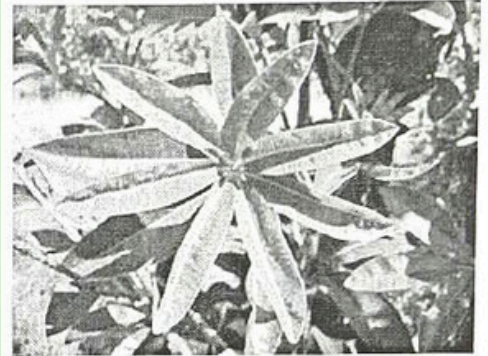


## Our Environment



The flora from Western PUNE

### Saptaparni



Saptaparni...the name itself suggests the tree with seven leaves. 'Saptaparni' is also known as 'Satwin'. It is an evergreen, tall tree growing very straight and develops branches in specific manner parallel to ground with shining leaves occurring in whorls of 5-7. The tree is also known as 'Saitan' or 'devils tree' due to huge size. Scientific name is *Alstonia scholaris*.

It is commonly planted along roadsides as avenue. In Pune this tree is commonly seen in all areas. One very huge tree was in full blossom during October 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> week, on F.C. road just opposite to hotel Savera.

Naturally, it is seen in high rainfall areas of Sahyadri and occasionally in Kokan area. It grows in good soil with better water availability. Being evergreen, it creates good shade; also, it is known to be good pollution resistant tree.

It is also used as a medicinal plant. Its leaves, bark and roots are used in various ayurvedic medicines. Root is given for enlarged liver with pain. Bark is acrid, bitter, heating, oleaginous, appetizer, laxative, and good in diseases of heart, asthma, leucoderma, ulcers, and diseases of blood, tumors and caries of teeth. Used in ayurvedic medicines like Asnadvati (used in diabetes), Amrutarista (used for chronic fever and skin diseases).

Ecologically it is the one important tree in semi evergreen forests. Being tall, it serves as nesting, roosting site for many birds like Eagles or animals like Shekaru. Also attracts bees during flowering.

Its propagation can be done by seeds or even by cuttings or layering.

It is recommended to use this tree for purposes like Ornamental plantation, Roadside plantation or Medicinal plantation.

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