

CROCODILE BANK NEWS

*Crocodylus palustris* is feeling the pinch of inflation, and to meet rising costs, the Croc Bank has raised the entrance fee to Rs 2.

So is the newsletter, and since we are too civilized to raise subscriptions, we are decreasing the issues to two a year (May and September). As things were, subscriptions did not even cover postage. The newsletter still runs at a loss, but donations keep it afloat. On this score, special thanks to Dr Roger Conant, Dr Jeff Lang, Dr Salim Ali and Dr Yike Ewert.

The Croc Bank was very fortunate in having a visit from freshwater turtle expert Dr Mike Ewert, from the University of Indiana, and his sister Gretchen, during February-March. Mike made many good suggestions about improving the turtle programme. He helped draw up a project for getting embryos out of their diapause and continuing development. We hope to see Mike at the Croc Bank for a longer period.

Dr Jeff Lang has been here since January and plans to stay on until after the mugger hatching session in June. He has been at the University of Manchester during '86, working on crocodile egg physiology (or was it psychology?) and will return to North Dakota, his home base, this summer. He is being assisted in his research at the Croc Bank by Simon Wakefield from England.

Dr Jack Frazier is in India on a one year study on tortoises and spent two weeks at the Croc Bank. Since his visit coincided with Mike Ewert's, a very chelony time was had by all. Other visitors included Dr V B Singh and Dr L A K Singh representing the crocodile group of the Government of India.

The Bank participated in the annual trade fair in Madras, helping set up an environmental exhibit organized by the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage.

The Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency has donated a windmill to the Bank and this will enable us to pump water for all the hatchling ponds.

Since Brenda Bhaskar left in May last year, we have not had a secretary, and advertised a couple of months back for one in the local papers. Among others, we had several applications from highly qualified accountants, claiming they have always wanted to work in a bank!

Late news: happy to say that Romaine Andrews has joined us and is resurrecting the office.