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ENGAGEMENT | EDUCATION | ADVOCACY | CONSERVATION

Nurturing a Nation of Naturalists

Nature Society celebrates its volunteers
Wild lessons from Bintan
Corporates mark Earth Day



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MESSAGE

Synergistic partnerships key to NSS' future plans

Ms Huang Ningxin

Executive Director, Nature Society Singapore Secretariat

IN THE PREVIOUS ISSUE of *Nature Watch*, I shared with you the goals that the NSS Secretariat had set for ourselves this year. Many of you may have noticed the improvements to our social media platforms – specifically Facebook and Instagram. To reach out to NSS members and the public,

we worked hard to publish online the latest stories about our events and the people who made them happen. We are heartened by the positive feedback we have received from both members and partners, and we will continue to bring attention to our programmes, which are crucial for achieving our goals, namely: to **engage participants**; develop **competent volunteers**; chart a path towards **impactful conservation**; and build **synergistic partnerships**.

On this note, it is also my pleasure to introduce a new staff member, Mr John Yip, who joined us in April as a Senior Executive (ESN). John is an experienced news editor, and a former producer and presenter for a local radio station. Prior to joining us, John completed his MSc in Environmental Management and worked with a UK-based environmental consultancy. John's expertise allows NSS to take the *Nature Watch* magazine to the next level, as we further align our strategic plans with our goals. We will be taking the Every Singapore a Naturalist programme beyond schools and into the community, as well as to corporates. John will be part of this development, starting with the pilot of the ESN Community programme later this year.

In March and April, we held

our first Donor Appreciation Lunch to thank our donors from 2024 and discussed deepening our **synergistic partnerships** for 2025. We also had our first Volunteer Appreciation Lunch with the Welcome Tea for our new members and aspiring volunteers. More importantly, we held our 71st

Annual General Meeting where we thanked our outgoing Executive Committee and welcomed our incoming Exco. As part of succession planning, we welcomed three new Exco members: Mr Sathianathan, as Honorary Treasurer; Ms Sumitha Poonia, as Honorary Secretary; and Ms Audrey Tok, as Exco member.

Fundraising will be one of our key focuses for this year. NSS will actively participate in the Tote Board Enhanced Fundraising campaign. This will be especially critical for us, because it is the final year in which the Tote Board will provide **dollar-for-dollar matching**. Our first fundraising event of the year was the Earth Month campaign, which ran from 7 April to 31 May. Our second campaign, **Community Engagement through Citizen Science**, will run from 1 June to 30 Nov.

At the same time, we will be organising major citizen science activities such as the ESN Biodiversity Race, the 2nd Swallowtail Race, and the 41st Singapore Bird Race. Through these programmes, we hope to draw in both NSS members and the public, in line with our goal to engage participants. We hope these activities will be as exciting to you as they are for us!

I look forward to updating you on our progress in the next issue of *Nature Watch*. Till then, keep greening!



Members of the NSS Secretariat together with me (bottom) at a site recce in Windsor Nature Park.

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ON THE COVER A Walk in Dover Forest. Photo: Bronwyn Cummings.

NATURE WATCH

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We welcome your articles, surveys, studies, observations, artworks and photo essays on biodiversity, natural history, conservation and related fields. Please email your story proposal to contact@nss.org.sg. Do include samples of your photographs (maximum 20 images per submission). We require high resolution JPEG images (ideally uncropped) in the largest size available, labelled with a descriptive file name.

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CONSERVATION

The NSS Every Singaporean a Naturalist programme (ESN) is branching from classrooms into offices and communities, empowering people of all walks of life to connect with nature and contribute to conservation.

GROWING A NATION OF NATURA

ESN Branches Out
with its Community Pilot!

Text by MICHELLE HARIFF

Facing page, from top:
ESN Students from Yu Neng
Primary School spotting a
Brown-throated Sunbird during
an NSS ESN Mock Monitoring
Session. Photo: Sung Mei Yee;
Ms Michelle Hariff, Senior
Executive of ESN, introducing
UBS Staff to their transects
at Fort Canning Park.
Photo: Lin Shiqi Sarah.



IMAGINE a future where nature needs no advocates—because every person instinctively loves, protects, and lives in harmony with it. This is the quiet hope of Dr Shawn Lum, one of the masterminds behind the Every Singaporean a Naturalist (ESN) programme, Nature Society Singapore’s (NSS) flagship citizen science and nature education programme. ESN was a project born with the hope of obsolescence. What started as the ambitious brainchild of Dr Lum, Ms Margaret Hall and Ms Tan Beng Chiak to cultivate a generation of nature-literate students is now growing beyond the classroom.

Since its pilot in 2017 with six schools, ESN has engaged 65 schools to date and this figure is steadily increasing. With a strong foundation built for its school programme, ESN is beginning its next chapter: piloting community and involving corporations in citizen science and nature education.

For example, in March this year, ESN ran its first corporate monitoring programme with the Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS), encouraging working adults to step out of their offices to monitor birds at Fort Canning Park, as part of their volunteer engagement programme.

As ESN expands, this feature looks back on the impact ESN has made—and ahead, to a vision of a more nature-conscious Singapore where nature stewardship is second nature.

Inside ESN: What it is and Why it Matters

ESN aims to nurture hearts and minds for nature as a platform for participants to begin their journeys as naturalists. But what does it mean to be a ‘naturalist’?

Simply put, a naturalist is someone who loves nature. Naturalists are not only able to identify the flora and fauna



Ms Tan Beng Chiak facilitated a short walk as part of NSS ESN Nature Journaling Workshop in 2023. Photo: Sung Mei Yee

around them, but should also be able to observe and understand the relationships in an ecosystem, giving them a good grasp of ecological concepts and conservation issues. Or, as Ms Tan Beng Chiak, chair of the education committee and long-time adviser of ESN, would often say: “We must go beyond learning and knowing.”

When sharing with ESN teachers, she outlines the profile of a

A naturalist is...

...someone who loves nature. Naturalists are not only able to identify the flora and fauna around them, but should also be able to observe and understand the relationships in an ecosystem, giving them a good grasp of ecological concepts and conservation issues.

naturalist as someone who has an emerging sense of leadership, advocating for nature and taking part in conservation initiatives. For meaningful change, ESN must strive to be a vehicle for action.

As a citizen science programme, ESN’s urban biodiversity monitoring requires participants to step outdoors to explore and record their wildlife observations along predetermined paths, or what we



Interesting iNaturalist sightings by ESN Schools
 - Clockwise from top-left: Southeast Asian Palm Civet Cat in Cedar Girls' Secondary School Photo: @floralyssa); Copper-smith Barbet and Stork-billed Kingfisher in Raffles Girls' School (Secondary) Photo: @ping_lynn); Oleander Hawk Moth in Yishun Town Secondary School Photo: @ljyiy

call “transects”. Their wildlife observations are then uploaded onto iNaturalist, an online citizen science platform and open-source biodiversity database which supplies the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) with research-grade data for scientists to use. iNaturalist connects ESN participants to a global community that helps identify and verify wildlife sightings, turning everyday encounters into shared discoveries and learning moments.

To date, ESN has recorded on its project page 9,145 observations of 496 species, of which about 48% are of research grade. In the long-run, ESN hopes to use this data to understand the state of nature in Singapore, and inform future conservation strategies and initiatives.

In fact, participants are encouraged to turn knowledge into action by using their moni-

toring experience to initiate and share their nature advocacy projects and best practices with other schools during our Annual Symposium.

From student and teacher training, to walks, talks, and workshops, ESN provides opportunities to build participants' skills and confidence, nurturing their passion for nature.

Growing Connections with Nature

For now, ESN's participants mainly range from preschool to tertiary institutions, with the majority being primary and secondary schools. The programme encourages participants to develop a deeper connection with nature, by building their awareness of the wildlife in their own backyard. After all, to care for something, you must first know about it.

Victoria Siaw, an ESN student, recounts, “I learnt that there



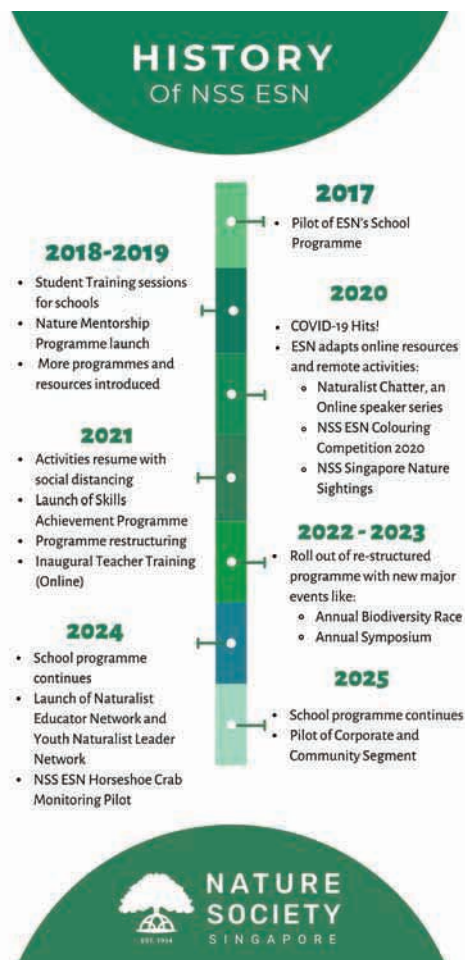
Dunman Secondary School students sharing their experience monitoring for Horseshoe Crabs to Mr Mike Barclay, Group CEO of Mandai Wildlife Group, at the 5th International Horseshoe Crab Workshop. Photo: Sung Mei Yee.

Brief History of NSS ESN

ESN was conceived by Dr Shawn Lum, Ms Margaret Hall, and Ms Tan Beng Chiak, who proposed the idea to HSBC for grant support. With guidance and funding from HSBC from 2017 to 2018, ESN was brought to life. The programme was initially designed and carried out by Dr Anuj Jain who was working at Birdlife International and NSS at the time. The programme was later succeeded by Ms Sung Mei Yee, who is now the assistant manager of ESN, with the support of a working group made up of experienced volunteers with a background in education.

By 2019, ESN had expanded beyond monitoring to include training sessions, online talks and guided walks and workshops for teachers. It was supported by Mandai Nature, who continues to play a key role in funding ESN today.

Covid-19 struck in 2020, and posed many challenges, such as the safe-distancing restrictions that prevented schools from conducting outdoor activities. It was only in 2022 that ESN was able to resume the full-fledged programme we know today. The NSS staff supporting ESN has since grown into a three-person team, and they are set to expand the programme to the wider community.



are always new animals or plant species that are being discovered, and I find myself being increasingly curious and interested in finding out about the different birds and insects I see outside of the Bidadari estates as well.”

A former ESN student at Hougang Primary School, Victoria, now 16, rejoined the programme in 2024 when Cedar Girls’ Secondary School onboarded through its Environment Club. Learning to identify bird calls has deepened her immersion in nature. ESN and school gardening activities have even eased her fear of insects, and sparked her love for bees.

Ultimately, ESN hopes to empower participants to take meaningful action grounded in the experiences they have gleaned from the programme.

Initiatives by My First Skool @ 6 Segar Road have shown how the programme can bridge the gap between classroom learning and community engagement, involving students’ families in nature appreciation.

The school has adapted the programme for their four- to six-year-old pupils, who are taken to Zhenghua Nature Park on weekly nature walks, to birdwatch and contribute to urban biodiversity monitoring.

Since 2022, the school has engaged the community through a Family Day Bird Race, bringing parents and children together to experience nature. These efforts were shared at ESN’s Annual Symposium in 2022 and 2023.

“I learnt that there are always new animals or plant species that are being discovered, and I find myself being increasingly curious and interested in finding out about the different birds and insects I see outside of the Bidadari estates as well.”



Victoria Siaw
An ESN student
Cedar Girls’ Secondary School

This programme was also shared at My First Skool Learning and Sharing Festival 2025 held at Singapore Expo, allowing teachers, parents and children to catch a glimpse of how birdwatching was integrated into the curriculum through interactive games and other hands-on experiences.

“Families were impressed by their children’s ability to identify common birds and use accurate terminology. Many expressed a desire to continue exploring nature together, turning birdwatching into a shared family activity that strengthens bonds while nurturing an appreciation for biodiversity,” says Ms Noraini Binte Jasmi, Deputy Centre lead of My First Skool @ 6 Segar Road.

ESN has always aimed to engage not just students, but also teachers — ensuring a trickle-down effect that supports the long-term sustainability of the programme. By working through schools, our outreach extends naturally into families and neighbourhoods, building stronger networks within and around the programme.

Now, with the expansion of ESN, we would be able to build communities more directly around shared nature spaces as well.

Spreading the Naturalist Agenda

Most ESN transects are currently located on school campuses, with a few in nearby parks. With the new community segment, we can begin monitoring green spaces across Singapore that may serve as biodiversity hotspots, reflect past conservation efforts by NSS, or face potential land use changes where data could support future advocacy. Most importantly, these sites should be accessible to the public, encouraging broader community participation.

“I am excited about ESN reaching more people and spreading



My First Skool @ 6 Segar Road receiving the Highest number of Research-grade Observations award at NSS ESN Inaugural Symposium 2022. Photo: Brandon Koh.



Students from Yishun Town Secondary School showing ESN staff their new Butterfly Garden along one of their school’s ‘transects’.



Teachers from My First Skool @ 6 Segar Road participating in the NSS ESN 2024 Teacher Training’s Mock Monitoring Segment. Photo: Tan Ying Yang.

awareness about biodiversity in Singapore. I look forward to seeing more Singaporeans take part in the ESN programme!” Victoria shares.

“We believe that involving the broader community can further amplify our impact, promoting a culture of nature appreciation, conservation, and lifelong learning”, explains Ms Noraini Binte Jasmi.

Pointing towards greater potential for collaboration, resource-sharing and innovation, she adds, “It also helps to build a stronger support system for environmental education, which aligns with national efforts toward sustainability and holistic development.”

NSS aims to align its programmes with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). For the ESN community and corporate programme, one of the most relevant SDG goals would be SDG11, which focuses on building a sustainable city and communities, as well as SDG15, Life on Land.

With its alignment to the SDGs, ESN offers a meaningful avenue for corporate engagement. The hope is that through increased awareness, companies adopt more eco-conscious practices and are inspired to support NSS’s work—both financially and through action—to help sustain our efforts, especially with schools and the wider community.

Before officially launching the community segment, ESN will first roll out its pilot phase in the second half of 2025 with NSS members and aims to recruit 25 - 40 participants. The current plan is to align the monitoring methodology closely with that used in schools, ensuring data collected remains consistent and comparable. Following this, a review will determine how the programme can be expanded officially to the wider community.

Embracing the Road Ahead

Of course, ESN’s journey is not all smooth sailing. There are real-world hurdles to navigate. Similar to the school programme, we do anticipate challenges around maintaining consistency in both participation and data collection. Scientific practice relies on regularity, but with schools and individuals juggling packed

“Right now, we’re advocates, pushing for nature. If we were truly effective, we wouldn’t have to push anymore because everyone would already be committed, with nature running through their veins and hearts.”



Dr Shawn Lum
NSS Executive Committee Member

schedules, sustaining engagement can be tricky. Clean, consistent data is essential for meaningful analysis, and this is another common challenge in citizen science.

To address this, training becomes crucial. As many participants are often beginners, there is a need to focus on building confidence and competence through ample guidance, resources, and hands-on opportunities. Everyone starts somewhere—and by supporting them, we empower individuals not only to take action but to grow as self-directed naturalists.

“It was important that teachers felt comfortable and confident before they could effectively facilitate these learning experiences.” Ms Noraini Binte Jasmi relays, “Ongoing training is also necessary whenever new teachers join the team to ensure consistency and confidence in delivery.”

At the same time, ESN needs to explore ways to build a strong sense of community and a supportive

structure that can sustain the programme in the long run by fostering a sense of purpose and ownership.

Vision for the Future

Dr. Shawn Lum envisions, “our ultimate goal is a future where nature is cherished and protected by all.” However, this dream does not stop at schools or communities in Singapore.

“Right now, we’re advocates, pushing for nature. If we were truly effective, we wouldn’t have to push anymore because everyone would already be committed, with nature running through their veins and hearts. I aim to play a bigger role in working across Asia to achieve the critical mass needed to change conservation efforts in this vast region with its important ecosystems,” he says with a smile.

Right now, we are nurturing a movement on this little red dot. With concerted efforts from ESN, other nature groups, and partners both locally and globally, becoming a naturalist could be the butterfly effect the world needs to safeguard its precious natural environment and wildlife. Who knows? It might just spark the change we all hope to see. 🌱



TO FIND OUT MORE about the ESN programme, please scan the QR code or visit nss.org.sg/about-us-esn/.



Michelle Hariff is an NSS Senior Executive of the Every Singaporean a Naturalist (ESN) programme. She coordinates some of NSS’ social media communications. She has been working in NSS since 2022, and creates nature-themed performances in her free time.



Lin Shiqi Sarah is an intern at Nature Society Singapore. Outside of work, she is an avid traveller who cherishes time with family and friends. She finds joy in nature walks around her neighbourhood, admiring the beauty of local flowers and fauna.

To our volunteers, members, and donors — many thanks from NSS!

Text by **NAZURAH HAMZAH**

Photos by **HWANG KOK SIONG**

Volunteers, members, and donors are the bedrock of Nature Society Singapore. To recognise their contributions, we have organised the inaugural Donors Appreciation Lunch and a Volunteer Appreciation during the Welcome Tea.

Nature Society Singapore (NSS) has come a long way, and we could not have made it this far without the support, time and dedication of our volunteers, donors, and members. That is why it was important for us to express our gratitude through the inaugural Donors Appreciation Lunch, and the Welcome Tea's Volunteer Appreciation event.

The Donors Appreciation Lunch was held on 22 March, and hosted at Mapletree Business City for 21 individuals, including those representing our corporate donors and some of our most prominent volunteers.

Ms Kwek Pei Xuan was one of the attendees at the lunch. She is a senior executive at a large Singapore-based company. "We want to raise awareness among our staff about the need to balance the preservation of the environment with the need to keep our industry going," she said.

"We want to create a positive impact in our business and beyond. Through the Nature Society, we learnt about how urban development affects nature, as well as some of the initiatives the Singapore government has put in place to help people coexist with animals," said Ms Kwek, who started bird-watching only recently.



The Donors Appreciation Lunch was held on 22 March, and hosted at Mapletree Business City for 21 individuals, including those representing our corporate donors and some of our most prominent volunteers.

NSS Volunteers



“We need to bring people closer to nature, because when you’re close to nature, you’ll feel the need to advocate for it.”

Ms Cynthia Wan
NSS Nature Ambassador



“We have an insane amount of biodiversity in Singapore, hundreds of species waiting to be discovered. It would be a terrible waste if we focus only on building nice buildings, while destroying everything else that is special about nature.”

Mr Wilson Chew
NSS Nature Steward



NSS volunteer Yap Von Bing receiving his certificate and token of appreciation for his contributions in 2024.



Lunch was also an opportunity for NSS to gather feedback from stakeholders.



“It was very memorable!” she said. “Just being among others who were so passionate about birding was really nice. I learnt a lot.”

Such feedback would be music to the ears of our guests at the Welcome Tea, held on 5 April at the Singapore Sustainability Academy. Ms Cynthia Wan was one of the attendees. She is a member of the Nature Ambassador programme, which aims to raise public awareness about nature and conservation.

Nature Ambassadors contribute their time, knowledge, and

passion on behalf of NSS at public events like the National Parks’ annual Festival of Biodiversity, and the National Library Board’s Green Market, as well as in school, corporate, and community engagements. “Being a member of NSS is about donating to a bigger cause, and helping animals that don’t have a voice to speak up for themselves,” said Ms Wan.

A tourist guide by profession, Ms Wan also conducts “forest bathing” sessions. It is an activity where participants immerse themselves in

The AGM & Welcome Tea



Nature Society Singapore (NSS) held our Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Singapore Sustainability Academy on 5 April, immediately after the Welcome Tea for volunteers and members.

During the AGM, we announced the appointment of our new president, Mr Leong Kwok Peng. Mr Joel Leong was appointed the vice-president. We also welcomed three new members to the Executive Committee (Exco): Ms Sumitha Poonia Murthy, as honorary secretary; Mr Satianathan s/o K. Nadarajah as honorary treasurer; and Ms Audrey Tok as assistant honorary treasurer. Dr Shawn Lum, former president of NSS, has also rejoined as an additional member of the Exco.

Mr Leong Kwok Peng has been an active member of NSS since the 1990s. He is a former vice-president, and a former chair of the Conservation Committee. He led the push to preserve the Rail Corridor as a green space for people and nature, a bold idea that was taken up by the

government, and which we are building on by expanding habitat connections through our rewilding programme.

While Ms Sumitha is joining the Exco as a relatively new member of NSS, she brings with her a wealth of experience as an educator, and as a teacher who was actively involved in our Every Singaporean a Naturalist (NSS) programme.

"I strongly feel the need to start educating people about nature at a young age, so that they can eventually become our spokespersons when they are older," said Ms Sumitha. "When the awareness is there, I think we will, as a nation, be more appreciative of what we have, and really help in conservation efforts, in any way we can."

NSS would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the outgoing Executive Committee for the time and commitment they had generously devoted to the Society. We look forward to their continued support in NSS, and warmly welcome the incoming Executive Committee for 2025.

The NSS Executive Committee. From left: Mr Joel Leong (Vice-President); Ms Sumitha Poonia (Honorary Secretary); Mr Leong Kwok Peng (President); Mr Sathianathan (Honorary Treasurer); Mr Goh Si Gium (Exco Member); Mr Albert Liu (outgoing Honorary Assistant Secretary); and Dr Shawn Lum (Exco Member). Not in the photo: Ms Audrey Tok (Legal Adviser).



a forest, and consciously use their senses to experience nature. "You'll be surprised by how many different layers of sound you can hear," she said. "We need to bring people closer to nature, because when you're close to nature, you'll feel the need to advocate for it."

That is a mindset which resonates with Mr Wilson Chew, a volunteer for the Every Singaporean a Naturalist (ESN) programme. An NSS Nature Steward, Mr Chew said he could spend hours explaining the ways in which trees cool the environment, and yet it would take only a few minutes for people to experience the difference, by simply going outdoors.

That is what it means to "feel nature", rather than to just passively enjoy it on the screen of a device or on social media, or by learning about it in the classroom, said Mr Chew, who is a UX or user-experience designer. "Many of us exercise without even going outside to 'touch grass'," he observed and that, to him, that is a huge pity.

"We have an insane amount of biodiversity in Singapore, hundreds of species waiting to be discovered. It would be a terrible waste if we focus only on building nice buildings, while destroying everything else that is special about nature," he said.

Mr Chew and Ms Wan were among the 59 individuals who were honoured at our Welcome Tea, which also recognised our volunteers and members who had contributed to our rewilding projects and many other conservation programmes.

We, the NSS, owe much to people like Ms Kwek, Ms Wan, and Mr Chew for helping us to spread the message about nature and conservation. We will not waste their efforts and goodwill, as we continue to build our capacity for outreach and advocacy for Singapore's natural spaces. 🌿



Nazurah Hamzah is an intern at Nature Society Singapore. She enjoys exploring different parts of Singapore to gain new experiences. She finds joy in reading and writing stories, along with other forms of creativity.

Wild Lessons

from **B I N T A N**

Text and photos by **HUANG NINGXIN**



Sustainable development on Bintan island includes mangrove-restoration initiatives that could also boost eco-tourism. Similarly, a local farm is growing rubber trees that help bees thrive, and the insects in turn pollinate their coffee plants.

Nature Society Singapore is planning a training programme for teachers to gain real-world experiences of how communities coexist with nature. We travelled to Bintan to explore some of the activities that could support this initiative.

Nature Society Singapore is expanding, and we are aiming to take our community engagement, capacity building, and conservation efforts to the next level. We want to bring Singaporeans closer to “wild” spaces, and encourage individuals to connect more deeply with nature.

That is why we have begun developing a training programme that would take participants overseas, where they can gain first-hand experience of how communities coexist with nature, while relying on ecotourism to generate incomes and channel funds towards conservation and the long-term protection of natural areas.

We are planning to open the first edition of the programme

to the teachers from our Every Singaporean a Naturalist (ESN) programme. We believe this will equip them with the knowledge to help their students understand how nature-related issues are linked to broader sustainability objectives, such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).

To kickstart the initiative, our newly appointed Honorary Treasurer Sumitha Poonia and I embarked on a recce trip to Bintan island via Wild Space, a Singapore-based company that creates and curates conservation-focused experiences. In our case, we wanted to explore activities in Bintan that would help our intended participants gain insights in three main areas:

- Carbon credits, aligned with UN SDG 13
- Citizen science, aligned with UN SDGs 11, 14, and 15
- Circular economy, aligned with UN SDG 12

Here's an account of what we saw and learnt in Bintan:

Restoring and preserving Bintan's mangroves

We visited Ekang mangrove park, a pristine and relatively untouched habitat that would have otherwise been exploited for charcoal production. The mangrove park has been granted a 35-year lease to be developed into an ecotourism destination. Whether or not Ekang retains this lease and remains protected will largely depend on how much the project can improve the local community's quality of life.

Our first impression is that there is a lot going for Ekang mangrove park. Due to intense urbanisation and pollution, many Singaporeans have come to associate mangroves with murky waters and stinking mud. But this was not the case in Ekang, where the mangrove is amazingly clean and the water quality is good. It was also exciting to take a motorboat ride through the mangrove, an experience that is hard to come by in Singapore.

More importantly, Ekang is the starting point of a regional mangrove regeneration project. Mangrove propagules are being collected from the habitat and taken to the Politeknik Bintan



Ekang mangrove park is amazingly clean, providing visitors with insight into what a pristine mangrove could look like.



Mangrove propagules are carefully nurtured in the nursery of a local polytechnic, and will be transplanted when they are ready.

Cakrawala. Students pursuing ecotourism courses at the institute are helping to plant the propagules in an on-campus nursery. Once the saplings have grown to the right size, they are transplanted into a degraded mangrove forest in another part of Bintan.

These efforts will help generate carbon credits linked to the successful restoration of mangroves. Corporations can purchase these credits, and the funds will go



A healthy mangrove also leads to a healthy intertidal ecosystem, where tiny saltwater crabs thrive.

towards Bintan's mangrove restoration initiatives, and support the local communities that are contributing to the conservation effort.

Bintan's unique langur

We also visited Politeknik Bintan Cakrawala, where students are working to collect enough data to uplist the conservation status of the Bintan Island pale-thighed langur (*Presbytis siamensis rhionis*), which, as its name suggests, is found only

Why target teachers for this training programme?

SUMITHA is currently a Level Head at a secondary school. I, too, was a Level Head before joining NSS in 2024. Through our experience as teachers, and our work in NSS, we have come to realise that many teachers are not fully equipped to help their students understand how nature-related issues are linked to broader environmental themes.

This inspired us to start a new training programme that is designed **to equip teachers and teacher-leaders with the knowledge, skills, and real-world experience they need to bring richer and more authentic learning to their classrooms.**

We believe there are strong opportunities for integrating these experiences into subjects such as Science,

Geography, Social Studies, and Physical Education. This will enable teachers and students to engage more deeply with the Ministry of Education's (MOE) 21st Century Competencies (e21CC). Our proposed training programme will also align closely with the Learning Outcomes of MOE syllabi, making it relevant and impactful in the local education context.

in Bintan. This subspecies of pale-thighed langurs is currently listed as endangered.

Lecturers at the institution have mapped out several transects in the forest around the campus, which the students are using to monitor and record observations of the elusive primate. The project is an example of how outdoor education and biological research can come together to drive real-world conservation outcomes.

The institute's methodology is similar to that of the NSS ESN programme, and underscores the usefulness of citizen science in harnessing the collective power of multiple observers in generating meaningful, large-scale data for conservation. We are hopeful that a visit to Politeknik Bintan Cakrawala will inspire teachers from our ESN schools, and provide them with a real example of how citizen science can be scaled up, embedded in education, and ultimately contribute to a greater cause beyond the classroom.

Coffee farm goes circular

Lastly, we visited Kopi Sangit Bawah Langit, a 2ha family-owned coffee farm. In an effort to optimise coffee pollination, the family



NSS Executive Director Huang Ningxin (left) and Honorary Secretary Sumitha Poonia are planning the first edition of a new teacher training programme.

NSS is moving forward with plans for the first official trip to Bintan. It will be a three-day, two-night training programme for teachers, to be conducted during the September holidays.

initially introduced stingless bees as natural pollinators and discovered, to their surprise, that the bees were collecting rubber-tree sap to

build their hives. Recognising an opportunity, the family strategically planted rubber trees on the farm to help the bees, and created a thriving micro-ecosystem.

Today, after two years of careful experimentation, the farm produces coffee beans for its cafe, harvests honey for sale, and collects surplus rubber sap for tyre production. The matriarch of the family has also learnt English to better host tourists, and expand their income through ecotourism.

Sumitha and I felt that the farm is a great example of a circular economy, which thrives on matching inputs to outputs. Such real-world examples are scarce, especially when we try to discuss food sustainability in schools. There is also a gap in showing how food is produced, and how its supply is balanced with actual demand.

We believe that the ingenuity, adaptability, and circular practices demonstrated by this Bintan farm can offer powerful lessons, especially for Singaporeans, given that we live in an urban landscape that is generally not conducive to micro-farming businesses. Kopi Sangit Bawah Langit can therefore serve as a valuable case study on sustainability, entrepreneurship, and 21st-century skills for our teachers and students.

What's next?

We are moving forward with our plans for the first official trip to Bintan. It will be a three-day, two-night training programme for teachers, to be conducted during the September holidays.

This initiative will be created for teachers, by teachers, and it will equip educators with deeper knowledge, practical skill sets, and real-world experiences to connect themselves and their students more meaningfully to nature. It will also prepare students to be future-ready for a society increasingly shaped by UN SDGs and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles.

NSS will build on this effort by offering more regional trips over the coming years, and empower even more educators to be at the forefront of environmental education and action. 🌱



Kopi Sangit Bawah Langit is a family business that has enjoyed success with its coffee harvest, thanks to a successful experiment with planting rubber trees on its 2ha farm.

Discovering Ubin's past — and why it matters to its present


Volunteers from AIG combined a coastal cleanup of Pulau Ubin with a journey into the island's natural and cultural heritage, and learnt why they are both important to preserve.

Text and photos by **NAZURAH HAMZAH**

For Mr Ezan Ong, a business manager at global insurer AIG, a trip back to Pulau Ubin is always special.

He lived on the island off the north-eastern coast of Singapore for a few years before moving away when he was eight years old. Some of his favourite memories of the island were of his carefree days running around the kampong, catching fish and plucking fruit from the trees that grew in the neighbourhood.

Thirty-seven years later, Mr Ong was among the 18 volunteers from AIG who visited Pulau Ubin on 24 April to participate in a cleanup activity organised by Nature Society Singapore (NSS). “Having the chance to contribute and clean up a place I love so much is very meaningful, and that is why I joined the activity,” said Mr Ong.



Eighteen volunteers, including Mr Ezan Ong (centre, wearing sunglasses) from AIG visited Pulau Ubin on 24 April to not just participate in a cleanup activity, but also to learn more about the island's history and ecological significance.

However, this was more than just a cleanup exercise — NSS also used the opportunity to take the participants on a journey into Pulau Ubin's past. Before the cleanup began, Mr Kerry Pereira, the Members & Outreach Manager for NSS, gathered the group together to talk about the history of the rustic island, and about its ecological significance.

He explained, for example, that the forest patches on Pulau Ubin are much more closely connected than those on mainland Singapore. In effect, this makes the forest on Pulau Ubin “bigger” than any of the forests on the mainland, creating a larger habitat for animals living on the island.

Pulau Ubin also plays a globally significant role — it is part of an avian migration route known as the East Asian Australasian Flyway. Pulau Ubin and Singapore are the last stops for migratory birds making their way to Indonesia and Australia; the forests and wetlands on both islands provide the birds with a safe refuge, where they take a rest before continuing their journeys across the sea.



The volunteers divided themselves into teams, with each clean-up team assigned to a different area along the shore of Pulau Ubin.



After about 40 minutes of hard work, the volunteers collected more than 1,400 pieces of litter weighing about 43.5kg in total.

NSS used the opportunity to take the participants on a journey into Pulau Ubin's past. Before the cleanup exercise began, Mr Kerry Pereira, the Members & Outreach Manager for NSS, gathered the group to talk about the history of the rustic island, and about its ecological significance.

After Mr Pereira's introduction to Pulau Ubin, the volunteers took a van ride to Ketam Quarry, which used to be mined for granite. The mine was closed a long time ago, and nature has since been gradually restored around the mining site.

The group then travelled to the nearby German Girl Shrine. According to local folklore, the shrine was built to memorialise a girl who died during World War One. It is believed that she was running away from British soldiers who came to capture her family, but she stumbled down a cliff and fell to her death.

The girl's body was allegedly discovered days later by plantation labourers who were Boyanese — a subgroup of Singapore Malays — and given a proper burial by a group of Chinese workers. As a result, the shrine that is dedicated to her bears an interesting mix of cultural influences.

After the shrine visit, it was time for the volunteers to take out their tongs and rubbish bags, and begin their coastal cleanup along the shore of Pulau Ubin. They divided themselves into different teams, with each team cleaning up



The volunteers visited Pulau Ubin's Ketam Quarry, which used to be mined for granite. Nature has since been gradually restored around the mining site.



Time to relax at a rustic restaurant near the jetty.

a different part of the shore. After 40 minutes of hard work, they collected more than 1,400 pieces of litter, most of them plastic and foam pieces. In total, the total weight cleared is 43.5kg.

To mark the occasion, the AIG volunteers made a stop at the Ah Mah Drink Stall on their way back to the Ubin jetty. Located on the edge of a mangrove forest, the drink stall was frequently damaged by flooding during high tides. The current building was reconstructed by architectural students from the National University of Singapore, who used the project as a testbed for the future restoration of kampong houses.

Interestingly, the drink stall still retains an “outhouse”, that is, a toilet separate from the main building. Mr Ezan Ong said this was common in Pulau Ubin when he was a child, and he recalled being very scared to

“There is so much that nature could teach us. If we lose this, generations down the road would no longer be able to benefit from it.”

Mr Ezan Ong
Business manager
AIG

go to the toilet at night when it was pitch black, as there were no street lamps or lights nearby.

The historical significance of such structures and the natural heritage around them are things that cannot be easily measured, said Mr Ong. “There is so much that nature could teach us,” he said. “If we lose this, generations down the road would no longer be able to benefit from it.” 🌿



Mr Ezan Ong lived briefly on Pulau Ubin as a child.

Seeking Partnerships with Corporates



NSS welcomes new collaborations with corporates as a vital extension of our conservation work. By partnering with us, your company can engage your employees in high-impact activities like forest clean-ups and wildlife conservation programmes as outlined above. We are eager to explore long-term partnerships that align with your company's CSR goals to drive meaningful environmental change. Together, we can work towards a sustainable future. For more information on NSS's Corporate CSR Engagement, please scan the QR code or visit nss.org.sg/corporates.

Planting tomorrow's hopes today

How Bloomberg volunteers marked Earth Week

Text and photos by **NAZURAH HAMZAH**

Bloomberg volunteers marked Earth Day this year with tree-planting along the Rail Corridor and clean-up activities on Pulau Ubin

■ Rewilding along the Rail Corridor

“WE CAN ALL play a part in taking care of the planet. I think a lot of damage has already been done, so we are here to see what we can do to give back to our community, and to Mother Earth,” said Ms Paulina Nadua as she laboured under the hot sun on Earth Day (22 April).

A human resource manager at business data and financial information company Bloomberg, Ms Nadua was planting tree saplings along the Rail Corridor (North) as part of Nature Society Singapore’s (NSS) rewilding project.

She and her 21 colleagues planted 37 trees, including bird-attracting plants like the *salam* (*Syzygium polyanthum*) and the small-leaved oil-fruit (*Elaeocarpus mastersii*); as well as native fruit trees like the island lychee (*Pometia pinnata*).



RESTORING NATIVE BIODIVERSITY

“It is not something we think about in our day-to-day lives... I think it’ll take a lot of effort, something that would have taken generations to do, but now we are trying to do it better.”

Ms Pualina Nadua
Human resource manager
Bloomberg

Ms Pualina Nadua (left) and Ms Suhaylah Djaja helped to plant saplings along Rail Corridor (North) on Earth Day, 22 April.

The saplings were provided by the National Parks Board (NParks), the lead agency for the OneMillionTrees movement. Each sapling was about a metre tall, and the volunteers had to use their *cangkul* (Malay for gardening hoes) to dig holes that were deep and wide enough to hold down the roots of the young plants.

The volunteers braved not just the heat, but also ants and mosquitoes. The conditions were definitely a “challenge of its own”, said Ms Nadua. Her colleague, Ms Suhaylah Djaja, who also works in Bloomberg’s HR department, added: “I think we did step one last year, and we’re back this year to do step two, to actually plant the trees.”

Ms Suhaylah was referring to the work that Bloomberg volunteers did last year, to remove fast-growing elephant grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*) from the area, so as to prevent them from crowding out the slower-growing native species that would be planted there.

Despite the sweat and toil, both Ms Nadua and Ms Suhaylah felt that they had gained a better understanding of what it takes to restore native biodiversity. “It’s not something we think about in our day-to-day lives,” said Ms Nadua. “I think it’ll take a lot of effort, something that would have taken generations to do, but now we are trying to do it better.”

They also believed that it had been a meaningful way to celebrate Earth Day, an annual event to raise awareness of environmental issues and sustainable practices. At a time of climate change and rapid nature loss, Ms Nadua hopes that the rewilding effort would allow future generations “to enjoy the same Earth we’re living in, if not a better one”.

Ms Suhaylah agreed, adding that holding the rewilding project on Earth Day was “a great way” to start conversations about keeping the planet healthy and free of pollution.



Tree-planting is hard work, but Ms Suhaylah was up to the task, using her *cangkul* to prepare the soil for the new trees.



Altogether, 22 volunteers from Bloomberg participated in the tree-planting activity along the Rail Corridor on Earth Day.

Clean-up around Pulau Ubin

BLOOMBERG VOLUNTEERS also marked Earth Day later in the week with a trip to Pulau Ubin on 25 April. Their main objective was to help with clean-up activities on the island, but NSS Members & Outreach Manager, Mr Kerry Pereira, also had other things to show them.

He took the 16 volunteers to the Sensory Trail that loops around Ubin village. Along the way, Mr Pereira pointed out the fruit trees and edible plants that villagers had grown for their own consumption. He also led them to Teck Seng's Place, a house owned by Mr Chew Teck Seng, who ran a provision shop on the island from 1970 to 2005, across three generations of his family.

For modern Singaporeans used to their air-conditioned comforts, Teck Seng's Place offers a glimpse into the "Ubin way of life". For example, the house still uses mosquito nets to keep out the insects. In the past, villagers would cook outdoors, which was why Teck Seng's Place also had an outdoor kitchen, conveniently located near a mini herb garden.

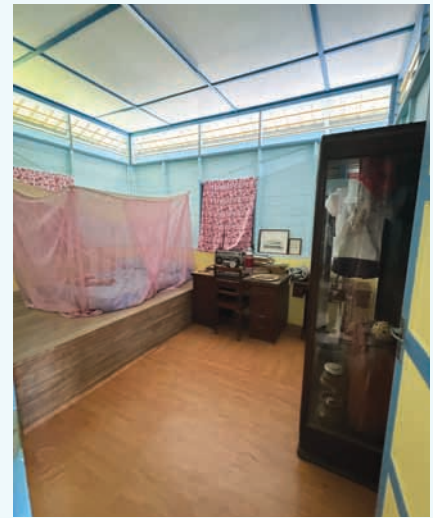
The volunteers learnt about how species interact with one another in beneficial ways. For example, Pulau Ubin is home to the common red-stem fig (*Ficus variegata*), a native tree that provides food for animals like plantain squirrels (*Callosciurus*



A total of 262 pieces of litter were collected.

notatus) and long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*). The tree depends on fig wasps to pollinate its "hidden flowers", allowing it to grow and spread. This fascinated Ms Lin Yumin, a sales executive at Bloomberg. "It seems that a lot of stars have to be aligned for a tree to grow into a home for many organisms," she said.

Throughout the day, the Bloomberg volunteers were doing their part to preserve the rustic environment of Pulau Ubin by picking up litter along the way. Reflecting on the day's activities, Ms Lin said she enjoyed working as a team. As a scuba diver, she had participated in underwater cleanups, which was a very different experience.



The interior of Teck Seng's Place, near the Sensory Trail.

NSS's Mr Kerry Pereira took the 16 volunteers along the Sensory Trail that loops around Ubin village, pointing out the fruit trees and edible plants that villagers had grown along the way.

"When you're underwater, you carry your own tongs, you carry your own baggage. You don't really interact with people. But when you're on land, you interact with others. There is more collaboration," she said.

In total, the Bloomberg team collected 262 pieces of trash. The top three items of rubbish they found were microplastics (76 pieces), food wrappers (34 pieces), and plastic bottles (29 pieces).

Be it the planting of more trees, or keeping our natural spaces free of pollution, each of the volunteers had given something back to both people and planet, and that is what Bloomberg will always keep striving for, whether or not it is Earth Day. 🌱



The volunteers took a tour along the Sensory Trail, which was lined by fruit trees and edible plants planted by local residents.

YAP KIM FATT

1933-2025

*The self-taught
naturalist who loved
orchids and shells*

Text by JOHN YIP

Photos courtesy of YAP CHI WEI

Mr Yap Kim Fatt was a long-time member of Nature Society Singapore, having been a member of the Society since the 1950s, when it was still the local branch of the Malayan Nature Society. He passed away on 24 March 2025, at the age of 91. His son, Yap Chi Wei, and former wife, Kok Oi Yee, share some of their memories of him.

Born on 27 June 1933, Yap Kim Fatt belonged to a generation that was full of gumption and can-do spirit. He was a talented man with an inherent genius for whatever he had set his mind on to do. For example, despite not having any formal training as an engineer, he was able to build his own radio, designing and soldering the circuits, all on his own, simply by studying the relevant books.

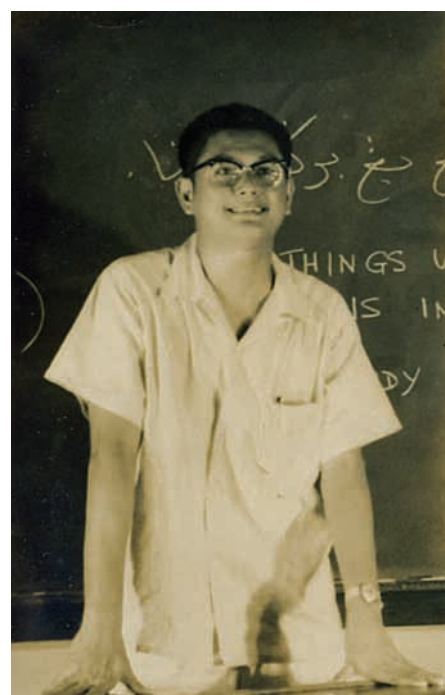
That was the approach to life through which Mr Yap acquired his prodigious knowledge of plants and marine creatures. "Essentially, he was self-trained," said 83-year-old Kok Oi Yee, Mr Yap's former wife. "He picked up an interest in marine life partly because of me, as I was working on marine biology at the University of Singapore's zoology department. I was collecting sea shells and he became curious about them. He was especially keen to learn about cowries."

"Once he got into something, he would stop at nothing to get to the bottom of it. So he started to dive. Whenever he was in Indonesia for work, he would book a boat and go out to sea, where he would ask people to dive and bring up whatever they could find."

As Mr Yap's collection grew, Mdm Kok designed eight-foot-long shelves with various drawers for him to contain the shells. "Kim Fatt would meticulously label and catalogue the shells, including information such as where and when they were collected. He

obsessed over such details, and was very protective of the collection. He never liked it whenever anyone touched or moved the shells without his permission," she said.

Indeed, Mr Yap's son, Chi Wei, recalled that his father could come across at first as gruff and unfriendly. "But he could also be very effusive and generous when it came to sharing his knowledge of nature," said Chi, who is 56 years old.



Mr Yap Kim Fatt at about 21 years old, in 1954.

"Some of my earliest memories of my father include our trips to beaches in Malaysia, where he introduced me and my sister, Wei Lin, to intertidal and marine life. He took us snorkelling in places like Pulau Tioman and Pulau Rawa. To ensure our safety, he tied strings around us and attached them to each of his ankles and pulled us along as we snorkelled."

Mr Yap also took his children into the forest – which Chi Wei did not enjoy as much. "I didn't like getting bitten by mosquitoes," he said with a laugh. "I preferred the sea and I picked up scuba diving partly because of him."

"But my father would always be telling anyone who would listen all about the plants around us. Orchids were one of his core passions, along with seashells. At the time, we were living at a landed home in Sian Tuan Avenue. It had a large garden, with space enough for him to build a five-by-15-metre structure and fill it with suspended orchids. He even built an automated overhead sprinkler system that would spray water over the orchids whenever a particular sensor detected that it was too dry."

That was quintessential of Mr Yap, said Mdm Kok, adding that "he was always excellent at work; whatever he put his finger on, he made sure to do a very thorough job". And, just as it was with seashells and cowries, Mr Yap's vast knowledge of plants and orchids was acquired through self-study, she said.

"We were in the Orchid Society in the 1960s, and we had many friends and acquaintances who were keen gardeners. We often visited the Coronation area, which was then full of orchid gardens, and Kim Fatt would chat with people for three to four hours at a time to learn about various plants. That was how he became a self-taught expert in orchids. He even managed to breed a tri-generic orchid, which are very rare, and it was something he was very proud of."

Unlike Mr Yap, however, Chi Wei did



Mr Yap practising a yoga headstand in 1977, when he was about 44 years.

Mr Yap Kim Fatt joined the Malayan Nature Society (MNS) in the 1950s when he was still a student, and paid an adult subscription as the MNS did not offer junior memberships at the time. He was also a member of the Malayan Orchid Society in the 1960s, underscoring his life-long fascination with plants. He was certified as a diver by the British Sub Aqua Club, and was qualified to train other people. A part of Mr Yap's shell collection now resides in the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum. Nature Society Singapore extends its condolences to his family.

not pick up a love for cultivating plants. "The extent of my green thumb was limited to Job Week, when, as a scout, I would be paid to weed the garden," he said with a laugh. Mr Yap, on the other hand, always found ways to adapt.

"Later on, after his retirement, my father moved into a flat in Commonwealth Drive. That was when he started to cultivate hoyas of several different varieties and in smaller pots along the common corridor. He also had some tillandsia, or air plants.



Mr Yap often took his daughter, Wei Lin, and son, Chi Wei, to Tioman.

These were easy to keep with the limited space he had."

By this time, Mr Yap had also become an avid photographer. "He would lug his camera equipment with him wherever he travelled," said Chi Wei. "He visited me in Western Australia, where I was pursuing my PhD, and I planned a two-week road trip with him, from Shark Bay to Albany. We chased the blooming of the Western Australian wildflowers, as the warmer temperatures moved from north to south.

"We travelled to Yunnan to stay with the aborigines, and we also visited north Vietnam and Bhutan. In Bhutan, when we were near Dochula Pass, my father would stop and photograph all the rhododendrons. And I was amazed that, when we stumbled on the angel's trumpet flower, he could instantly identify it as poisonous and non-native to the country."

Looking back, "it occurred to me that, as he grew older, our roles had reversed", said Chi Wei. "Where once it was I who would follow my father on his many trips, it was now me who would take him traveling. I think his biggest influence on me was the love of travel, and the desire to explore the world. I like to think that I managed to return the favour and take him along on many trips until just before he passed." 🌿



Mr Yap retired in his 50s, but remained very active, often travelling and spending time with his family, including his grandchildren Chloe and Ian.



John Yip is a Senior Executive of the NSS Every Singaporean a Naturalist (ESN) programme. He joined NSS in 2025, after a long career in print and broadcast journalism, and is currently the editor of the *Nature Watch* magazine. He enjoys hiking and cycling, and outdoor adventures.

Shining a Spotlight on Our Volunteers

Our volunteers are at the heart of NSS' outreach and conservation efforts, devoting much time and energy to building a nature community and safeguarding Singapore's natural heritage. We feature two volunteers who have made a big difference over the years.

Text by **NAZURAH HAMZAH**

Ms Cheryl Lao's love for flora and fauna was sparked by Nanyang Technological University lecturers, Dr Shawn Lum and Dr Jean Yong, and she started volunteering with Nature Society Singapore in the early 2000s.

By November 2005, she had become a family member of the Society, and she took along her three young children to participate in the Horseshoe Crab Research and Rescue (HSCRR) project in the Kranji. She fondly recalls the joy and camaraderie she shared with her principals, teachers, students and their parents during HSCRR in Mandai and coastal cleanups at Chek Jawa in Pulau Ubin.

Besides coastal cleanups, Ms Lao also

actively volunteered with the NSS Marine Conservation Group, to help with PESTA Ubin activities, such as kayaking sessions for the public. The school she previously taught at, Yumin Primary School, was one of the first to join the Every Singaporean a Naturalist (ESN) programme.

"The people I have met and worked together with for nature conservation may come and go, but I hope the message of conservation will continue to resonate with them, and spread to others," says Ms Lao.

Cheryl Lao

Fun Lessons with Crabs (and Mud!)



Norlinda Ishnin

Nurturing Young Minds for Nature

Ms Norlinda Ishnin is a highly experienced teacher at Dunman Secondary School, where she has been teaching geography since the mid-1990s. The subject gives her a "natural avenue for weaving in the message of conservation".

She first became involved in the NSS Every Singaporean a Naturalist (ESN) programme in 2019, and helped to coordinate her students

from the Sensory Skills Programme (SSP) and the Green Club.

She then became an active NSS volunteer in 2023. Under her guidance, her SSP students demonstrated their "Avian Watch" online game at MFS@6 Segar Road, another ESN school, during their Bird Race Family Event.

From February to April 2024, Ms Norlinda helped NSS Education Committee chair, Ms Tan Beng Chiak, with the Horseshoe Crab Monitoring Programme at the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, and contributed to the 5th International Horseshoe Crab Workshop, which was held in Singapore for the first time.

Ms Norlinda feels rewarded by the excitement of students as they learn about animals like horseshoe crabs. "I hope that through my efforts, others will also grow to appreciate the beauty and value of our limited natural spaces, and feel inspired to protect them too," she says.

Snapshots of Past NSS Events

By NAZURAH HAMZAH



Birdwatching at Kranji Marshes, 18 Jan 2025. Sixteen people participated in birdwatching at Kranji Marshes. They were guided by Wong Chung Cheong and Yap Wee Jin. As the weather was clear, they managed to spot 45 species, including the blue-eared kingfisher, an uncommon resident, and migrants such as the common kingfisher, the lesser whistling duck, the brown shrike, the pond heron (in its non-breeding plumage), the oriental reed warbler, and slaty-breasted rail. Photo: Chung Cheong Wong

Forest Bathing at Singapore Botanic Gardens, 25 Jan 2025. Led by Nature Ambassador Cynthia Wan, four participants tuned their five senses to experience the forest much more intimately at the Singapore Botanic Gardens. Photo: Cynthia Wan



Biodiversity Collage: A Collaborative Exploration of Nature, 8 Feb 2025. Hosts Marla Lise and Kang Min took participants through the Biodiversity Collage card game, where they learnt about the connections between the human and natural worlds. Photo: Marla Lise



NSS Rewilding Project, 15 Feb 2025. Two groups of about 50 participants were assigned tasks such as removing the fast-growing weeds that threatened to smother the saplings that had been planted for rewilding. They also placed mulch around the young trees and watered them to help them grow. The activities were facilitated by Guo Yichen, Cynthia Wan, Yvette Su, Chaarumiha (intern), Lindsey (intern), and Yap Swee Cheng. Photo: Cherrie Toh



Plant Walk at Fort Canning, 15 Feb 2025. Fifteen participants explored various locations in Fort Canning, as they tried to spot various species of plants. The walk was led by Benjamin Low, Juat Beh, Wendy Gan, and Yap Von Bing. Photo: Michelle Hariff



Night Walk at Mandai Forest, 22 Feb 2025. Gloria Seow led 23 participants on a night walk in Mandai Forest. She was assisted by Vilma D'Rozario and Timothy Pwee. Highlights from the

walk included sightings of three sambar deer, seven mousedeer, one common palm civet and four Sunda colugos. Photo: Vilma D'Rozario



Visit to NEA's Mosquito Production Facility, 22 Feb 2025. Dr Yeo Seng Beng took 23 participants on a tour of a mosquito production facility. The specially bred Aedes mosquitoes carried the Wolbachia bacteria, which blocks the dengue virus from growing in them, and prevents them from infecting the humans they bite.

Snapshots of Past NSS Events (Con't)



Birdwatching at Thomson Nature Park, 23 Feb 2025. Veronica Foo, Lim Kim Keang, and Cheryl Lao guided 18 participants on a birdwatching trip at Thomson Nature Park. They spotted 30 species, including the red-eyed bulbul, the red-crowned barbet, and a blue coral snake. Photo: Cheryl Lao

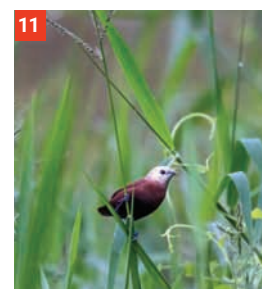


SWWD Birdwatching at Lorong Halus Wetland, 1 Mar 2025. In the run-up to Singapore World Water Day (SWWD), a group of 15 guided by Jimmy Lee and Lee Ee Ling went birdwatching at the Lorong Halus Wetland. They spotted 32 species, including sightings of the grey-headed fish eagle, the long-tailed shrike, the oriental magpie robin, golden-backed weavers and the oriental honey buzzard. Photo: Lee Ee Ling



SWWD Dragonfly Walk at Lorong Halus Wetland, 8 Mar 2025. Twelve people took part in a dragonfly walk at Lorong Halus Wetland. They were guided by Robin Nguam, Lena Chow and Zick Soh. Over 10 species were spotted, including the scarlet pygmy. Photo: Pick Soh

World Wildlife Day Birdwatching at Kranji Marshes, 9 Mar 2025. To mark World Wildlife Day, 19 people went birdwatching at the Kranji Marshes. They were guided by Lee Ee Ling and Yap Wee Jin, and they finished the walk just before it started raining. Despite the poor weather, they spotted 56 species, including the greater coucal, the white-headed munia, the daurian starling, the oriental honey buzzard and the Asian openbill. Photo: Marta Lubeck (White-headed Munia)



World Wildlife Day Forest Clean-up at Pulau Ubin, 15 Mar 2025. Guided by Kerry Pereira, 11 participants helped to clean up Pulau Ubin to mark World Wildlife Day. They picked up 275 items of trash in total. The top three most common items of rubbish they found were plastic pieces (93), food wrappers (29) and metal pieces (16). Photo: 4one.sg



SWWD Morning Walk at Lower Peirce Reservoir: Origin of the Kallang River, 16 March 2025. Twenty-three participants went on a morning walk at Lower Peirce Reservoir to learn about the origin of the Kallang River. The walk was led by Tan Beng Chiak, Lena Chow and Benjamin Low. They spotted species such as the copper-cheeked frog, a Wagler's pit viper, a western mangrove cat snake, and the purple heron.

NSS Rewilding Project, 22 Mar 2025. Thirty-six people in total participated in this round of the Rewilding Project, with six facilitators present to ensure their safety: Chaarumitha, Andy Bell, Fong Yeng Teng, Chen Yian Qi, Nazurah Hamzah and Lin Shiqi Sarah. The participants comprised nine students and 27 members of the public. They performed site maintenance such as removing elephant grass and any other weeds growing within a metre of the trees that had been planted in earlier activities. Photo: Cherrie Toh



NATURE SOCIETY SINGAPORE

Planet | People | Partners



VISION To be Singapore's leading advocate of biodiversity and habitats.

MISSION With our evidence-based approach and partnerships with agencies, peers, and corporates, we lead habitat and biodiversity conservation in Singapore and with partners in the region. Through engagement, education, advocacy, and research, we inspire and enable people to take action towards a sustainable and biodiverse planet.

Why Join NSS?

Nature Society Singapore or NSS is dedicated to the study, conservation and enjoyment of the biodiversity and natural heritage of Singapore, our neighbouring countries and the wider world. The Society is a non-profit, non-government organisation. Our members work with commitment and altruism to conserve Singapore's remaining nature areas such as forests, mangroves, wetlands and reefs.






NSS was formerly known as the Singapore Branch of the Malayan Nature Society (MNS), formed in 1954. In 1991, we became independent as Nature Society Singapore. Both NSS and MNS continue to maintain strong links with each other.

NSS organises guided nature walks, horseshoe crab rescues, nature surveys, clean-ups, talks, exhibitions, and overseas nature trips. Going on an NSS outing allows you to meet people from all walks of life with a common passion!

Join NSS Today & Receive *Nature Watch* for Free!

The values that NSS upholds are a bulwark against the excesses of an ultra-materialistic society. If you too feel that protecting our biodiversity and natural heritage are important, join NSS today and support the Society in our work. Members will receive four issues of *Nature Watch* (NSS quarterly magazine) and a regular e-newsletter for free. Members also get to participate in fascinating nature-based activities and events which enable one to forge friendships with fellow nature lovers.

Follow us at:

-  www.facebook.com/naturesocietysingapore/
-  www.instagram.com/naturesocietysingapore
-  www.youtube.com/@naturesocietysingapore3888
-  www.linkedin.com/company/nature-society-singapore/
-  www.nss.org.sg/

Nature Society Singapore Membership Categories

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

S\$40	Ordinary Member Age 18 and above
S\$75	Family Member Husband, Wife & Children under Age 18
S\$18	Junior & Student Members Age 12-18 & Full-time Students Age 18-35 enrolled in a Singapore-based institution
S\$1,000	Life Member Applicable to Ordinary Members who have joined for 10 years or more
S\$200	Affiliate Member Non-Profit Organisations & Schools
S\$4,000	Corporate Member Nominal Fee of S\$200 + Annual Tax-Exempt Donation of S\$3,800


How to Join NSS

To join as a NSS member, please fill in this form <http://tinyurl.com/NSSmembershipform>. It allows you to settle the membership fees within the link. Once your membership is approved by the Executive Committee, you will receive *Nature Watch* and the e-newsletter for free, as well as be able to attend all member-only events.

How to Join NSS as a Volunteer or Intern

- To join as a NSS volunteer, please fill in this form <http://tinyurl.com/NSSvolunteerform>.
- To apply for internship, please fill in this form <https://tinyurl.com/NSSinternshipform>.

Payment for Memberships and Donations

- Payment for donations and memberships can be made by PayNow or PayLah! by scanning the QR code or doing a PayNow transfer to Nature Society Singapore's **Unique Entity Number (UEN) S61SS0142H**. Please enter your name, contact number or email address in the UEN/Bill Reference Number.
- Fund transfers can also be made to Nature Society Singapore's **DBS Bank Current Account Number 0339023574**.
- For other modes of payment, please get in touch with us via email: contact@nss.org.sg.
- We also welcome individual and corporate donations to the Society. Please inform us via email (contact@nss.org.sg) of the amount you wish to donate, along with your name, title or organisation. Donations may be made by the payment methods mentioned above. Your generosity is much appreciated. Donations are tax exempt.



NSS works to protect the habitats of creatures, including the Common Rose (*Pachliopta aristolochiae*), a threatened butterfly whose caterpillar food plant remains scarce in Singapore.
Photos: Yi-Kai Tea (main photo) and Amy Tsang



Let Singapore's Abundant Biodiversity Be Your Legacy

Have you loved nature all your life? Please consider helping our conservation work with a gift to Nature Society (Singapore) in your will.

How to make a gift to the Society in your will

You can choose to inform us if you have considered us in your will, but it is not strictly necessary. Please ensure that your solicitor writes in the full name of the Society. We suggest below suitable forms of words that can appear in your will:

*I give to Nature Society (Singapore) (hereinafter called NSS), **Unique Entity Number S61SS0142H**, _____ % of the residue of my estate*

OR

a specific gift of _____

and I direct that (i) the proceeds may be used for the general purposes of NSS and (ii) a receipt signed by a person for the time being authorised by the Executive Committee of NSS shall be a good and sufficient discharge to my executors.



EST. 1954

**NATURE
SOCIETY**
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