

**PECK Dwight**

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**From:** Friends of the Bagmati [fob@dwarikas.com]  
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## *News Bulletin*

**February 2005**

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### **Taudaha Jamboree 2005** World Wetlands Day Celebration

The Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) promoted the event, Taudaha Jamboree 2005; first ever event organized by Friends of the Bagmati and Taudaha Yuwa Samiti to promote and conserve Taudaha Lake.

The Friends of the Bagmati is a registered non-governmental organization established by a group of people from different walks of life who have come together through their common concern and their wish to restore the environment of the Bagmati and other rivers of Nepal.

This program aimed at raising public awareness of wetland values and benefits is organized to celebrate the World Wetlands Day 2005.

The Taudaha Lake has been chosen because of its cultural and biological significance. Pilgrims throng Taudaha to worship Nag or snake during Naga Panchami (festival of nags/serpents). The rich biological diversity of the lake in general and the habitat of waterfowls in particular have also made this an important wetland resource.

Taudaha is one of the small lakes in the Bagmati watershed area. It has also contributed to recharge the groundwater of the Bagmati Watershed. Bagmati, which is the biggest river of the Kathmandu valley, originates from Shivapuri hill, 25 km north of Kathmandu City at an altitude of 2650m above sea level. Taudaha is at approximately 6 km to the southwest of Kathmandu. This is rich in floral and faunal diversity.

### **Events of the Taudaha Jamboree 2005: Consultative Workshop, Bird Watching and Cleanup.**

#### **Consultative Workshop on Taudaha Conservation**

The Consultative Workshop on Taudaha Conservation was organized on 31 January 2005, as a pre-event of the Taudaha Jamboree 2005, at the NTB Auditorium Hall. Experts and participants at the Workshop stressed on the need to conserve the wetlands that are threatened due to increasing anthropogenic activities. During the function, presentations were made by experts on the various aspects of Religious/Cultural, Tourism and Ecological values of Taudaha Lake. The representatives from Taudaha Yuwa Samiti (TYS) and the Bird

Conservation Nepal (BCN) discussed on the efforts made by their organizations to conserve Taudaha Lake. Senior Journalist, Mr. Bhairav Risal from Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ) delivered his presentation on the topic: "Role of Press/Media in Wetlands Conservation". Mr. Risal stressed on the need to give continual emphasis on the promotion of Values and Benefits of Wetlands through the press/media.



Photos By: Tek J. Mahat and Bijaya Pradhan

### **Bird Watching and Cleanup at Taudaha**

The Bird Watching was one of the components of the Taudaha Jamboree 2005 and was organized on 12<sup>th</sup> February. Participants included both the Foreigners and Nepalese. Large number of students and locals from Taudaha area also enjoyed bird watching program facilitated by the experts from BCN. The bird watching program was followed by Taudaha cleanup program. The cleanup program initiated by TYS, the local club, was of great success. Participants collected rubbish and removed the invasive weeds at the shoreline of the Lake. More than seven dozens people participated in the program.



Photos By: Bijaya Pradhan and Rabindra Adhikari

The Friends of the Bagmati believes; such programs initiated by the local people will help to conserve the wetlands resources in a sustainable way. We invite all concerned groups and individuals to support such initiative taken by the local denizen.

We look forward to work with you in future projects as well in order to conserve Taudaha Lake. Thank you for support and cooperation in making this event a great success. Success in our terms is – to inform maximum number of people about the values and benefits of wetlands.

**We believe in the concept – Conservation through Promotion!**

### **upcoming programs**

learn more about our upcoming programs @

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**OUR MISSION: TO REVERSE THE DEGRADATION OF THE BAGMATI RIVER**