



A report on visit of the members of Shimla Amateur Garden & Environment Society (SAGES) to Western Himalayan Temperate Arboretum (WHTA), Potters Hill, Shimla

Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFR) Shimla, H.P., organized a visit of the members of Shimla Amateur Garden & Environment Society (SAGES) to the Western Himalayan Temperate Arboretum (WHTA) at Potters Hill on 6th November 2022. The visitors numbering around 70, had the representation of students, teachers, academicians, lawyers, businessmen, eminent retired bureaucrats, etc. Dr. Vaneet Jishtu, Scientist-in-charge for the arboretum, apprised the about the importance of the arboretum and its various thematic sections. After the tour around the arboretum, an interactive session was conducted at the Arboretum Amphitheatre which was anchored by Dr. Jishtu.

Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Director, Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla presided as chief guest and apprised the SAGES members about the important ecosystem services provided by forests. He highlighted the need to evaluate the ecosystem services provided by forests and brought to focus the number of trees per person in the country, which stood very low as compared to the global figures. Dr. Jagdish Singh, Head Extension, briefed the participants about the various programmes being conducted by the institute with special reference to the student-scientist contact programme, PRAKRITI, being undertaken by the Institute.

Sri Srinivas Joshi, an eminent citizen of Shimla and the oldest member of SAGES, in his brief address brought forth the nostalgia associated with the journey of the arboretum development, as he has been associated with it since its inception. Advocate Deepak Bhasin, President of SAGES, was grateful to the institute for organizing the event at the Arboretum. He said that Shimla required more such green endeavors to sustain a healthy lifestyle, and also requested the Institute to spearhead a campaign to liven up the eco clubs of government schools. At the end Mrs. Padmini Parmar, Secretary of SAGES expressed her sincere gratitude to the institute for a day well spent in pristine nature.



