SINGAPORE : Singapore is an urban jungle literally crawling with hundreds of animal and plant species - thanks to conservation efforts by nature lovers over the years.

On Saturday, 500 students almost turned the Millenia Walk shopping mall into a wildlife park as part of the Nature Society's anniversary celebrations.

Dr Wee Yeow Chin, 67, is teaching students about the birds and the bees.

No, it’s not what you think…he’s literally telling them about his passion for wildlife conservation that started over 40 years ago.

Dr Wee was the Nature Society's first president and as it celebrates its 50th year, the nature lover looks on in pride at how conservation has caught on in Singapore.

Dr Wee said: "When I first started off, we have field trips and there are only three or four, including myself the leader, now you get 50 or more, hungry for knowledge, adults and students, there's also a lot of support from the government."

Students were encouraged to take a close look at endangered species featured in a performance.

Each card depicts a plant or an animal native to Singapore. They are placed on 'Life Corners' which represent their natural habitat.

Mr Lim Swee Say, Second Minister for National Development, said: "According to NParks, our Singapore Botanic Gardens, we only have a
six-hectare jungle, but in that particular garden alone, there are 260 plant species and this is more than what we can find in the whole of Europe."

"We might think that the animals and plants are very ugly or yucky but maybe they serve a very big part in nature, so we must love all types of nature."

"I don't dare to step on ants anymore."

"This is nature, we shouldn't destroy nature, kill them and make into products, very cruel."

Singapore is home to 2,000 plant species, 70 types of mammals, 350 species of birds and 35 species of freshwater fish. - CNA