

focus



Abu Dhabi, November 2009

Vol 33 (10)



Emirates Natural History Group

Patron: H.E. Sheikh Nahayan bin Mubarak Al Nahayan

EDITORIAL

I am pleased to announce that the Committee has received and approved an application for a small research grant from Sabrina Righetti, a PhD student at the University of Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne. Sabrina has requested £ 500 towards her travel and expenses for a one-month visit to Ras Al Khaimah this winter to study the Wadi Suq period pottery in the RAK Museum, and to compare this with the pottery of the same period from her studies at Adam in Oman and Hili in Al Ain. We hope that she will be able to give us a lecture on her research during her visit, and contribute to our journal *Tribulus*. The application has been recommended by Dr Christian Velde, the RAK resident archaeologist. I would also like to take the opportunity to invite further applications for small grants for conservation or research projects in natural history and archaeology in the UAE or the Gulf. An important role of the ENHG is to facilitate research in the field sciences in this region.

More exciting news is the discovery of another new plant for the UAE. During an ecological survey in the mountains southwest of Dibba, I photographed a small fuzzy plant in the Fabaceae (pea family) with creamy yellow flowers and straight pods that I didn't think I had ever seen before. These mountains have an unusual geology in that they are a mixture of volcanic ophiolite and metamorphic rocks. It turns out that Gary Feulner had also seen this plant in a nearby locality, but not with flowers or fruits. The photos were sent to Dr Shahina Ghazanfar at Kew Gardens, who didn't recognize it either, and sent them on to Hossein Akhiani in Iran, who has provisionally identified it as *Chesnya parviflora*. Now we need to collect specimens to confirm the species.

There's still a lot to discover out there! Any unusual photos for our Sightings panel would be most welcome.

Drew Gardner

Sighting: New Plant for the UAE

We invite all members to submit documentation of observations of flora and fauna in the UAE and the region, preferably with captions, with or without a short write-up of the circumstances of the observations. Dates and locality information should be included. -Ed.



Provisionally identified *Chesnya parviflora*, 10 Oct. 2009

Photo: Drew Gardner

In this issue

- Page 1:** Front cover
- Page 2:** Editorial, Sighting: New Plant for the UAE, Camping/Snorkelling Trip to As Sawadi, Oman
- Page 3:** Camping/Kayaking Trip to Umm al Quwain
- Page 4:** Wildlife on the Windowsill: Pigeons and Pupae
- Page 5:** Tenebrionid Beetle Identification, Upcoming Speakers
- Page 6:** Wild Wadi
- Page 7:** In the Local News Media, Websites of General Interest, Bookstall
- Page 8:** Committee Members, Lectures, Field Trips, ENHG Equipment for Members' Use, Corporate Sponsors, Newsletter Details

FRONT COVER PICTURE

Photograph: Gulls on Shuwaymiyah Beach, Oman

Photographer: Drew Gardner

This month's contributors

Feng Wen, Drew Gardner, Michael Gillett, Molly McQuarrie, Wayne Oliver, Laura Wallace, Alex Westcott

Camping/Snorkelling Trip to As Sawadi, Oman



Omanis on As Sawadi Beach at sunrise

Wayne Oliver

Taking advantage of the moderating autumn temperatures, a small group of members recently made the drive to the Batinah region of Oman. While it would be easily possible to spend a week exploring the area, for this weekend in early October we chose to concentrate on the underwater life around the Sawadi and Daymaniyat Islands.

Friday afternoon was spent snorkelling around the Sawadi Islands, and later, at low tide, joining the locals

to walk across the sand spit extending from the mainland to the largest island, where we climbed the steps to the elevated watchtower.

According to preference, the night was spent either in the comfort of the As Sawadi Beach Resort or sleeping under the stars on the adjacent beach.

We regrouped the following morning for the 40-minute boat ride to the outlying Daymaniyat Islands, a restricted-entry nature reserve. Here, the diving and snorkelling in the pristine 29°C water was superb. The abundant coral and fish life and a solitary turtle undoubtedly made this the highlight of the trip.

All too soon it was time to head back to the realities of Abu Dhabi—sunburnt, tired and looking forward to a return visit.

Wayne Oliver

Camping/Kayaking Trip to Umm Al Quwain

On 30th/31st October approximately 20 members travelled to Umm al Quwain (UAQ) for a beachside camping and kayaking trip. For some, UAQ may be regarded as a sign on Emirates road that flashes by when driving to the attractions of the Musandam Peninsula further north, rather than as a destination in its own right. However, as this group discovered, this emirate has much to recommend it.

Our base for the weekend was the UAQ Marine Club, where we gathered on Friday afternoon after the three-hour drive from Abu Dhabi. We set up camp on the edge of the lagoon on a flat sandy area adjacent to the beach. Our group had a large number of identical brown and orange tents—thanks to the camping sale at Carrefour the previous week! Each campsite had wooden picnic tables and wooden shade structures. The facilities included toilets, showers and a pool-side restaurant. While some campers took advantage of the kayaks for a late afternoon paddle, others opted to enjoy the large swimming pool, loungers and poolside tables.



Campsite at the UAQ marina

Photo: Laura Wallace

A kayak expedition set out late Friday afternoon to explore the mangroves opposite the beach. While the low tide prevented us from getting into the mangroves, we did have opportunities to observe western reef herons as well as small shore birds feeding on mudflats. We saw a dead crab and numerous starfish scattered among mangrove roots. An onshore breeze stirred up

the fine sands, giving the water a murky green colour. Paddling against the wind was a work-out, but even the one youngster among us reached the other shore.

As the sun set against the distant minarets and the breeze diminished, we returned to camp and a relaxing evening on the beach. The slow pace of life in UAQ made a welcoming change for us city dwellers. Some campers enjoyed the company of Dr. Dhia, the inspector of the UAQ fish market, whom we had met on a previous trip. Over a meal of salad and grilled fish, Dr. Dhia told us about the 26 islands and the surrounding waters spreading over 100 square kilometres. The largest island also features a fort and old home for the ruler's family—a site well worth visiting if one can secure a permit. Recently he took part in a bird flu survey on five herons; all test results were thankfully negative. We also know from a recent press release that a ritual site created with dugong bones, dating back to 3500-3200 BC, was discovered on Akab, an island somewhere in this vast watery place. Ancient fishermen might well have celebrated a successful sea hunt on this same shore, and told tales under the same stars.

The night, by all accounts, was pleasant. The temperature receded to around 20°C, making for comfortable sleeping, whether in a tent on the beach or on a sun-lounger on the lawn. The fajr call ensured we were awake in time to view a spectacular sunrise that transformed the eastern sky to an artist's palette.



Umm al Quwain Sunrise

Photo: Laura Wallace

After breakfast, birdwatching and beachcombing, most people enjoyed an hour or two of kayaking on Saturday morning. It was an easy paddle over to the mangroves, as the mudflats were now submerged under the mid-morning high tide. The mangroves were so dense, however, that we could not see beyond five or six metres into the mangroves. All but the largest inlets to the interior of the swamp were well hidden.

We encountered roosting herons and Greater Flamingos feeding in the clear, shallow open water. We tried to paddle up close quietly, but they always managed to maintain their distance. We counted 30 Greater Flamingos in one flock and followed them for a while. Then without an audible signal, they all took off. Their wings were reddish-orange, with black fringes. It was an impressive sight! Numerous fish, mostly biyah (grey mullet), were also spotted as they leapt through the air only inches above the water.



Western Reef Heron, light phase
Photo: Wayne Oliver



Western Reef Heron, dark phase
Photo: Feng Wen

Back on shore the group gradually dispersed, some to visit the nearby old-town, some the local fish-market and others the Sharjah museums or Dubai. Staying on to enjoy the pool and beach was also a popular option. The lure of exploring the far side of the mangroves ensures that some of us will make a return visit.

Laura Wallace / Wayne Oliver / Feng Wen

Wildlife on the Windowsill: Pigeons and Pupae

When I moved into my new Airport Road abode on August 30th 2009, there was a baby pigeon living on my kitchen window sill. The A/C unit was also on a shelf out there, and the pigeon was ensconced between the A/C and the window—quite safe, cosy and sheltered. I figured it would be ready to fly in about two weeks, so I was prepared to leave it be, since I am highly reluctant to kill even a "flying rat".

However, I came home one day to find the A/C repair guys hanging out the window servicing the unit, and the pigeon sitting on a newspaper on my kitchen counter. What I couldn't stand was the amount of feces all over the A/C cover and the window sill—and also some of that, along with the twigs, leaking into the kitchen from time to time.

The day came when I couldn't take it any longer. The thought of the A/C guys having to work in that mess and the leakage into the kitchen was too much. I put the bird in a box, cleared away the twigs—such as they were; pigeon nests are second to dove nests for flimsiness—and scraped away the caked-on feces. There was about 1 to 1.5 cm of feces. Under that mess were a LOT of

very active worms (possibly 100 + but I was too disgusted to act fast and grab them all). Intrigued, I collected a number of them, with a few feces for food, to possibly identify them. I was sure they would not change into anything else, but I was curious how something that looked like it would live in soil could get up on the 2nd storey ledge. Did the parent bring it as food? Unlikely, since most pigeon baby food is regurgitated "pigeon milk", and worms are unlikely to survive the process well enough to reproduce.

A week or so later the pigeon flew—after I threatened to bring it in and wash its feces-caked feet again. The announcements were sent out:

*Hello All,
The pigeon has flown!! I think he got fed up with me washing his feet under the tap! I threatened him because he was standing in his shit again, and the next thing I knew he was gone. I went to say goodbye to him around 5:30 pm on Sunday (the 20th) before going out, and he was gone!*

The worms continued their existence on my bathroom shelf, with the addition of a bit of water now and then. Much to my surprise, a week later they were pupae!! Ah! So they are flies. Hmmm...I put a lid on it and waited to see what sort of flies would emerge.

A week later I had not flies, but some sort of beetles! At first they were a tan colour but now (Oct. 17th) they are dark brown, almost black and appear to be Tenebrionidae (darkling beetles) - possibly of the genus *Opatroides* (fake flour beetle) or of *Tenebrio* (flour beetle). "*Opatroides* are found beneath stones and logs close to human habitation...distinguished from small species of *Tenebrio* by a row of indentations present on the elytra." (Walker, Pittaway 1987, p. 141) However, I can't see the pitting, and the antennae do not look like Walker's illustrations (they do not appear segmented); instead, they have small knobs on the ends. There is a third possibility: Genus *Opatropis* (hispid beetle) - "Uncommon nocturnal beetle found in animal burrows."



Top and bottom views of one of the darkling beetles

Photos: Molly McQuarrie

Of course, beetle identification is VERY difficult, especially with limited reference resources, so I welcome a more well-informed opinion; I'm aware the above photos (the best I could do) are not that helpful.

Another interesting observation is that all the time the baby pigeon was growing up there was quite a neighbourhood ("village"?) of pigeons loitering about on the ledges of the opposite building (about 4 metres away). Watching and talking. Now they are seldom there. However, I can see a freshly laid egg UNDER an A/C unit opposite, so we shall see what develops when that one hatches. There is even less room to grow in that spot, but then I have made my "perfect" nursery area quite unattractive to pigeons now.

Molly McQuarrie

Tenebrionid Beetle Identification

The above beetle is a tenebrionid, but not a member of the genera *Opatroides*, *Opatropis* or *Tenebrio*. It is a member of the not so closely related tribe Alphitobiini and is, in fact, a well known cosmopolitan beetle *Alphitobius diaperinus* (Panzer, 1797), also known as the Lesser Mealworm Beetle. It is common in towns in the UAE—exactly where feral pigeons occur—and in general, it can be considered as a stored product pest. More particularly, it is a significant poultry pest whose larvae live in poultry litter and feces and are known both to attack sickly or dead nestlings and to act as competent vectors of several poultry pathogens, including viruses that cause leucosis. There is a second rarer, cosmopolitan member of the genus known from the UAE—*A. laevigatus* (Fabricius, 1781) or Black Fungus Beetle—also known, but less likely, to infest poultry houses/pigeon nest sites.

A note of caution: When using Walker and Pittaway's little book, or any other field reference, you need to avoid falling into a trap that makes you imagine that whatever you find will be in that volume! In fact, the Miller or Mealworm Beetle (*Tenebrio molitor* L. 1758) is not formally recorded from Arabia despite its being undoubtedly cosmopolitan and having an Arabian distribution map in W & P! (However, I have never actually found the latter species in the UAE/Oman.)

Michael Gillett

Upcoming Speakers



Keith Wilson began his career as an aquatic ecologist working for Southern Water Authority in southeast England. After various posts served in Hampshire, Sussex and Kent he ended his UK water industry career in the northwest of England where he was employed as Fisheries, Conservation and Recreation Manager with the Northwest Region of the National Rivers Authority (now Environment Agency). In addition to setting up and managing coarse fish and salmonid fish farms he helped to introduce new methodologies for land drainage maintenance programmes, which were sympathetic to the wildlife of rivers and wetlands.

In 1991 he relocated to Hong Kong where he was employed by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in various roles with responsibilities for the management of wetlands, establishment and management of marine parks and reserves, fisheries

and aquaculture management. From 1996 to 2003 he implemented an ambitious US\$ 13.5 M artificial reef programme in Hong Kong to protect, restore and enhance marine resources, which involved an extensive, multi-stage, consultation exercise and the establishment of fisheries protection areas. During the operation of this project he was head of a multifunctional Division, within the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, responsible for enforcement of fisheries and mariculture legislation in addition to project management. Between 2003 and 2007 he worked as an ecological consultant specializing in marine fish ecology, wetland terrestrial environmental studies and focused ecological impact assessments in Hong Kong and China. In early 2008 Keith moved to the UAE to take up a post with Nakheel with responsibilities for managing the marine environment at the Waterfront & Palm Jebel Ali developments. After a short stint at Nakheel, Keith joined the Emirates Marine Environmental Group (EMEG) where he is now the Director of EMEG's Marine Programme.

Keith has always had a passion for natural history and is particularly interested in anything aquatic, especially dragonflies. In 1995 he published a book titled: "Hong Kong Dragonflies", which was followed in 2003 by another book titled: "A Field Guide to the Dragonflies of Hong Kong". He is a member of the IUCN Odonata Special Group specializing in Chinese Odonata and is Editor of the World Dragonfly Association Newsletter AGRION.



Emma Smart has had an active interest in freshwater fish conservation for over 14 years, working voluntarily at Chester Zoo Aquarium where she became involved in the captive breeding of endangered species. Emma studied for a degree in Marine Biology at the University of Liverpool, where she graduated with honours and won the Ellis award for Freshwater Biology. Subsequent Post-graduate research at the University of St. Andrews involved conservation and environmental survey work on endangered freshwater fish species and their habitats in the arid regions of central Mexico.

Emma spent two years working in Dubai, where she was employed as Scientific Advisor and Production Manager on Arabia's first wildlife documentary series 'The Cycle of Life'. This involved planning filming and research expeditions and spending over 10 months travelling across Oman, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Yemen and the

United Arab Emirates. Throughout this time, Emma carried out baseline surveys of wadi habitats and their freshwater fish populations, and it was this initial research and a passion for Arabia that gave rise to establishing the 'Wadi Fish' project.

The research carried out in the Wadi Fish project will provide the data for a PhD, through the University of Plymouth, but will continue to benefit wadi habitat conservation through various environmental awareness, educational and on-going collaborations between local and international institutions and individuals.

Emma has a particular interest in bridging the gap between scientific research and conservation and how residents of the UAE can apply sustainable living to their everyday lives. She is dedicated to working alongside local government ministries to support them in their continued advancements in environmental development.

Now in her eighth year working and living in the Emirates, Emma has established herself as one of the region's active wildlife conservationists. She worked as a consultant Biologist for EWS-WWF for two years and has been involved in baseline habitat surveys in Fujairah to establish the first mountain protected area in the country. Now a full-time Conservation Officer for EWS-WWF, she continues to be involved in a range of environmental projects within the UAE focusing on marine and freshwater conservation and education.

The Editor thanks the above speakers for providing autobiographical information & photos for Focus.

Wild Wadi

The article below, published in The Gulf News, May 21st, 2009, is reprinted by permission of The Gulf News. We run it to complement the recent talk by Dr. Christophe Tourenq and the upcoming talk by Emma Smart, both mentioned herein. -Ed.

As of March 16 this year, Wadi Wurayah has been officially declared a protected area by the Fujairah Municipality--a feat that would never have been achieved had it not been for the concerted efforts of Christophe Tourenq, Maral Khaled, Shuriqi and Emma Smart.

The silence is initially somewhat unnerving. The 4x4 trundles across the first part of Wadi Wurayah, rattling its passengers around like skittles as it tackles the stony path. But stepping out of it, you find yourself engulfed by exquisite silence, breathing in the crisp air till your lungs feel like they could explode with gratitude after the smog of the city. The silence is broken only by the faint trickling of water. You're safeguarded from the outside world, held in the rocky palm of the wadi, its walls towering above you. You need to experience at the very least a day and a night in the wadi in order to realise why it is so important to preserve this natural gem. Thanks to a handful of conservationists like the manager of science and research for Emirates Wildlife Society-World Wildlife Fund's (EWS-WWF), Christophe Tourenq, the Fujairah Environment Protection and Development Department's Maral Khaled Shuriqi and PhD Ichthyology student and conservation officer for EWS-WWF, Emma Smart, this endeavour has been

actualised. On arrival in the wadi, the team were awaiting results from the municipality. But a few hours into our hike through the meandering crevice, Shuriqi received the news. With an echoing whoop he bounded up, pumping the air in victory and embraced his team, exuding the mixed feelings of shock, relief and elation. Three years of hard work had paid off at last.

For Tourenq, who has had a fascination with the desert since his childhood in France, working on the Wadi Wurayah project has been a dream come true. "I am interested in how an ecosystem functions, and how everything is connected. We often get comments like 'Why do you bother just trying to protect one little beetle? What difference will it make if it disappears?' And the answer is all the difference. That little beetle is a piece of a greater puzzle; it's a link in the chain. There is a reason why all living species exist. Each one has a role to play and it's a tremendous challenge for our team to stress the importance of our work and to make people realise that everything is connected. We're a part of this system. We're the ones who will have to deal with the consequences of the damage we inflict. And once the damage is done, it's done. There's nothing we can do to recreate it."

There is an impending danger of the human race becoming progressively disconnected from the natural world. "Children today are completely disassociated from nature and each generation is becoming increasingly disconnected from the environment," says Tourenq. When he does presentations about the wadi, he says that people are astounded at the wealth of plants and animals that can be found in the UAE. "It's really motivating and rewarding when students thank us for bringing it to their attention that we have such life within our borders. And everyday, we discover something new," he says. True to this observation, seven previously unknown insect species have been discovered in Wadi Wurayah (1). In addition, thanks to their camera traps and their close study of tracks and droppings, they have found evidence of 'big cats'--the Arabian leopard (2) and caracal lynx--as well as the rare Blanford's fox, the mountain gazelle and the Arabian tahr. However, these animals' activity has been significantly reduced in adaptation for survival as their previous habitats are constantly encroached upon by human development (3).

Gulf News Sub Editor/Writer Alex Westcott

(1) *The species collection and identification was only possible due to the formidable work of the resident expert entomologist Dr A. van Harten, author of the "Arthropods encyclopaedia of the UAE" (Dar Al Ummah editions, Abu Dhabi, UAE). There are now 19 news species of arthropods for science described in Wadi Wurayah.*

(2) *In his talk on 3 Nov 2009 Christophe reported that in Fujairah in 2006 he found a leopard track and also heard a roar that could only have been made by an Arabian leopard. But no sightings have been made since then.*

(3) *Christophe mentioned that the biggest threat for these species was over-hunting and still ongoing poaching. Hopefully, legal protection and patrolling by rangers in the near future will annihilate this threat. -Ed*

In the Local News Media

Seed money sows hope for plant:

<http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091017/NATIONAL/710169795/1139>

Palace of myths and legends:

<http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091025/NATIONAL/710249926/1342>

Thousands of invading birds culled:

<http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091025/NATIONAL/710249908>

Culling these birds is fine. Next, the rats and cats:

<http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091027/OPINION/710269927>

Remembering Gertrude Dyck, a friend of the ENHG:

<http://www.enhg.org/alain/latifa/latifa.htm>

Why contact was broken:

<http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091024/WEEKENDER/710239836/1306>

Behind the aura of power, a genuine man of the people:

<http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091102/OPINION/711019912>

Excavation uncovers ritual site:

<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/uae/general/excavation-uncovers-ritual-site-1.523925>

Lifting the lid on recycling in the capital:

<http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091107/NATIONAL/711069810/1139>

Websites of General Interest

ENHG-AA Website (Archives: 3 newsletters, Tribulus):

<http://www.enhg.org>

Tommy Pedersen's UAE Birding / UAE Nature Forum:

www.uaebirding.com

Hanne & Jens Eriksen's Birds Oman website:

www.BirdsOman.com

Qatar NHG website:

<http://www.qnhg.org>

Wildlife Middle East News:

<http://www.wmenews.com>

Arabian Wildlife:

<http://www.arabianwildlife.com/main.htm>

Archaeology website:

<http://www.adias-uae.com/>

Sharjah Museums sites (Check out the virtual tours!):

<http://www.sharjahmuseums.ae/>

Emirates Marine Environmental Group:

www.emeg.ae

EMEG Ecologist Keith Wilson's Public Gallery:

<http://picasaweb.google.co.uk/KDPWilson>

Dubai Astronomy Group:

<http://www.dubaiastronomy.com>

ITEMS ON SALE

AT THE ENHG STALL

All prices are in dirhams.

- The Emirates – A Natural History, 350.
The first complete referencing guide to the wildlife of the UAE. 580 colour photos.
- Jebel Hafit – A Natural History, 100.
An attractive, encyclopaedic presentation of the natural resources of this local landmark.
(Free copies available to schools. Ask Chairman.)
- Terrestrial Environment of Abu Dhabi Emirate, 240.
- Marine Environment and Resources of Abu Dhabi, 140.
- Seashells of Eastern Arabia, 120.
- Wild about Mammals, 40.
- Wild about Reptiles, 40.
- Snakes of Arabia, 50.
- On-road in the UAE, 50.
- Abu Dhabi Bird checklist, 10.
- Emirates Bird Report, 20.
- Oman Bird List, ed 6, 30.
- Birdwatching guide to Oman, 2nd edition, 100.
Guide to bird watching spots in Oman.
- The Birds of Al Jabal Al Akhdar, 50.
- Native Plants of Oman, 80.
- Comprehensive Guide to the Wildflowers of the UAE, 100.
- Trucial States, 150.
- Oman 1965, 150.
- Natural History of Oman, 50.
- Falconry, 60.
- Pests, 35. *Find out what's in and around your home.*
- Reef Fishes of the UAE, 50.
- Snorkeling and Diving in Oman, 50.
- Feast of Dates, 100.
- UAE in Focus, 100.
- Sir Bani Yas, 100.
- Musandam, 90.
- Abu Dhabi 8 million years ago, 15.
- Discovering Qatar, 120.

For enquiries: Hanne & Jens Eriksen, hjoman@eim.ae

Committee Members

Drew Gardner
(Chairman)
Mobile: 050-667-5830
drew.gardner@zu.ac.ae

Keith Taylor
(Deputy Chairman / Focus Editor)
Mobile: 050-820-4938
kjtaylor13@yahoo.com

Julie Bird
(Secretary)
050-615-4757
julie.bird@hct.ac.ae

Eila Merriman
(Treasurer / Assistant Membership Secretary)
Mobile: 050-908-1200
kubukabin@hotmail.com

Cate Ware
(Membership Secretary)
050-131-1304
ware24now@gmail.com

Jeff Szuchman
(Lecture Coordinator)
Jeffrey.Szuchman@zu.ac.ae

Andrew Bean
(Excursion Secretary)
Mobile: 050-322-1327
rexabean@emirates.net.ae

Feng Wen
(Assistant Excursion Secretary)
feng.wen@adpc.ae

Peter Hellyer
(Editor of *Tribulus* / Librarian)
Mobile: 050-642-4357
peter@extinfo.gov.ae

Stefan Beck
(Website Coordinator)
Phone: 04-443-1430
stefan_k_beck@yahoo.de

Patricia MacLachlan
(Public Relations Secretary)
mp_maclachlanuk@yahoo.co.uk

Dick Hornby
(Member)
Mobile: 050-662-4501
dnahornby@yahoo.co.uk

Martin & Linda Betz
(Members)
Home: 02-627-2309
lindaleviskabetz@yahoo.com

Molly McQuarrie
(Member)
teacher.ags@gmail.com

Barbara Smith
(Member)
050 761-6880
barbartonsmith@yahoo.com

Laura Wallace
(Member)
l_wallace@hotmail.com

Lectures

Venue: HCT/ADMC

Press CTRL+click [here](#) to view map/directions.

3rd Nov.
Wadi Wurayah
Protected Area: After the official declaration
Christophe Tourenq

17th Nov. 7:30 PM
Dragonflies of Hong Kong and the UAE
Keith Wilson

No Talk on 1st Dec. (National Day)

15th Dec. 7:30 PM
Freshwater Conservation in the UAE
Emma Smart

22nd Dec. 7:30 PM
Gulf Dugong Project
Himansu Das

Field Trips

30th/31st Oct.
Camping/Kayaking Trip to Umm Al Quwain
Feng Wen

14th Nov.
Birdwatching daytrip on Abu Dhabi Island
Andrew Bean

27th/28th/29th/30th Nov.
Camping/snorkelling trip to the Musandam
Andrew Bean

Social Event

24th Nov. 7:30 PM
After-dinner gathering at the One-to-one Hotel's Village Club to compare notes in an informal setting

ENHG Equipment for Members' Use

The following ENHG equipment is available for members' use during field trips or on request:

- Birding Telescope
- GPS unit – GARMIN GPSMAP 60CSx
- Nikon Coolpix camera – 5 Megapixel, 4x opt zoom
- First-Aid Kit
- Sky Scout astronomical object locator/identifier

(The club also has a good astronomical telescope, which is only used on official ENHG trips. A training session on the use of the telescope was announced at the 3rd Nov. meeting and held for interested members on 10th Nov.; further sessions can be arranged.)

Please contact Andrew Bean, Excursion Secretary, at rexabean@emirates.net.ae to make enquiries. -Ed.

Corporate Sponsors of the ENHG - 2009

These companies are supporting the ENHG activities in the region. We hope you as ENHG members will in turn support these companies whenever you can.

BDO Patel	
British Petroleum	
Dome International	
International Bechtel Company, Ltd.	
Mott MacDonald, Ltd.	
Nautica Environmental Associates	
URS Corporation	 Dames & Moore

Newsletter Details

Newsletter contributions to:
newsletter@chirri2000.com

Postal Address

ENHG c/o Environment Agency -
Abu Dhabi, PO Box 45553, Abu Dhabi

Members' Items for sale

Please send small ads to:
newsletter@chirri2000.com

Yahoo Groups website

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/AUHENHG>