

# focus



Abu Dhabi, October 2012  
Vol 36 (9)



Emirates Natural History Group

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

## EDITORIAL

We have got off to a good start this year with a busy calendar of talks and field trips (See pp. 6 & 8). In particular I would like to thank the administration of the ADWC for providing us with the use of their great new lecture hall. They are also recording lectures for posterity and providing tea & coffee, which provides a good opportunity for an extended chat after the lectures.

New and old members are very welcome to join the upcoming field trips in Oct. and Nov. There is a Snorkelling/Diving boat trip out of Fujairah, Eid camping trip to Jebel Shams as well as a family camp near Abu Dhabi in early November. The Dubai and Al Ain groups are also offering us the opportunity to join them in several of their field trips in the coming months for those who are keen to travel further afield.

The committee is glad to welcome Rex & Sara Sartain to the Committee; Rex has thankfully volunteered to take over as ENHG Treasurer. We also welcome Gordon Higgs, who is taking over as our new Book Stall Coordinator. Anyone who would like to volunteer to assist Gordon with book sales at the meetings, without having to join the committee, would be of great assistance. Maggie Case has done a great job as Interim Treasurer over the past few months both here and whilst living in Al Ain and deserves our thanks.

We would also like to say thank you and goodbye to ENHG members Simon and Mandy Strickland, who returned to the UK at the end of August. Simon was a very helpful Book Stall volunteer at the end of last season and bird identification advisor on field trips and for Focus over the past couple of seasons.

We are proud to announce our most recent ENHG-AD Research & Conservation Fund grant of AED 10,000 to Dr Brigitte Howarth, to assist in her curation of the Joint Al Ain-Abu Dhabi ENHG Insect Collection. This will be followed by a second grant of AED 10,000 later in the year once suitable cabinets have been identified for purchase, in order to make sure the collection is kept safe and sound for future generations. We can only do this thanks to the generous sponsorship of our corporate sponsors who deserve a round of applause for helping preserve this unique collection.

A very busy and interesting schedule lies ahead!

**Andrew Bean**

### Book Review: From Pearls to Oil: The UAE's path to prosperity

*The following book review, published in The National on Jun 16, 2012, is reprinted here with permission. This article reflects the ENHG's continuing interest in recent as well as ancient history of this region, in addition to its natural history. Also watch out for an additional book review, by the ENHG's Peter Hellyer, of Imperial Outpost in The Gulf, by Nicholas Stanley-Price, to be published in the Nov 2012 Focus. -Ed.*

Disembarking in Abu Dhabi for the first time in August 1963, David Heard observes in his new book From Pearls to Oil: How the Oil Industry came to the United Arab Emirates that he had "arrived in a land that had largely stood still for centuries".

## In this issue

- Page 1:** Front cover
- Page 2:** Editorial, Book Review: From Pearls to Oil: The UAE's Path to Prosperity
- Page 3:** Cont'd.
- Page 4:** Cont'd.
- Page 5:** ENHG Trip Convoy Guidelines, Mushrif Park Redevelopment Mtg.
- Page 6:** Recent Speaker, Corporate Sponsors, In the News Media
- Page 7:** In the News Media, Contd., Book Stall, Websites of General Interest
- Page 8:** Committee Members, Lectures, Field Trips, Research & Conservation Fund, Equipment for Members' Use, Marine Life Rescue Contact Info., Newsletter Details

### FRONT COVER PICTURE

Photograph: Saltbush & Sand Dune, Al Ain

Photographer: Silvija Ulmanis

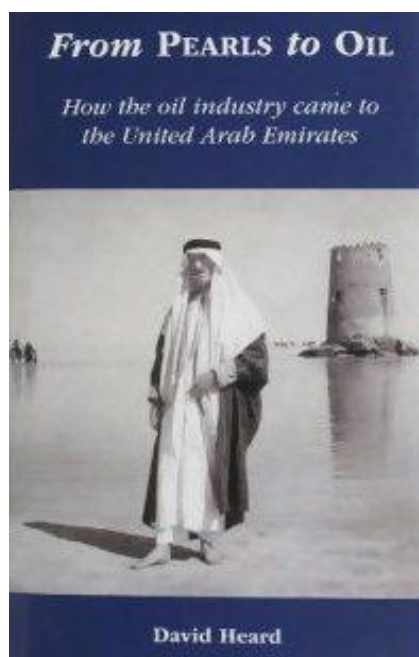
## This month's contributors

ADCO, Teena Bounpraseuth, ENHG, James Langton of The National, Silvija Ulmanis

## ENHG Membership Information

Annual membership in the Abu Dhabi chapter of the ENHG is 100 Dhs – for both individual and family membership. See Membership Sec. or Asst. at the next meeting for a membership form.

Members are entitled to join the group on all day trips and overnight camping trips. Each member is also entitled to a copy of the ENHG's normally annual peer-reviewed journal, *Tribulus*. Volume 19 is now available at meetings. Volume 20 is due out by the end of 2012.





Geologists' cars on a dhow preparing to sail to western AD

*Photo: Courtesy of ADCO*

Yet, even in a world that was still defined by sand tracks and palm frond houses, it was already possible to feel the first salty splashes of a wave of progress that was about to sweep across the landscape.

Heard's very presence was a sign that things were changing forever along the shores of the southern Arabian Gulf. An oil engineer, he was part of a rapidly growing team that would soon uncork the vast pool of wealth that lay under the sands of the Asab and Sahil fields.

Behind him on that August day was a world that romantics like Wilfred Thesiger might have liked to populate with noble bedu tribesmen leading camels and falcons across magnificent sun-bleached dunes, but which for the inhabitants was generally marked by poverty, unemployment, disease and great physical hardship.

In the next two decades, the emirates would become another place: of concrete and steel, broad highways, deep-water ports and international airports. New hospitals all but eliminated infant and maternal mortality rates, schools and universities drove out illiteracy and ignorance. Water flowed from a tap rather than a brackish hole in the sand.

What marks Abu Dhabi past and present, then, is not so much a dividing line as a cultural and economic canyon. But where do we place the first cracks of this schism? Is it that day in July 1962, when the master of the BP tanker British Signal hauled anchor off Das Island and steered the first cargo of Abu Dhabi crude down the Gulf and towards the international markets?

Or should we step back a little further, to late March 1958, when the drilling crew of the exploration rig Adma Enterprise have just noticed black streaks and a rainbow sheen on the lubricating mud pumping up from the steel bit twisting several thousand metres below the seabed underneath their feet and, as the blowout preventers slam shut, a new member has just presented itself for admission to the exclusive club of oil-producing nations.

Heard's book places this moment somewhat earlier. From Pearls to Oil traces the very earliest days of oil exploration in what were then the Trucial States. And while Heard, now retired but still living in Abu Dhabi, has had a ringside seat for much of the past half century, the story that he tells is far older. January 13, 1939, saw the signing the Abu Dhabi Concession Agreement that gave

75-year exploration rights to the first consortium of oil companies and, of equal significance, provided the Ruler, Sheikh Shakhbut bin Sultan Al Nahyan, with an initial fee of 300,000 Indian rupees that would be the nation's first serious taste of black gold.

Events far away would dash any hope of greater riches. Within eight months, Hitler's Panzer divisions were rumbling across the Polish border and much of the world was consumed by total war until 1945.

The obvious result of the Second World War was to stall oil exploration in the area for another 15 years. When oil was finally discovered, both on shore and under the sea, it was fully 20 years after Sheikh Shakhbut signed on the dotted line with Petroleum Concessions Ltd, as the oil consortium was then known.

In the meantime, the Rulers of the Trucial States could only watch as their neighbours grew wealthy on oil revenues and hope, with quiet desperation and a faith in God, that their share of this bounty would come.

Still, as Heard demonstrates, the seven emirates might have been short on natural resources, but at least had Rulers who were long on patience. And a good thing too. Reading Heard's account of the early days of oil, you might wonder that oil was ever found at all.

It wasn't just the primitive technology involved - the first wells were bored by dropping a heavy pointed object over and over again until a hole had been bashed in the ground. The cast of egomaniacs and eccentrics that descended on the Arabian Peninsula in the 1930s frequently displayed a nearly lethal combination of ignorance and arrogance both to the local population and each other.

For starters, the British, despite effectively ruling the region's foreign affairs for almost a century and keeping everyone else out, really knew very little about Abu Dhabi. Those studies that had been carried out - for example, John Gordon Lorimer's exhaustive study of the Arabian Gulf, published barely 20 years earlier - were largely ignored when prospecting began.

Instead, the oil companies chose to listen to dangerous lunatics like Harry St John Philby, a crypto-fascist former British diplomat (and, incidentally, father of the famous Soviet spy Kim Philby) whose hatred of his homeland was probably compounded by being cashiered from the foreign service for undisclosed offences.

Philby, now styling himself Abdullah, had become a close adviser to the Saudis, after securing the local concession for Ford motor cars and acquiring a teenage bride in the Taif slave market. He used his influence to push a highly partisan view that rule of the Trucial States, which "owe their existence to piracy and pearls" extended no more than a few miles inland from the coast.

Inland, Philby promised, the areas considered most promising for oil reserves acknowledged "the writ of Ibn Sa'ud even to Buraimi eastwards", a conceit that Heard points out was "ridiculous".

Yet in this story, even Philby's eccentricities are eclipsed by two others: "Haji" Abdulla Fadhel Williamson and Major Frank Holmes, who between them duelled for the

signatures of sheikhs on oil exploration agreements for much of the 1930s.

Williamson was marginally the older of the two and by far the more colourful. Born William Rupert Williamson in 1872, he fled his native Bristol on a tea clipper at the age of 13 and had never gone back.

Escaping the wrath of the Spanish colonial authorities in the Philippines who believed him a dangerous revolutionary, Williamson was sprung from a Manila prison in his 20s and eventually fetched up as a trader in Basra, embracing the local culture and faith to an extent that he twice performed Haj, but also provoking some astonishment by riding around on a penny farthing bicycle.

By the time the international oil companies had turned covetous eyes towards the southern Gulf, "Haji" Williamson was the man for local knowledge. The owner of a trading dhow and fluent in Arabic, he sold horses to the India army, peddled kerosene and, the British, suspected, was also not above a bit of gunrunning.

Williamson, therefore, despite being the "go to guy" in the Gulf, was far from being trusted. After all, he had "gone native", perhaps the worst infraction a white man could commit east of Suez.

Frank Holmes was a very different kettle of fish. Born in 1874 in New Zealand, he had worked as a mining engineer before joining the British army in India during the First World War. Arriving in Bahrain, he had some success drilling artesian wells and set about reinventing himself as an oil concessions broker.

Both Holmes and Williamson claimed good contacts with the local rulers and were offered the chance to sign them up.

Weighing up their respective merits was Brigadier Stephen Hemsley Longrigg, a respected Arabist who had served with the British occupation forces in Iraq between 1927 and 1931.

Longrigg had subsequently joined the Iraq Petroleum Company, the consortium formed by a number of oil companies, including British Petroleum and what is now Total, after the 1928 "Red Line Agreement" carved up the carcass of the Ottoman Empire to ensure that the various oil giants did not compete with each other when bidding for new concessions.

Longrigg's instincts did not always serve him well. He had been utterly taken in by Philby, who had concealed his close relationship with Ibn Saud (and therefore the rival American oil companies) to promote the kingdom's claim over what was patently Abu Dhabi territory.

Now, faced with a choice between Williamson and Holmes, he once again plumped for the wrong man. To be fair, it was an easy mistake to make. Williamson, aided by his friend, the colourful Bahraini businessmen Haji Yusef bin Ahmed Kanoo, had made a good start in opening negotiations with many of the ruling sheikhs, but in 1937 got himself into a spot of hot water after sending out a gossipy memo about the Ruler of Dubai. When the document was leaked, he was forced to leave town in a hurry.

Holmes - who may have played a role in the leaking - had been itching to get Williamson out of the way for some time. But having sidelined his hated rival, the contracts still failed to materialise, despite Holmes waving around gold watches and promises of expensive motor cars. By now some British officials had begun to suspect Holmes was playing a double game with their American rivals. In the end, disliked and distrusted by the oil companies and rulers alike, he too had abandoned the Trucial Coast as a bad job by the end of the year.

While all this was going on, a small team of hapless geologists was attempting to find out if there was anything worth drilling for.

Lacking aircraft and, indeed, modern seismological equipment, the intrepid explorers - part Burton and Speke, part Laurel and Hardy - had no choice but to work on the ground, frequently encountering terrain and inhabitants that were both distinctly unwelcoming.

Transport was a major hurdle. Nobody cared much for camels, so heading off to the west of Abu Dhabi, the team of Thomas Williamson and D Glynn-Jones hauled a pickup truck and a saloon car precariously to the deck of a dhow, unloading them on planks.

Understandably, the geologists preferred to work in the cooler months, but since it rained a lot, the vehicles frequently bogged down in the sticky mix of sand and gypsum known as sabkha.

Some of the most entertaining parts of Heard's book are geologists' reports, which he reproduces in several lengthy appendices. In one, Williamson (no relation to Haji) writes home to his employees that locals in remote areas had never before encountered a motor vehicle.

They were, however, familiar with aircraft, which they had seen flying overhead and assumed that the prospectors' van was one of these monsters come down to earth, perhaps to devour them.

The team's locally hired drivers, Williamson observed, would watch as these villagers approached their vehicle and, overcoming their fear: "Finally stretch out a hand to touch. At that moment the driver would press the horn button, and all the bystanders would yell with delight as the victims fell over each other to get away from that bellowing monster."

The end of all this was no real evidence for oil and no contracts to drill for it; a state of affairs that by 1937 suited nobody. At this point, though, the nearest thing to a hero emerges in Heard's story: Basil Lermite, another employee of Petroleum Concessions Limited, living in Dubai.

Lermite, self-effacing almost to the point of invisibility turned out to be the man for the job. A description of him living in Dubai several years later noted that he "spoke Arabic and was familiar with several dialects, but he also knew the value of silence and patience".

Lermite, the account continues, "frequently spent time with the Arabs in the desert and adapted easily to their ways, the food and their behaviour. At the same time, when he entertained Europeans to tea, he served thin bread and butter on his Spode china and filled the cups

from his Georgian silver tea pot."

Charged by an increasingly desperate Longrigg to sort out the mess left by Holmes and Williamson, Lermite put away his silver tea service and went to see the sheikhs.

Joined by Longrigg, who had finally left Bahrain to visit the emirates for the first time, the oil companies finally began to make progress.

Dubai and Sharjah had already signed concession agreements, but the big prize, Abu Dhabi, took longer to land. If the British ever believed such an agreement could be easily brokered, they were swiftly disabused.

"I consider that the Dubai agreement was fully discussed and thoroughly understood and that every demand of the Shaikhs that could be met was agreed," a frustrated Holmes wrote to his superiors in June 1937. "To yield now to the clamouring of other Rulers is weakness of which they will be only too ready to take advantage."

While the negotiators might portray the sheikhs as capricious and mercurial, the reality is that the rulers knew how to drive a hard bargain and had a fine appreciation of the high stakes involved, not least for their impoverished people. In the end, though, the deals were struck, even if the changes they would usher in were still far in the future.

Heard's account is an invaluable resource for anyone attempting to understand this period, a time that until now has been neglected by historians. His gathering (with the assistance his wife, the redoubtable Dr Frauke Heard-Bey) of the source material, much of it stored in the dusty archives of the former Imperial Petroleum Company in London, cannot be described as anything less than a labour of love.

In particular, the reproduction of contemporary accounts of the negotiations, which take up almost half the book, are worth the purchase price alone, as is a reproduction of a series of maps drawn by the early geologists as they trekked across the desert lands. And while his book, like the UAE itself, has had a lengthy gestation, the end result is something unique.

*James Langton, The National's news features editor*

## ENHG Trip Convoy Guidelines

*Once again, the prime field trip season is upon us, so it's a good time for all ENHG members, new and returning, to review basic convoy rules. Because convoys are something of a bothersome necessity on field trips, we offer this set of rules to make our journeys together as safe and hassle-free as possible. –Ed.*

### 1 General Items

Arrive at the starting point in plenty of time for the briefing on the route and destination of the trip. Please be ready to start with a full fuel tank. If you are going to leave the group before the end of the trip, please notify the trip leader and others. Do not go faster than you feel comfortable driving. **Keep your headlights on in daylight to make it easier to ID convoy vehicles.**

### 2 Rules of the Road

Our line of cars should not dominate the road. If others are trying to pass the group, please let them do so. Whenever the group stops, if at all feasible, make sure you pull off the road completely. Always use your indicators in plenty of time to guide cars in the group, as well as other road users. **If you want the group to stop, flash your headlights.** If the car behind you flashes its headlights, flash yours until the group leader pulls over. When the group passes through a congested area, the leader should try to stop as soon as safely practicable to regroup.

### 3 Overtaking

**Overtake only when it is permitted and safe to do so.**

### 4 Speed

Always stay within the legal speed limit. If the traffic is flowing more slowly than the legal limit, go with the traffic flow. The lead car should establish a sensible pace for the group. It is the individual driver's responsibility to keep the vehicle behind in sight, insuring that the group stays together. **If the car behind slows down, please slow down with it.** If every car does this the convoy will stay together. NB: At night, it's virtually impossible to ID the car behind you, so it's essential to agree ahead of times on route turning points, where the convoy will regroup if a car falls behind; working phones help, too.

### 5 Tips for the trip leader

Have a short meeting of all drivers to explain the route and destinations. Assign a buddy to drivers who are unfamiliar with the route. Hand out route directions if possible. **Collect mobile phone numbers of all drivers, and make sure all drivers have your number.** If there is a large number of vehicles, it is advisable to break up into two groups with a lead car for each group.

### 6 Sweep

Lead car driver should designate someone to act as "sweep" (tail-end-Charlie) for the convoy. **The sweep should always stay at the rear, and should be on the lookout for unscheduled stops** (due, for example, to a red light, overheating, puncture, or other breakdown, or unscheduled petrol station or photograph-taking stop) and should alert the leader by phone, if necessary.

*Adapted by ENHG from ENHG-AI Ain document*

## Mushrif Park Redevelopment Mtg.

Mushrif Central Park, located on 15th Street between Airport Road and Karamah Street, is one of the largest urban parks in Abu Dhabi. AI Ain Properties is planning to completely redevelop the park, which will include a vibrant range of facilities from a botanic garden and shade house to a performing arts venue and petting zoo. Slated as 'People's Park', Mushrif Central Park will be a community hub for all of Abu Dhabi's residents to enjoy.

M&N Communications is working with AI Ain Properties on a community engagement programme aimed at capturing feedback from different members of the community regarding programming and future usage of the park. As part of this initiative, we are speaking with different community groups, schools and government agencies about the park's redevelopment plans. We are

also rolling out feedback tools that will be available in the upcoming months with the objective of raising awareness of such facilities and promoting the integration of the park within people's everyday lives.

We hope you can join us on Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> [see p. 8], and share your thoughts on this exciting project!

**Teena Bounpraseuth**

### Recent Speaker



**Dr Brigitte Howarth** arrived in the UAE 1998 with a first degree in applied ecology, and her research involved all aspects of soil ecology, specifically environmental impact and recovery rates of land that had been reclaimed after coal mining. Later on she received funding from the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) in England to develop an immunological test to determine whether birds are stung by bees and wasps. Continuation of this research is ongoing here in the UAE with a Research Incentive Fund grant from Zayed University (ZU), where she is currently employed as Interim Chair of the Department of Natural Science and Public Health at ZU. She is currently working on extending the dipteran (fly) records for the UAE but is also interested in other insect orders and the ecology of all habitats they occur in our country. As often as possible she spends time in wadis and the desert environment, observing, identifying, and recording fauna and flora, culminating in periodic publications.

On Tuesday, Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>, Dr Howarth gave the ENHG in Abu Dhabi a fascinating talk entitled *Star Dust and Virtuoso - Wonders of the Insect World*. As she explained in this talk, the Natural History of the United Arab Emirates is at a juncture. The literature provides us with sufficient information for the identification of insects, at least to some level of classification, but baseline data is still not complete. In fact, when one begins to delve a little deeper, it is extraordinary how much still remains unknown about ecological niches, habitat requirements and life cycles: a level of information that is needed for effective conservation and mitigation planning. Giving us a closer look at several fascinating groups of insects on Oct 16<sup>th</sup>, Brigitte certainly did whet our appetites to gain more insight into this world of wonders!

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

### Corporate Sponsors of the ENHG - 2012

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. Click on the links below for information about the sponsors.

<a href="#">Bin Moosa &amp; Daly</a>	
<a href="#">British Petroleum</a>	
<a href="#">Dolphin Energy</a>	
<a href="#">Dome International L.L.C.</a>	
<a href="#">ExxonMobil</a>	
<a href="#">Fugro Survey (Middle East) Ltd.</a>	
<a href="#">International Bechtel Company, Ltd.</a>	
<a href="#">Al Masaood Group</a>	
<a href="#">Mott MacDonald, Ltd.</a>	
<a href="#">Nautica Environmental Associates L.L.C.</a>	
<a href="#">Partex Oil and Gas</a>	
<a href="#">Readymix Abu Dhabi Limited L.L.C.</a> (Click on link & scroll down)	
<a href="#">Shell</a>	
<a href="#">URS</a>	
<a href="#">Wave Craft, Ltd. (Auditor Nick Bengé's Co.)</a>	
<a href="#">WSP Group</a>	

### In the Local News Media

The National, Sept 12: [Al Drouer calendar: the circle of life dictated by the stars](#)

The National, Sept 15: [Rock stars who sing of their love](#)

## In the News Media, Continued

The National, Sept 17: [RAK dhow's launch may mark last of the line](#)

The National, Sept 17: [Trips to Musandam harder with stricter UAE border rules](#)

The National, Sept 23: [Dozens of rare sharks being sold for fin soup in Dubai market](#)

The National, Sept 23: [Falcon's nests programme may boost Mongolian schools](#)

The National, Sept 28: [Glimmers of light in UAE's eco future](#)

The National, Oct. 6: [Slowly solving riddles of the UAE's ancient ed-Dur](#)

The National, Oct. 7: [Dubai push to regulate global shark trade](#)

## ITEMS ON SALE

### AT THE ENHG BOOK 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 for schools donations.)*
- Wild about Mammals, 40
- Breeding Birds of the United Arab Emirates, 100
- Birds of the UAE--Common guide to species, 60
- Birds of the UAE--Helm field guide, 70
- Sandgrouse checklist of the birds of the United Arab Emirates, 25
- Emirates Bird Report, 20
- Birdwatching guide to Oman, 2nd edition, 100  
*Guide to bird watching spots in Oman.*
- Common Birds in Oman, 2nd ed, 120
- Butterflies of Saudi Arabia & its neighbours, 90
- UAE in Focus, 100
- Natural History of Oman, 50
- Abu Dhabi 8 Million Years ago, 15
- Arabian Wildlife Encyclopedia, 120
- Sulphur, Camels and Gunpowder, 100
- Native Plants of Oman, 80
- Little O in Oman, 25
- Marine Environment, Resource of the UAE, 140
- *NEW*: Focus on Fujairah: Through Minie's lens 1964-2001, 150

## Websites of General Interest

Emirates Natural History Group – Al Ain (Archives: newsletters of 3 NHGs, *Tribulus*): <http://www.enhg.org>

Dubai Natural History Group: <http://dnhg.org>

Qatar Natural History Group: <http://www.qnhg.org>

Historical Association of Oman: <http://www.hao.org.om/>

Tommy Pedersen's UAE Birding / UAE Nature Forum: <http://www.uaebirding.com>

Hanne & Jens Eriksen's website: [www.BirdsOman.com](http://www.BirdsOman.com)

Emirates Soc. of Geoscience: <http://www.esg-uae.org>

Emirates Marine Environmental Group: [www.emeg.ae](http://www.emeg.ae)

Emirates Diving Association:  
<http://www.emiratesdiving.com/index.php>

Emirates Wildlife Society – World Wildlife Fund:  
[http://wwf.panda.org/who\\_we\\_are/wwf\\_offices/united\\_arab\\_emirates/](http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/wwf_offices/united_arab_emirates/)

Environment Agency Abu Dhabi: <http://www.ead.ae/en>

UAE Environmental Atlas (Sign up for notice of release):  
<http://www.environmentalatlas.ae/>

Abu Dhabi Culture and Heritage Authority  
<http://www.adach.ae/en/>

UAE archaeology website: <http://www.adias-uae.com>

Noukhada Adventure Co.: <http://noukhada.ae>

NYUAD Events Calendar:  
<http://nyuad.nyu.edu/news.events/events.ad.html>

Khalifa University Events Calendar:  
<http://www.kustar.ac.ae/campus/dss/schedules/default.aspx>

Dubai Astronomy Group:  
<http://www.dubaiastronomy.com/>

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

Wildlife Middle East News: <http://www.wmenews.com>

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

Zoology in the Middle East (Peer-reviewed ISI Journal):  
<http://www.kasperek-verlag.de/ZME-allgem.htm>

Sharkwatch Arabia: <http://www.sharkwatcharabia.com>

Foundation for the Protection of the Arabian Leopard in Yemen: <http://www.yemenileopard.org>

Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund:  
<http://www.mbzspeciesconservation.org/>

EDGE: Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered: <http://www.edgeofexistence.org>

Protected Planet: IUCN & UNEP-WCMC Database:  
<http://www.protectedplanet.net>

Wikispecies: <http://species.wikimedia.org/wiki>

Encyclopedia of Life: <http://eol.org/>  
Midas Fly page: <http://eol.org/pages/713241/overview>

ARKive Images of Life on Earth: <http://www.arkive.org>

Sand Atlas: <http://sandatlas.org>

NHBS Environment Bookstore: <http://www.nhbs.com/>

## Committee Members

Andrew Bean (Chairman)  
Mobile: 050-322-1327  
[rabean@eim.ae](mailto:rabean@eim.ae)

Julie Bird (Secretary)  
Mobile: 050-615-4757  
[julieinad@yahoo.com](mailto:julieinad@yahoo.com)

Rex Sartain (Incoming Treasurer)  
Mobile: 050-526-5112  
[rexsartain@hotmail.com](mailto:rexsartain@hotmail.com)

Maggie Case  
(Outgoing Interim Treasurer)  
[pearl1@frontiernet.net](mailto:pearl1@frontiernet.net)

Barbara Barton Smith  
(Membership Secretary)  
Mobile: 050-761-6880  
[barbartonsmith@yahoo.com](mailto:barbartonsmith@yahoo.com)

Avra Theophanous  
(Corporate Sponsorship Secretary  
& Asst. Membership Secretary)  
[avra.theophanous@gmail.com](mailto:avra.theophanous@gmail.com)  
Also: [css.abudhabi@enhg.org](mailto:css.abudhabi@enhg.org)

Stephanie Baldwin  
(Lecture Coordinator)  
[stephanie.baldwin@mottmac.com](mailto:stephanie.baldwin@mottmac.com)

Claudia Gehre  
(Public Relations Secretary)  
Mobile: 050-526-3026  
[ccgehre@gmail.com](mailto:ccgehre@gmail.com)

Peter Hellyer  
(Editor of *Tribulus* / Librarian)  
Mobile: 050-642-4357  
[hellyer@emirates.net.ae](mailto:hellyer@emirates.net.ae)

Keith Taylor  
(Focus Editor / Field Trip  
Coordinator)  
Mobile: 050-820-4938  
[kjtaylor13@yahoo.com](mailto:kjtaylor13@yahoo.com)

Denis Cheng  
(Field Trip Coordinator)  
Mobile: 055-776-8785  
[spacemandc@gmail.com](mailto:spacemandc@gmail.com)

Gordon Higgs  
(Book Stall Coordinator)  
[gord2u@googlemail.com](mailto:gord2u@googlemail.com)

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

Sara Sartain  
(Committee Member)  
[rexsartain@hotmail.com](mailto:rexsartain@hotmail.com)

**Required: Additional Field Trip Coordinators to serve on a team, planning and leading 2-3 field trips each during the coming season. Can you do this?**

**Required: Book Stall Assistant to help with book sales at ENHG meetings. Can you do this?**

## Lectures

**New Meeting Venue:**  
**Abu Dhabi Women's College, City Campus**  
**Emirates Hall**

Oct 16<sup>th</sup>  
Star Dust & Virtuoso –  
Wonders of the Insect  
World

**Dr Brigitte Howarth**

Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> 7:30 PM  
Mushrif Park Redeve-  
lopment: Community  
Consultation

**Teena Bounpraseuth,**  
**M&N Communications**

Nov 6<sup>th</sup> 7:30 PM  
Environment Vision  
2030

**Dr Richard Perry**

## Field Trips

Oct 19<sup>th</sup>  
Snorkelling/Diving  
Dhow Trip - Fujairah  
**Denis Cheng**

Oct 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup>  
Eid Camping Trip to  
Oman: Jebel Shams /  
Hidden Village Trail  
**Keith Taylor**

Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>  
Overnight Musandam  
Dhow Cruise (**FULL**)  
**Dubai NHG**

Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>  
Family Camping Trip to  
'45-min Campground'  
**Michael Creamer**

## Social Event

Oct 30<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM  
Eastern Mangroves  
Resort Hotel –  
Impressions Bar, 5<sup>th</sup> Fl.  
Join us to chat about  
this season's activities.

## ENHG-AD Research & Conservation Fund Grant Application Information

For background on this fund, see [Dec 2009 Focus](#), p5.

For further enquiries and for grant application guidelines and application form, contact ENHG Chairman Andrew Bean at [rabean@eim.ae](mailto:rabean@eim.ae).

NB: These documents are posted in the Files section of the AUHENHG YahooGroup (see address below).

## 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
- First-Aid Kit
- Sky Scout astronomical object locator/identifier
- Celestron NexStar telescope (on field trips only)
- Two satellite phones, taken on camping trips.

Phone numbers: No. 1: 008821644400956

No. 2: 008821644400965

Enquiries: Keith Taylor, [kjtaylor13@yahoo.com](mailto:kjtaylor13@yahoo.com).

## Marine Life Rescue Contact Info.

In Abu Dhabi:

EAD Hotline for reporting environmental emergencies including pollution and injured wildlife: 8009990. Email: [envirocomplaint@ead.ae](mailto:envirocomplaint@ead.ae)

EAD Emergency response manager: Mr. Abdul Rahman. Mob: 0506674171 (contactable 24 hours/day)

EAD contact for sea turtles, dugongs and dolphins: Dr. Himansu Das, Biodiversity Management Sector. Tel: 26934654; Mob: 0504465125; Email: [hsdas@ead.ae](mailto:hsdas@ead.ae)

In Dubai:

Emirates Marine Environment Group (EMEG) (Tel: 043630581/Fax:043630460; Email: [info@emeg.ae](mailto:info@emeg.ae))

Dubai Municipality: Main number: 800900. Marine Environment & Sanctuaries Unit (Tel: +9714 606 6818, Fax +9714 703 3532), Email: [marabdulla@dm.gov.ae](mailto:marabdulla@dm.gov.ae).

Dubai Turtle Rehabilitation Centre at the Burj al Arab Aquarium. Tel: 043017198. 24-hour email contact, Attn. Mr Warren Baverstock, Manager of Operations, BAA Aquarium: [warren.baverstock@jumeirah.com](mailto:warren.baverstock@jumeirah.com)  
To post Facebook message triggering an after-hours SMS alert: [www.facebook.com/turtle.rehabilitation](http://www.facebook.com/turtle.rehabilitation)

## Newsletter Details

Newsletter contributions to:  
[newsletter.abudhabi@enhg.org](mailto:newsletter.abudhabi@enhg.org)

## Members' Items for sale

Please send small ads to:  
[newsletter.abudhabi@enhg.org](mailto:newsletter.abudhabi@enhg.org)

## Postal Address

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

## Yahoo Groups web forum

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/AUHENHG>  
(Click Join button to sign up for ENHG info.)