

focus



Abu Dhabi, November 2012
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Emirates Natural History Group

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

EDITORIAL

Several camping & day trips organised by our new team of Field Trip Coordinators from Sept into Nov have kicked off our new activity season nicely. Write-ups of several of those trips will appear in Dec. *Focus*. In fact, if you attended any of those trips, please send in photos or comments for inclusion (if you haven't already). See p.3 below for a write-up our Oct. snorkelling/diving trip, which also produced this issue's catchy cover photo.

Although our chapter's trips have so far been lightly attended (5-9 people per trip) they've been well enjoyed and have attracted a number of brand-new members—a real plus. Looking ahead, Denis' mid-Nov stargazing trip to Liwa looks to be bursting at the seams! We want to thank Michael Creamer for stepping up to lead a one-off family camping trip last weekend. Please consider doing likewise at least once this season—taking the rest of us to spot you're familiar with or one you'd really like to go to—or at least write & give us suggestions.

Thanks go to Stephanie for doing a good job arranging a variety of high-interest lectures so far this season. For news of the upcoming Nov 20th talk, watch your in-box.

We would welcome additional volunteers to help out with various tasks (see p. 8), especially to assist Claudia, currently 'out-station', with Public Relations. In any event, please consider how you can help us get the word out about our activities. Btw, the Committee gives apologies for a recent lapse in sending out meeting announcements and the newsletter in a timely fashion. We also note that venue information and newsletter archives on the ENHG.org website are out of date due to a software glitch. Both matters are being sorted, but please consider signing up on our YahooGroup site (see link on p. 8) as all our alerts are posted there first & the archives are current. NB: we are still getting to grips with a re-formatted YGroup Calendar; for now, *Focus* has the most comprehensive info on upcoming activities.

Plans for IEW 2013 are now under way—see p3 below & the provisional activity plan, attached with this issue / uploaded to our YahooGroup. Note the 30 Nov deadline!

Finally, Rima Jabado and colleagues have received several research grants from the ENHG for research into the status of sharks and other elasmobranchs along the coast of the UAE. We are delighted by the recent news that she has now received an additional US \$30,000 grant from the car manufacturer Ford to continue this research (See 3rd News Media link on p 7). In her email reprinted below, Rima details her opportunity to get additional US\$5,000 for this important research. We hope that members will be willing to consider voting for her video now to enable her to receive this extra grant.

Keith Taylor/Andrew Bean

A Vote for Shark Research

Dear Members & Associates of the ENHG,

I hope you are all doing well!!! I want to ask you all for a favour...

My research project has just been awarded a grant by Ford Middle East. In order to win an additional US\$5,000, they have asked me to create a short video

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FRONT COVER PICTURE

Photograph: Silver Mono, *Monodactylus argenteus* & Indo-Pacific Sergeants, *Abudefduf vaigiensis*—Sharm Rock, Fujairah

Photographer: Amanda Smyton

This month's contributors

ENHG-AI Ain, Peter Hellyer, Rima Jabado, Richard Perry, Amanda Smyton, David Stanton, Keith Taylor

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.

and get as many people as possible to vote for it. The project with the most votes will win the additional funding. Should I get this funding, it will be used to continue with the long-lining phase of my project, where I catch and tag sharks along the coast of the UAE. **Voting closes on November 11th, 2012.**

I would really appreciate it if you could vote for my project and share this with as many people as you can! Below is the process for voting and it can only be done from a computer (no iphones, no ipads), 1 vote per person:

- Log onto your Facebook page.
- Go to Ford Middle East page and Like it.
- On the right hand side, there is a little icon: People's Choice Awards.
- Click on this icon and follow the instructions to VOTE.
- My video is labelled ' Rima Jabado'.

Thank you so much for your help and support.

Regards, **Rima Jabado**

Snorkelling/Diving Trip to Dibba

On Oct 19th, Field Trip Coordinator Denis Cheng arranged a one-day dhow trip off the UAE's East coast. On the Thursday, six of us from Abu Dhabi and two from Al Ain stayed at Fujairah area hotels and then met at the Dibba Al-Hisn (Sharjah) marina on the Friday for an excellent snorkelling/diving adventure.



Photo: Anonymous

Four ENHGers with two diving students met on the dhow

Snorkellers & divers kept busy observing the undersea life at two main venues: Sharm and Dibba Rocks. Species included Indo-Pacific Sergeant, Silver Mono - aka Silver Moony, parrotfish sp, Purple Tang, boxfish sp, ray sp (spotted), Green Turtle, cuttlefish sp, Clownfish and sea cucumbers: brown ones – likely Pineapple Sea Cucumber *Thelonota ananas* & light beige ones with black splotches – likely Black Sea Cucumber *Holothuria atra*—actually completely jet black, but only appearing beige because mostly covered with sand! Inchcape 1 Wreck yielded one very large old eel, but no seahorses.



Photo: Amanda Smyton

Reef fish and coral, *Acophora* sp, at Sharm Rock

For more information on the variety of wildlife that can be found on the UAE's coral reefs, check out this website: <http://www.arkive.org/uae/en/coral-reefs>.

Keith Taylor

Can Collection Drive for Charity

In line with Dr. Perry's recent remarks on planning for a more sustainable environment in Abu Dhabi Emirate, the ENHG Committee has decided to support an aluminium can collection drive brought to our attention by ENHG member Jeanette Green. Starting in 2010, AD resident Michael Manlogon has established a daily routine of collecting cans from food courts, etc. and preparing them for sale to a recycler, donating the proceeds to such charities as Adopt-a-Hometown-School Project of ABS-CBN Foundation, UNICEF & World Vision, all in

direct support of children's education in the Philippines—a win-win proposition. (See 1st News Medial link on p. 7).

At each upcoming ENHG lecture meeting, starting on November 20th, 2012, a signposted can collection bag will be put on display at the rear of the meeting hall.

Keith Taylor

IEW 2013 Information

In the tradition of ENHG, the hosting of the Inter-Emirates Weekend has been shared among the groups over the years. This year, we are looking forward to welcoming you to Al Ain! With tradition in mind, and not forgetting ol' favourites, we would like to introduce a theme to the weekend - 'Origins of the ENHG'. This will be shared with participants particularly during the dinner on Friday evening and by way of opportunities on Friday and Saturday to work with and help organize archival material that dates back to the origins of the group in 1980 and its founder, Bish Brown. Along with a walk down memory lane, many other activities will be available.

The dates are **Thurs 21st – Sat 23rd February 2013**. **Please see the attached information regarding the draft programme.** This may change a little, but it gives you a good idea of the kinds of activities available, with more detailed trip descriptions to be forwarded in the coming weeks. Specific information about meeting places and maps for these will be sent closer to the time.

There is no need to pre-register for trip activities (only for the dinner - see below!). On Thursday 21st February we will have a registration desk set up at the Danat Hotel from 5pm-9pm at which people can sign up for activities and pay for their Dinner Tickets. There will also be a short registration session on Friday morning and again on Friday afternoon. Updated trip activity information will be posted on www.enhg.org and <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/AUHENHG> as it becomes available.

Dinner: To reserve your place for the dinner held in the Danat Resort Ballroom (Dhs 145 inclusive of taxes) on Friday night (22nd Feb) please forward an email to interemiratesweekend@gmail.com by **20th January**.

Room rates and booking – Danat Resort Hotel (please note the cut-off date for the room rate): To take advantage of the room rates listed below, members must make their bookings **before 30th November 2012** after which these rates will no longer be available. At present the hotel is able to offer 30 rooms at these rates. Please contact the hotel directly to make your reservation (03 704 6000 ask for Reservations and quote ENHG).

Room rates for Danat Resort Hotel, Al Ain - IEW 2013 21-23rd February 2013 (*All prices are incl. of 16% tax*):

Standard Single (Room Only): AED 464
 Double Room (Room Only): AED 522
 Standard Single Room with Breakfast: AED 550
 Standard Double Room with Breakfast: AED 615
 Deluxe Single Room with breakfast: AED 666
 Deluxe Double Room with breakfast: AED 732

ENHG-AI Ain

FEW-FPALY Conservation Update

The two items below are republished with permission from the August 31, 2012 issue (No. 33) of the newsletter of FEW-FPALY: Foundation for Endangered Wildlife (Yemen) / Foundation for the Protection of the Arabian Leopard in Yemen – recipient of three ENHG Research & Conservation grants (2009 to 2012) -Ed.

1. FEW's Executive Director Returns to the Classroom: Following a three-year hiatus from his teaching job at Sana'a International School, FEW's Executive Director resumed his teaching career on August 25th, 2012. David Stanton, who founded FEW and its predecessors the *Yemeni Leopard Recovery Program* and the *Foundation for the Protection of the Arabian Leopard in Yemen*, is optimistic that FEW's impact will continue to grow in a positive direction in coming years. "We have a solid reputation based on years of good work under difficult circumstances, a cadre of skilled and dedicated Yemeni conservationists on our team, and a growing portfolio of important conservation projects," said Stanton.

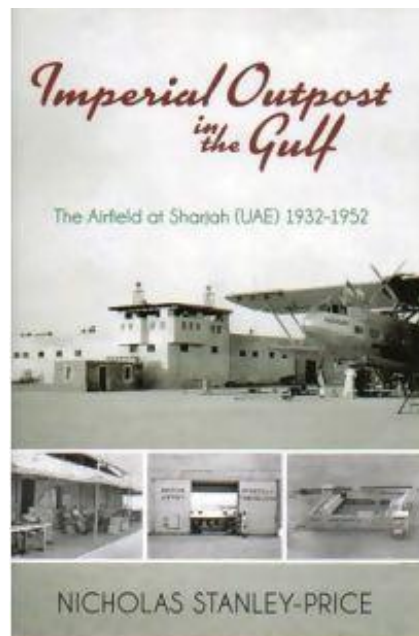
Until a suitable, full-time replacement has been recruited and trained to lead the NGO, Stanton will continue as the Executive Director on a part-time basis. Asked if he envisioned difficulty in keeping FEW on track whilst teaching full-time, he replied, "This organization has a lot of vitality and our projects are in good hands with Yousuf Mohageb, Murad Mohammed, Waleed Al-Ra'il, Hisham Al-Takry, and Nasser Aswot managing them. I will happily continue to provide advice and guidance, but I believe that though this may be a difficult transition for me, it will speed FEW in the direction of full Yemeni ownership, which is as it should be."

2. Yemeni Customs Clears Substantial Shipment of FEW Research Equipment: During summer leave in the United States, FEW's Executive Director purchased thousands of dollars' worth of research equipment for the *Prince Bernhard Nature Fund* project in Hajjah and Abyan. Additional equipment was purchased to revitalize the project in Hawf where a steady attrition of trail cameras due to the inevitable occasional theft (see article in next month's update), vandalism, weather, mechanical failure and, in the case of a Bushnell Trophy Cam, attack by a curious hyena has reduced our arsenal by more than half during the past two years. Thanks to donations collected by William Bezodis at the *British International School of Jeddah*, contributions from the *Qatar Natural History Group*, and a grant from the *Emirates Natural History Group (Abu Dhabi)*, FEW has more than doubled the number of cameras that it has on the ground in Hawf. The equipment was imported on August 18th and it required hours of negotiation and payment of a heavy import tariff to clear the shipment; previously, only a brief explanation was needed to surmount this hurdle. After issuing a receipt for the duty paid, customs agent 'Mohammed' said, "This is the procedure now." While the unexpected expense puts a strain on FEW's limited budget, the fact that the *Government of Yemen* is now implementing and enforcing strict import policies may be a positive sign that the country is on the road to a more sustainable future.

Courtesy of David Stanton

Book Review: A Vital Link to the East, Sharjah's Airfield Put Emirate on the Map

The following book review by senior ENHG Committee Member Peter Hellyer, published in *The National* on Sept 8th, 2012, is reprinted here with permission. –Ed.



The old Sharjah airport control tower as it is today on King Abdul Aziz Street. Photo: Paulo Vecina / *The National*

The United Arab Emirates today, somewhat surprisingly, is one of the major hubs of the global aviation industry. That is due, in part, to the success of its two major local carriers, Emirates Airline and Etihad Airways, serving not just the UAE but destinations around the world. Supported by the efforts of smaller carriers, they are an increasingly important part of this country's economy. It is unlikely, however, that they would have recorded such success had it not been for the country's fortuitous geographical location, situated between East and West, and, more specifically, on the route from Europe to India, South East Asia and beyond.

Just as the Arabian Gulf has played a role in the development of maritime trade routes across the Indian Ocean for several thousand years, so too has it been important in the development of the worldwide aviation network. This book, whose author is a former strategic

adviser at the Sharjah Museums Department, tells the history of how it all began.

Powered flight - using engines and wings, rather than balloons or airships - began in the years before the First World War, with the Wright Brothers being credited with the invention of the first successful plane, in 1903. During the war, it became evident that aviation had a crucial role to play in combat, primarily for reconnaissance. After it ended, the development of civilian air travel gradually began, with the establishment of the first national airlines, of which Britain's Imperial Airways, later merged into BOAC (now British Airways), was one of the first. Nicholas Stanley-Price notes that "for Britain, it was essential to exploit the new, faster method of travel in order to link London more closely with its imperial possessions in India, Africa and South East Asia."

This book explains when and why Sharjah was selected as a key stopover on that route from Britain to the East, first for military traffic and run by the Royal Air Force (RAF) and then for civilian aircraft. It also records the airport's history and delves into the impact that this had on the Rulers and people of the Emirates.

Imperial Airways opened its route to the East in the mid-1920s along the Iranian (Persian) littoral but, after complex negotiations, it was only possible to negotiate an agreement that would expire in 1932. Such a route was, of course, unsuitable for the RAF, which was responsible for the security of Transjordan and Iraq and also needed to develop a secure passage from Baghdad to India, Singapore and Australia.

The shared needs of British civilian and military aviation - and the importance of them both to the broader interests of the British Empire - meant that the emirates of the Trucial States provided the obvious alternative option. Over time, of course, the emergence of the airport had a direct impact on the local economy, through rental payments to the ruler, opportunities for employment, purchases from the local market and the facilitation of quicker travel, for sheikhs, merchants and others.

Stanley-Price notes that "the establishment of the airfield ... suddenly connected Sharjah to the wider outside world in a way that no other Trucial State was". It helped, for example, to reverse to some extent the economic decline brought about by the collapse of the pearl industry by providing jobs. "Above all, it brought to the Trucial Coast a glimpse of the profound technological changes that were happening elsewhere."

There were other impacts, too - "the advantages of quick travel around the Gulf region brought in its wake some risks, such as the accelerated spread of disease", including, probably, the late 1935 outbreak of smallpox in Dubai and Sharjah. Another important aspect of the opening up of the air route was the creation of an efficient and rapid airmail service and there was a functioning postal service at the airport from 1933 onwards, although it was another 30 years before one would be established in Sharjah itself. Pearl merchants avidly seized the opportunity to send their goods more quickly to the Bombay market.

Stanley-Price divides his book into three phases. From

1932 to 1939, the airport was used as a staging post for the RAF and a landing stop for Imperial Airways, which also launched, in 1937, an alternative service by flying boats that landed at Dubai Creek, passengers being put up overnight at the Sharjah Imperial Airways Rest House.

From 1940 to 1945, while it continued to be used by civilian aircraft, its main function was as a wartime airfield, used both by the RAF and the US Air Force for support operations.

During what he calls "the quiet years", from 1946 to 1952, it was used as a civil airfield and as an RAF base and headquarters for the Trucial Oman Levies (later Trucial Oman Scouts), the main centre of the British military presence in the Trucial States.

He then concludes with a brief review of the airport's growth after 1952 and subsequent decline in the 1960s before it fell into disuse following the RAF withdrawal in 1971 and the opening of Sharjah International Airport in 1977.

Stanley-Price's research has been exhaustive, delving into a wide range of records, including personal papers and photographs of some of those involved, British film archives, the RAF Museum and the Imperial War Museum as well as those accessible through local institutions in Sharjah.

As a result, he has been able to explain, in detail, the procedure for the selection of the landing ground and the construction of the runway and the Imperial Airways Rest House and to retell the experiences of those who flew into, and out of, the airport, and who worked there. "Flying with Imperial Airways - for those who could afford it - was by all accounts a luxurious experience," he tells readers. "It was civil aviation at its most civil."

There is much in the book that is of absorbing interest. The section dealing with the period from 1940 to 1945, for example, provides the most detailed picture thus far available of the engagement of the territory of the Emirates - if not its people - in the Second World War, as well as details of the occasional clashes with local tribesmen, such as an armed raid on the Rest House in January 1945.

Throughout, there is a well-examined theme of the relationship between the town of Sharjah and the airport, known to locals as Al Mahatta. Its presence, he notes, "has been an important element in the social and economic development of the emirate of Sharjah in the 20th century".

Today, its runway has become King Abdul Aziz Street, the control tower still survives, and the Rest House has become the Al Mahatta Museum. "In its reincarnation," Stanley-Price concludes, "it represents to younger generations of Emiratis a tangible witness to one of the most enduring influences on their country's recent history."

This book provides an illuminating insight into a period of UAE history that is little known and less understood. It is one that both aviation buffs and those interested in the history of the country in the middle decades of the 20th century should obtain.

Recent Speaker



ENHG member and former Deputy Chairman **Dr Richard Perry** first came to Abu Dhabi in 1999 to serve on what is now known as the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD). He came to establish the regulatory permitting function, the Abu Dhabi GIS and the protected areas network. After six years he left to go and work in the outback Mallee region of Northwest Victoria Australia as Biodiversity manager for the Mallee Catchment Management Authority, where his task was to develop the biodiversity action plans as well as the endangered species monitoring programme.

After two years he was asked to come back to Abu Dhabi to join ADCO as Senior Environmental Advisor with the HSE dept. While with ADCO he won the ADNOC HSE Annual award for his work on developing the ADCO environmental database and sensitivity maps.

He was then asked to join Masdar City as Environment and Sustainability Manager, and he stayed there for two years before re-joining the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi in 2010 in order to develop the Abu Dhabi Environment Vision 2030. He is currently Executive Director for Environmental Information, Science and Outreach for the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi.

On Tuesday, Nov. 6th, Dr Richard Perry spoke to the ENHG about his work on Abu Dhabi Environment Vision 2030. He described the process that the EAD is going through to engage with stakeholders and highlighted five key priority areas of environmental management facing the UAE: climate change; air & noise pollution; water resources; biodiversity, habitats & cultural heritage; and waste management.

While pointing out some positive developments, he also drew attention to some real crisis points, especially the truly alarming depletion of fish stocks in UAE waters, praising the EWS-WWF's Choose Wisely campaign of education on sustainable fish consumption (cf. Speaker Info, p6 Dec2010Focus) as part of the way forward.

We thank Dr Perry for giving those of us present a valuable glimpse of this first draft of this vision for a more sustainable environment for Abu Dhabi emirate*, requiring decisive action from all concerned to achieve the threshold values proposed in EAD's vision: minimum targets for environmental improvements to be achieved in all key areas by 2030, in conjunction with the UAE's most essential social and economic aspirations.

The Editor thanks the above speaker for providing autobiographical information & photo 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.

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Partex Oil and Gas	
Readymix Abu Dhabi Limited L.L.C. (Click on link & scroll down)	
Shell	
URS	
Wave Craft, Ltd. (Auditor Nick Benge's Co.)	
WSP Group	

*For a fairly detailed run-down of the basic elements touched on in Dr Perry's talk, here is a link to EAD's official web posting: [Environment Vision 2030](#).

In the Local News Media

Gulf News, Feb 3: [Help poor children go to school? Yes, you can!](#)

The National, Oct 22: [World wade quest by lovers of rare plovers](#)

The National, Oct 23: [UAE shark researcher awarded Dh30,000](#)

Gulf News, Oct 23: [Campers to pay fee for overnight desert trips](#)

The National, Oct 27: [Released turtles signal good health](#)

The National, Oct 28: [UAE hotels give waste five-star treatment](#)

The National, Nov 9: [UAE hiking enthusiast continues to inspire after his death \(A tribute to Roy Richards\)](#)

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

Roy & Liz's website: www.chirri2000.com

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

Emirates Marine Environmental Group: 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/

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

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

Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority
<http://www.adach.ae/en/> (Still using ADACH website)

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>
Jewels of the UAE: <http://www.arkive.org/uae/en/>

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

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

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

Required: Additional Public Relations Assistant to carry on with PR tasks now that Claudia will be out of the country much of this season. Can you do this?

Required: Social Event Coordinator to book and announce 2 or 3 social events a year,, including our end-of year dinner. Can you do this?

Lectures

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

Nov 6th **7:30 PM**
Environment Vision
2030 – A Look at Some of the Issues

Dr. Richard Perry

Nov 20th **7:30 PM**
Title: TBA

Speaker: TBA

[NB: check your in-box]

Dec 4th
Spring Bird Migration through Abu Dhabi

Oscar Campbell

Field Trips

ENHG-AD Chapter:

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

ENHG-AI Ain Chapter:

Nov 9th/10th
Khor Kalba Area:
Archaeological sites in Wadi Helo & Wadi Al Hayl; Kalba museum
Joseph Mansour

ENHG-AD Chapter:

Nov 16th/17th
Camping Trip to Liwa:
Potluck BBQ & Dark Sky Astronomy
Denis Cheng

Nov 23rd
Introductory Birding Trip on AD Island
Keith Taylor

Nov 30th/Dec 1st & 2nd
Camping Trip to Sila with Birdwatching & Interesting Geology
Keith Taylor

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.

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:

- Starter camping set: 2 new sleeping bags & maps, medium-sized cool box, old Coleman '5-man' tent
- GPS unit – GARMIN GPSMAP 60CSx
- First-Aid Kit
- Birding Telescope
- 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.

Marine Life Rescue Contact Info.

In Abu Dhabi:

EAD Hotline for reporting environmental emergencies including pollution and injured wildlife: 8009990. Email: 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: hdsas@ead.ae

In Dubai:

Emirates Marine Environment Group (EMEG) (Tel: 043630581/Fax:043630460; Email: 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.

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
To post Facebook message triggering an after-hours SMS alert: www.facebook.com/turtle.rehabilitation

Newsletter Details

Newsletter contributions to:
newsletter.abudhabi@enhg.org

Members' Items for sale

Please send small ads to:
newsletter.abudhabi@enhg.org

Postal Address

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

Yahoo Groups website

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