

# focus



Abu Dhabi, October 2013

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Emirates Natural History Group

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

## EDITORIAL

This issue's cover looks back and also forward: to a repeat of our 2011 trip to Jebel Akhdar during the Eid al Adha holiday 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> Oct. Join us if you can. We are planning a good range of camping trips and day trips – watch your Inbox for a summary of coming attractions.

Thanks to Jennifer Hasenknopf for stepping in to coordinate our lecture bookings. We have also had strong expressions of interest in the roles of Corporate Sponsorship Sec. and Meeting Assistant. By Jan. we will need still more volunteers to replace our outgoing Secretary, Treasurer & Membership Sec. And we can use help in planning Inter-Emirates Weekend 2014—now set for 20-22 Feb—a chance to mingle with NHG members from across the UAE while exploring natural history points of interest in the vicinity of the capital. Anyone is welcome to attend the first IEW subcommittee meeting—just before the Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> lecture—to work out the main details by the end of this month.

Finally, it's official: our membership year is now 1 Sept to 31 Aug. Current 2013 members renew Jan to next Sept at half fees. Here's to a new season of discovery!

*Keith Taylor*

## A Curious Caper Corrected

The report of the Wadi Nahyan Canyon walk at IEW which appeared in the March 2013 *focus* included a photo (repeated below) of a distinctive trailing plant, several meters long, with large, turgid, yellow-green leaves. It was identified in the report as *Rumex limoniastrum* but is in fact the caper *Capparis cartilagenia*. Both plants are among the more interesting ones to be found in the UAE and deserve brief discussion for the benefit of amateur naturalists.



*Capparis cartilagenia* from Wadi Nahyan

*Capparis cartilagenia* is one of two caper species found in the UAE, the other being the more delicate *Capparis spinosa*, the edible caper whose buds are pickled as a condiment in Europe. *C. cartilagenia* is relatively common and often quite large. It normally grows as a hanging plant but on Jebel Hafit it can also be found as an erect or trailing shrub, as in the Wadi Nahyan photo.

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### FRONT COVER PICTURE

Photograph: Green Mountain (Jebel Akhdar, Oman)

Photographer: Keith Taylor

## This month's contributors

*Denis Cheng, Nick Derbyshire, ENHG, Gary Feulner, Edwin Grandcourt, Raffaele Lo Moro, Laurie Marker, Gary Morgan, Pew Charitable Trusts, Barbara Smith, Keith Taylor*

## ENHG Membership Information

Annual membership in the Abu Dhabi chapter of the ENHG is 100 Dhs per individual and now 150 Dhs per family membership. See Membership Sec. or Asst. at the next meeting for a membership form. Membership renewals for 2013 are due in January.

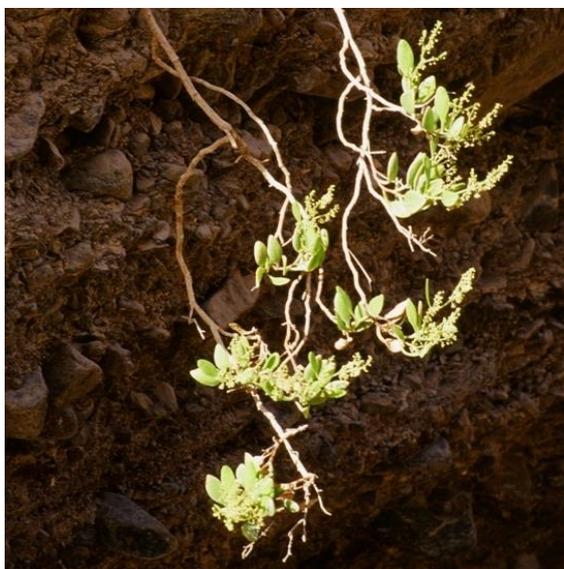
Members are entitled to join the group on all day trips and overnight camping trips. Each member is also entitled to a copy of the ENHG's normally annual peer-reviewed journal, *Tribulus*. Volume 20 is available at ENHG meetings. *Tribulus* Volume 21 is expected by the end of the year.

Numerous specimens can be seen along the lower half of the switchback road leading to the top of Jebel Hafit, where *C. cartilagenia* is one of the largest and most conspicuous shrubs. Both UAE capers can be distinguished from most other plants by the presence of one or two paired spines at the base of the leaves. Both also have distinctive and relatively showy flowers, in which the cluster of dozens of large stamens is larger than the pale pink-white petals.

*C. cartilagenia* is the best UAE example of a plant species that totally avoids the geochemically distinctive ophiolite (basic and ultrabasic) rocks that make up most of the Hajar Mountains of the UAE and northernmost Oman. Instead, *C. cartilagenia* is found only on the carbonate rocks (limestones and dolomites) of the Musandam peninsula and Jebel Hafit, and on intermittent carbonate remnants in between (e.g., the

fossiliferous rocks of Jebel Fayah, Jebel Rawdhah, Jebel Sumayni, Jebel Qatar, etc).

*Rumex limoniastrum*, endemic to the Hajar Mountains, bears a superficial resemblance to *C. cartilagenia* and *C. spinosa* but has no spines and does not bear fruit. It is also a very rare plant – so rare that, despite searches by professional botanists, it went unrecorded from 1837, when it was first collected in the Jebel Akhdar by French botanist Aucher-Eloy, until 1999. In fact, beginning in the early 1990s, UAE naturalists had encountered and taken note of the plant (which they christened "Spineless Caper") at several remote locations in the Hajar Mountains and Jebel Akhdar, but it remained unidentified until Ian Curtis, an amateur botanist visiting the UAE under the auspices of the Sharjah Natural History Museum (Dr. Marijcke Jongbloed was then the director), was able to avail himself of the resources of the Royal Botanical Garden at Edinburgh. He identified *R. limoniastrum* (a specimen from Jebel Masafi) and clarified a number of other problematic UAE taxa.



*Rumex limoniastrum* on a wadi wall, showing the distinctive inflorescence – a spray of tiny flowers



A close-up of *Rumex limoniastrum*

Like many other Polygonaceae (the buckwheat/knotweed family), *R. limoniastrum* is evidently edible and has been found primarily on cliffs, ledges or other sites inaccessible to browsing quadrupeds.

Gary Feulner

## 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.

## Curiosities from the Mutrah Corniche Fish Market in Muscat

On a visit to the Mutrah Corniche Fish Market on May 10<sup>th</sup>, when some of our companions were on the wadi adventure described in May 2013 *focus*, three of us spotted the puffer fish pictured below, gasping for life in the bottom of a fisherman's boat. He told us the fish were not of any use to him, so we could have them. We then threw them back in the seawater, whereupon they floated on the surface. The fisherman said they would eventually release the air in their bladders, submerge & swim away, but we were not able to wait around long enough to see if that actually happened. We did notice later on that these fish are quite plentiful in the shallow water right next to the Corniche walkway.



Photo: Barbara Smith

On their visit to the Mutrah Corniche fish market on the Saturday morning of the same trip, Raffaella and Kirsty came upon the slender, long-snouted dark brown fish below, known to the fishermen they talked to there as the "Bamboo Fish". A correspondent from Australia, Gary Morgan, whom we later put the question to wrote in that it is more commonly called a Cornet Fish (Ubairi in Arabic), one of the species of the genus *Fistularia*.

Edwin Grandcourt, of the EAD, wrote in that the dominant fish in the barrow is most likely to be a *Pristipomoides* sp., probably the Rosy Jobfish (*Pristipomoides filamentosus*).



Photo: Raffaele Lo Moro

Keith Taylor / Gary Morgan / Edwin Grandcourt

## Oman is First Arab State to Ratify Treaty to Stem Illegal Fishing

*This article, published on Sept 4, 2013, was retrieved from the newsletter of the Pew Charitable Trusts. –Ed.*

The government of Oman formally ratified the [Port State Measures Agreement](#), or PSMA, a key international treaty to keep illegally caught fish from entering the market. The [U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization's formal acceptance](#) of Oman's ratification in August made Oman the first Arab state to become a party to the treaty.

The [U.N. FAO](#) adopted the PSMA in 2009. When it goes into effect, the pact will require countries that have ratified it to deny landing and services to vessels that have been involved in illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

"Oman has shown a strong commitment to the fight against illegal fishing," says [Tony Long](#), who leads The Pew Charitable Trust's [global project to end illegal fishing](#). By ratifying the PSMA, Oman establishes itself as a leader in protecting the Arabian Sea and surrounding waters from the destructive practice of illegal fishing."

"Illegal fishing is undermining social, environmental, and economic security around the world, especially for developing coastal states," Long adds. "Pew urges other coastal states to stop illegally caught fish from entering the market by ratifying this agreement."

Oman is the eighth government to ratify the PSMA, following Chile, the European Union, Myanmar (formerly Burma), Norway, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, and Uruguay. To take effect, 17 more countries must ratify the agreement.

[Read our fact sheet for more information on the PSMA.](#) - See more at:

[http://www.pewenvironment.org/news-room/other-resources/oman-is-first-arab-state-to-ratify-treaty-to-stem-illegal-fishing-85899502306?utm\\_campaign=2013-09-05%20Latest.html&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Elouqua#sthash.8WTldDuq.dpuf](http://www.pewenvironment.org/news-room/other-resources/oman-is-first-arab-state-to-ratify-treaty-to-stem-illegal-fishing-85899502306?utm_campaign=2013-09-05%20Latest.html&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Elouqua#sthash.8WTldDuq.dpuf)

*Pew Charitable Trusts*

## Cheetah Conservation Fund Update

*The following update was received on 13 Sept 2013 from Cheetah Conservation Fund Director Dr Laurie Marker, who spoke to the ENHG this past June, on the recent progress of the remarkable conservation center she and her associates run in Namibia. –Ed.*

Here at Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) we're dedicated to winning the cheetah's race against extinction. And while the race isn't won yet, it's good to celebrate our successes, which are made possible with help from you, our friends and supporters:

The International Conservation Caucus Foundation on 18 September will be awarding Dr. Laurie Marker their prestigious "Good Steward" Award. ICCF's "Good

Steward" Award is presented annually to recognise outstanding individual leadership in conservation. Past recipients of ICCF awards include former U.K. Prime Minister Tony Blair, Prince Albert II of Monaco, Prime Minister of Norway Jens Stoltenberg, Ed Norton, and Harrison Ford, among others. We're so proud and honoured to see Dr. Marker receive this award.

CCF is committed to promoting predator-friendly farming amongst Namibia's farmers, and we're so proud to share that our Dancing Goat Creamery products and our Bushblok fuel logs have both been accepted as "Certified Wildlife Friendly" by the Wildlife Friendly Enterprise Network (WFEN). Certified Wildlife Friendly® develops, certifies and promotes products and practices that conserve threatened wildlife while contributing to the economic vitality of rural communities. Both the Bushblok and Dancing Goat Creamery products will now feature a specially-designed label indicating that they have met WFEN's standards for certification.

CCF is pleased to share that the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund, in addition to naming our own Gebes Nikanor as a Conservation Hero last month, has also awarded CCF a US\$25,000 grant, one of only a dozen organisations recognised with a DWCF Conservation Award! The grant will go to support our highly successful Livestock Guarding Dog Programme, which is enjoying a banner year in terms of puppies -- five litters this year already! We're grateful to the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund for their recognition and support.

Through a generous opportunity from the Laura and John Arnold Foundation, Cheetah Conservation Fund has created a video as part of The Giving Library project. The Giving Project provides non-profits with the opportunity to create videos that effectively tell their story to donors. The more views we get of our video, the more prominently it will be featured on the Giving Library website. Help us boost our signal by watching the video and sharing with your friends!

### [CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO!](#)

The introductory film created for our Education Centre in Namibia by our intern, Jed Weiner, was recently accepted as an official selection in the 2013 American Conservation Film Festival!

### [CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE FILM!](#)

As always, none of these amazing things would be possible without your generous support. Thanks to you, we're making strides every day in the race to save the cheetah!

*Dr. Laurie Marker*

## Recent Speaker

**Denis Cheng** was born in Beijing, China, but spent his early childhood and adolescence in Washington, D.C., New York City and Los Angeles, CA, in his adopted home of the U.S.A. He attended the University of California, Berkeley (near San Francisco), where he studied geology, palaeontology, anthropology and archaeology. Upon graduation, Denis embarked on a two-year backpacking trip throughout Europe. It was during this long vagabonding adventure that he decided he wanted to spend the rest of his life traveling and living

abroad and, so, determined that a career teaching the global language of English would provide him a good opportunity to do this. As a result, he attained an M.A. in English language teaching and, eventually, a second M.A. in instructional design and technologies. He is currently serving as a senior lecturer in English at Khalifa University of Science, Technology and Research in Abu Dhabi. Previous to this, he taught courses, and conducted training courses and workshops, in not only English language, but, language teaching methodology, computer information studies, educational technology, anthropology and European and American history and popular culture. He has also participated in test materials design and development and been honoured as a Fulbright Scholar and a U.S. Dept. of State English Language Fellow. He is an avid scuba diver, backpacker, amateur archaeologist and astronomer. As a result of these professional and personal interests, Denis has realized a large portion of his life's ambition to travel to and explore the far reaches of the globe.



Amateur astronomy, also called "backyard astronomy" and "stargazing", is a hobby whose participants enjoy observing, usually with relatively small commercially manufactured telescopes and binoculars – and often with just their own naked eyes – the many natural, and often spectacular, objects which exist far beyond the earth's atmosphere in the depths of space. As opposed to a "professional", an amateur astronomer does not engage in the study of astronomy or astronomical/celestial objects for the primary purpose of "earning a living" and, more significantly, does not have an advanced academic degree or training in the subject. Many amateur astronomers are simply hobbyists engaging in observations of the many objects in the sky for their own personal pleasure. Nevertheless, amateur astronomers, especially those who have some degree of expertise and experience can make, and in fact have made, significant contributions to the more serious academic and professional studies of the heavens known today as astrophysics and cosmology by monitoring and tracking stars, planets and asteroids and discovering and monitoring more transient celestial objects such as comets, meteor showers and super novae. In fact, amateur astronomers often work alongside professionals providing valuable assistance to them in their research and work.

## Upcoming Speaker



**Nick Derbyshire** currently works at Atlantis – The Palm, Dubai, as Manager of Animal Acquisitions and Fish Health. The journey to this point has seen him working on fish cages in the Scottish Lochs; teaching Indonesian locals to farm corals in the seas of the Wakatobi National Marine Park, Sulawesi; owning and running the UK’s largest live phytoplankton production facility under a railway line and acting as Zoological Manager of the UK’s largest public aquarium, where guests on a daily basis get to dive with large sharks without a cage!

“A Life Aquatic”: We dream about relaxing on a beach next to some blue ocean, or sneaking quick views with mask and snorkel of the lives of colourful fish going about their business. We see it in documentaries on the television, or gaze at glossy magazines with images of weird creatures against a backdrop of alien landscapes, but few people are lucky enough to spend not only their leisure time playing in the water but also their working time too.

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

## In the News Media

The National, Aug: [Making a meal of it: Dubai turns to fish that eats mosquito larvae](#)

The National, Aug 28: [Sheikh Zayed through the eyes of others](#)

The National, Aug 31: [Relocated to The World: Dubai coral reef flourishing in new home](#)

The National, Sept 2: [A brighter future for the houbara, thanks to the UAE](#)

The National, Sept 30: [Gulf coral reefs get a much needed conservation boost](#)

The Independent, Oct 4: [‘Like nothing we had seen before’: New species of owl discovered](#)

The National, Oct 7: [UK to build education centre in memory of UAE wildlife scholar \[Simon Aspinall\]](#)

## Corporate Sponsors of the ENHG - 2013

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="#">Al Mahara Dive Center</a>	
<a href="#">Al Masaood Group</a>	
<a href="#">Bin Moosa &amp; Daly</a>	
<a href="#">British Petroleum</a>	
<a href="#">Crowne Plaza Abu Dhabi – Sheikh Hamdan Street</a>	
<a href="#">Dome International L.L.C.</a>	
<a href="#">Dolphin Energy</a>	
<a href="#">Fugro Survey (Middle East) Ltd.</a>	
<a href="#">Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund</a>	
<a href="#">Nautica Environmental Associates L.L.C.</a>	
<a href="#">Park Hyatt Abu Dhabi Hotel and Villas</a>	
<a href="#">Partex Oil and Gas</a>	
<a href="#">Shell</a>	
<a href="#">Readymix Abu Dhabi Limited L.L.C.</a> (Click on link & scroll down)	
<a href="#">URS</a>	

## Websites of General Interest

### I. Websites of regional NHGs (&HA) & members:

Emirates Natural History Group – Al Ain (Archives: newsletters of 3 NHGs, *Tribulus*): <http://www.enhg.org>  
 ENHG-AA forum: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ENHG>  
 Dubai Natural History Group: <http://dnhg.org>  
 Qatar Natural History Group: <http://www.qnhg.org>  
 Historical Association of Oman: <http://www.hao.org.om/>  
 Hanne & Jens Eriksen's website: [www.BirdsOman.com](http://www.BirdsOman.com)  
 Roy Richards's mountain website: [www.chirri2000.com](http://www.chirri2000.com)  
 Anne Thomas's blog: <http://wildcardtravels.blogspot.hk/>

### II. Websites of UAE-based affiliated organisations:

Tommy Pedersen's UAE Birding / UAE Nature Forum: <http://www.uaebirding.com>  
 Emirates Soc. of Geoscience: <http://www.esg-uae.org>  
 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>  
 [EAD Online Library: <http://library.ead.ae>]  
 Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority <http://www.adach.ae/en/> (Still using ADACH website)  
 Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund: <http://www.mbzspeciesconservation.org/>  
 Al Mahara Diving Center: <http://www.divemahara.com/>  
 Noukhada Adventure Co.: <http://nouxhada.ae>  
 Dubai Astronomy Group: <http://www.dubaiastronomy.com>  
 Sharjah Museums: <http://www.sharjahmuseums.ae>  
 Abu Dhabi Green Drinks: <http://www.greendrinks.org/Abu%20Dhabi>

### III. UAE-based & regional informational websites:

Environmental Atlas of Abu Dhabi Emirate: <http://www.environmentalatlas.ae>  
 An outline of Systematic Conservation Planning <http://dev.grida.no/rob/Hyder/index.html#/1/> [by AGEDI]  
 UAE archaeology website: <http://www.adias-uae.com>  
 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>  
 The Rock Art of the Hajar Mountains: [http://www.bradshawfoundation.com/uae/hajar\\_mountains/index.php](http://www.bradshawfoundation.com/uae/hajar_mountains/index.php)  
 Arabian Wildlife: <http://www.arabianwildlife.com>  
 Wildlife Middle East News: <http://www.wmenews.com>  
 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>

## Websites of General Interest, Cont'd.

### IV. International informational websites:

Encyclopedia of Life: <http://eol.org/>  
 ARKive Images of Life on Earth: <http://www.arkive.org>  
 [Jewels of the UAE: <http://www.arkive.org/uae/en/>]  
 EDGE: Evolutionarily Distinct & Globally Endangered: <http://www.edgeofexistence.org>  
 Protected Planet: IUCN & UNEP-WCMC database: <http://www.protectedplanet.net>  
 Project Noah: [www.projectnoah.org](http://www.projectnoah.org) "digital butterfly net"  
 Cheetah Conservation Fund: <http://www.cheetah.org>  
 [Bushblok: <http://www.bushblok.com>]  
 Fish base: <http://www.fishbase.org>

### ITEMS ON SALE

#### AT THE ENHG BOOK STALL

All prices are in dirhams.

- Jebel Hafit – A Natural History, 100  
*An attractive, encyclopaedic presentation of the natural resources of this national landmark. (Free copies available for schools donations.)*
- Abu Dhabi 8 Million Years Ago, 15
- Birds of the UAE - A guide to common and important 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
- Native Plants of Oman, 80
- Field Guide: Wild Plants in Oman, 300
- Natural History of Oman, 50
- Exploring Oman, 120
- Little O in Oman, 25
- Butterflies of Saudi Arabia & its neighbours, 90
- Sulphur, Camels and Gunpowder, 100
- Tribulus, our annual Journal, see for details
- Wild about mammals, 40
- Focus on Fujairah: Through Minie's lens 1964-2001, 150

## Committee Members

### REQUIRED BY JAN 2014:

Treasurer  
Secretary  
Membership Records Sec.

### ALSO SOUGHT:

Public Relations Sec.  
Field Trip Coordinator #4  
Chairman

### Can you help us?

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## Lectures

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

**Emirates Hall**  
**Back to 7:30 PM start**

1<sup>st</sup> Oct  
An Introduction to  
Amateur Astronomy  
**Denis Cheng**

22<sup>nd</sup> Oct **7:30 PM**  
A Life Aquatic,  
According to...  
**Nick Derbyshire**

5<sup>th</sup> Nov **7:30 PM**  
Biodiversity in the UAE  
**Dr. Ali Al Amoudi**

19<sup>th</sup> Nov **7:30 PM**  
Snakes, Nasty and  
Nice in the UAE  
**Dr. J. Michael Conlon**

## Social Event

29<sup>th</sup> Oct  
Park Hyatt Abu Dhabi

## Field Trips

15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Oct  
Eid Trip to Saiq  
Plateau on Jebel Al  
Akhdar, Oman  
**Keith Taylor**

25<sup>th</sup> Oct  
Snorkeling & Scuba  
Diving Cruise - Dibba  
Oman  
**Denis Cheng**

1<sup>st</sup> Nov  
Intro to Birding on AD  
Island  
**Keith Taylor**

1<sup>st</sup> Nov  
Astronomy Evening  
**Denis Cheng**

## 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 Deputy Chairman Keith Taylor at [kjtaylor13@yahoo.com](mailto:kjtaylor13@yahoo.com).

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
- 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)

- Celestron NexStar telescope (on field trips only)
- Sky Scout astronomical object locator/identifier

Enquiries: Denis Cheng, [spacemandc@gmail.com](mailto:spacemandc@gmail.com).

## Marine Life Rescue Contact Info.

**In Abu Dhabi:**

EAD Customer Service: 800555 (or)  
[customerservice@ead.ae](mailto:customerservice@ead.ae)

EAD Emergency Response (pollution and wildlife)  
available 24 hours/day: Mob 050 6674171 (or)  
050 6178218

**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)

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## ENHG-AD Postal Address / YahooGroups Website

ENHG c/o Environment Agency, AD <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/AUHENHG>  
PO Box 45553, Abu Dhabi (Click Join button to sign up for ENHG info.)