

focus



Abu Dhabi, January-February 2014
Vol 38 (1)



Emirates Natural History Group

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

Editorial

Welcome to another combined-months issue of *focus*, for Jan-Feb 2014, graced with a photo of Eastern Abu Dhabi Island Mangroves by *focus* Editor Munir El-Kadi.

On the final page, you will find the usual wide range of talks listed, including our most recent talk on conservation issues related to The Amazon by the Brazilian Ambassador, this week's surprise talk by archaeologist Prof. Peter Magee, whose guided site visit to Tell Abraq was one of the last season's highlights, and our second March talk, by Nicolas Heard of MBZ Species Conservation Fund, on their sponsorship of essential conservation projects world-wide, which makes them an excellent partner to the ENHG-AD.

Our Group is managing to carry on hosting two high-interest talks a month open to the general public despite the current lack of a permanent lecture venue - thanks to the welcome recent assistance of Park Hyatt AD and NYUAD in providing alternate venues. If you would like to assist us in locating a regular venue, please contact any member of the Committee. Potential locations are under discussion; more suggestions are welcome.

As for field trips, we are about to make up for our lack of pre-IEW trips these past two months with a number of trips on offer in the next few months. Coming up are a repeat camping trip to Delma Island at the end of March and a repeat day trip to Dolphin Bay at Atlantis – The Palm at the end of April. Munir El-Kadi will be leading a trip to Wadi Rum in Jordan between March 28th and April 4th. Check your Inbox for details and signup info. on these trips. A number of other trips are also under consideration. Please let us know if you can assist with or want to participate in any of these upcoming activities or want to suggest any others in what promises to be a busy close to our season, with a lot of choices on offer.

Our Committee has been energized by the team-building effort of hosting the recent Inter-Emirates Weekend 2014 based at our new hotel venue: the Ibis/Novotel Abu Dhabi Gate hotels, which served as a very well appreciated venue, with an accessible location, great service and great food. The weekend's various activities were largely successful and enjoyable despite a few mainly weather-related hitches. It's always good to get together with our friends from far afield and share what's of interest where we live through a wide menu of trips and activities. Thanks to all who pitched in and made this event a success! Thanks also go to our corporate sponsors Park Hyatt AD and Dive Mahara, for their assistance with some of these events.

At the IEW Thursday evening program, Denis shared his interest in amateur astronomy, with a stargazing session afterwards, and Brigitte took us on a revealing trip down ENHG memory lane, reminding us of the contributions of Bish Brown and others familiar to many, but also introducing us to the seminal role of founding ENHG Chairman and ENHG-AD Life Member John Stewart-Smith, who remains an active appreciator of and contributor to our efforts today, from his retirement, based at his home in Wales, devoted largely to his life-long passion for birdwatching. It was wonderful to feel your presence with us at this event, John!

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FRONT COVER PICTURE

Photograph: The Mangroves in Sadiyat, Abu Dhabi

Photographer: Munir El Kadi

This month's contributors

Amro Abu Kuhail, ENHG, Munir El Kadi, Gary Feulner, Carolyn Gibson, Hector Hernandez, Denis Milton, MbZSCF, Jeanne Queromain, Keith Taylor, Arabella Willing

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. Tribulus Volume 21 is now available at meetings.*

Brigitte also reminded us that despite the 37 years of our movement's existence, it is still early days in the natural history observation in the UAE, with baseline data, essential for the understanding of ecological processes, still being recorded. Therefore, please consider joining us on an AD Baseline Survey day-trip (details tbc).

And of course, the focal point of the IEW was the Friday evening buffet, with close to 80 in attendance despite the clash with the Rolling Stones Concert, appreciating good company and good food. Dick Hornby once again both entertained and humbled us with his well-illustrated natural history quiz, and to close the evening, we announced the ENHG's two natural history awards, with excellent acceptance speeches delivered by both recipients. See official awards statements and photos below.

A gentle reminder: it is time for 2013 members to renew, till the start of the new membership year in September, at half-annual-rate fees, which also apply to new

members this second half of the season. We hope to see old and new members at talks, on social events and on trips in the coming months!

Finally, the ENHG Committee gives a big Thank-you and Farewell to Julie Bird, our former Secretary, and to Avra Theophanous, our former Treasurer, Membership Secretary (and Corporate Sponsorship Secretary!), both of whom have just left the UAE. Both Julie and Avra gave contributions of time and hard work over several years that really did help to make all of our Committee's functions and our Group's activities. Julie leaves us to get married and start a new life in Vietnam, and Avra and her husband are settling into new jobs back home in the UK. We shall miss them, and we wish them all the very best!

Keith Taylor

ENHG Natural History Awards Announcements for 2013

Sheikh Mubarak Prize

The Sheikh Mubarak bin Mohammed Prize for natural history is given to a person who has made a substantial, original contribution to knowledge of the history, natural history, culture, archaeology or palaeontology of the UAE, such contribution being reflected through means such as publications and lectures. The award was instituted by the ENHG Patron, HE Sheikh Nahayan bin Mubarak Al Nahayan, and comprises an inscribed silver dhow and a cash prize.

Dr. Sabah Jasim



Dr. Sabah Jasim Receiving the Sheikh Mubarak Award

Dr. Jasim has worked with the Sharjah Archaeology Directorate for over 20 years, during which time he has played a leading role in the investigation of the archaeology of this important part of the UAE. Under his leadership, the Sharjah Archaeology Directorate has made an enormous contribution to the knowledge of the UAE's ancient heritage.

Major sites investigated under his directorship have included those at Jebel Buhais (a Neolithic cemetery), Jebel Faya (a Palaeolithic settlement), Muwailah (an Iron Age village), Wadi Hilu (an early Bronze Age copper smelting site), Kalba (a large Bronze Age / Iron Age settlement), and Tell Abra q (a Bronze Age / Iron Age

settlement), as well as others in Sharjah city, in Dibba and elsewhere.

Through establishing successful co-operation agreements with many foreign teams, and through numerous publications of journal articles and book chapters in both English and Arabic, he has helped to ensure that the archaeology of Sharjah is well-known, both locally and internationally. In addition, he has also facilitated numerous visits by ENHG parties to important archaeological sites throughout Sharjah. These factors make Dr Sabah Jassim an especially deserving recipient of the Sheikh Mubarak Prize for Natural History.

Bish Brown Award

The Bish Brown Award is given to a person who has made a significant contribution to promoting wider interest in the objectives of the UAE's three natural history groups, through means such as educational activities, raising public consciousness in the media, playing a leading role in NHG activities etc. The award was endowed by former Vice Chairman, Terry Adams and former Secretary, Caroline Adams, to commemorate the founder of the ENHG, J.N.B. 'Bish' Brown. The award comprises a silver mounted eagle, to be held for one year by the recipient, and a cash prize.

David Edwards



David Edwards Receiving the Bish Brown Award

David Edwards is the tenacious inaugurator, promoter, speaker, field trip leader and Acting Chair of the first new NHG in the UAE in many years: the small and slowly developing but very significant ENHG-Fujairah, which began in Jan 2012. With a wide range of natural history interests and a particular enthusiasm for archaeology, David has done a great deal to inspire others in Fujairah – expatriates and Emiratis alike – to explore and work on conserving the extensive natural and archaeological resources of Fujairah, offering residents and visitors to that region brilliant prospects for the future.

David's persistent pursuit of natural history exploration and his initiation of a new branch of the ENHG in an important region of the UAE puts David in the company of the ENHG's founding members, and we welcome him warmly to the company of its most active current promoters.

ENHG

Photos by Amro Abu Kuhail

Enigmatic Seedlings: *Datura Innoxia*

"The apple doesn't fall far from the tree", and "As ye sow, so shall ye reap", and so forth.

Notwithstanding these adages, it is not always easy to determine the identity of a plant from its seedlings. *Datura innoxia** is an example that recently came to my attention.

Datura innoxia, native to South America but widely introduced and used for decorative and other purposes, is not a common plant in the UAE. Most often, "wild" specimens are derived from plants cultivated in plantations upstream, and large groves can form in silt accumulations after rain. I recently visited a site where such a grove had existed a year ago. The mature *Datura* plants were gone, except in a small area that remained damp from recent rain.



Mature *Datura innoxia*

But among the other larger shrubs (mostly *Tephrosia apollinea* and *Aerva javanica*), a small plant new to me was common as ground cover. It consisted of two opposite, blade-shaped leaves below, and, at right angles above, another pair of opposed leaves, not blade-shaped but oblong-ovate, slightly wrinkled and veined. The differing leaf forms suggested the possibility that this plant was a seedling of a more recognizable mature plant, since many plants commence life above ground by putting out a pair of simple, undifferentiated leaves that will help them to photosynthesize and to hold their place in the substrate.



Enigmatic seedlings of *Datura innoxia*

I took several photos of this common unknown with the schizophrenic leaves before looking further and finding a few more developed plants. The more developed leaves had the distinctive appearance, texture and sour odor of *Datura innoxia*. I was also able to com- pare them with

the few mature plants nearby, where I also found the mystery seedlings beneath them. Case closed.



Datura innoxia seedlings showing schizophrenic leaves.

And then I also did what I might have done at first to resolve the matter: I sniffed the enigmatic seed- lings up close and smelled the distinctive odor of *Datura*.

[*NB: *D. innoxia* is catalogued in Wild Flowers of the UAE (Jongbloed 2003) as *D. stramonium*. That identification is amended here on the basis of Flora of Egypt, vol. 3 (Boulos 2002).]

Gary Feulner ENHG Dubai Chapter
From the Gazelle, Volume 29, No. 2,

Intelligent Conservation

The October Al Ain Chapter newsletter featured the article "Fantastic Plastic?" highlighting the plight that plastic pollution can cause. To further illustrate the topic, here is a photograph of a part of the manmade lake at Green Mubazzarah, in Al Ain at the foot of Jebel Hafeet.



Manmade lake at Green Mubazzarah

It is obvious from the above photograph that plastic isn't the only ingredient in the "soup" above, but that it does constitute a significant percentage of the mess.

We are all consumers, we have to consume to survive (and that inevitably results in waste as a byproduct).

We sometimes forget that if we don't look after our environment, we spoil things for others in our society and that we rob our children and future descendants of some of the pleasures that we take for granted.

Applying basic logic (Intelligent Conservation) means that we should place waste products where they do not endanger wildlife or spoil things for others. Only leaving behind our footprints at a site such as Green Mubazzarah preserves the location for a succession of

others to enjoy. Wind can blow a dropped item into a location where it can pollute a lake or kill domestic animals or wildlife (so don't drop waste that can kill a camel).

We commonly only use several container types including plastic, metal and glass. If we decide to no longer use any particular one of these containers, then the question arises as to what substitute product should or could be used? Would we make matters worse if we remove any constituent parts of the packaging that we are so used to placing our food and drink into?

It remains a good idea to reduce the amount of materials that we use once (e.g. take your own carrier bags when you go shopping) and that we recycle where we can. Al Ain has a very good recycling plant.

Taking these concepts further; should we not conserve a lot more of the resources on Spaceship Earth than we are currently doing? If we don't - when will the human race run out of its reserves of power and raw materials? When will we be at the point of being forced to leave our planet to survive? Does "Intelligent Conservation" help to delay our inevitable destruction? Is there anything else that we can do

Denis Milton, ENHG, Al Ain Chapter

From Al Ain Chapter Newsletter, November 2013

Visiting Abu Dhabi Wildlife Center

Among the highlights of the IEW weekend was a visit to the Abu Dhabi Wild Life Center, a unique center in the region, which dedicates itself into rescuing wild animals and rehabilitating them to their natural habitat before sending them back to the wild.

The center is in Al Wathba and is open every day from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM except for Fridays. It finances itself through a nominal entrance and guided tour fees. Additional income is generated from a small souvenir shop of African handicrafts at the entrance of the center.

The owners were very generous in guiding us in a tour of more than one hour visiting the different areas of different species of wild cats big and small, baboons, different birds, Gazelle, Turtles, three ostriches, wild deer, birds, a couple of lamas, Arabian wolves, hyenas, a wild rabbit and a couple of ponies.

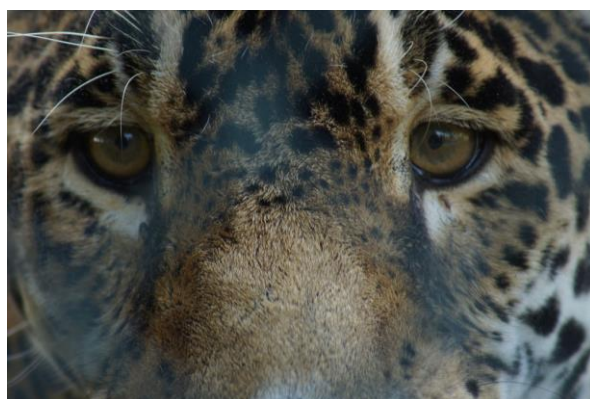
Most of the animals were confiscated from individuals involved in illegal animal trade and were earlier kept as private pets in homes. The rest were animals and birds donated to the center.

One of the stories that captured my heart was that of a lioness that was confiscated from a family that removed her paws and teeth were sawed out (assuming by that the beast would become like a cat). This pushed the poor girl to the edge of starvation, and when she was saved by the center she was already skin and bone. They had to request a dentist from South Africa to recreate her prosthetic teeth. Now she can eat as normal as possible, but it will be impossible for her to go back to the wild and survive it. Luckily, she found her partner in an aging lion in the center.



A Lioness Resting in the shade

I had another interesting couple of conversations with Shaitan, a leopard with strikingly beautiful eyes, and Caesar, a white lion. Apparently, Caesar was inviting me to become his dinner for the night.



Shaitan with his beautiful eyes

Other cats included a family of white lions which are indigenous to the Timbavati region of South Africa. These are rare color mutations of the Kruger subspecies of the African Lions. When we visited their cage, we saw the male playfully enjoying his mate's teasing him while the two locally born were watching from a far.



The head of the white lion family

Arabian wolves and hyenas had also their share of the cages of wild animals. The Arabian wolves were particularly curious of our visit. They were accompanying me and Dr. Al Amoudi until we were out of site from their cage. The most curious (and odd looking considering that the center is in Abu Dhabi) were the lamas. They kept on creeping beyond their fence (which was a partially open one as they are not dangerous animals), as where the wild deer.

When I reached to the cage of the parrots and exotic birds I was hearing a “hello” and “bla bla bla” often interrupted by loud, shrill, descending whistles coming out of the cage. At first I thought it was the parrots excited by Jennifer Hasenknopf who was trying to communicate with them. However, to my astonishment, it was apparently coming from a lone Common Hill Myna, (*Gracula religiosa*) in the parrots and wild exotic birds cage. Apparently this species is capable of imitating human vocals.



Gracula religiosa at Jayanti in the Buxa Tiger Reserve

It was a very interesting visit, opening eyes on efforts to get some illegally transported wild animals back to their original habitat. It was also refreshing to see someone doing real work on spreading awareness on the illegal trade of animals.

Munir El Kadi

Photos by the author

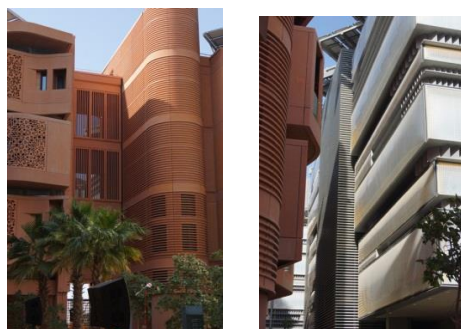
Masdar City: The Future Now!

Birdsong announced the success of Abu Dhabi's Zero Carbon, Solar Powered City to the Emirates Natural History Group tour. The cool, tree-lined court yards and narrow passage ways, inspired by Middle Eastern architecture of a bygone day seemed to please them. Ideas proven over time were improved upon by architect Norman Foster's collaboration with Steve Jobs. Foster's version of an ancient wind tower maximizes its cooling powers with water misting.



Wind Tower in Masdar

Everything is micro-designed for cool energy efficiency. Irregular roof-scapes of solar panels and undulating facades create breezy turbulence. The experimental structures – some tawny as the desert sand and twin skinned - others with reflective bubbles and metal fins make for an architectural distraction; but it works!



Energy Efficient Facades in Masdar

Masdar City is not perfect as it is, but it continues to evolve. Yes, it has sky lights to illuminate the entrance hall, but the precast cement is a dull grey. They could have mixed color into the concrete, or now, a little white paint would be an improvement. The exquisite spiral staircase reminiscent our DNA is lost in the gloom of an underground parking garage.



The Spiral Staircase

Still, the imagination in design and function is stunning. The sensuous swooping curves of laminated beams from recycled wood take the eye from the organic womb of the library lifting one's gaze to the outer world. The Super Smart Cars are just that. They wiz you around in electric quiet without a driver using magnets embedded in the roadway.



Self Operating Rapid Transport using Solar Electricity

The experiments conducted on campus sponsored by GE, Siemens and the Abu Dhabi Government are meant to make our lives greener and better. The world class laboratories would make any university jealous. A number of fields are represented. For example, microbiology is being employed to both develop new, non-petroleum fuels and foods that can be grown locally for both livestock and humans. Hector Hernandez, our Inter

Emirates Weekend tour guide was born in Puerto Rico came to Masdar via a PhD. from MIT. At present, only post graduate students are accepted. 75% are women and 50% of those are studying engineering. The facilities are excellent, tuition and lodging is free, and each student is given a stipend! Eventually, the population of Masdar City will reach 50,000 - truly a center of Excellence in the making.



Dr. Hernandez Describing his Team's Work

Michael Creamer

Photographs by Munir El Kadi

Upcoming Speaker

Peter Magee, *Water, Camels and Trade: the transformation of the human life on the ancient coastal plains of the UAE.*

Twenty years of excavation at the late prehistoric settlements of Muweilah and Tell Abraq (Sharjah, UAE) have fundamentally altered our understanding of how people lived between c. 2000 and 500 BC in the UAE. Thousands of artifacts, including the largest archaeozoological collection in the region, demonstrate that people not only maintained long-distance trade networks with areas across the Arabian Gulf, but also adapted and manipulated the local resources of the UAE coast. Of particular importance was the role of the dromedary camel and unique systems of accessing the coastal water table. In this illustrated lecture, we present the results of this research and outline our plans for future excavation.



Peter Magee is Professor of Near Eastern archaeology at Bryn Mawr College. He received his PhD from The University of Sydney in 1996 and has published over 50 books and articles on the history of archaeology of Arabia, Iran and south Asia. His most recent books include: *The Archaeology of Prehistoric Arabia: Social*

Formation and Adaptation (Cambridge University Press, 2014) and *Excavations at Tepe Yahya, Iran. The Iron Age Settlement* (Harvard University Press, 2004). He has excavated in Syria, Jordan, Yemen, the UAE and Pakistan. Since 1992, he has directed the excavations at Muweilah in the Emirate of Sharjah and this project has expanded to include excavations at the nearby site of Tell Abraq since 2007.

Recent Speaker

João de Mendonça Lima Neto, *Biodiversity in the Amazon: Opportunities and Challenges*

This presentation will start with a discussion of carbon emissions around the world to put into perspective the important role of the world's rainforests in carbon sequestration as well as an important reservoir of biodiversity. It will give a brief description of the Amazon rainforest in Brazil and in other countries in South America: its size, population, Indian tribes, economic activities and biodiversity. This talk will explore the current challenges in the Amazon due to human activities, including expanding cities, logging, cattle raising, agriculture (especially soy production), mining and energy production, and will assess the two main threats of accelerated climate change and loss of biodiversity due to rainforest depletion. The talk will focus on Government policies of main government players in the Amazon region and on promising legislation, including mandated monitoring programs such as INPE, SIVAN and others.

The talk will conclude with opportunities (or the way forwards): successful strategies of promoting sustainable development, the promise of RIO + 20, carbon financing initiatives and public/private agreements.



Ambassador João de Mendonça Lima Neto, the Brazilian Ambassador to the UAE, has had a long career in foreign service. For nine years of that career, he served in Ministries in his home country with a focus on External Affairs; for nearly twenty-eight years so far, he has served in foreign postings as well as, first in a Secretarial capacity in embassies in Paris, Asuncion, Tokyo and London, as Consul-General to Shanghai, China, as Ambassador to Vietnam, and currently as Ambassador to the UAE. H.E. de Mendonça Lima Neto has a degree in Philosophy and Economics from Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan, and degrees in Diplomacy from Brazilian institutions. He has published two books - *Brazil as a Tourist Destination* and *Ho Chi Minh: a Life of Struggle* - and several articles in Brazilian publications on economic subjects (Employment, Urban Violence, Brazilian Inflation and Brazilian Economic Performance). He has been highly decorated in the course of his long diplomatic career.

In the News Media

The National, March 4: [Sharjah breeding centre brings Arabian leopard back from the brink](#)

The National, March 2: [Dubai's indigenous trees get GPS monitors](#)

The National, March 2: [Air pollution in Sharjah as toxic as in Beijing, survey shows](#)

EAD, February 24: [Abu Dhabi and BP Strengthen Partnership for the Next Sustainable Schools Challenge](#)

The National, February, 23: [Birds who swoop to conquer](#)

The National, February 22: [Kalba Prey Centre informs and delights](#)

Gulf News, February 22: [Khor Kalba conservation efforts bear fruits](#)

The National, February 16: [UAE donates thousands of houbara to Qatar breeding center](#)

Gulf News, February 14: [Al Ain Zoo breeds endangered Speke gazelle](#)

The National, February 13: [Dubai lake clean-up under way after complaints from public](#)

Gulf News, February 13: [UAE acts to stop shark-finning in Middle East](#)

Gulf News, February 6: [Abu Dhabi: 'Big cats playing with people sends a wrong message'](#)

Gulf News, February 6: [Rare cheetah to breed at Abu Dhabi Wild Life Centre](#)

Gulf News, February 3: [Region's first water research centre launched](#)

Gulf News, February 3: [Volunteers sought to keep unique ecosystem](#)

Gulf News, February 3: [Wadi Wurayah – a wetland of great importance](#)

The National, February 2: [UAE students' first-hand experience with an animal shelter](#)

The National, January 31: [Australia mourns the death of the world's oldest flamingo](#)

Gulf News, January 30: [Ecosystem services harmed by economic growth, minister says](#)

The National, January 28: [New mate for endangered Arabian leopard at Al Ain Zoo](#)

The National, January 28: [Cheetah expert calls for DNA register in UAE to save species](#)

Gulf News, January 22: [Project to cut greenhouse gas from landfills in Abu Dhabi and generate energy](#)

EAD, January 21: [A Strategy for the Efficient Management and Conservation of Water Resources in Abu Dhabi Emirate Launched Alongside IWS 2014](#)

Gulf News, January 3: [Arabian tahr making comeback at Al Ain centre](#)

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.

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

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
 Roy Richards's mountain website: 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://www.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>
 Environment and Protected Areas Authority - Sharjah <http://www.epaa-shj.gov.ae>

III. UAE-based & regional informational websites:

Environmental Atlas of Abu Dhabi Emirate: <http://www.environmentalatlus.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
 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>

Websites of General Interest, Cont'd.

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

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 "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

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Lectures

4th March
Water, Camels and Trade: The transformation of human life on the ancient coastal plains of the UAE.

Venue: **Park Hyatt – Abu Dhabi**

Peter Magee

18th March
The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund: A UAE Conservation Organisation with Global Impact
Venue: **tbc**

Nicholas Heard

1st April
Featured film: Wild Life Arabia Part 2.
Venue: **Park Hyatt – Abu Dhabi**

Field Trips

21st/22nd March
Delma Island Camping Trip

March 28th - April 4th
Wadi Rum, Jordan
(contact Munir El Kadi for further details)

April 5th
Dolphin Bay at Atlantis – The Palm TBC

NB: Watch In-box for details on more field trips, to be confirmed soon.

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.

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

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

Enquiries: Denis Cheng, spacemandc@gmail.com.

Marine Life Rescue Contact Info.

In Abu Dhabi:

EAD Customer Service: 800555 (or)
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)

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 Contributions / Newsletter Index

Send newsletter contributions to:
newsletter.abudhabi@enhg.org

Searchable index of *focus* issues 2007-2013:
<http://www.enhg.org> (Abu Dhabi/ Index to *focus*)

ENHG-AD Postal Address / YahooGroups Website

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

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