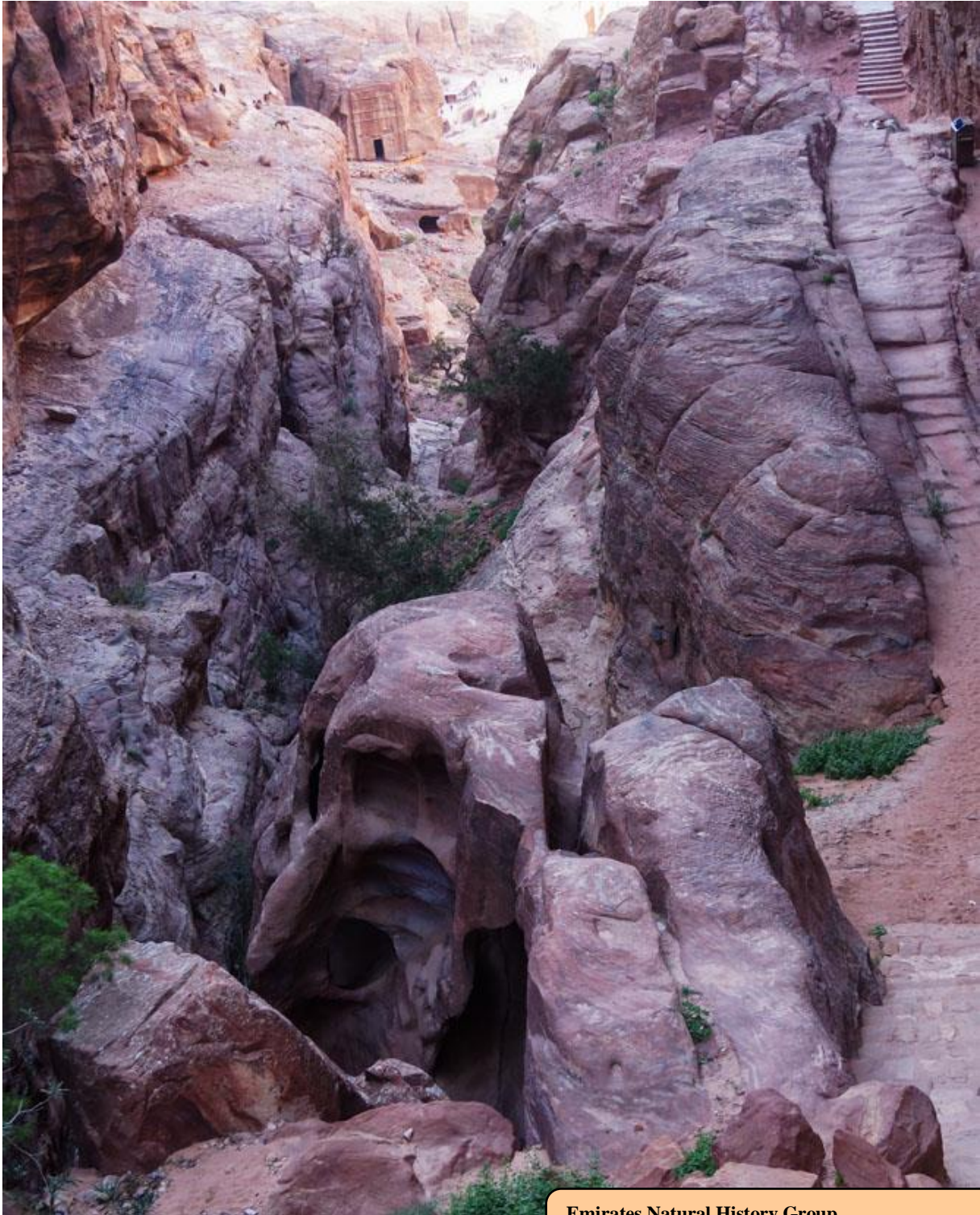


focus



Abu Dhabi, March - April 2014
Vol 38 (2)



Emirates Natural History Group

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

EDITORIAL

Welcome to this bumper issue of *focus*, featuring a fine cover photo of Petra by Munir, write-ups of several ENHG field trips and information on recent speakers.

Our lectures continue with this week's talk on sustainable tourism by Park Hyatt Marine Biologist Arabella Willing and concludes with Dr. Steve Ross's talk on the conservation of the endangered Arabian Tahr (see p. 6). Both talks will be held at our regular lecture venue: the Park Hyatt Abu Dhabi, on Saadiyat Island.

Thanks go to ENHG Corporate Sponsorship Coordinator Dan Upperco for promoting our group's core objectives so effectively to current and prospective sponsors. In addition to a growing list of Corporate Level Sponsors, we are happy to announce that we now have two Bronze Level Sponsors: BP and URS. And we also welcome our first Gold Level Sponsor Park Hyatt Abu Dhabi Resort Hotel (See details on p. 8). We are grateful for the contributions of all of our corporate sponsors and our regular members – all partners in regional environmental and archaeological research and conservation – and we look forward to doing good work together in the coming season. We will welcome new grant applications in the coming season: (see R&C grant details on p. 10).

In Committee news, we extend huge votes of thanks to Jennifer Hasenknopf, Outgoing Lecture Coordinator, and Munir El Kadi, Outgoing *focus* Editor, who have been of great service to the ENHG this season, but are both stepping down to focus on other commitments. Please let us know if you can serve in either of these roles next season. Many thanks go to Membership Sec. Elaine Mazarello e Kemuel for also taking over as Public Relations Sec. from Claudia Gehre, who has stepped down after several years of intensely committed service in that role, for which we owe her a huge debt of gratitude. And many thanks also to Clive Swan for manning our Book Stall over the past year and for starting our Facebook page. He is now handing over to local librarian Mustafa Huseen Ali, whom we welcome to the Book Stall (June 3rd). Finally, we welcome to the Committee Arabella Willing and Nessrine Zahlawi as our new Online Outreach Coordinators team.

Looking ahead, the next ENHG-AD Annual General Meeting, normally held around this time, is now projected for October 2014, to bring it in line with our new Sept-August membership year, which follows our activity cycle, with a recess during July and August.

Keith Taylor

Support Your Local Solar System

Blue moon, red planet.....What exactly are their true colours?...And what about Jupiter and Saturn? A group of ENHG members recently decided to find out.

It was no surprise that the "planet party" viewing trip organized by astronomy enthusiast Denis Cheng generated a lot of interest given the ever-growing popularity of astronomy as well as increasing online and TV news coverage of space featuring spectacular NASA images. You can see some of them via this link:

<http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/imagegallery/iotd.html#lowerAccordion-set1-slide10>

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FRONT COVER PICTURE

Photograph: Petra: Getting Down from the High Place

Photographer: Munir El Kadi

This Month's Contributors

Lesley Ashcroft, David Bowen, Oscar Campbell, Denis Cheng, Kirsty Dent, Munir El Kadi, Raffaele Lo Moro, Ada Natoli, Steve Ross, Amanda Smyton, Keith Taylor, Arabella Willing

ENHG Membership Information

Annual membership in the Abu Dhabi chapter of the ENHG is 100 Dhs per individual & 150 Dhs per family membership. Membership forms are available at meetings. 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*. Volumes 20 and 21 are available at meetings.

For initiation into this subject, it really helps to have someone who can provide basic guidance and the expensive equipment required. Denis generously shared his knowledge, enthusiasm and telescope with a multinational group of around 30 members from the capital and Dubai, who on May 2 headed out to a patch of desert about 45 minutes' drive northeast of Abu Dhabi.

Arriving at the site shortly before sundown, most of us made ourselves comfortable on camping chairs to enjoy a modest picnic and pleasant conversation while Denis and helpers diligently set up a telescope impressive-looking enough that by the end of the evening several adults and children were overheard declaring their wish to get one just like it.

Once the sun had set, we were reminded of one of several useful star-gazing tips - that when it comes to viewing celestial bodies, the darker the better! Besides avoiding illuminated buildings and stray lights, any torches or lamps should be fitted with a Mars-red filter or paper so that the eye's night vision mode, which kicks in after about 20 to 30 minutes in darkness, will not be affected.

Even before standing in line to use the telescope in the desert calm, my first impressions looking upward with

my night vision were of wonder coupled with a feeling of ignorance as I realized I could identify hardly any of the growing number of stars and planets, far more than are visible from the city. Some members tried their hand at identification unaided, while at least one couple used a special app called Sky Map, which labels patches of sky when held up and matched to a known "skymark".

Denis explained that we were in the right place at the right time for our chief objective: views of Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. For an idea of the distances involved, check out this great link:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbc.com/future/bespoke/20140304-how-big-is-space-interactive/index.html>

But for stellar starters, we were treated to entrancing views of the moon 239,000 miles away, its radiance and craters drawing gasps of surprise and admiring comments - a triumph of DIY satisfaction over media provision! The Earth's only natural satellite is simply called the moon because people didn't know other moons existed until Galileo Galilei discovered four moons orbiting Jupiter in 1610. Like our own, they are natural satellites orbiting a solar system body (which in turn is orbiting a star).

http://www.nasa.gov/pdf/180556main_ETM.Moon.ABCs.Fact.Sheet.pdf

While moon viewing, we learned another important piece of advice for budding star and planet viewers: don't mess with the telescope viewfinder; instead, move your head in order to find the right angle and distance for optimal viewing.

With this in mind, Mars, visible even with the naked eye, was next on the viewing list. In April, the opposition of Mars and the Sun (meaning they were at opposite sides of the Earth) represented a special opportunity that occurs every 26 months. The two were closest on April 14 at 92 million kms/57 million miles, with Mars' north polar cap visible.

http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/MRO/multimedia/pia13163.html

Members next took turns at the telescope for excellent views of the rings of Saturn, which reached opposition on May 10, and of Jupiter, the fifth planet from the sun at a distance of about 778 million km (484 million miles) and with 50 moons (17 more awaiting confirmation).

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/k-4/stories/ring-a-round-the-saturn.html#.U3Xan_mSwnw

At one stage our communal night vision mode was disturbed by the lights of a civilian car on a mission for the UAE army to discover what we were up to with a telescope close to a military area. But once the occupants had been informed that we were no threat, the viewing continued.

<http://www.thenational.ae/news/uae-news/uae-leads-the-middle-east-race-into-space>

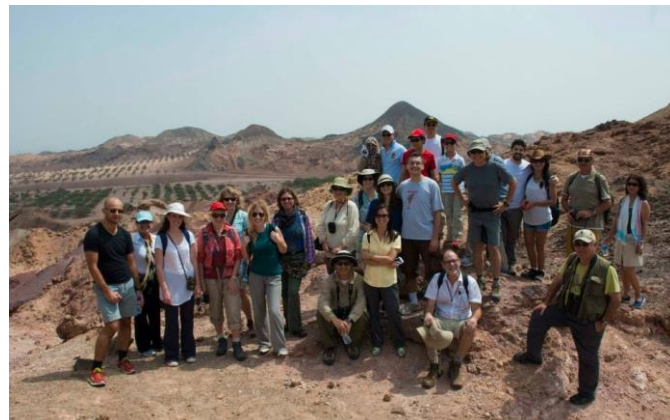
All in all, besides being a novel experience for many, the excursion was informative and thoroughly enjoyable, with enthralling views that must have piqued many members' curiosity to find out more. Encouraging, also, to see so many enthusiastic youngsters involved.

<http://www.rmg.co.uk/royal-observatory>
<http://sci.esa.int/home/>

Lesley Ashcroft

Outing to Sir Bani Yas Island

After a very early start in Dubai, and discovering that there were very strict and inhibiting speed limits on the way, we arrived just in time to catch the ferry from the Jebel Dhanna jetty to Sir Bani Yas Island. On the boat we had the chance to greet the rest of the group, especially Denis Cheng, our fantastic trip organiser. The group was big (about 26 people), demonstrating Denis's ability to organise an event which was interesting to all; cultural and natural, yet original and fun.



ENHG Group Photo on Sir Bani Yas

Photo: Amanda Smyton

On arrival, we were met by a group of guides from the Desert Island Resort, who coordinated the trip with Denis. Soon we were whisked onto a bus and driven towards the heart of the island, spotting sand and mountain gazelles on the way. We learnt that sand gazelle horns point down (to the sand), and mountain gazelle horns point upwards (to the mountains).



Blue Rock Thrush

Photo: David Bowen

Later we discovered the story of the island which was very similar to that of Jurassic Park. In the seventies, the late Sheikh Zayed, founder of the UAE, decided to plant around three millions trees on his private desert island. After a while, he started to bring in animals from other parts of the world like cheetahs and giraffes (there is also a plan to bring elephants!), so that it would become a green paradise. Significantly, he also brought in the endangered Arabian Oryx from zoos across the world to breed with the animals on the Arabian Peninsula.



Cheetah Tracks

Photo: Amanda Smyton

Before we embarked on the walking tour, our guides explained that we would encounter a lot of animal bones and remains on the way. We certainly did! We were astounded by the amount of animal remains we spotted. We saw many horns from gazelles on the way, and we used our new classification tool to ascertain the particular kind of gazelle. Our guide also stumbled upon a fresh cheetah print, most likely from the only female cheetah on the island roaming closely by... We did not see any living animals in the wadi, but found plenty of evidence of their existence. One of our guides offered us a demonstration of a popular South African national sport, gazelle poo spitting!



Photo: Denis Cheng

After the wadi tour we ate a delicious lunch in a restaurant by the beach. We opted to stay two more hours on the island, to enjoy the beach and the resort facilities. We enjoyed listening to the sounds of the

gentle waves lapping onto the empty, calm beach. Later, as we battled through a horrible storm to travel back to Dubai, we missed the tranquility!

We'd highly recommend that others go on this trip in the future, as it was a novel and thoroughly enjoyable experience. Thank you very much to Denis for organising it, and we look forward to future adventures with the ENHG.

Raffaele Lo Moro / Kirsty Dent

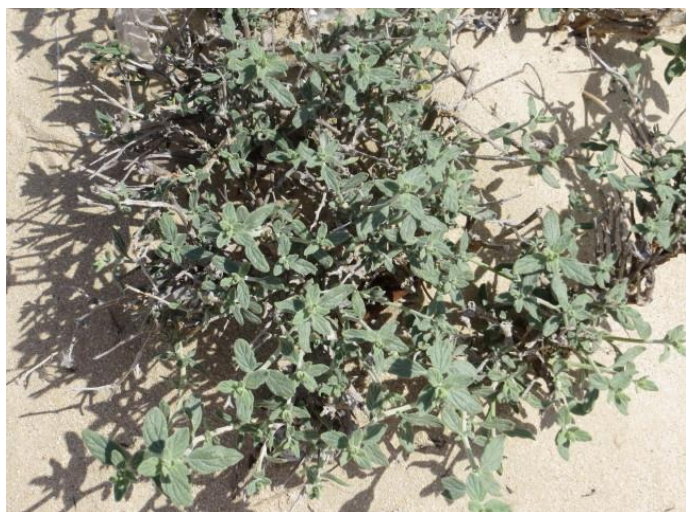
Fringe of the Western Region Desert Drive

Led by Dick Hornby, participants set out at 9 a.m. from the Ibis/Novotel Hotel, heading west on the E-11 to the Hameem Road towards Liwa. Our first stop was at the Emirates National Auto Museum. For those of us who had not been there before it was a worthwhile stop to see such a fascinating collection of vehicles. Other members of the group wandered around the area looking at plants and birds.

From there we drove a short distance south to the 'Dew Forest'. Here we stopped to examine the two to three metre Saxaul Trees or *Haloxylon persicum* Bunge. These 'small trees' water themselves with moisture condensed from dew and so are dew-reliant. Both the flowers and fruits of *Haloxylon* were seen. We also looked for any associated flora and fauna. Plants seen included the bright green succulent *Tetraena qatarense* (formerly *Zygophyllum qatarense*), the white-flowering annual *Eremobium aegyptiacum*, the perennial sedge *Cyperus conglomeratus*, at home on mobile sands, and the small broadleaf *Heliotropium digynum*. We also saw trees including *Zizphus spina-christi* (the *sidr* tree, introduced at these desert locations) and the increasingly common landscaping choice, *Conocarpus lancifolius*. A leaping spider, a robber fly and the Striped Hawkmoth (*Hyles livornica*) were among the fauna spotted.



Haloxylon persicum

Flowers of *Haloxylon persicum*Fruits of *Haloxylon persicum**Heliotropium digynum**Conocarpus lancifolius (Anogeissus latifolia)*

We then carried on south for about 60 km from the E-11 highway and were hoping to take a little-used tarmac road which would lead us to see more of the dew forest and to climb a mesa. Unfortunately, we were prevented from accessing the road by the military (who were most probably on exercise). Undeterred, we continued our journey south to the Liwa Oasis and stopped at Al Jabbanah Fort near Jarah for a late lunch and to also view the fort. 'Al Jabbanah Fort is one of eight historic forts in the Liwa Oasis which was built in the early 19th century by the Bani Yas tribes to protect their separate authorities and maintain order in the community. They were mostly refurbished during the 1990s.' (Reference to Explorer Al Gharbia Visitors' Guide.) This fort was also one of four forts built beside water sources and is now surrounded by palm plantations.



Al Jabbanah Fort, Liwa Oasis

After lunch we headed back to Abu Dhabi, some of the group going ahead to view the flamingoes on ICAD VI in the Musaffah Channel as originally planned.

Valerie Chalmers

All photographs by the author

Upcoming Speakers



Dr Steve Ross is a conservation biologist and a Research Associate of the University of Bristol. For the last three years Steve has been based in Oman conducting field research and educational projects aiming to increase Oman's capacity to conserve the Arabian tahr. Steve is a member of the IUCN Caprinae Specialist Group and the Cat Specialist Group. His background is in applied field ecology, and in the last 20 years his work has encompassed conservation projects of Sitka black tailed deer in Alaska, African lions in Botswana, and the first study of Pallas's cat in Mongolia.



On 3rd June, Dr. Ross will present the final lecture of this ENHG season, titled, ***The Arabian tahr Ecosystem Research Project***. The Arabian tahr is a small mountain goat endemic to the al Hajar Mountains, a 700 km mountain range in the Arabian Peninsula. The tahr is classified as Endangered and little is known of its ecology or conservation biology. To address the need for practical knowledge and understanding for tahr conservation a collaborative program of research and outreach was established in 2011. Research has focused on a range wide camera trapping survey of the Hajar Mountains to assess the tahr's current status and distribution; assessment of the species resource needs and area requirements; development of methods that may be used to monitor the population in the future; and behavioural investigations. The science has been backed up by capacity development of rangers and biologists, and captivating photographs, videos and information produced during research are being used in educational materials to increase public awareness. It is hoped that this combination of research and outreach will have important impacts for the conservation of the Arabian tahr and the web of life that is part of the Al Hajar Mountain ecosystem.

Presentation Structure:

- Introduction
- Tahr genetics, basic biology and characteristics
- A brief History of tahr research
- Project background and objectives
- Hajar wide distribution surveys
- Tahr Capture and GPS collaring
- Preliminary results of spatial ecology
- Tahr behaviour indications and hypotheses
- Other research being completed
- Educational work on the tahr project
- Training and capacity development in Oman
- Plans for the future



Arabella Willing: In June 2013, Park Hyatt Abu Dhabi welcomed its first resident marine biologist to the team. British-born Arabella Willing joined the team from sister hotel Park Hyatt Maldives Hadahaa. Arabella studied marine biology at St. Andrews University. Prior to joining Hyatt, she was volunteering on a remote island in the very north of the Maldives, educating some of the most isolated communities about sustainability, marine life and the effects of coral bleaching. Arabella is no stranger to the middle-east; she grew up travelling the world, spending four years in Oman as a teenager.

Arabella organises workshops and excursions to educate and entertain guests at Park Hyatt Abu Dhabi, whilst ensuring that the hotel adheres to strict environmental standards behind the scenes. Being located right by the beautiful nine kilometre-long Saadiyat Beach, and surrounded by the turquoise waters of the Arabian Sea, Saadiyat is home to an abundance of wildlife including hawksbill turtles and humpback dolphins.

This Tuesday, 20 May, Arabella will give us a presentation at the Park Hyatt entitled, ***Sustainable Tourism: Why the Park Hyatt Hired a Marine Biologist***. After an introduction as to how the Hyatt found themselves employing full time Marine Biologist, the lecture will look specifically at ways in which Park Hyatt Maldives and Park Hyatt Abu Dhabi are contributing to the conservation efforts adjacent to their properties. Hotels world over, undeniably infringe on natural ecosystems, and when poorly managed can have devastating effects on the environment. The Hyatt group acknowledge this challenge, and the final part of the lecture will look at how the company is trying to reduce their ecological footprint on a global scale.

Recent Speakers



Oscar Campbell, originally chemistry teacher at the British School Al Khubairat, is the chairman of the Emirates Bird Records Committee. He has carried out original research and published extensively in local, as well as international scientific publications, recording and counting populations of important resident and migratory birds around the UAE. He plans to continue researching and recording rare and endangered bird species such as the Socotra cormorant, of which Abu Dhabi hosts 35 percent of the world's population. His diligent work in the research of birds has awarded him Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak prize for Natural History in June 2013.



On 6th May, Oscar gave the ENHG a wonderfully illustrated presentation titled ***Donegal, Where Ireland Meets the Atlantic***. Donegal lies on the north-westerly fringe of Ireland and, as such represents the very edge of the European landmass. This talk represented an amble through summer (or what passes for summer!) in this most lovely and dramatic of Irish counties, dipping, engagingly, into the wonderful natural history that can be appreciated by any visitor with a good coat, open eyes and an inclination to get down on their hands and knees.



Common Hawker



Dr. Ada Natoli is a specialist in population genetics, applied to conservation of species. Her main interests are investigating the evolutionary mechanisms generating population structure, and supporting conservation and management programmes.

She focuses her research on marine mammals but has also worked on turtles and has a broad background covering plant genetics & general ecology. She holds a PhD in molecular ecology from the University of Durham, UK, where she completed her thesis on the molecular ecology of bottlenose and common dolphins, comparing these species and their population structure on a worldwide scale and in the Mediterranean Sea. Ada also spent a number of years conducting field research with the Tethys Research Institute, working on several projects monitoring the cetacean population in the Mediterranean Sea and Canary Islands.

She recently launched the UAE Dolphin Project (www.uaedolphinproject.org): a new initiative that aims to raise public awareness and gather scientific information to assess the status of the local dolphin populations and support their conservation.

She is member of the IUCN/SSC Cetacean Specialist Group, has been associated to UAE University as adjunct assistant professor and collaborates with several universities and international organisations in UK, Italy, Australia and New Zealand.

On April 15th, Dr Natoli gave us an informative presentation: ***UAE Dolphin Project: update from a new research initiative***. After a general introduction about whales and dolphins and their adaptation to water, being originally terrestrial mammals, the talk focused on the importance of studying dolphins for the conservation of the marine environment and reviewed the actual knowledge available for these species in UAE and the Gulf. It then presented the targets of the UAE Dolphin Project initiative, their first research results and how the public can help to support the conservation of these species in the local marine environment.



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

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These companies are supporting ENHG activities in the region, making possible our Research & Conservation grants and the publication of our annual journal, *Tribulus*. 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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Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund



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Shell



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(Click on link & scroll down)



For information on becoming a Corporate Sponsor, contact CS Coordinator Dan Upperco: dan@uppeco.net.

In the News Media

Gulf News, March 3: [Polar vortex may prove to be a powerful pesticide](#)

Gulf News, March 15: [Wet spell brings out UAE's 'deadliest' snake](#)

The National, March 28: [Al Ain Zoo launches annual wildlife and nature programme](#)

The National, April 1: [Al Ain Zoo offers scholarships on best way to protect its wildlife](#)

Gulf News, April 1: [Reefs in peril, experts warn](#)

Gulf News, April 10: [Abu Dhabi coastline gets monitoring measures](#)

Gulf News, April 10: [Al Ain Zoo adds dwarf crocodiles to collection](#)

The National, April 13: [Forum aims to impart Australian water expertise to the UAE](#)

The National, April 16: [New York University Abu Dhabi maps date palm genome](#)

Gulf News, April 16: [MPs warn of invasion by non-native plant and animal species](#)

Gulf News, April 20: [The continuing ripples from Deepwater debacle](#)

Gulf News, April 21: [Africa land grabs endanger elephants](#)

The National, April 27: [Conservationists up in arms over shark fins re-exported via UAE](#)

The National, April 28: [Hawksbill turtle nests found on Saadiyat Beach](#)

Gulf News, April 28: [Saudi lizard poachers creating 'environmental disaster'](#)

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

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>

Gulf Elasmop Project: www.gulfelasmoproject.com

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>
[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://noukhada.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

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 "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

Regular meeting
venue provided by
**Park Hyatt Resort
Hotel – Abu Dhabi,
(on Saadiyat Island)**
ENHG Gold Sponsor

*Exact meeting room
TBA for each date*

20th May **7:30 PM**

Sustainable Tourism:
Why the Park Hyatt
Hired a Marine
Biologist.

Arabella Willing

3rd June **7:30 PM**

The Arabian tahr
Ecosystem Research
Project

Dr Steve Ross

Social Events

17th June:
ENHG Informal End-of-
season Dinner – venue
TBA

Field Trips

*NB: No more official
ENHG field trips are
scheduled till Sept, with
our summer recess
coming up July-August.*

*However, if you would
like to organise a trip
with fellow ENHG
members this summer,
you can post a
message to the
YahooGroups website
shown below. -Ed.*

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 Committee
Member Ian Townson Ian.Townson@adia.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
- Two satellite phones, taken on camping trips.
Phone numbers: No. 1: 008821644400956
No. 2: 008821644400965

Enquiries: Ian Townson, Ian.Townson@adia.ae

- 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.)