

# focus



Abu Dhabi, December 2009

Vol 33 (11)



Emirates Natural History Group

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



## EDITORIAL

There are two important announcements in *Focus* this month. First, we are requesting nominations for the prestigious ENHG annual awards: the Sheikh Mubarak award and the Bish Brown award (see immediately below). The closing date for nominations is 31 January 2010, and the winners will be announced at the IEW annual dinner in February. Secondly, the Al Ain group are organizing the 2010 Inter Emirates Weekend event between 25 and 27 February, based at the Al Ain Intercontinental Hotel. The IEW is certainly a date for your diaries and should not be missed. See page 6 for details and note especially that the rooms at the special discounted rate need to be booked by the end of December. Of course, there are other accommodation options in Al Ain, with its range of hotels, and also places to camp reasonably close to the city of Al Ain.

With the recent heavy rains over much of the country, the seed bank in the sand will be stirring into life, and there should be a good growth of the winter annual plants. With the lovely cool weather, it is certainly time to be heading out into the desert and mountains. Do remember to photograph interesting plants and animals and send them in to the editor. We will try our best to identify and give information about them.

*Drew Gardner*

## Sheikh Mubarak, Bish Brown Awards

Nominations are invited from paid-up members of the ENHG-Abu Dhabi, ENHG-Al Ain and Dubai NHG for the two annual ENHG awards: the Sheikh Mubarak bin Mohammed Prize for natural history and the Bish Brown Award.

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.

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. There is also a cash prize (at the discretion of our Patron).

Any individual, whether or not a member of one of the above three groups, can be nominated for either award—with the exception of current elected committee members (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) of the ENHG in Abu Dhabi.

In nominating a candidate, or candidates, please provide a brief summary (no more than 200 words) of

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### FRONT COVER PICTURE

*Photograph: Sabkha polygons, Baynoona, western Abu Dhabi*

*Photographer: Drew Gardner*

## This month's contributors

Andrew Bean, ENHG, ENHG-Al Ain, Dick Hornby, Chris Jones, Drew Gardner, Peter Hellyer, Jo Katon, Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation website, Reijo Salovaara, Keith Taylor, Mav Yoke Tavlör. Cate Ware. Louise Welch

justification for the nomination: i.e. an explanation of what the candidate(s) has achieved. Nominations can be sent either by post (to Drew Gardner, Chairman, ENHG, PO Box 45553, Abu Dhabi, or by email or hand-delivered to any ENHG committee member. The closing date for nominations is **31 January 2010**, and winners will be selected by the ENHG (original Abu Dhabi branch) committee during the February meeting. The Committee's decision is final.

**ENHG**

## November Birding

On 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2009 fifteen amateur ENHG birders, led by Andrew Bean, toured Abu Dhabi Island, honing skills with binoculars and field guides while surveying the birdlife. Here is a list of the birds positively identified:

### Eastern Corniche mangroves and palm grove:

Western Reef Heron (white & dark plumage)	Cattle Egret
Grey Heron	Whimbrel
Mute Swan	Greenshank
Greater Flamingo	Common Sandpiper
Wood Sandpiper	Grey Plover
Socotra Cormorant	White-eared Bulbul
Yellow-vented Bulbul	

### Mushrif Palace Park palm grove:

*Isabelline Shrike - M	Purple Sunbird - F
Red-vented Bulbul	Grey Francolin
Collared Dove	Ring-necked Parakeet

**Western Corniche Park lawns & beach:**

- |                |                    |              |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Egyptian Goose | White Wagtail      | Little Egret |
| Crested Lark   | Steppe Grey Shrike | Tawny Pipit  |
| Laughing Dove  | Common Mynah       | House Crow   |



\*Isabelline Shrike (M), race *Lanius isabellinus isabellinus* ('Daurian Shrike'), at Mushrif Palace Park, Abu Dhabi. Key indicators: grey crown, black legs, white patch at base of primary feathers (on the bird's 'shoulder')



Weaver nests (but no weavers) in hidden tree inside the old ADNOC residence by the Hilton Hotel, Abu Dhabi

*Keith Taylor / Andrew Bean*

*Photographs by Louise Welch*

**Musandam Adventure 2009**

From 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> Dec 2009, a total of 21 participants in seven cars went on an Eid-holiday camping/snorkelling trip to the Musandam for the third year running—an enjoyable start to the camping season. Most of us assembled at The Club's gate, and then headed along the new Sheikh Khalifa Highway, picking up a couple of additional cars along the route to RAK and the border. We camped, as usual, high up on Jebel Harim, where it got down to 10°C (or lower) at night, while it was in the pleasant low 30s on our magnificent sightseeing/snorkelling cruise the next day. This year we sailed to the very tip of the Musandam Peninsula, for a view of the remote village of Kumzar.



Kumzar village

*Photo: Reijo Salovaara*

As our dhow paused just off the coast of Kumzar, whose inhabitants were reportedly frightened of contracting swine flu from tourists, our guide Mohammed explained the economics, education, power and water supply, and language and traditions of the Kumzarites. He said that it's not uncommon to see fisherwomen amongst these people, for whom fishing is the only employment. He told of minor difficulties in communicating with the young people of Kumzar, who attended high school with him in Khasab, because they spoke a unique dialect of Arabic, interlaced with words from Portuguese and many other languages.



With our excellent guide Mohammed

*Photo: May Yoke Taylor*



Soft coral at pristine Musandam snorkelling bay

*Photo: Reijo Salovaara*



Two dolphins off the mouth of Khor Sham!

*Photo: Jo Katon*



Alex pitching in to clean our fish for dinner when the Khasab fish seller we bought it from refused to do so

*Photo: May Yoke Taylor*





Viewing petroglyphs in the Rawdah Bowl

Photo: Jo Katon

Hume's wheatear, *Oenanthe alboniger*

Photo: Reijo Salovaara

Predominant flora on the mountain: *Prunus arabica*, (Arabian Almond trees) & *Dodonaea viscosa*, (Hopbush, the 'super weed'). Birds identified: Hume's Wheatear, *Oenanthe alboniger* & Chukar, *Alectoris chukar*. Main fauna spotted on the dhow cruise: 1) mammals: two dolphins in the mouth of Khor Sham; 2) reptiles: one unidentified turtle; 3) fish: Arabian Butterflyfish, *Chaetodon melapterus*; Sergeant Major, *Abudefduf saxatilis*; parrotfish sp.; surgeonfish sp. (dark purple with a red tail); etc. (See photos in Nov 2007 Focus.)

Keith Taylor

## Wild Almonds

Following is a query and response from 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. 2009 (reprinted with permission of both parties) about the bare twiggy trees occurring as the most prominent plant species at the Jebel Harim campground on the above ENHG trip to the Musandam. This exchange highlights the reason why we include scientific names of flora or fauna in our newsletter whenever possible—not out of pedantry, but rather for clarity. - Ed.

### Query from Keith Taylor:

I want to clear up a plant ID with you. The trees by our mountain campsite, which Andrew refers to as 'wild almonds', identified as such in October 2008 Focus, look nothing like the trees commonly called almonds. A quick Wikipedia search brought up an article claiming that the only wild almonds of sp. *Prunus dulcis* occurring in Arabia are found in the Mediterranean-like forests of northern Saudi Arabia.

The distinctive thing about these alleged 'wild almond' trees in Musandam is that they have no visible leaves, but have green stems, which seem to be the only photosynthetic part of the plant, sporting flower buds directly on those stems—very different from *Prunus dulcis*, which is a broad-leaved deciduous tree. So what is this plant, exactly? What are the scientific, Arabic and common English names?

### Response from Dick Hornby:

You have a good point about almonds. It is a nice example of the dangers of relying on English names. The Arabian Almond (known locally as meez or mizi) is *Prunus arabica* (Oliv.), so named in 1965. I attach a photo of mine from Musandam. It was formerly called *Amygdalus arabica*, with the original description dating back to 1804, but a review of this branch of the family Rosaceae by people at Kew concluded that it should all be lumped in *Prunus*, which has about 400 species! It was called *Amygdalus* for long enough for the establishment of the accepted English word 'amygdaline', meaning 'like an almond' (like the cross section of the Chamber of Commerce building?!).

*Amygdalus arabica* / *Prunus arabica*

The Arabian Almond has a very restricted distribution in Arabia (Musandam and small part of the Hajar Mountains), but is also in Syria, Turkey, Northern Iraq and Iran. It loses its leaves very early, and the flowers arise directly from the stems. Marijcke Jongbloed says the seed is edible, but Shahina Ghazanfar says it is not!



Shown sampling Arabian Almonds on the Musandam trip in 2008, Andrew obviously agrees with Marijcke! -Ed.

Photo: Chris Jones

*Prunus arabica* should not be confused with the very different *Prunus dulcis*, which is the European Almond. This is primarily a Mediterranean species. I attach a summer photo from Spain. It produces a mass of beautiful flowers in April.

*Prunus dulcis*

These two species should not be confused with the Indian Almond, which is in a different family altogether. It is *Terminalia catappa*, of the Leadwood family, Combretaceae. Attached is another photo. Abu Dhabi Municipality have a strange idea that this tree is carcinogenic, and have removed a large number from the city. This was the species that dominated the car park at Abu Dhabi Airport. Fortunately there are still plenty left on Abu Dhabi Island!



*Terminalia catappa*

**Keith Taylor / Dick Hornby**

**All photographs except the 2<sup>nd</sup> one by Dick Hornby**

## The Emirates Natural History Group Research and Conservation Fund

The Emirates Natural History Group, the oldest NGO in the UAE dealing with archaeology and natural history, has provided several grants over the years for research and excavations relevant to the archaeology and natural history of the Emirates. These have included support for excavations by Dr. Michele Ziolkowski (formerly Sydney University) at Bidiya, Fujairah, and by the Abu Dhabi Islands Archaeological Survey, ADIAS, at Abu Dhabi International Airport and also support for studies led by Dr. Robert Carter (Oxford Brookes University) of 'torpedo jars' in the Gulf and by Dr. Heiko Kallweit (Freiburg) on Late Stone Age (Neolithic) lithics from the deserts of south-eastern Abu Dhabi.

The ENHG's Conservation Fund has also given grants for conservation projects elsewhere in Arabia, while further afield, support has been given to Dr. Reza Khan, Director of Dubai Zoo, for research in the Sundarban Forests of Bangladesh and for ornithologists in Kenya. Its main focus, however, is on supporting research, or directly related to, the United Arab Emirates.

During the 2009 calendar year, the ENHG has provided two grants: one for wildlife conservation in Yemen and one for archaeology research in the UAE.

First, in October 2009, a grant of US\$3,000 (11,040 dirhams) was made to David Stanton, director of the then-named Yemeni Leopard Recovery Programme, to support training at the Jebel Samhan Nature Reserve in Dhofar, Oman for five Yemenis who will be conducting Arabian Leopard field research in Yemen. In October, Mr. Stanton gave an informative talk (reviewed in Oct. 2009 *Focus*) on the genesis of his initiative, which in Dec. 2009 was registered with the Yemen Ministry for Social Affairs and Labour as the 'Foundation for the Protection of the Arabian Leopard in Yemen'. This gives it the status of an official NGO, with its credibility further enhanced by the presence of several top-level ministers and scientists on its governing board. The ENHG looks

forward to a follow-up talk in 2010. (Free membership in the news group Friends of the Arabian Leopard may be obtained by writing David Stanton at [yrlp@yemenileopard.org](mailto:yrlp@yemenileopard.org).)

Second, in November 2009, the ENHG agreed to a request from the London-based Society for Arabian Studies that it should consider supporting a grant application to the Society from Sabrina Righetti for a 500 sterling pound grant to allow her to travel to the National Museum of Ra's al-Khaimah to study its collection of Wadi Suq material as part of her doctoral research into the Wadi Suq period in Oman and the United Arab Emirates. Sabrina has also studied Wadi Suq material from Hili (Al Ain), also in the UAE, and the further study of the material from Ra's al-Khaimah will permit her to draw comparisons between material from the UAE and from Adam, in Oman. The ENHG has provided the whole of the grant. A talk to the ENHG and an article for *Tribulus* about the results of her research are expected in 2010.

The Group's Research and Conservation Fund is funded by members' subscriptions and by our Corporate Sponsors. The size of the grants will vary, to a maximum of AED 10,000 for any one grant and a maximum of AED 20,000 per calendar year. (Of course, the awarding of ENHG grants is always subject to the availability of funds.) Each grant will be for a research or conservation project of a maximum duration of one year, at the conclusion of which dissemination of project outcomes is requested—through the ENHG's lecture programme, the journal *Tribulus*, or this newsletter, *Focus*.

Grant applications may be sent to ENHG Chairman Drew Gardner ([drew.gardner@zu.ac.ae](mailto:drew.gardner@zu.ac.ae)), while the Group has also established links with the Society for Arabian Studies and the Ornithological Society of the Middle East and Central Asia, so that these organisations can advise the Group of grant applications they receive which are related to the UAE.

Full information on the grant application process may be obtained from the above email address; a web link to this information will also be published in *Focus*, starting in January 2010. Applications will be accepted throughout the year, but be advised that the ENHG Committee takes a recess in July and August.

**Peter Hellyer / Keith Taylor / Cate Ware**

## The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund is a significant philanthropic endowment established to do the following:

1. Provide targeted grants to individual species conservation initiatives
2. Recognize leaders in the field of species conservation; and
3. Elevate the importance of species in the broader conservation debate.

The fund's reach is truly global, and its species interest is non-discriminatory. It is open to applications for funding support from conservationists based in all parts of the world, and will potentially support projects focused



on any and all kinds of plant and animal species, subject to the approval of an independent evaluation committee.

In addition, the fund will recognize leaders in the field of species conservation and scientific research to ensure their important work is given the attention it deserves and to elevate the importance of species in global conservation discourse.

The fund has an initial endowment of €25,000,000.

It is envisaged that the fund's establishment will act as a catalyst to attract additional donations from third party sources to ensure the Fund's annual contribution to direct species conservation initiatives increases over time.

*NB: Full details on this fund may be obtained from the website: <http://www.mbzspeciesconservation.org>, from which the above information was retrieved. - Ed.*

## Inter Emirates Weekend 2010

Next year's Inter Emirates Weekend will be hosted by the Al Ain chapter from Thurs 25th – Sat 27th February, 2010. Information regarding the IEW 2010 programme will be posted on the ENHG website, [www.enhg.org](http://www.enhg.org), in early January and will be published in Jan. 2010 Focus.

IEW 2010 will be based at the Intercontinental Hotel in Al Ain. In order to take advantage of the room rates listed below, members must make their bookings before 30th December 2009, after which these rates will no longer be available. At present, the hotel is able to offer 30 rooms at these rates, and a further 10 at the Deluxe rate. In order to make your booking, please click here: <http://www.enhg.org/iew2010/reservations.htm>.

This website allows you to book for room only; however, when you confirm your booking, you need to inform the hotel that you will require room/breakfast (this rate is less than getting the breakfast separately).

Should you have any problems with this link, please contact the hotel through the following people: Rechel Lee – [rechel.lee@icalain.ae](mailto:rechel.lee@icalain.ae) (050 3454055) or Tarek Daou – [tarek.daou@icalain.ae](mailto:tarek.daou@icalain.ae).

To reserve your place for the dinner (Dhs 135 inclusive of taxes) on Friday night (26th Feb), please forward an email to [interemiratesweekend@gmail.com](mailto:interemiratesweekend@gmail.com) by 20th Jan.

Room rates for Intercontinental Hotel, Al Ain - IEW 2010 25-26th February 2010 (all rates inclusive of 16% tax):

Standard Single/Double Room (Room Only) AED 580  
 Standard Single Room with Breakfast AED 638  
 Standard Double Room with Breakfast AED 696  
 Deluxe Room AED (Room Only) AED 696  
 Deluxe Single Room with breakfast AED 754  
 Deluxe Double Room with breakfast AED 812

**ENHG-Al Ain**

## Recent Speaker

**Dr. Himansu Das**, Associate Scientist at EAD (Environment Agency, Abu Dhabi), spoke to us on 22 Dec., 2009 on the Status of Dugongs in the UAE.

In the UAE, Dugong (*Dugong dugon*), the closest living relative to the extinct Steller's sea cow (*Hydrodamalis*

*gigas*), is protected by law. Globally, Dugongs are listed as vulnerable to extinction by the IUCN Red List of Endangered Species. The Arabian Gulf and Red Sea host an estimated population of more than 7000 dugongs which constitutes the largest population outside Australia, making the region particularly significant in terms of global dugong conservation efforts. Long term dugong research programs including regular aerial and filed surveys of species and habitats have been ongoing in the dugong range states within the Gulf. The findings of these studies have been instrumental in declaring some of the dugong-rich sites Marine Protected Areas.

The "Conservation and Management Plan for Dugongs (*Dugong dugon*) and their Habitats" was developed by a CMS (Convention of Migratory Species) coordinated workshop at Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) in October 2007. Attended by dugong researchers and CMS focal points from over 20 dugong range states, the forum discussed, developed and adopted the action plan. At least eleven countries including Australia and UAE have already signed the MoU. The UAE, being a signatory to this MoU, has taken up programmes towards implementing the conservation plan. The programmes include study and monitoring of dugongs and their habitats, investigation of dugong mortality and education / awareness campaigns.

## Upcoming Speaker



As a wildlife filmmaker, **Yusuf Thakur** brings a rare passion for the environment and animals into sharp focus with every project. The qualities that separate the good from the best in wildlife filmmaking are apparent in the international nods of appreciation every Yusuf Thakur wildlife film has received. The sensitivity, patience and complete knowledge of the technical aspects of filmmaking stem from a passion to appreciate and preserve the planet's riches.

Yusuf's film, *Abu Dhabi—Home of the Legendary Mermaids*, is based on the research conducted by EAD (Environment Agency Abu Dhabi) and the subsequent conservation effort in order to protect and preserve the habitat, and the dugong population in the waters of UAE. The project was started in 1996 and continues to this day. This film brings to light not only the work done by EAD, but explains in detail dugong anatomy and behaviour with fantastic High Definition footage of dugongs filmed in the wild. Dugongs are extremely shy and secretive animals, and it's very rare to have an encounter with one at sea. Thus, this film serves as an excellent medium to educate the general public in the Gulf as well as worldwide about dugongs and the need to protect their habitat, in order to ensure the survival of this elusive animal—the 'legendary mermaid'.

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

## In the Local News Media

A journey through time:

<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/uae/heritage-culture/abu-dhabi-a-journey-through-time-1.523810>

Vets pin hopes on turtle transmitter:

<http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091112/NATIONAL/711119924/1010>

There is still time to take action on climate change, NYU professor says:

<http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091116/NATIONAL/711159850/1022>

Major steps in eco awareness:

<http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091126/NATIONAL/711259924>

Rare wildcat snapped prowling around wadi:

<http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091129/NATIONAL/711289835/1010>

Enter the dragonflies:

<http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091129/NATIONAL/711289837>

The nation's birthplace restored:

<http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091130/NATIONAL/711299928/1001>

Fishing for clues to the whale shark:

<http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091214/NATIONAL/712139890/1042>

Rare addax antelope born in Al Ain park

<http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091215/NATIONAL/712149835/1139>

## Websites of General Interest

ENHG-AA Website (Archives: 3 newsletters, Tribulus):

<http://www.enhg.org>

Tommy Pedersen's UAE Birding / UAE Nature Forum:

[www.uaebirding.com](http://www.uaebirding.com)

Hanne & Jens Eriksen's Birds Oman website:

[www.BirdsOman.com](http://www.BirdsOman.com)

Qatar NHG website:

<http://www.qnhg.org>

Wildlife Middle East News:

<http://www.wmenews.com>

Arabian Wildlife:

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

Archaeology website:

<http://www.adias-uae.com/>

Sharjah Museums sites (Check out the virtual tours!):

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

Emirates Marine Environmental Group:

[www.emeg.ae](http://www.emeg.ae)

EMEG Ecologist Keith Wilson's Public Gallery:

<http://picasaweb.google.co.uk/KDPWilson>

Blog from the Great Barrier Reef expedition:

<http://www.deepdownunder.de/>

## ITEMS ON SALE

### AT THE ENHG STALL

All prices are in dirhams.

- The Emirates – A Natural History, 350.  
*The first complete referencing guide to the wildlife of the UAE. 580 colour photos.*
- Jebel Hafit – A Natural History, 100.  
*An attractive, encyclopaedic presentation of the natural resources of this local landmark.  
(Free copies available to schools. Ask Chairman.)*
- Terrestrial Environment of Abu Dhabi Emirate, 240.
- Marine Environment and Resources of Abu Dhabi, 140.
- Seashells of Eastern Arabia, 120.
- Wild about Mammals, 40.
- Wild about Reptiles, 40.
- Snakes of Arabia, 50.
- On-road in the UAE, 50.
- Abu Dhabi Bird checklist, 10.
- Emirates Bird Report, 20.
- Oman Bird List, ed 6, 30.
- Birdwatching guide to Oman, 2nd edition, 100.  
*Guide to bird watching spots in Oman.*
- The Birds of Al Jabal Al Akhdar, 50.
- Native Plants of Oman, 80.
- Comprehensive Guide to the Wildflowers of the UAE, 100.
- Trucial States, 150.
- Oman 1965, 150.
- Natural History of Oman, 50.
- Falconry, 60.
- Pests, 35. *Find out what's in and around your home.*
- Reef Fishes of the UAE, 50.
- Snorkeling and Diving in Oman, 50.
- Feast of Dates, 100.
- UAE in Focus, 100.
- Sir Bani Yas, 100.
- Musandam, 90.
- Abu Dhabi 8 million years ago, 15.
- Discovering Qatar, 120.

For enquiries: Hanne & Jens Eriksen, [hjoman@eim.ae](mailto:hjoman@eim.ae)

## Committee Members

Drew Gardner  
(Chairman)

Mobile: 050-667-5830  
[drew.gardner@zu.ac.ae](mailto:drew.gardner@zu.ac.ae)

Keith Taylor

(Deputy Chairman / Focus Editor)  
Mobile: 050-820-4938  
[kjtaylor13@yahoo.com](mailto:kjtaylor13@yahoo.com)

Julie Bird

(Secretary)  
050-615-4757  
[julieabird@hotmail.com](mailto:julieabird@hotmail.com)

Eila Merriman

(Treasurer / Assistant Membership Secretary)  
Mobile: 050-908-1200  
[kubukabin@hotmail.com](mailto:kubukabin@hotmail.com)

Cate Ware

(Membership Secretary)  
050-131-1304  
[ware24now@gmail.com](mailto:ware24now@gmail.com)

Jeff Szuchman

(Lecture Coordinator)  
[Jeffrey.Szuchman@zu.ac.ae](mailto:Jeffrey.Szuchman@zu.ac.ae)

Andrew Bean

(Excursion Secretary)  
Mobile: 050-322-1327  
[rexabeam@emirates.net.ae](mailto:rexabeam@emirates.net.ae)

Feng Wen

(Assistant Excursion Secretary)  
[feng.wen@adpc.ae](mailto:feng.wen@adpc.ae)

Peter Hellyer

(Editor of *Tribulus* / Librarian)  
Mobile: 050-642-4357  
[peter@extinfo.gov.ae](mailto:peter@extinfo.gov.ae)

Stefan Beck

(Website Coordinator)  
Phone: 04-443-1430  
[stefan\\_k\\_beck@yahoo.de](mailto:stefan_k_beck@yahoo.de)

Patricia MacLachlan

(Public Relations Secretary)  
[mp\\_maclachlanuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mp_maclachlanuk@yahoo.co.uk)

Dick Hornby

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

Molly McQuarrie

(Member)  
[teacher.ags@gmail.com](mailto:teacher.ags@gmail.com)

Barbara Smith

(Member)  
050 761-6880  
[barbartonsmith@yahoo.com](mailto:barbartonsmith@yahoo.com)

**As of Jan. 2010, the Committee requires a Corporate Sponsorship Secretary, who will personally approach corporate representatives to invite them to assist with ENHG's support of natural history research and conservation projects, in the role of corporate sponsor. Can you do this?**

## Lectures

### Venue: HCT/ADMC

Press CTRL+click [here](#) to view map/directions.

15<sup>th</sup> Dec.  
Wadi Fish & Fresh-water Conservation in the UAE

**Emma Smart**

22<sup>nd</sup> Dec.  
Status of Dugongs in the UAE

**Himansu Das**

5<sup>th</sup> Jan. 7:30 PM  
Abu Dhabi—Home of the Legendary Mermaids

**Yusuf Thakur**

## Field Trips

14<sup>th</sup> Nov.  
Birdwatching daytrip on Abu Dhabi Island

**Andrew Bean**

27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> Nov.  
Camping/snorkelling trip to the Musandam

**Andrew Bean**

19<sup>th</sup> Dec.  
Fossil Valley day trip

**Feng Wen**

1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Jan.  
Camping Trip to the Western Region - check email for details

**Feng Wen**

22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> Jan.  
Mountain climbing trip: Jebel Sumeini, Oman

**Roy Richards**

12<sup>th</sup> / 13<sup>th</sup> Feb.  
Camping Trip to Liwa

**Andrew Bean**

25<sup>th</sup> / 27<sup>th</sup> Feb.  
InterEmirates Weekend

## ENHG Equipment for Members' Use

The following ENHG equipment is available for members' use during field trips or on request:







- Birding Telescope
- GPS unit: GARMIN GPSMAP 60CSx
- Nikon Coolpix camera: 5 Megapixel, 4x opt zoom
- First-Aid Kit
- Sky Scout astronomical object locator/identifier

(The club also has a Celestron telescope, which is only used on official ENHG trips. Training sessions on the use of the telescope and Sky Scout can be arranged for small groups of interested members.)

Please contact Andrew Bean, Excursion Secretary, at [rexabeam@emirates.net.ae](mailto:rexabeam@emirates.net.ae) to make enquiries. -Ed.

## ENHG Corporate Sponsors 2009

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.

BDO Patel	
British Petroleum	
Dome International	
International Bechtel Company, Ltd.	
Nautica Environmental Associates	
URS Corporation	 Dames & Moore

## Newsletter Details

Newsletter contributions to:  
[newsletter@chirri2000.com](mailto:newsletter@chirri2000.com)

## Postal Address

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

## Members' Items for sale

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## Yahoo Groups website

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/AUHENHG>