



Emirates Natural History Group Al Ain Chapter Newsletter 2010/03

Dear Friends

Welcome back after the summer break and Ramadan for a new season with the ENHG!

The Group will continue to offer field trips, lectures, workshops and information to enrich the lives and knowledge of our members as we visit sites in the UAE and northern Oman.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the 4th Tuesday in November.

Don't forget to carry your camera wherever you go. We want your best shots of fauna, flora, people and places for our annual photo exhibition, scheduled this season for May 2011.

If anybody has special intentions or interests for visits, hikes, explorations etc. he/she should contact any member of the committee.

The newsletter depends also on YOUR contributions! If you have any reports, sketches, stories, pictures, encounters, poems, etc. you want to share with our community please submit to rolfried@yahoo.de.

ENHG Al Ain Chapter Committee

Committee members:

Chair: Brien Holmes; **Vice Chair** Brigitte Howarth; **Treasurer:** Jodie Healy; **Secretary/**

Membership: Barb Reimer; **Photography:** Bob Reimer; **Newsletter:** Roland Ochmann;

Library: Marybeth Gaudette; **Flora:** Jodie Healy, Brigitte Howarth; **Fauna (Insects):**

Brigitte Howarth; **Fauna (Birds):** vacant; **Environment:** vacant;

Ordinary Members: Bill Jones, Amer Abu Kuhail, Joseph Mansour, Jake Gilson, Alison Lawrence

Visit the webpage at www.enhg.org or contact us at enhg@yahoogroups.com (all Al Ain chapter members).

Committee meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month. Everyone is welcome to participate! We are always looking for people to join our discussions and help deliver events.

Upcoming Events

2010 October

Sunday October 24, Junior ENHG.

Tuesday October 26, General Meeting, InterContinental Al Ain Resort hotel, 7:30 pm

Planning Guide for 2010- 2011

Date	Event	Venue
October 05	Committee Meeting	
October 12	General Meeting	InterContinental
October 19		
October 26	General Meeting	InterContinental
November 02	Committee Meeting	
November 09	General Meeting	InterContinental
November 16		
November 23	General Meeting	InterContinental
November 30		
December 07	Committee Meeting	
December 14	General Meeting	InterContinental
December 21		
December 28	No Meeting	Christmas Eve in the Desert
2011		
January 04	Committee Meeting	
January 11	General Meeting	InterContinental
January 18		
January 25	General Meeting	InterContinental
February 01	Committee Meeting	
February 08	General Meeting	InterContinental
February 15		
February 22	General Meeting	InterContinental

March 01	Committee Meeting	
March 08	General Meeting	InterContinental
March 15		
March 22	General Meeting	InterContinental
March 29		
April 05	Committee Meeting	
April 12	General Meeting	InterContinental
April 19		
April 26	General Meeting	InterContinental
May 03	Committee Meeting	
May 10	General Meeting	InterContinental
May 17		
May 24	General Meeting	InterContinental
May 31		
June 07	Committee Meeting	
June 14	General Meeting	InterContinental
June 21		
June 28	General Meeting	InterContinental
July 05		
July 12		
July 19		
July 26	General Meeting	InterContinental
August 02		
August 09		
August 16		
August 23	General Meeting	InterContinental
August 30		

What Happened on Recent Hikes, Walks

Each weekend we try to offer one or two field trips to some of the destinations within a short driving distance of Al Ain. Our field trip leaders are all volunteers and each tries to make each field trip as interesting and informative as possible. We are always looking for volunteers to lead trips; please contact a Committee member if you would like to lead trips.

We ask members to dress appropriately and wear proper footwear. Please remember to bring plenty of water and a snack. It is important to let the trip leader know if you have a medical condition which the field trip leader should take into account when selecting routes etc. Our field trip leaders carry a satellite phone on most trips; members should carry a small first aid kit.

Friday 11. June **Fujairah and Wadi Hilo**

We explored archaeological sites and impressive geology of the east coast featuring a drive up Wadi Hilo. From al Buraimi we took the new mountain road across to Roudha and then proceeded to Hatta where we made the turn for another pretty mountain road drive to Huwaylat and across to the Sharjah-Kalba road. We took the 'tunnel road' past the long tunnel and exit at the base of the mountain for the drive across the top of Kalba and Fujairah to the abandoned village of al Fara'. Al Fara' was one of those east coast communities where the key cash crop was evidently tobacco, grown on terraces, dried in specially built buildings, and exported, much of it to Bahrain, the commercial entrepot of the Gulf. The village of al Fara's has many attractions including custom built buildings for storing dried fish, the fish used as fertilizer for the tobacco crops.

From al Fara', we took the bypass south towards the bottom end of Wadi Hilo. En route we stopped at a simple, clean restaurant for a quick lunch in an air conditioned setting.

We proceeded from the lunch stop to a point just west of Awhala to enter Wadi Hilo and drove up to the Sharjah-Kalba road. There were several stops along the way but the plan was to reach the Wadi Hilo Archaeological site well before sunset. We stopped and checked out one of the few fields of tobacco.

A little follow-up to Saturday's trip and the tobacco crop observed.

Rachel has found the article discussing the ban on cultivation of tobacco in the UAE < <http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100113/NATIONAL/701129822/1041/BUSINESS> >.

Tobacco on the stalk is for sale in the Al Ain souq for as little as Dh20 for a bundle of lower-grade tobacco.

Friday 25 June **Oasis walk at Khabbayn**

We visited the oasis at Khabbayn, the large oasis opposite Khutwah. Khabbayn has a generous mix of fruit trees and the date harvest was well underway. The source of water for the oasis is the wadi that leads to Jazira though today water supplies are supplemented by pumps lifting water from the gorge that separate Khabbayn and Khutwah.

There is a nice collection of houses in the center of the oasis as well as some older structures, including 'bait khaimah' on the edges of the cultivated areas. Khabbayn

is one of the oases where we have recorded the planting of aloe vera on graves in the cemetery though there is a healthy set of plants near one of the watchtowers.

Friday 02 July **Jazirah Oasis**

Whilst the temperatures in Al Ain were soaring and easily average 46 degrees centigrade for most afternoons, the cooler breeze found at higher elevations in our favourite mountain wadis bring the temperature down to very comfortable ranges. Our trip on Friday afternoon was destined to Jazira. Driving towards Jazira one is able to marvel at the rugged Hajar Mountains before spotting the oasis before



dropping down to the wadi - a green island surrounded by ophiolite rocks. This is both a spectacular oasis with fruits ripe and hanging gloriously from the trees, but also with water stowed in a reservoir and flowing in the wadi. Butterflies have been numerous in the oases we visit, skipping from plant to plant through dappled sunlight in between the vegetation.

Friday, 09 July **Tour of Al Ain souq**

Amer led members through the souq, pointing out the different parts of the souq and some of the special items available. Check out his photographic record of the souq at his website <<http://someone1986.blogspot.com/2008/10/al-ain-souq-souq-alsamak.html>>

Big structures afternoon hike

The hike began with a heart thumping up-and- over, but from there it was a pretty flat plateau walk. For those wanted more of a challenge there's another optional up-and-over as we headed into Big Structures. There's a small pool near the structures for a refreshing dip before we headed back to the cars.

Friday, 07 August **Colin's hat hike**

This was a newish hike - we've been here once before with the group - and it started just before the village of Musah and headed back out to an abandoned settlement near Haywan. Although quite a short hike, as with a lot of our hikes it started with the requisite heart thumping up and over, followed by a bit of plateau walking into the hot setting sun and then some "scree boarding" down a seemingly vertical mountain side to finish with.

It was also a chance to check out the summer vegetation and gave us something to compare with later on in the season after the next set of rains.



Saturday, 29 August **Jimi oasis walk**

Amer offered a leisurely late-afternoon tour of the Jimi Oasis for those interested in a casual trip before Iftar.

The date harvest was all but over for the season with a few varieties still on the palms but most collected several weeks ago and now available in the market. The walk provided an opportunity to see the palms at this stage of the production season; most of the palms will enjoy a few months' rest before workers return to



clean and trim the palms in anticipation of the late-winter flowering.

Though the weather was warm - and unusually humid for Al Ain -- it was relatively cool and inviting under the canopy of the date palms. Irrigation continues so the path was alternatively dusty and muddy. Though it was summer, there was ample vegetation in the oasis though insect and bird activity was minimal. One of the highlights

of the Jimi Oasis was the number of wells once used to provide much of the water before a municipal system was made available. While other oases in the city enjoyed water delivered -- via falaj -- from distant springs, Jimi evidently relied extensively on dug wells. Another highlight of the walk was the number of fortifications -- watch towers, fortified residences -- that exist around and inside the oasis.

Saturday, 11 September **East coast road trip**

Too hot for many of our members to be out walking, even in the shady confines of an oasis, so we headed out to the east coast. We took the new mountain road to Rawdah, Hatta and Huwaylat to the Sharjah-Kalba road -- the tunnel road -- and on to Kalba.

The program included the following locations:

- a spot where the earth's mantle meets the earth's crust -- the Moho < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohorovi%C4%8Di%C4%87_discontinuity >
- some archaeology down Wadi Qor
- Islamic period copper mining and smelting in Wadi Safarfir
- tobacco sheds in Wadi Hilo
- pottery making near Masafi
- beach combing in Khor Kalba
- the mangroves of Khor Kalba
- shell midden
- Bayt Sheikh Suhail bin Hamdan al Sharqi

Friday, 17 September **Green Mubazzarah, Wadi Nahayan/Jebel Hafit**

Bill offered a hike or walk Friday morning. One option was to hike in Wadi Nahayan and on the lower slopes of the northern end of Jebel Hafit to explore the area and observe plant activity in the late summer. The second option was to hike up the northern end of the mountain to the microwave tower (and back).

Al Ain Oasis walk

The canopy of date palms provided some relief from the sun in the oases in the city. Phil Iddison developed tours of three of the city's five oases and we followed the route around Al Ain Oasis Friday afternoon. Phil produced a publication on the oasis < <http://www.enhg.org/alain/phil/alainoasis/alainoasis.html> > with a description of oasis culture followed by details of things to see on the route he mapped through the oasis. The last two pages of his booklet are a map of the oasis with the route marked along with the points of interest he identified in the text. Most of the dates have been harvested from the tens of thousands of date palms in the city but some of the later varieties will still be in place. The diversity of fruit trees in the city's oasis is considerably less than we notice in the mountain oases we often visit along the foothills of the Hajar Mountains.

Friday 24 September Dune survey near camel race track

At the end of September, we continued a survey begun a few years ago with Mike Gillett to record beetle activity around mature ghaf trees. The plan this weekend was to return to the site to conduct a survey and enjoy some other activities as we mark the end of summer and beginning of autumn in the UAE.

We traveled to the camel race track located in the valley beyond the Al Ain ring road. There was a number of activities and individuals and their families were invited to stay for all or part of the program.

Some of the activities included:

- a site survey looking for evidence of archaeology, tracks -- mammal, insect, bird
 - in the dunes
- a survey looking for remains of beetles
- light trapping to record the insect populations
- taking advantage of the full moon for a little moon walking to observe nocturnal activity

For those of you who were on the field trip on Friday, the little owl we saw was not a Little Owl, but a Eurasian Scops Owl which is a migrant.

<http://www.uaebirding.com/forum/showthread.php?3082-Scops-Owl-at-Al-Ain-Camel-Race-Track> (note by Bob)

Friday 01 October site survey birds, reptiles, plants

One of the popular places for bird watchers to gather is at the temporary pools behind the sewage treatment plant on the truck road west of the city. A trip to the site to see which of the migrating birds might be resting at the pools in the late afternoon as well as survey the sand dunes there for signs of reptile activity -- there is a nice collection of sandfish -- as well as check the condition of the plants in that area.

The pools are temporary in nature, a result of the fact the sewage treatment plant is operating at (or above) capacity with excess treated sewage is being discharged into the dunes. On previous visits we have conducted informal surveys and held light-trapping sessions.

RECENT GENERAL MEETINGS

Tuesday, 22 June, **Skulls**

The last general meeting for June was held at the InterContinental Al Ain Resort hotel with an evening talking about skulls! This was a revised version of the Junior Natural History Group presentation of a few weeks ago when we encouraged the students to use their powers of deduction to determine which marine and terrestrial animals were represented by the collection of skulls on hand.

Some of the skulls come from private collections but the majorities are part of the Group's archives. There was a PowerPoint demonstration followed by a hands-on session when members could examine the skulls carefully for clues. The emphasis of the talk was on adaptations that have been made; for example, those animals that are active at night may have disproportionately large eyes or those animals that are herbivores may have a dental array suitable for grinding vegetation.

Tuesday 14 September **General meeting**

The presentation was a brief wrap up of last season and a short talk about the geology of Jebel Qatar. There was time for members to comment on the program and make suggestions and recommendations for the new season.

Tuesday 28 September **Ecological footprint in th eUAE**

Our special guest speaker was Moaz Sawaf from EWS-WWF.

"The talk was about the ecological footprint in general," Moaz explained. "The discussion included information about the "the footprint in the UAE and about our campaign 'Heroes of the UAE' which is aimed to raise awareness among the UAE society to reduce energy and water consumption. We talk about simple changes we can make in our daily life that have big impacts on reduction."

Moaz had three leaflets for distribution to members: the first is on energy-saving bulbs, the second on water-saving tips, the third on energy-saving tips.

Everyone who attends the meeting received an energy-saving bulb.

Al Ain Oasis walk, Friday, September 17th

By Brigitte Howarth

Whilst temperatures in and around Al Ain are still fairly high, Friday's trip offered an opportunity to be in Al Ain but still be surrounded by a shady green oasis with temperatures gradually cooling during the course of the afternoon. Around 5:30pm a few gasps were heard as the evening breeze made itself be known.

The trip followed a trail developed by Phil Iddison and thanks to Phil, a few notes and maps were distributed.

More than 20 of us, including several younger members, entered the oasis via the entrance that opens out to the Al Ain Museum car park. At first one is greeted by the restoration that took place a few years ago of modern walls and road but no sooner had we entered the oasis and walked about 200 m did we take a turn off into a smaller side corridor. Following a trail we were met by a myriad of smaller passages and individual 'plots' or 'farms' belonging to different families. Along the way there was much to see, including older walls



with interesting inclusions, habitat mounds where fragments of pottery indicate habitation throughout long periods of time, and farming practices such as workers climbing palm trees and slowly lowering down a precious cargo of dates. In one such field, workers had carefully packed plastic crates ready for distribution and we were all invited to enjoy dates.

Most of the date palms did not carry fruit, and of those that did we understood that those surrounded by a protective covering

(Figure 1) are the ones that the farmers are still interested in to collect. The covering is a kind of net bag that prevents insects and birds to help themselves. Earlier this year at Subaitha it was very clear to see that dates without a cover become a main food source for hornets. At Subaitha, many dates still hanging in the trees were completely 'nibbled' and of no commercial use anymore.

As well as dates we saw other fruit such as guava and smooth skinned oranges. Of note were also some other plants such as henna that was in flower and seed, and *Acacia nilotica*, which was also in flower and fruit. This *Acacia* is quite different in appearance to its other relatives such as *Acacia tortilis* as it has a single trunk and a rounded crown (Jongbloed, 2003). Its flower is a bright yellow and the seed pods are a characteristic shape where it is constricted between each seed (Figure 2).



A mention of exotic plant species was made as both *Lantana camara* and *Prosopis juliflora* (mesquite) were seen. Whilst these plants look attractive, both are introduced and not endemic, and are not only exotic but also invasive. Such plants have the ability to spread easily and therefore out-compete endemic species for resources. Over time, habitats change as endemic species are succeeded by exotic species and this affects other species that depend on the endemic species. Many extinctions worldwide can be attributed to the introduction of exotic species.

Many questions were asked and answered but I was asked how much fruit a date palm can produce annually and I don't know the answer. If anyone does, please share it with us so we can pass on the information.

As the afternoon came to an end a conscientious security guard made us aware that the oasis closes to the public at 6 pm. We were on our last stretch back to the car park so we promptly made our way back to the cars which signaled the end of an enjoyable and informative afternoon.

To find out more about the oasis, Phil's publication is archived at < <http://www.enhg.org/alain/phil/alainoasis/alainoasis.html> >.

Bibliography

Jongbloed, MVD (2003) Wildflowers of the United Arab Emirates, ERWDA, Abu Dhabi

[Library things](#)

Don't forget, if you're looking for information in print-media take a look at our library www.librarything.com/catalog/enhg. We have numerous books and publishings about flora, fauna, architecture and geology of this area.

[Marine Turtle Tracking programme](#)

Initial data has been received from **Emirates Wildlife Society-WWF's (EWS-WWF) Marine Turtle Tracking programme** in partnership with the Marine Research Foundation (MRF), which seeks to track over 75 Hawksbill turtles migration patterns over the course of three years. Through satellite mapping software, the movements of 20 turtles tagged in Iran, Oman, United Arab Emirates and Qatar have already been recorded and initial findings have uncovered interesting results, according to the environment group.

Preliminary Results from EWS-WWF Turtle Tagging project

raises new evidence of migration patterns

-Study highlights Qatar as an important conservation area-

Dubai, UAE: 25th July 2010: Initial data has been received from Emirates Wildlife Society-WWF's (EWS-WWF) Marine Turtle Tracking programme in partnership with the Marine Research Foundation (MRF), which seeks to track over 75 Hawksbill turtles migration patterns over the course of three years. Through satellite mapping software, the movements of 20 turtles tagged in Iran, Oman, United Arab Emirates and Qatar have already been recorded and initial findings have uncovered interesting results, according to the environment group.

Commenting on the findings Dr. Nicolas Pilcher, Marine Turtle Specialist and technical advisor for the project said; "The southern shores off Iran boast some of the most abundant soft corals and reef formations. This is something that would normally attract Hawksbill turtles but it is interesting to note that they have all swum away towards other countries."



The five turtles in Iran (one sponsored by Géant and Le Marché, named 'Luna'), were tagged in April and data shows that all of them have moved west and southwest towards Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Two have currently inhabited islands to the north of Abu Dhabi. Another two have swam towards the northern tip of Qatar; with one of those taking up residence in feeding grounds about 50 km off Doha and the other settling off Qatar's north coast by Ras Riken. The fifth Iran-tagged turtle swam past Qatar and Bahrain and now appears to have settled off the shores of KSA.

Research findings from Oman show that turtles nesting in the Sultanate spent less time as residents and more time travelling, many of them as much as 1500 km. Three of the turtles headed south towards Masirah Island. Turtle number 53003 seems to be a little more curious than the others and is the first Hawksbill Turtle recorded to swim up into the Gulf from Oman. Lisa Perry, EWS-WWF Programme Director said; "It has been believed by many scientists that the smaller size of the Gulf turtles compared to the larger Omani turtles and genetic isolation meant that there was no movement between populations. However,

through this project these turtles are disproving scientific theories that have existed for years.”



The first turtle tagged in the UAE, ‘Ms. EMEG’, was released off the mainland shore of Jebel Ali just a couple of kilometers from Palm Jebel Ali. “We were concerned she would get caught in offshore construction but when we tracked her movements she headed deeper into the Gulf and missed both the Palm the World developments and headed straight up to Sharjah and Ajman,” said Dr. Pilcher.

In Qatar, turtle ‘Q’, adopted by the College of the North Atlantic, made a purposeful migration south and has made the corner between KSA, Qatar and the UAE her home. The other four turtles have taken up residence off the coast off Qatar, close to Bahrain and KSA.

“It is interesting to see that none of the turtles took up residence on the east side of the Gulf,” said Dr. Pilcher. “All of them went west or south. These findings show us how important the Gulf is as a Hawksbill feeding habitat

and as the project develops, we will be able to delineate the important areas that turtles frequent and work towards the further conservation of these habitats.”

As the project is in its initial phase, funding and sponsorship opportunities are still available. Interested organisations can sponsor a turtle by providing its tagging cost, thus gaining the right to name it, as well as track its movement and migration pattern. Also, in the near future, symbolic adoption packs will be available to individuals that are looking for a way to contribute to the project.

For more information about the project, please visit www.gulfturtles.com or contact Nancy D’Souza Nancy.dsouza@hillandknowlton.com

(Taken from press release EWS-WWF)

Two New Insect Species Discovered in Wadi Wurayah

“Nanomutilla Warayahensis” Lelej and *“Ochthebius Wurayah”* Jaech & Delgado named after Wadi Wurayah

Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 14th July June 2010: Two new insect species have been discovered in the UAE’s first mountain protected area, Wadi Wurayah; a tiny, 2 millimetre long aquatic beetle (Coleoptera): *Ochthebius wurayah*, and a wasp specie commonly known as a “velvet ant” (Hymenoptera), approximately 5 millimetres long: *Nanomutilla wurayahensis*.



The findings come as part of an intensive inventory of the arthropod fauna (insects, spiders, scorpions, terrestrial crustaceans) of the UAE that is currently being carried out under the patronage of Sheikh Tahnoon Bin Zayed Al Nayan, member of the Executive Council of Abu Dhabi.

The results of the survey are set to be published as a book series titled, “Arthropod Fauna of the UAE”, edited by Anthony van Harten, the research coordinator of the project. To-date, three volumes of the “Arthropod Fauna of the UAE” have been published, in collaboration with more than 250 specialists of arthropods worldwide.

“The UAE is often considered a desert barren land with no biodiversity at all which is incorrect as Wadi Wurayah consistently shows us. Thanks to the work of Mr. van Harten and his colleagues, we have further proof of the area’s importance which is due to the habitat’s natural diversity and the presence of permanent water,” stated Dr. Christophe Tourenq, EWS-WWF Science and Research Manager.



“We are very grateful to Mr. van Harten for sharing the fruit of his long meticulous work which can be considered a stepping stone for a better future and the conservation of the UAE’s fauna. These discoveries perfectly illustrate the cooperation between an NGO (EWS-WWF), a government body (Fujairah Municipality), and the international scientific community.”

So far, a total of 1,350 species have been added to the list of species known in the UAE. Of the 10 genera, 1 subgenus, 235 species and 6 subspecies of arthropods new to science that have been discovered residing in the country so far, 30 species have been found to occur in the Wadi Wurayah Protected Area. From these 30 species, 14 were originally found (and first described) from the protected area.

Commenting on the discoveries, Anthony van Harten stated: “The only way to protect the enormous amount of insect species from extinction is to preserve the areas that support a diversity of insect species, many of them so tiny that they cannot be seen by the naked eye, and Wadi Wurayah certainly is such an area.”

Five of the new species found in Wadi Wurayah are mayflies (Ephemeroptera), which spend most of their life as aquatic larvae. The adult mayfly's life span is very short and can vary from just 30 minutes to one day, depending on the species. Because their mouthparts are vestigial, and their digestive system is filled with air, adult mayflies don't feed. Instead, they spend their short life focused on reproduction, dancing around each other, sometimes forming large groups above the water. The mayfly larvae are very sensitive to pollution and are used as indicators of good-water quality worldwide.

Dr. Christophe Tourenq adds: "Insects are an important part of the Wadi's ecosystem, health and functioning. As predators, preys or detritivores, they are essential elements of the food web. For example, geckos residing within Wadi Wurayah's mountains are part of the diet of the endangered Wild Cat (*Felis silvestris lybica*). Geckos feed on beetles, some of which are coprophagous or necrophagous, meaning they feed respectively on the faeces (droppings) or carrion (dead body) of wild cats and geckos. Beetles help then in the decomposing of the organic matter and contribute to the nutrient cycles."



"This is also true for Wadi Wurayah streams: aquatic larvae of mayflies are mostly detritivorous, or herbivorous (feeding on living vegetal matter), and in turn will be the prey of dragonfly larvae. Later on, both mayfly and dragonfly adult forms will be prey of the endemic Arabian Toad (*Bufo arabicus*), which is part of the discrete Little Bittern's (*Ixobrychus minutus*) diet - a small heron that frequents the wadi during its migration. Toad and Little Bittern faeces will enrich streams with organic matter helping vegetal matter

grow, and the nutrient cycle goes on."

Lisa Perry, Conservation Programme Director at EWS-WWF commented on the new discoveries: "These findings demonstrate that Wadi Wurayah can be considered a stronghold for the invertebrate fauna in the UAE. I hope that the research conducted over the past period will further enable us to carry on with our conservation work in the region with Fujairah municipality that has given us its unyielding support. Now that these new species have been found, more needs to be done to understand their status, their "lifestyle" and their role in the unique Wadi Wurayah ecosystem".

Mr. Van Harten will continue his research of the UAE during the course of the next year, with the results being described and named accordingly. The findings will be featured in the next volume of his book set to be published in the year to come.

Taken from press release EWS-WWF

Dates for your diary	Links
<p>October 2010</p> <p>05 Committee meeting</p> <p>12 General meeting (InterContinental)</p> <p>19</p> <p>26 General meeting (InterContinental)</p> <p>November 2010</p> <p>02 Committee meeting</p> <p>09 General meeting (InterContinental)</p> <p>16</p> <p>23 General meeting (InterContinental)</p> <p>30</p> <p>December 2010</p> <p>07 Committee meeting</p> <p>14 General meeting (InterContinental)</p> <p>21</p> <p>28 Christmas eve in desert</p>	<p>Dragonflies!!!! IUCN Odonata Specialist Group Red-veined darter: http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091129/NATIONAL/711289837</p> <p>Wildlife Middle East News: www.wmenews.com</p> <p>Desert oasis: http://www.environmentalgraffiti.com/featured/desert-oasis/2257</p> <p>Mike Gillett's contribution to our website http://www.enhg.org/alain/mike/contrib.htm >.</p> <p>Phil Idissons contributions on our webpage: http://www.enhg.org/alain/phil/contrib.htm</p> <p>EMEG, Ghantoot Contact nahed@emeg.ae for more details.</p> <p>EWS-WWF www.ews-wwf.ae Contact Nancy.dsouza@hillandknowlton.com for more details/ information.</p>

FREQUENT REMINDERS

Hikes

The weekend hikes and walks in Oman or in the UAE are a regular part of our activities offered to members. Please read these hike-related mails carefully in order to be well prepared for the hikes (equipment, shoes, severity, etc.) also to get the right time and place to meet.

Thuraya Satellite Phones

We have two Thuraya telephones. The numbers are **0088-216-4440-5955** for Phone One and **0088-216-5552-1121** for Phone Two.

We recommend that you add these numbers to your mobile phones and lists of important phone numbers.

One or both phones will be taken on each field trip and will be turned on for the duration of each trip.

Find your way and meeting places in Al Ain and around.

Our weekend field trips begin at regular meeting places. You can download a KMZ file from http://www.enhg.org/resources/links/res_links.htm. Download the KMZ file and save it on your computer. If you have Google Earth loaded on your computer, when you double click on the file, Google Earth will open and 'zoom' to the locations marked. There is some information regarding each location associated with the pins in the image; hover your mouse over the pin to see the text. If you do not have Google Earth, or if the KMZ file does not work on your computer, you can download the JPG file also listed at http://www.enhg.org/resources/links/res_links.htm. The chapter's regular meeting places for forming convoys are shown as are the Al Ain English Speaking School, the InterContinental and the Hili border crossing point.

The ENHG Library

The Library is now situated in our room at the Al Ain Palace museum. Marybeth has been busy attaching labels to the bindings of items in our collection as well as posting details of items on the Internet. Our library database can be searched and visited under www.librarything.com/catalog/enhg

If you're looking for a publication, videotape or periodical, please contact Marybeth mary.gaudette@gmail.com. We try to put an inventory list on our webpage so everybody can look for something they are interested in or something special they may be looking for. Any problems? – just ask Marybeth.

We have prepared a DVD-collection of more than 20 DVDs and CDs including all videos, CDs and many of the DVDs in our library. We are offering this set to members for Dh100. These are available to ENHG members only. You can subscribe at the general meetings for your collection.

Items for Re-Sale to Members

Every Tuesday meeting our members have the opportunity to purchase reference books which members will find useful in the field as well as copies of items from our library collection.

Also on sale: DVDs and CDs with copies of old videotapes and movies in our Library collection. The collection includes copies of old movies produced in the 1960s and 1970s, including a profile of Sh. Zayed. Selling price Dh100.

We are also offering window stickers for your vehicle(s). Dh10 each.