



Emirates Natural History Group Al Ain Chapter Newsletter 2010/04

Dear Friends

2010/2011 Season has started, the moderate temperatures are back, everybody's cleaning the BBQ equipment and the ENHG is back in full force.

The chapter held its Annual General Meeting in November and there were no changes to the Committee. Thank you to all who have volunteered to serve.

Hikes and walks starting now at early afternoon to get enough time before sunset, interesting lectures attract our members and the outreach activities and Junior-ENHG become more and more appealing.

Again: don't forget to carry your camera wherever you go. We want your best shots of fauna, flora, peoples and places for our annual photo exhibition, scheduled this season for the second meeting in May 2011 (photos to be submitted at the chapter's first meeting in May).

If anybody has special intentions or interests for visits, hikes, explorations etc. he/she should get in contact with 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:** Cheryl Dance; **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

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 at Al Ain English Speaking School. Everyone is welcome to participate! We are always looking for people to join our discussions and help deliver events.

Upcoming Events

2010		
December 02	National Day	
December 07	Committee Meeting	
December 14	General Meeting	InterContinental
December 21		
December 24		Christmas Eve in the Desert
December 28	No Meeting	
2011		
January 04	Committee Meeting	
January 11	General Meeting	InterContinental
January 18		
January 25	General Meeting	InterContinental

New members' package

Most members hear about the Emirates Natural History Group from a friend or colleague. Some learn about the Group, and the Al Ain chapter, when doing an Internet search about the UAE and Al Ain during the course of applying for employment in the UAE.

The chapter has been in existence for 30 years this season. Over that time, the chapter has evolved as the individuals changed from season to season. For the past few seasons, the chapter has settled into a routine of combining field trips, general meetings and special events and activities.

For those who would like to know more about the chapter and how it manages itself, there is a document on the website at <

http://www.enhg.org/alain/committee/new_members_package.htm > known as the New Members' Pack.

This is actually a collection of documents that works like an FAQ file, answering most of the questions individuals have about the organization.

One of the topics covered, for example, is field trips with a discussion about appropriate clothing, things members could do to prepare for a field trip, conduct on a field trip, and safety. There is a brief discussion of the events which are repeated most seasons including an Iftar Dinner during Ramadan, the photography exhibition, and the Annual General Meeting.

There is a brief discussion of the services available for members including the Newsletter, the website, the email service, and the library.

The version of the New Members' Pack on the website will be updated following this season's annual general meeting.

If you have any questions about the chapter and its activities, you will probably find an answer or explanation in the New Members' Pack.

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 08 October Musah Oasis

This mountain oasis offers a number of alternative routes -- some emphasize oasis culture, some archaeology, some wildlife.

Saturday 09 October Rainbow Ridge

A relatively short (less than 8km total) walk in the foothills of the Hajar Mountains

Friday 15 October Oasis Walk at Khadrah

Followed up on Tuesday evening's presentation by Susanne, we visited one of the active oases along the foothills of the Hajar Mountains to see what crops are grown these days compared to the crops mentioned in Susanne's presentation this week.

Saturday 16 October Daqeeq/ Huwail

A'Daqeeq, situated approximately 45 minutes from the Hili Border crossing, is a great destination to see a charming village situated in a small mountain area. Local tenants were observed bathing and washing garments in water flowing from the local wadi. Its buildings include a contemporary mosque and a ruined fort where locals whose disputes could not be resolved were imprisoned. The fort is testament to A' Daqeeq's rich and varied history. The village dwellings are arranged in clusters and include a blending of times past and present, where next to each other one can find homes made of palm trunks for roofing, rocks and dirt. Iron doors identify the entrance to each major family dwelling. Remnants of the 1950's or earlier years, the doors are distinct in shape, color, and décor. Weathering and exposure to the elements have turned them into pieces of art with the passing decades. Land owners are said to return to the village on the weekends to spend time in their family homes and enjoy the peace and tranquility of the multi-level oasis with its intricate falaj



system where citrus trees, date palms, aloe vera plants, and local vegetation are cultivated throughout the year. One must not forget to mention the bright yellow telephone booth adjacent to the local cemetery as a clear indication of modern day technology blending with the past in the tiny village where electricity was introduced approximately a year ago.

Al Huwail in Oman is approximately 15 minutes from A'Daqeeq. A mirage of natural wonders lie just below the little cluster of homes, where goats



wandering about observed strangers passing on their way to discover an oasis situated in a cave below. Hidden behind a palm tree and the multi colored dirt and rock surrounding the entrance to the cave, tiny fish, toads and tourists swam together in a cool pool of water.

Searching further into the cavern, yet another pool with water trickling off the rocks and vibrations of sound echoing from the surrounding walls provided

for tranquility of peaceful moments in nature's beauty. The rocks depict evidence of local drought through a chalky water line and dried moss that remained visible along the sides of the cave. Traveling to a third pool a reflection of natural light produced a hue of blue and green reflection on the water's surface. As if it wasn't enough, stalagmites decorated the pockets of the cavern.

Saturday 23 October Al Ain Souq walk

We continued the theme initiated by Susanne and her discussion of agriculture last week with a visit to the Al Ain souq.

During our visit to the souq we visited one of the halwa shops. How is the traditional Omani sweet made? What are some of the ingredients?

This YouTube link is for a film made by a group of Omani students < <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q2VMlc6tMIM> >. There are other clips available on YouTube showing different Omani halwa shops.

Saturday 30 October Hanging Gardens of Jebel Qattara

This weekend, we visited the Hanging Gardens, named by an American naturalist many years ago given the plant life that drapes the face of the escarpment in the vicinity of the waterfall. The waterfall is only running

after a rainfall but the tufa at the base of the escarpment is almost always dripping with moisture that has drained through the limestone and provides moisture for the abundant plant populations there. There are several archaeological sites in the vicinity of the Hanging Gardens and some stunning geology.

See special report of Joycelyn below.

Saturday 06 November Hili Archaeological park, Architects' Tour

We began the trip at the Hili Archaeological Garden (park) to see some of the oldest architecture including the Grand Tomb first studied by the Danish team almost 50 years ago.



From the archaeological park we went to the Hili Oasis where two of the standard tower designs are located, along with one of the smaller private fortified houses, a classic oasis mosque, and a few other buildings. Inside the park is a large private 'fort' being restored by the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage.

We moved on to the Qattara and Jimi oases. At Qattara, one of the traditional souq settings has been restored but is being remodeled again. Nearby are the remains of another private fortified building as well as the large Qattara fort where archaeologists uncovered some bronze items during last season's construction activity. In the Jimi oasis, a quick stop at the



farm setting where ADACH has also begun restoration work and the complex of mosque, farmhouse and tower in the heart of the oasis.

The last stop was one of the key attractions in the city, the fort at Jahili. The fort is home of the permanent Wilfried Thesiger (aka Mubarak bin

London) collection and has on sale a very good collection of books in English and Arabic on the culture and heritage of the UAE.

Thursday 18 November light trap at Zakher pools, reptiles, moonlight

We set up the light trap to see what insects are taking advantage of the plant life and water. This was an excellent opportunity to see how insect populations are known. Before sunset, we looked around

the dunes for insect and other activity; in particular, we looked for signs of small mammals and reptiles, many of whom will be active overnight. Of course, twitchers were able to spot the different birds returning to the pools to roost for the night. The full moon provided ample light to walk around the dunes in the area for those who preferred to enjoy the quiet and calm of the desert.

Friday 19. November Jebel Qattara Wall hike

We followed up the trip to the Hanging Gardens of Jebel Qattara with a visit to The Wall, a large construction east of the Hanging



Gardens, evidently built to defend an Islamic settlement located at the base of the escarpment. The route we followed is one of the donkey tracks so prevalent on Jebel Qattara. It is a slow ascent to the terrace below the escarpment where the settlements

were located. There was likely a source of water from what we now call 'Ibrahim's Lookout', one of the stops on the tourist route to the summit.



At the late Islamic settlements, where many pot sherds remain, a natural stone bead was found (left).

RECENT GENERAL MEETINGS

Archeology and the origins of agriculture

Tuesday, 12 October,

Our guest speaker was Susanne Hofstra -- many of our members will recall her popular presentation on cuneiform from last season. Susanne guided us to a new appreciation of agriculture with her talk 'A New Perspective on the Old Fertile Crescent: Archaeology and the Origins of Agriculture.'



The presentation was a discussion of "how archaeologists study agriculture," Susanne explained. "How do we recover and find plant remains, how domestication and agriculture change both plants and human culture, and how new studies and techniques -- including genetic studies -- from the last decade or so have changed our ideas about the origins of agriculture in the New World and Old World,"

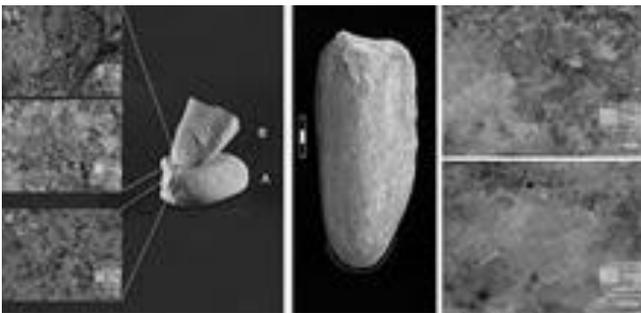
she said. "There's been a lot of new work done in that field lately (no pun intended), and it has some application to the Gulf area as well."

Susanne has been teaching in the Department of History and Archaeology at UAEU (since fall 2008) and has degrees from the University of Texas - Austin and Stanford. Her specialty is Mediterranean Bronze Age Archaeology.

More information about ancient diet:

<http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2010/10/revised-paleolithic-diet>

Ancient grains show paleolithic diet was more than meat



Humanity's Stone Age ancestors, long thought to have practiced a prehistoric version of the Atkins diet, may have eaten a balanced diet after all. Wear patterns and starch grains found on 30,000-year-old stones from Russia, Italy and the Czech Republic suggest plant-based food processing was widespread far earlier than believed.

Image: The 30,000 year-old mortar and pestle, and close-ups of microscopic wear patterns./PNAS.

As food is invariably social, there are social implications for this finding as well. It's not just plants that appear to be under-appreciated in a modern understanding of prehistory.

"The importance of plant collection and processing is definitely related to the very significant role that women performed during Paleolithic," said Anna Revedin, and archaeologist at the Italian Institute of Prehistory.

Revedin and her colleagues' findings are published in the October 18 *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, and describe their microscopic analysis of stones used as primitive mortars and pestles.

Grains on the stones come from starch-laden cattails and ferns plants that had been ground into flour. According to the researchers, these would be rich sources of carbohydrates and energy for Stone Age people, whose diet is thought to have consisted of meat and more meat, with an occasional snack of berries or fruits.

(Critically, the flour would need to be cooked before its nutrient value could be realized — seemingly sticking a fork, as it were, into the notion that modern Paleolithic diets [ought to be raw](#).)

The flour, likely suitable for making flatbread or cakes, didn't just give Stone Age people some dinnertime variety. Because it could be stored in dried form, flour would have given them greater independence from environmental and seasonal circumstance.

Freed from immediate pressures, people could do other things — such as, eventually, leaving the Stone Age behind. And underlying it all, if ethnographic research on remaining Stone Age tribes is a reliable guide, would be the work of women, gathering and processing plants while men went hunting.

“The paradigm of ‘Man the hunter!’” dies hard, but “our research demonstrates how women’s work was definitely crucial for nomadic Paleolithic groups,” said Revedin.

[Sharks in the Arabian Gulf/ investigation](#)

Tuesday 26 October

With special guest speaker marine ecologist Rima Jabado.

Rima's talk, entitled 'A Fish Story: Sharks, Fisheries and the Unknown', is a discussion of dwindling shark populations.



"Shark populations are rapidly declining around the world mainly due to the international trade in shark fins," Rima said. "The increase in catches in the UAE suggests that there exists an unsustainable shark fishery in the region. Furthermore, the UAE is serving as a hub for the trade in shark fins."

Little is known of shark populations in the Arabian Gulf, she noted. "Management initiatives for the conservation of sharks are scarce due to the lack of scientific data on the species composition, abundance and distribution," she explained. "I will be

presenting an overview of shark biology, ecology and threats to shark populations around the world before focusing on the situation in the Arabian Gulf and specifically the UAE."

Rima, who holds a Masters of Applied Science in Natural Resource Management, is working on her PhD at UAE University. She has more than nine years' experience in marine research, wildlife monitoring, and conservation projects from around the world focusing on behavior, feeding ecology, migration patterns, habitat use, population genetics, and rehabilitation of various species.

In the three years she has been in the UAE, Rima has been developing research programs focusing on the marine environment and its protection. Her PhD research on shark populations in the Gulf, conducted through UAE University, is the first ever long-term research project to be completed on elasmobranchs in the region.

Rima's research was the subject of a recent article in the Gulf News <
<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/uae/environment/dwindling-shark-population-causing-mayhem-in-food-chain-1.688397>

Brief overview of fauna and flora in the UAE

Tuesday 09 November

Noted ecologist Dick Hornby was our special guest speaker this Tuesday evening, our first general meeting of November.

Dick brings almost 20 years' experience in the UAE and equivalent experience with the Nature Conservancy Council in southern England to Al Ain to discuss the conservation status of most habitats and plant and animal groups in UAE. His talk, entitled "The Habitats, Flora and Fauna of UAE in a Nutshell", was a compelling overview of habitats and a discussion of the state of conservation efforts for each.

A colorful display of crabs, fishes, birds, mammals, flowers and flowering bushes to be seen in the UAE.

AGM Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 23 November

At Al Ain chapter's Annual General Meeting members were invited to stand for any of the Committee positions and, if necessary, vote to elect the Committee members.

At the meeting, there was also a brief summary of the past year's activities as well as a financial report on the health of the chapter's finances.

This evening special guest speaker was Val Chalmers who spoke to the chapter about fossils.

Many of our members recalled Val's presentation during last winter's Inter Emirates Weekend when she ran one of the workshops for the event hosted by the Al Ain chapter. Val has been a pillar of the Dubai Natural History Group for many years and, while she has a wealth of knowledge on many topics, one of her passions is fossils. (She is also a recipient of the Bish Brown Award for her work to promote the knowledge and appreciation of natural history in the United Arab Emirates and northern Oman.)

She brought along examples of many of the most common fossils to be found in the region as well as some special examples.

Hanging Gardens

Written by Joycelyn Spears

3rd October, 2010 Saturday

The exciting hike to Hanging Gardens, Jebel Qattara, was completed by adventurous hikers of the Natural History Group in Al Ain. It was a bright, sunny morning with no clouds, which made for a very heat intensive hike.

The hike began up a steep slope on the side of the rocky mountain path. Along the hike we were able to view ancient graveyards, settlements, old pathways and weathered boulders.

When we stopped to rest and regain our strength alongside the shade of massive boulders, weathered by wind erosion, Brien spoke of the weathering patterns and the tribes that resided in the area of Jebel Qattara. In the distance there was a perfect view of the city of Al Ain. As we continued on our journey to Hanging Gardens, trekking up an incline between two huge boulders proved to be taxing but fun!



We reached Hanging Gardens in about 50 minutes after the hike started. It is a quiet, restful place, that is shaded by the Jebel Qattara mountain. There were interesting rock formations which seem like they should belong at the bottom of the sea. Hanging Gardens has water gently dripping from the mountain side. There are many variations of plants growing from where the water drips and around the base of the gardens. We found a restful place to sit after the hike up the steep slope while viewing the beautiful greenery. Brien spoke of the rain and how the base of the gardens fills to swimming level, as the rain water pours from the mountain side.

After a nice restful time at Hanging Gardens, we began our trek back down the mountain. We were able to see a larger settlement, which was located close to Hanging Gardens because of the proximity to water. We viewed a large cemetery and Brien spoke of how the deceased were laid to rest and the beliefs which the people of this culture hold dear to their hearts.

One of the most enchanting sights was the rock called The Bunny! What made this so enchanting is the small resting place that was built from small rocks which was made as a hiding spot possibly for someone wanting to capture falcons. The Bunny truly looked like a rabbit!

Eventually, we made it back to the base of Jebel Qattara. We were all exhausted but excited about the completion of such a difficult hike.

Sharks in Arabian Gulf

Follow up report to Rima Jabado's lecture of 26th October:

Edwin palmer from Nautica Environment reported to Rima about his encounters with sharks in the Arabian Gulf in 2009:

"I don't know how helpful this will be as there's very little information and no quantitative data, but this is a synopsis of our shark experience over the two years I have been at Nautica:

The only place that we've had any really significant encounters with sharks was around Zirku island while conducting a survey for Zadco in October 2009. To the west of the island there were a number areas where the sea surface was disturbed by aggregated feeding behaviour - in some cases with dorsal fins clearly visible. We approached several of these aggregations, but they generally dispersed before our arrival. However; on one occasion we were lucky enough to get reasonably near, and although we didn't see the actual feeding, we saw several of the sharks quite close up. We id'd the sharks as Blacktip sharks, *Carcharhinus limbatus*, and estimated there to be about 15 in the group ranging in size from around 1.5 to 2m. I have attached some of the better photos that we took.

Needlescale Queenfish (*Scomberoides tol*) were schooling at the surface, and Pickhandle barracuda (*Sphyræna jello*) were present underneath in quite large numbers (photos attached of both). We suspected the sharks were feeding on the Needlescale Queenfish, though the Queenfish may have just been present feeding on leftovers or injured fish. Gulls divebombed the baitball from overhead while the surrounding water glittered with scales from fish that had been consumed. Several of the sharks were accompanied by pilot fish - the most numerous from a species we didn't ID (apart from assuming they were jacks (Carangidae), but you may be able to id them from the photos), although other species included occasional juvenile Golden Trevally (*Gnathanodon speciosus*) and Ramoras. The aggregation that we photographed was approximately located at N24.91897 E53.06604 (WGS84, DD). Conditions were particularly calm, which would have helped enormously with seeing the feeding aggregations, most of which we saw to the north or west of Zirku island, probably in the 10 - 15m depth range, though may have been up to 20m (we didn't go much further out that day so may have continued into deeper water). Such aggregations are apparently quite frequent around Zirku island - presumably because of the minimal fishing pressure there resulting from the oil field access restrictions.

On our return from this survey, about halfway to Abu Dhabi (by sea) we saw another shark (which we presumed to be another Blacktip shark) leap clear of the water and spun and landed on its back. Also at Zirku island, it is common to see the dorsal fins of Blacktip Reef Sharks (*Carcharhinus melanopterus*) feeding in very shallow water (often less than 1m), especially along the south-western shoreline (very approximately N24.8647 E53.0690), where it may be observed on an almost daily basis.

The only other times that we have seen sharks in Abu Dhabi waters was;

- Close to the Danat Hotel harbour (24.171985°, 52.643012°). One individual (species indet.) in shallow (<2m) water.

- Close to a herd of Dugong (which included several juveniles). I snorkeling for photos and dived down hoping to see some Dugongs and was very surprised to come face to face with a shark! As far as I could tell, it was solitary, about 1.5m long, and could have also been a Blacktip shark, although I didn't get a chance to properly ID it. Unfortunately no pictures, but it was located at 24.189744°, 53.297440° in about 4-5m depth.

Otherwise; we have had virtually no sightings of sharks despite many, many hours underwater in nearshore coastal waters. This demonstrates how pitifully sparse the shark population is here!“

[The Al Saif Traditional Sword Competition](#)

by Barbara Reimer



The Fujairah Fort on Friday 12 November 2010 was the site of a qualification round of the Al Saif Traditional Sword Tournament. This sword championship, inaugurated by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Hamad Al Sharqi, Crown Prince of the Emirate of Fujairah, encourages the younger generations to practice ancient customs and traditions through authentic sports. Although the art of heritage dancing is apparently very famous among the locals, it is not one that I had seen. Over the years, the folk dances have developed into distinct types and each is characterized by special features and performed in a different way.

The Almzafin dance is the focus of this tournament, and is an opportunity for young males over sixteen to learn and practice this traditional dance and perform it creatively. Almzafin is considered one of the traditional arts that

reflect social values, morals and aesthetic qualities. It has technical features that depend on movement, rhythm, signs, and symbols of significance and shared meaning that are common among people who live in the mountains and have kept this tradition alive.

There was a strong air of festivity at the competition, which was preceded by the traditional camel stick folk dance and antiphonal singing, and several children's activities – a sack race, tug of war, story-telling, and an Arab version of "Simon Says." It was fun to watch the children as they practiced their version of Almzafin with small swords before the actual tournament began.



When the competition began, I tried to look for the four scoring categories that were outlined in the explanatory material about the tournament. Competitors are judged out of a total of fifty points: the Al Lakiya, or Sword Walk, (10 points) is the entrance to the field of the Almzafin when the zafin (warrior) displays pride and self-confidence. This is followed by the Almzafin (10 points), where each contestant, in turn, demonstrates that he prepared to start by jumping three times, increasing the height each time without shifting from the initial spot.

The third category (Ghali Al Saif, 15 points) involves throwing and catching the sword. This is the most exciting part of the contest, because both contestants are trying to out-do each other. Throwing the sword must be done in a limited area with the sword being caught no more than three steps from the place from which the sword is thrown. However, this was not the case with one participant who, after an enthusiastic, high throw, found that his sword landed outside the competition area, about a foot behind one of the videographers recording the event! According to the rules of the tournament, a swordsman may be forbidden from continuing for "lacking control over his sword and endangering other competitors or the public." Although this action would seem to call for enforcement of this rule, there seemed to be no repercussions for this exuberant competitor.

The final 15 points are awarded for Presentation & Originality. In this category, judges



look for overall presentation of the swordsman and his sense of originality. Special features include the curvature of the sword, dancing with rhythm and going down to the ground and rising again. The judges also look for things like moving the sword from the palm to the back of the hand with flexibility and without the sword falling, throwing the sword from hand to hand, balancing the sword upside down on the fingers while walking without the sword falling. All the participants demonstrated amazing flexibility and control.

A variety of mistakes can also affect the overall score of a contestant. These mistakes vary from falling or stumbling during his performance, catching the sword from behind, losing his ghutra (head covering) and having it picked up by another, to showing any inappropriate manners to the public or the Al Saif commission.

The prizes? Well, they range from a first prize of a golden sword, car and 100,000 AED to fourth to eighth place prizes of 10,000 AED— not a bad payoff for a few cuts and bandages (as were glimpsed on the hands of several participants). However, given the obvious time commitment that has gone into making these competitors the amazing athletes they are, I would wager that their hourly rate is somewhere in the low fifties!

All in all, the competition was well worth the trip to Fujairah, and I would encourage anyone to look out for the dates of next year's event. It's a great show!

Additional detailed information available from www.mhm.ae, the personal website of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad Al Sharqi

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.

Books for Sale

Available at ENHG meetings

Wild About Reptiles

By Marijcke Jongbloed

More comprehensive guides to the reptiles of the Arabian Peninsula have been published, but this is a valuable guide for the casual to advanced explorer.
Price AED 50.

Wild About Mammals

By Marijcke Jongbloed

Another guide which should be in the library of anyone in the UAE interested in the mammals found in this part of the world.
Price AED 50.

Butterflies of Saudi Arabia

By Torben B. Larsen

A must have book if you like butterflies. It is highly readable and shows more than 147 species of butterflies that flourish on the Arabian Peninsula. It shows species that unique only to the peninsula. 99% of all Arabian butterflies can be identified from this book!
Price AED 100

Gertrude Dyck's Al Ain

One of a very few books published on Al Ain. This book, containing many of Gertrude's own photographs, reflects the more than 30 years she lived here after joining Oasis Hospital in the early 1960's.
Price AED 75.

Jebel Hafit

By: ADCO and ENHG

This book describes the natural history of Jebel Hafit, geology, archaeology flora and fauna of the area. It gives an insight into the region's geography, history and natural history. The mountain is a result of late Tertiary tectonic activity.
Price AED 100

Native Plants of Oman

By Clive Winbow

This is a handy guide for the amateur naturalist to identify over 150 wild plants that are commonly seen on walks in the Omani countryside.
Price AED 80

Wildflowers of the UAE

This is the result of many years of dedicated fieldwork by Marijcke Jongbloed and is a required item in any serious library of reference books of the UAE. The book includes excellent photographs of all plants as well as detailed descriptions and discussions of how the plants have been used.
Price AED 100.

Salt Tolerant Plants of the UAE

By Fawzi M Karim and Abdullah J Dadheel

This handbook provides a simple identification guide to 125 wild and cultivated plant species in the UAE, both common plants and rare ones. There are color pictures, text descriptions, flowering time, distributions, potential uses and much more valuable information for the flora enthusiast.

Price AED 70

Birds of Al Jabal Al Akhdar

By Jens Eriksen

This book describes all known birds of Jabal Akhdar up to Feb 2008, and contains histograms of where birds occur, information on how, when to visit, and has good images.

Price: AED 50

Oman Bird List, Edition 6 (Nov 2003)

By Jens Eriksen, Dave E. Sargeant and Reginald Victor

This book includes a status for all 482 species of birds in Oman, breeding maps for all breeding species, histograms for all migratory species and 170 color photographs

Price AED 30

Bird ID cards

AED 10 each

Birdwatching Guide to Oman (2nd edition)

By Dave E. Sargeant and Hanne & Jens Eriksen

The authors have combined field experience to produce this guide to finding and watching birds. The site guide covers 60 of Oman's top bird watching sites, each with maps and list of birds recorded. Also includes a bird calendar for spotting birds, and many photographs.

Price AED 100

Arthropod Fauna of the UAE, Volume 1

Edited by Antonius Van Harten

The first volume of so far 3. The project intends to create an insect inventory for the UAE. Volume 1 covers 570 species of which most were new records to the UAE in 2007. The book includes species descriptions, images, diagrams and some habitat descriptions.

Price AED 100

Tribulus, 2009

Price AED 50

Tribulus is the publication of the Abu Dhabi chapter of the ENHG with contributions covering every aspect of natural history in the UAE. Back issues of Tribulus are available on our website but these copies are valuable for anyone with a special interest in the scientific studies underway here in the last 25 years.

Back issues are free!

ENHG vehicle window sticker

Price AED 10

Dates for your diary	Links
December 2010 07 Committee meeting 14 General meeting (InterContinental) 21 28 Christmas eve in desert	Dragonflies!!!! IUCN Odonata Specialist Group Red-veined darter: http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091129/NATIONAL/711289837
January 2011 04 Committee meeting 11 General meeting (InterContinental) 18 25 General meeting (InterContinental)	Wildlife Middle East News: www.wmenews.com Desert oasis: http://www.environmentalgraffiti.com/featured/desert-oasis/2257
February 2011 01 Committee meeting 08 General meeting (InterContinental) 15 22 General meeting (InterContinental)	Mike Gillett's contribution to our website http://www.enhg.org/alain/mike/contrib.htm >.
	Phil Idissons contributions on our webpage: http://www.enhg.org/alain/phil/contrib.htm EMEG, Ghantoot Contact nahed@emeg.ae for more details. EWS-WWF www.ews-wwf.ae Contact Nancy.dsouza@hillandknowlton.com for more details/ information.

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.