

focus

Abu Dhabi, March 2012
Vol 36 (3)



Emirates Natural History Group

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

EDITORIAL

Though April is now upon us and the UAE camping season is drawing to a close, there is still at least one more camping trip on offer—to Delma Island, cooled by sea breezes. And a leader for a deferred Family Camping trip would be welcome. (See p. 8.) We also have some intriguing upcoming talks: Michael Creamer's historical account of the development of sailing craft & navigation techniques, and Steve James' presentation on the natural history of Rwanda, where he's just been.

It's good to see that, helped by the efforts of our PR Secretary Claudia, the local news media are taking regular notice of the ENHG's activities. One result of this attention is the well-written summary of Dr Skidmore's recent talk on camels, reprinted on pp. 4-5.

Also, please check out the "In the News Media" panel on p. 6. The first hyperlinked article, "Reconnecting with nature on the sandy dunes", is of special interest as it was written by a returning Emirati national expressing an attitude toward nature that is shared by members of this Group. The ENHG, though currently composed mostly of expatriates, would certainly welcome more Emiratis like him to join us in the appreciation & conservation of the natural environment of this region!

Thanks go out to high school student & ENHG member Sidney Liu for his ably performed volunteer-work, now completed, as A/V assistant at ENHG meetings, for the past five months. We would welcome more volunteers to join our A/V technical support team. We would also like to remind members that the Committee is now on the lookout for two additional members to serve essential roles for the 2012-2013 season: a Treasurer, to replace Ron Priestley, who's leaving in July, and an Excursion Secretary, to replace Andrew Bean (now also Chairman), who's stepping down in June after over six years of leading field trips. Ideally, we would like to announce these new members of the team at our Annual General Meeting on May 1st.

Keith Taylor

IEW 2012 Friday Evening Programme

IEW 2012, 23-25 Feb, was hosted by the DNHG, based at a hotel near the Dubai Airport, attended by members of all four UAE-based NHGs (including the new ENHG-Fujairah). Thanks are especially due to DNHG Vice Chair Val Chalmers, and her assistants, for a very well organised event, offering a variety of natural history trips to locations near and far to locations near and far. Write-ups of some of these trips will be published in forthcoming issues of this newsletter. Following is a brief account of the Friday evening after-dinner programme—as always, the focal point of the IEW.

First, the photos from the intriguing "Where in the UAE...?" photo identification quiz, previously displayed in the corridor for team voting, were presented on a screen in the meeting room, as the answers were revealed to what for many were some real stumpers.

Next, the film 'The Floating Life of Dubai Creek' was shown with an introduction and insightful follow-up comments by Tim Kennedy, assistant professor at the

In this issue

- Page 1:** Front cover
- Page 2:** Editorial, IEW 2012 Friday Evening Programme
- Page 3:** 2011 Sheikh Mubarak Award Winner, 2011 Bish Brown Award Winner, AD Island Birding 16 March 2012
- Page 4:** Great Stone Curlew Sighting!, Beat the Heat like Camels, the Desert's Sunflowers
- Page 5:** Recent Speaker
- Page 6:** Upcoming Speakers, In the News Media, Websites of General Interest
- Page 7:** Corporate Sponsors, ENHG Bookstall
- Page 8:** Committee Members, Lectures, Field Trips, Research & Conservation Fund, Equipment for Members' Use, Marine Life Rescue Contact Info., Newsletter Details

FRONT COVER PICTURE

Photograph: Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush
Western Corniche Park, Abu Dhabi

Photographer: May Yoke Taylor

This month's contributors

Hugo Berger of The National, Drew Gardner, Nicole Hill of The National, Brigitte Howarth, Simon Strickland, Keith Taylor, May Yoke Taylor, Silvija Ulmanis

ENHG Membership Information

Annual membership in the Abu Dhabi chapter of the ENHG is 100 Dhs – for both individual and family membership. See Membership Sec. or Asst. at the next meeting for a membership form.

Members are entitled to join the group on all day trips and overnight camping trips. Each member is also entitled to a copy of the ENHG's normally annual peer-reviewed journal, *Tribulus*. Volume 19 is available at meetings. Work on Volume 20 is now under way.

College of Architecture, Art and Design at the American University of Sharjah, who made the film. The consensus seemed to be that this was an appropriate and valuable documentary of the commerce & social life on the vital waterway in the heart of modern Dubai.

This presentation was followed by the announcement of Sheikh Mubarak Award to Dr Drew Gardner & the Bish Brown Award to Dr Brigitte Howarth. See details on p. 3.

Former ENHG Al Ain Acting Vice Chair (and 2007 Bish Brown Award winner) Bob Reimer, who died this January (See [February 2012 Focus](#)) was given a special mention, as he had hoped to join us at this IEW. His contributions to the study of natural history here live on.

At the end of the evening, the photo competition & quiz winners were announced. For the Photographic Competition, there were four prizes given to these three winners: 1. Life on Earth: Plants /Animals/Fossils -

Winner: Tamsin Carlise with "Piper on the Strand"; 2. Earth and Environment: Geology/Landscapes - Winner: Steve Manthorpe with "It's a hard life!"; 3. Man and His Influence: Archaeology/Architecture/Culture/Environment - Winner: Angela Manthorpe with "Descent". 4. Best Photograph Overall - Winner: Again, Angela Manthorpe with "Descent". All prizewinners received Virgin Megastore vouchers. Winning the Photo Quiz was the team comprised of DNHG members Sandi Ellis and her daughter, Layla, Martina Fella and Geoff Sanderson, with an impressive 19 correct answers out of 30. A selection of books from the DNHG bookstall was awarded to these winners. Congratulations to all!

Keith Taylor

2011 Sheikh Mubarak Award Winner

The Sheikh Mubarak bin Mohamed Award for Natural History is the country's premier natural history award. It is intended to acknowledge the contributions made by an individual, primarily through original research and publication, to the scientific study of the archaeology, history and natural history of the UAE.

Former ENHG (Abu Dhabi) Chairman Dr Andrew (Drew) Gardner was awarded the Sheikh Mubarak Award for 2011 for his very extensive publications and research on reptiles and many other aspects of natural history and ecology in the UAE and Oman over the past two decades. Drew was unable to attend the award announcement at the IEW, but he sent in the following acceptance speech which was read out on his behalf by ENHG Deputy Chairman Keith Taylor. –Ed.

After many years of announcing the winners of the Sheikh Mubarak and Bish Brown awards at the Inter Emirates Weekends, I must express my sincere apologies not to be able to be with you on this occasion to accept the Sheikh Mubarak award myself. It is of course a tremendous honour, and I am deeply grateful to the committee of the Abu Dhabi ENHG for the recognition of my work on Arabian ecology and herpetology over the last 24 years or so.

We left Abu Dhabi about three weeks ago to move to Western Australia. After so long in the Middle East, it is an exciting adventure. I have been offered a job as a zoology consultant with a small specialist firm based in Perth. They undertake ecology surveys, targeted rare species surveys, and zoology research into bats, reptiles, marsupials and various invertebrate groups, mainly working in the Pilbara region. However, we are still working through the bureaucracy, visas etc, and it may still be a while before I can actually start work. Australian and UAE red tape are certainly on a par! In the meantime, the sun is shining, flocks of cockatoos are wheeling around, and life is good!

Best wishes to all friends in the various ENHG chapters, and enjoy the Inter Emirates Weekend.

Drew Gardner

2011 Bish Brown Award Winner

The Bish Brown Award, commemorating one of the Group's Founders, is given by the ENHG chapter to an individual who has promoted study and conservation of

the UAE's environment, wildlife, history or heritage, in accordance with the main aims of the Group.

Current ENHG Al Ain Chair and 2006 Sheikh Mubarak Award winner Dr Brigitte Howarth was the Bish Brown Award recipient for 2011, in acknowledgement of her tremendous contribution to all aspects of the volunteer work of all of the Natural History Groups in the UAE.

Over and above her professional obligations as a teacher and coordinator of Environmental Science at Zayed University, Brigitte has led literally hundreds of field trips (most weekends), given lectures to all three chapters, had regular insect curation evenings at her house, led popular insect-trapping and identifying workshops at Inter-Emirates Weekends and actively worked for the promotion of environmental awareness by taking school trips into the field. Her committed volunteer service exemplifies all that Bish Brown, founder member of the ENHG, stood for.

During her acceptance speech Brigitte, who is also the curator of the Joint Al Ain and Abu Dhabi Insect Collection of the Emirates Natural History Group, showed us a small case of mounted jewel beetles collected by Bish Brown, including several first records—important pieces of the ecological record of this country.

Please note the informative podcast on the Zakher Pools area near Al Ain, featuring Brigitte Howarth and fellow ENHG-AA member Dave Clark, on the Encyclopedia of Life website, listed in the Media panel on p. 6. –Ed.

AD Island Birding, 16 March 2012

Outgoing Excursion Secretary Andrew Bean led another "introductory birding" outing on a sunny mid-March morning. Though only seven members participated, a large number of species were seen, some of them fairly rare, and there was a most satisfying grand finale.

Eastern Corniche mangroves and palm grove:

Western Reef Heron (white & dark plumage)	
Greater Flamingo	Greater Cormorant
Common Black-headed Gull	Grey Heron
Common Sandpiper	Gull-billed Tern
Common Myna	White Wagtail
Daurian Shrike	Grey Francolin
Swallow sp.	White-eared Bulbul
Laughing Dove	House Sparrow
	Woodchat Shrike
	Warbler sp.
	Eurasian Collared Dove

Mushrif Palace Park palm grove:

Common Kestrel	Cattle Egret
Spectacled Bulbul (& Orange-vented hybrid)	
Chiffchaff	Red-vented Bulbul
Warbler sp. (Olivaceous?)	Ménétriés's Warbler
Swallow sp.	Swift sp.
Alexandrine Parakeet	Purple Sunbird

Western Corniche Park lawns & beach:

House Sparrow	Graceful Prinia
Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush	Eurasian Hoopoe
Purple Sunbird	Parakeet sp.
Kentish Plover	Common Sandpiper
Common Crested Lark	Isabelline Wheatear
White Wagtail	Pipit sp. (Tawny?)
Daurian Shrike	Common Kestrel
Common Tern	Red-wattled Lapwing
	Eurasian Curlew

Old ADNOC residence by the Hilton Hotel:

Breeding pairs of two species of Weavers (Village & Golden-backed again this time) were spotted building new nests for the breeding season in the hidden tamarind tree—and one active male Village Weaver appeared to be building two nests at the same time! This confirms that these introduced African birds are still breeding here at this time of year, but now we'd like to know where they spend the rest of the year!

Silvija Ulmanis / Keith Taylor

Great Stone Curlew Sighting!



Great Stone Curlew *Esacus recurvirostris*, evening 27 February 2012 on coastline beyond Mussafah new industrial zone, a rare winter visitor.

Photograph & caption by Simon Strickland

Beat the Heat like Camels, the Desert's Sunflowers

We reprint below, with permission from *The National*, an informative summary of Dr. Lulu Skidmore's excellent talk to the ENHG about camels on 21st Feb, 2012. —Ed.



Camels are able to subsist on vegetation that other animals cannot eat such as salty bushes, bark and thorns.

Photo: Nicole Hill / The National

Their ability to withstand inhospitable climes has given them an almost mythical status; hence the camel is often cited as the ultimate symbol of Arabic culture. Although few in this region actually rely on camels for their survival these days, they remain highly revered beasts that, as well as having practical purposes in racing and for their nutrient-laden milk, are cherished as a tangible link to a largely departed nomadic way of life. And yet, it's a general truth that few of us are fully aware of how these creatures are able to survive and prosper in harsh desert conditions.

Dr Lulu Skidmore has been the scientific director of the Camel Reproduction Centre (CRC) in Dubai since 1994 and boasts a PhD from Cambridge University in the study of camels. As one of the world's foremost authorities on the subject, few surpass her wealth of knowledge on the humped beasts.

Thus, Skidmore was recently invited by the Emirates Natural History Group Abu Dhabi to impart some of her expertise to members of the organisation.

Skidmore is no stranger to the pages of *The National*, after the CRC's cloning, embryo-freezing and artificial insemination projects were the subject of features last year.

However, in her speech to the mostly middle-aged, expat audience of the ENHG at Abu Dhabi Women's College, this time she focused on the evolutionary progressions that have enabled the camel to make its home in the sandy realms of the globe.

As she explains, all camelids - the biological family that includes the one-humped dromedary, the two-humped Bactrian, as well as South American camelids such as the llama and alpaca - have a common evolutionary ancestor that originated from what is now North America around 45 million years ago.

"Amazingly enough, they were all related once," says Skidmore. "They might not look very similar, but they all started off as one species. Some of these creatures migrated south into South America while some crossed the Bering Strait into China and Russia; some went further on across the continent into the Arabian Peninsula and into Africa and these evolved into the dromedary camels we know of today."

Despite the fact that one-third of the world's land surface is arid - which, speaking scientifically, means that the annual evaporation of water exceeds the amount of rainfall - camels are among just a few mammals that can survive in such surroundings.

"This is because they won't over-poach an area. If you think of cattle grazing around a waterhole, they tend to eat all the grass, so have to travel further and further away from the water," she reveals.

"Camels are not going to do this, because they have these long legs and they take bits of vegetation from the bushes as they go. They can eat a lot of vegetation that other animals can't - like salty bushes, bark and thorns."

But perhaps their most amazing adaptation is their ability to cope with a scarcity of water.

"We've all heard that camels can go for two weeks without water, and that's almost true," claims Skidmore.

"They can certainly go [without water] for long periods of time, because they can drink large amounts of water in a short time - something like 180 litres of water in less than 24 hours."

Skidmore conceded that if humans were to imbibe anywhere near this amount, it would certainly cause death.

"Our blood vessels would just pop," she explains. "However, camels have red blood cells that can expand up to 240 per cent of their original volume without

rupture. Conversely, their blood cells are very small and narrow, so when they get dehydrated their blood can move around, even though their blood's viscosity has increased," she explained.

"They also excrete very small amounts of highly concentrated urine that's twice as concentrated and with twice as much salt as seawater.

"This means their water-retaining capacity is tremendous. A lean camel can survive a body water loss of up to 40 per cent. If a man reduces his by 12 per cent well he's pretty much dead."

As well as physical adaptations, there are also some behavioural ones of note.

"Camels always face the sun. If you see them in the desert, it's quite intriguing as they look like children in a classroom, all facing the same way," she tells the audience.

"That means that less of their body surface is in the sun's rays. So they're absorbing less heat, and so not raising their body temperature too much. As the sun moves round, they get up and sit down again. They always do it in unison."

On top of this, compared to other domestic animals, unless they are being forced to exert themselves camels tend to be lethargic and phlegmatic in nature.

"They're not very energetic animals," says Skidmore. "They aren't going to be galloping around a field like a horse. They spend most of the day in one spot, using up very little energy and having a low metabolic rate."

Another amazing adaptation is their ability to endure huge shifts in their internal temperatures.

Skidmore says: "Their body temperature can go up and down about four or five degrees centigrade. Whereas if our body temperature goes up by one degree, we get a high fever and have to sweat to dissipate that heat.

"Camels don't need to do this, they don't need to sweat to reduce their body temperature, and their body can function and cope with a four- or five-degree swing; hence their heat can be stored in the body without any effects.

"So they're not sweating if it's hot, and they don't have to shiver to keep themselves warm when the outside temperature drops at nighttime.

"So without sweating and shivering, it means they don't have to waste energy."

Their ability to dissipate heat is also improved by their most distinguishable physical peculiarity - their humps.

"There's a myth many people still believe that the hump is full of water," Skidmore says. "In fact, it's full of fat. Maybe the myth comes from the fact that a camel in a good condition has a big, fat hump. Whereas those in a bad condition have a little skinny hump.

"This is due to the fact that camels, when in a good condition, only pile on weight on their hump. It's not a question of whether you can see their ribs, because it's not like us humans, who put on weight in various parts of our bodies," she contends. "Camels just store it in one

place, on their humps. This means it has no fat elsewhere so it can dissipate excess heat very quickly."

A camel's head, with its slit-like nostrils, small hairy ears and tough lips that can move independently, allowing them to graze on thorny shrubs without injury, is also perfectly suited for harsh desert climes.

"Their eyes are specifically adapted so they don't need sunglasses and aren't blinded by the light," claims Skidmore. "They also have these beautiful long eyelashes, which protect them from the sand. They look like they're weeping all the time; it's actually tears to wash the sand out and stop them drying out."

Yet these days, as camels transform from beasts of burden to thoroughbred racers and dairy animals, is there a danger these advantageous evolutionary traits could diminish?

"I don't think they'll lose their adaptations altogether, because these are kind of inbuilt into them," contends Skidmore. "But there could be some changes. Take their ability to survive without water. They have to be used to not having water for long periods of time.

"If our camels' troughs run dry at night, they'll need some water the next day. They won't be able to survive for two weeks without water because they won't have drunk 180 litres in 24 hours to prepare themselves for that. So it certainly is to do with the environment and how they're kept as to whether they'll keep their adaptations for the future."

Hugo Berger

Recent Speaker



Keith Wilson began his career as an aquatic ecologist working for Southern Water Authority in southeast England. After relocating to Hong Kong in 1991 and serving in various posts there for the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, he implemented an ambitious US\$ 13.5 M artificial reef programme to protect, restore and enhance marine resource from 1996 to 2003. This involved the establishment of fisheries protection areas. As head of a multifunctional Division, within the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Keith was also responsible for enforcement of fisheries and mariculture legislation in addition to project management. After working as an ecological consultant in Hong Kong and China from 2003 to 2007, Keith moved to the UAE in 2008 to take up a post with Nakheel with responsibilities

for managing the marine environment at the Waterfront & Palm Jebel Ali developments. After a short time, Keith joined the Emirates Marine Environmental Group (EMEG), where he is now the Director of EMEG's Marine Programme.

Since 2009 Emirates Marine Environmental Group (EMEG) has been conducting regular ecological monitoring at Sir Bani Yas and its associated 'Discovery Islands', and at Sir Bu Nair. The monitoring work includes monitoring of nesting sea turtles, breeding coastal birds and coral communities. At his presentation to the ENHG on March 20th Keith provided a wealth of information on EMEG's findings, focusing on the current breeding status of the coastal bird communities at these islands, and important related ecological issues.

Upcoming Speaker

Michael Creamer has been an ENHG member since his arrival in the UAE in 2007. His passions for history, etymology and nautical archaeology have shaped his career choices: Restoration director of the 1877 iron bark ELISSA, US Coast Guard licensed captain, *National Geographic* researcher, investigator for the Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA) and Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH), and documentary film maker for *The History Channel* and *The Discovery Channel*. As a maritime consultant, he designed the Puerto Isla Mujeres Marina in the Mexican Caribbean and is currently at work in the Arabian Gulf Oil Patch.

On 3rd April, Michael will give the ENHG a presentation titled, *Ages of Sail – Stone to Copper to Bronze*. This will be a survey of the vessels and technology from Phoenicia to Polynesia that brought us across the oceans, making *Homo sapiens* the most migratory species of all.



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

In the News Media

The National, March 7: [Reconnecting with nature on the sandy dunes](#)

The National, March 16: [Natural mysteries](#)

The National, March 19: [Green majlis sowing the seeds of the nation's future](#)

Encyclopedia of Life Podcast: "Midas Fly *Eremomidas arabicus*" (Interview with ENHG-AI Ain Chair Brigitte Howarth & ENHG-AA birdwatcher/photographer Dave Clark about the changing ecology of the Zakher Pools) <http://education.eol.org/podcast/midas-fly>

Websites of General Interest

Emirates Natural History Group – Al Ain (Archives: newsletters of 3 NHGs, *Tribulus*): <http://www.enhg.org>

Dubai Natural History Group: <http://dnhg.org>

Qatar Natural History Group: <http://www.qnhg.org>

Tommy Pedersen's UAE Birding / UAE Nature Forum: <http://www.uaebirding.com>

Jewels of the UAE: <http://www.arkive.org/uae/en>

Hanne & Jens Eriksen's website: www.BirdsOman.com

Emirates Soc. of Geoscience: <http://www.esg-uae.org>

Emirates Marine Environmental Group: www.emeg.ae

Emirates Diving Association: <http://www.emiratesdiving.com/index.php>

Emirates Wildlife Society – World Wildlife Fund: http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/wwf_offices/united_arab_emirates/

Environment Agency Abu Dhabi: <http://www.ead.ae/en>

UAE Environmental Atlas (Sign up for notice of release): <http://www.environmentalatlas.ae/>

Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage <http://www.adach.ae/en>

UAE archaeology website: <http://www.adias-uae.com>

Noukhada Adventure Co.: <http://noukhada.ae>

NYUAD Events Calendar: <http://nyuad.nyu.edu/news.events/events.ad.html>

Khalifa University Events Calendar: <http://www.kustar.ac.ae/campus/dss/schedules/default.aspx>

Dubai Astronomy Group: <http://www.dubaiastronomy.com/>

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

Wildlife Middle East News: <http://www.wmenews.com>

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

Zoology in the Middle East (Peer-reviewed ISI Journal): <http://www.kasperek-verlag.de/ZME-allgem.htm>

Sharkwatch Arabia: <http://www.sharkwatcharabia.com>

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

Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund: <http://www.mbzspeciesconservation.org/>

EDGE: Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered: <http://www.edgeofexistence.org>

Protected Planet: IUCN & UNEP-WCMC Database: <http://www.protectedplanet.net>

Wikispecies: <http://species.wikimedia.org/wiki>

Encyclopedia of Life: <http://eol.org/>

Midas Fly Page: <http://eol.org/pages/713241/overview>


















ARKive Images of Life on Earth: <http://www.arkive.org>





Sand Atlas: <http://sandatlas.org>

NHBS Environment Bookstore: <http://www.nhbs.com/>

Corporate Sponsors of the ENHG - 2011

These companies are supporting the ENHG activities in the region. We hope you as ENHG members will in turn support these companies whenever you can. Click on the links below for information about the sponsors.

AECOM	
Bin Moosa & Daly	
British Petroleum	
Dolphin Energy	
Dome International L.L.C.	
Exova	
ExxonMobil	
Fugro Survey (Middle East) Ltd.	
International Bechtel Company, Ltd.	
Kharafi National	
Al Masaood Group	
Mott MacDonald, Ltd.	
Nautica Environmental Associates L.L.C.	
Partex Oil and Gas	
Readymix Abu Dhabi Limited L.L.C. (Click & scroll down)	
Shell	
Total ABK	

Ultra Dascam (Shaheen)	
URS	
Wave Craft, Ltd. (Auditor Nick Benge's Co.)	
WSP Group	

ITEMS ON SALE

AT THE ENHG BOOK 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 for schools donations.)
- Wild about Mammals, 40
- Breeding Birds of the United Arab Emirates, 110
- Sandgrouse checklist of the birds of the United Arab Emirates, 25
- Emirates Bird Report, 20
- Birds of the UAE, 70
- Birdwatching guide to Oman, 2nd edition, 100
Guide to bird watching spots in Oman
- Common Birds in Oman, 2nd ed, 120
- Butterflies of Saudi Arabia & its neighbours, 90
- Natural History of Oman, 50
- Abu Dhabi 8 Million Years ago, 15
- Arabian Wildlife Encyclopedia, 120
- Sulphur, Camels and Gunpowder, 100
- Native Plants of Oman, 80
- Little O in Oman, 25
- Marine Environment, Resource of the UAE, 140
- Socotra Calendar – 2012, 35
- Bird Calendar 2012, 30

Committee Members

Andrew Bean
(Chairman / Outgoing Excursion Secretary)
Mobile: 050-322-1327
rabean@eim.ae

Keith Taylor
(Deputy Chairman / Focus Editor)
Mobile: 050-820-4938
kjtaylor13@yahoo.com

Julie Bird (Secretary)
Mobile: 050-615-4757
julieinad@yahoo.com

Ron Priestley (Treasurer)
Mobile: 050-315-9908
ronprst@gmail.com

Barbara Barton Smith
(Membership Secretary)
Mobile: 050-761-6880
barb bartonsmith@yahoo.com

Avra Theophanous
(Corporate Sponsorship Secretary & Asst. Membership Secretary)
avra.theophanous@gmail.com

Feng Wen
(Assistant Excursion Secretary)
Mobile: 050-622-1485
feng.wen@adpc.ae

Claudia Gehre
(Public Relations Secretary)
Mobile: 050-526-3026
ccgehre@gmail.com

Kiya Murman
(Lecture Coordinator)
Mobile: 050-392-8973
kmurman@ecae.ac.ae

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

Dick Hornby (Member)
Mobile: 050-662-4501
dnahornby@yahoo.co.uk

Alexander (Zander) Rupp
(Member)
ruppaw@eckerd.edu

Stephanie Baldwin
(Member)
stephanie.baldwin@mottmac.com

Required: Treasurer to keep track of the Group's finances next season. Can you do this?

Required: Excursion Secretary to organise and lead field trips next season. Can you do this?

Lectures

Venue: HCT / Abu Dhabi Men's College

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

6th March
An Introduction to the Natural History of the Mountains of the UAE

Gary Feulner

20th March **7:30 PM**
Ecological notes from Sir Bani Yas, Discovery Islands and Sir Bu Nair

Keith Wilson

3rd April **7:30 PM**
Ages of Sail – Stone to Copper to Bronze

Michael Creamer

NB: 17th April meeting will be in the ADMC Presentation Room – directly upstairs from the Auditorium

17th April **7:30 PM**
Natural History of Rwanda

Steve James

1st May **7:30 PM**
(AGM: First 20 mins.)
Nature Photographs from the UAE & Oman

Alberto Gonzalez

Field Trips

13th/14th April
Possible Family Camping Trip to Two Trees Site?

Leader TBA

27th/28th April
Delma Island Camping Trip

Andrew Bean

ENHG-AD Research & Conservation Fund Grant Application Information

For background on this fund, see [Dec 2009 Focus](#), p5.

For research & grant application guidelines, click [here](#).

For grant application form, click [here](#).

(Yahoo log-in may be required to open 2 above links.)

For further enquiries, contact ENHG Chairman Andrew Bean at rabean@eim.ae.

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
 - First-Aid Kit
 - Sky Scout astronomical object locator/identifier
 - Celestron NexStar telescope (on field trips only)
 - Two satellite phones, taken on camping trips.
- Phone numbers: No. 1: 00882 1644400956
No. 2: 00882 1644400965

Enquiries: Andrew Bean, rexabean@emirates.net.ae

Marine Life Rescue Contact Info.

In Abu Dhabi:

EAD Hotline for reporting environmental emergencies including pollution and injured wildlife: 8009990. Email: envirocomplaint@ead.ae

EAD Emergency response manager: Mr. Abdul Rahman. Mob: 0506674171 (contactable 24 hours/day)

EAD contact for sea turtles, dugongs and dolphins: Dr. Himansu Das, Biodiversity Management Sector. Tel: 26934654; Mob: 0504465125; Email: hsdas@ead.ae

In Dubai:

Emirates Marine Environment Group (EMEG) (Tel: 043630581/Fax:043630460; Email: info@emeg.ae)

Dubai Municipality: Main number: 800900. Marine Environment & Sanctuaries Unit (Tel: +9714 606 6818, Fax +9714 703 3532), Email: marabdulla@dm.gov.ae.

Dubai Turtle Rehabilitation Centre at the Burj al Arab Aquarium. Tel: 043017198. 24-hour email contact, Attn. Mr Warren Baverstock, Manager of Operations, BAA Aquarium: warren.baverstock@jumeirah.com
To post Facebook message triggering an after-hours SMS alert: www.facebook.com/turtle.rehabilitation

Assistants

Simon Strickland
(Book Stall Coordinator)

Zander Rupp
(A/V Assistant & Lecture Recorder)

Newsletter Details

Newsletter contributions to:
newsletter@chirri2000.com

Postal Address

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

Members' Items for sale

Please send small ads to:
newsletter@chirri2000.com

Yahoo Groups website

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