

The Emirates Natural History Group in Al Ain Newsletter

Member Preferences?

Your opinions and suggestions are important. If you have preferences in terms of what you wish to see in this newsletter then please contact the Editor at newsletter@enhg.org.

The best way to improve this newsletter is by making constructive suggestions and contributing articles or other useful artifacts (such as applicable photos pertaining to UAE history and its natural resources).

This article solicits your participation and seeks to define the boundaries as regards desirable content for our newsletter.

Please refer to the ENHG web site as regards identifying the volunteer group's mandate and interests, as a guide to help to confirm our newsletter's goals. The "ENHG" abbreviation also offers some clues as

Continued on Page 2

We Reconnoiter!

Brigitte undertook a voyage into the unknown on Friday 15 September, to find likely sites for future expeditions. This was precipitated by stricter border control measures as regards trips into Oman (visas now cost AED 85 per person). Brigitte will report back on this recce at our next General Meeting (see "Upcoming Events"). ✕

جمعية الامارات للتاريخ الطبيعي - العين



Inside This Issue:

MEMBER PREFERENCES?	1
WE RECONNOITER!	1
PAST/UPCOMING EVENTS	1
THE LIBRARY	2
BOOKS FOR SALE	3
DRONES AND CONSERVATION	4
DITHOLO NATURE RESERVE	4
PHOTO FRENZY	5
MEETING LOCATIONS	6
LOCATION DETAILS	6
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	6

Past/Upcoming Events:

Field Trip

20 September 2013 Wadi Nahyan Jebel Hafit

General Meeting: Plastic Not So Fantastic

24 September 2013 Danat Resort 7:30 pm

Field Trip

27 September 2013 Fossil Rock and Mleiha Archaeology

Committee Meeting

1 October 2013 Islamic Institute 7:30 pm

Recce: Preparation for Fujairah Field Trip

4 October 2013 Foah Petrol Station (Coffee Pot)

General Meeting: Archeology in Al Ain

8 October 2013 Danat Resort 7:30 pm

General Meeting: Coral Reefs and Research in UAE Waters

22 October 2013 Danat Resort 7:30 pm

From Page 1 – So What Are The Member Preferences?

to identifying the envelope of interests; this envelope is now up for review (and that is where your inputs come in).

The word “Emirates” indicates the region of interest; a lot of data at our disposal pertains to the UAE and there have been several expeditions to Oman. Since many of us are situated in this area, it makes sense to limit ourselves to this geographic area. On the other hand we cannot ignore the fact that we share the same Earth with others and that we share space with a lot of other galaxies out there. So maybe we should address each potential newsletter article in terms of its merits and in particular, its Reader interest regardless of where this data originates?

The word “Natural” implies addressing general disciplines in the flora and fauna fields. There is a lot of interest as regards plants and animals in the UAE and our impact on their survival. So the word “conservation” indirectly applies to the word “nature” as well. Further to this we are all bound by the laws of physics. Gravity for example still sucks (it affects all of us on Earth regardless of where we are and the same applies to other physical laws). So one can argue that scientific and technical articles also have a role to play in our newsletter?

The word “history” indicates that there is a concern as to what happened in our past. As an example the island of Marawah off the UAE coast has artifacts dating back to the Neolithic period (7 500 years ago). Evidence to date indicate Earth’s age to be around 4.54 billion years. The Universe’s age is currently estimated to be 13.789 billion years, give or take 37 million years or so. So how far do we go back in our history or does anything go?

Given the above it is obvious that there is considerable leeway as regards potential newsletter articles. The current approach is to address all of them within the gambit of the broad “ENG” abbreviation, meaning that each article under consideration will be scrutinized on its interest value to you, the Reader. So what would you like to see in this newsletter and conversely, what would you exclude? ✕

Please remember to tell the Editor or other Committee Member as to what you would like to see in this Newsletter and to support that by providing the Editor with an article or artifact (such as an unusual photograph or two) to place into the October newsletter!

The Library

The library is now housed in our ENHG room in the Islamic Institute. Members and non-members can access the catalog on-line under www.librarything.com/catalog/enhg .

The lending collection is available to members on a short term loan basis. Anyone is welcome to contact Verena (see the contacts information on page six) and she will make the arrangements for book access.

The collection is fairly small but we do get donations from authors and members from time to time. We will consider including a book review in this newsletter from time-to-time. What say you about this idea? ✕

Books For Sale

Joseph is in charge of the book cart so he sells books to interested members at occasions such as the Al Ain ENHG General Meetings (please see the list of books below). There are also several good volumes in the library that are not available through Joseph (so also please do speak with Verena). Tribulus is the ENHG Journal and that is a substantial document in size. There is a good price on Volume 16.2..... ✕

ITEM	AUTHOR	PRICE (AED)
Abu Dhabi 8 Million Years Ago	Mark Beech and Peter Hellyer	25
Archaeology of the United Arab Emirates		100
Arthropod Fauna of the UAE Vol.1	Antonius van Harten	100
Arthropod Fauna of the UAE Vol.2	Antonius van Harten	100
Arthropod Fauna of the UAE Vol.3	Antonius van Harten	100
Arthropod Fauna of the UAE Vol.4	Antonius van Harten	100
Butterflies of Oman	Torben and Kiki Larsen	80
Butterflies of Saudi Arabia and its Neighbours	Torben B. Larsen	80
Common Birds of Oman		10
DVD Set	ENHG	100
Emirates Bird Report NO. 20		20
Emirates Heritage Volume One	Peter Hellyer, Michele Ziolkowski	60
Exploring Oman	R. Galdwin, G.Jones, G.Homby	130
Flora of the UAE Vol 1	Fawzi Karim and Nael Fawzi	60
Flora of the UAE Vol 2	Fawzi Karim and Nael Fawzi	60
Geology of Oman	Samir Hanna	75
Oman Bird List Edition 6	Jens Eriksen	30
Sand Grouse Checklist		25
Sulphur, Camels and Gunpowder	G.R.D King	90
The Birds of Al Jabal Al Akhdar	Jens Eriksen	50
The Native Plants of Oman	Clive Winbow	80
The Oasis	Gertrude Dyck	75
Tribulus 2011 (Hardback)		100
Tribulus 2011 (Softback)		75
Tribulus Vol. 16.2 Autumn/Winter 2006	ENHG	0
Tribulus Volume 18 - 2009	ENHG	30
UAE Wild Flowers		30
Vehicle window sticker		10
Wild about Reptiles	Marycke Jongbloed	50
Wild Flowers of UAE	Marycke Jongbloed	100



Ditholo Nature Reserve

The Ditholo Nature Reserve in South Africa is to be found to the North of Pretoria.



The above striking image of a termite nest ventilation shaft is one of several nature-related photographs in the Editor's possession. Of course the above is not in the UAE. Would you as a Reader still appreciate seeing such images? Ditholo was used as a UAS test site in days gone by. ✕

Drones and Conservation

Remotely piloted aircraft are often (mistakenly) referred to as "drones", whereas the term Unmanned Autonomous System (UAS) would be a better term to use. A UAS includes a Ground Control Station or GCS (and that is where the human operators are to be found). If the remotely controlled part of the rest of the system is an aircraft, then the flying part of the UAS is called an Unmanned Air Vehicle (UAV). Typically seventy percent of an UAS (on average) is to be found located on the ground.

A UAS sometimes conjures up fearsome images of privacy invasion or of robots carrying missiles. In reality the vast majority of UAVs do not carry munitions. Some have been used for conservation purposes. They perform this task by carrying camera equipment (see the Denel Seeker UAS on the left).

Police helicopters carrying camera equipment differ from a UAV by virtue of the fact that the police are on the ground instead of onboard the aircraft. Radio links are used between the GCS and the UAV to control the aircraft and to look at the images that the UAV cameras provide.

The Seeker II UAS in South Africa was used as part of a nature conservation initiative to reduce abalone poaching off the SA coast. The UAS was also used as an aid to the Police as regards crime investigations and crime prevention.

A UAS has other beneficial roles that it can perform such as monitoring the effects of a nuclear power plant accident, monitoring the ash emissions from a volcano or monitoring to see if chemical weapons have been used in an area or not.

Another option is to monitor trees, to see how plantations are faring. Ground-based alternative solutions often do not provide the foresters with sufficient high-level plantation detail. ✕

Another thought for our newsletter, is to place a photograph of a general object of interest and then ask Readers to identify "What is it"? Does this notion find favor with you? Do you have a submission that you would like to make in this category?

Photo Frenzy



Dave Clark)

Hummingbird Hawkmoth (Credit:

Shale on You (Credit: Brigitte Howarth)



Gonzales)

Mr. Fox (Credit: Alberto

Smile (Credit: Brigitte Howarth)



The intention is to solicit Readers for striking, unique or interesting nature-related images and to place them in this newsletter for everyone's edification and delight.

This page features examples of typical pictures that were placed in this newsletter in the past, so Readers can appreciate the sort of thing that should find favor.

So what images do you have hiding somewhere that could be placed on this page for all to see?

Please submit your digital files (or paper copies if you have no other format in order for them to be scanned) to the Editor (contact details as per on page one) with a suitable title of your choice.

Heading Home (Credit: Laurel Bassett)



Oasis Light (Credit: Mike Green)



And this space is reserved for you (please submit your image(s) soon, such that this space is large enough to do justice to your collage).....



Danat Resort Hotel

Meeting Locations

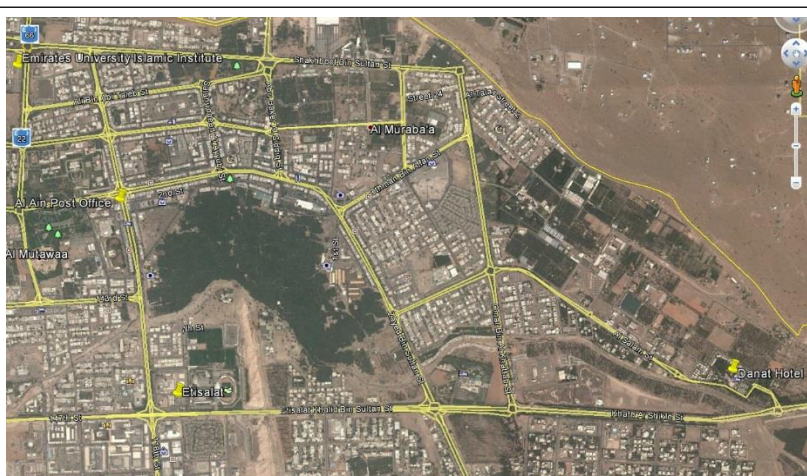
The Al Ain Chapter of the ENHG meets in two locations, the Danat Resort Hotel (for General Meetings) and the Emirates University Islamic Institute (for Committee Members).

All members are invited to attend either set of meetings.

Location Details (Courtesy of Google Earth)



Islamic Institute



Danat Resort GPS location : 24 12 29.32N 055 48 15.69E
Islamic Institute GPS location: 24 13 44.80 N 055 44 59.5 E

www.enhg.org

Committee Members:

Chairperson

Brigitte Howarth Brigitte.howarth@gmail.com 050 619 7316

Vice Chairperson

Leslie Butler Lesiebutler@yahoo.com 050 112 1637

Treasurer

Joseph Mansour Josephmansour@yahoo.com 050 130 4660

Library

Verena Davies Verena.davies@gmail.com 050 583 4049

Newsletter Editor

Alex Schmarr newsletter@enhg.org 055 834 5079