

# GAZELLE

Vol 19 no 10 – October 2004



مجموعة دبي للتاريخ والطبيعي

**DUBAI NATURAL HISTORY GROUP**

PO Box 9234, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

## Members' News

### *DNHG Membership*

September marks the start of the new DNHG membership year. DNHG membership remains a bargain at Dhs. 100 for couples and Dh. 50 for singles. Overseas membership is Dhs 100. You can join or renew at meetings or by sending us a cheque made out to Lloyds Bank account no. 173746 posted to us at PO Box 9234, Dubai. (Please note we *cannot* cash cheques made out to the DNHG.)

DNHG membership entitles you to participate in field trips and helps pay for our lecture hall, publication and distribution of our monthly newsletter, the *Gazelle*, additions to our library, incidental expenses of speakers and occasional special projects.

New members who joined in May or June will be enrolled automatically for the coming membership year (Sep 04-Sep 05).

### **This month's Contributors**

The Editor would like to thank the following for their reports and contributions:

John Fox  
Mohammed Arfan Asif  
Gary Feulner  
Drew Gardner



## *Field Trips etc ...*

### **Wadi Bih with Peter van A. Fri 22 Oct**

This is a day trip, which involves mountain driving, spectacular wadis, a rough walk to an ancient village, and if you like, a swim at Dibba Beach. You need 4WD, picnic, loads of water, sturdy shoes, hats and togs, and passports/documentation for driver and *all* passengers. Details will be in October's *Gazelle*.

### **Hajar Mountain Camping and Hiking Thurs & Fri 28-29 October**

Mike Lorrigan and Richard Dennis will lead this trip, which will involve an overnight camp on a rocky plain overlooking a deep wadi in the vicinity of the Hatta mountains, approximately one hour 20 minutes drive from Dubai. Prior to setting up camp there will be a short detour to a fossil bed (thousands of gastropods) and a visit to some unusual calcite "terracing" and a colony of fish living in some interesting "rock pools". Evening entertainment will include a night-time stroll to see a local colony of foxes and whatever else might be lurking in the darkness. The morning event will be a fairly simple hike through the wadi, offering some interesting views and the possibility of being greeted by the resident donkeys. Solid walking boots are required and each walker should carry a minimum of 3 litres of water. (Bringing fox-food is optional.) Non-campers are welcome to join the hiking group at no later than 8am on Friday morning. Details about where and when to meet up will be confirmed later.

### **Shelling with Sandy Fowler 29 October**

Dr Sandy Fowler will take you to Shaikh's Beach for half a day and show you why small is beautiful! Full details and directions in next issue. Sandy will be going to Sabah for a few weeks Sept/early Oct.

### **Eid Trip to Turtle Beach at Ras Al Junaiz and to Wahiba Sands 12-15 November 2004**

Turtle watching is one of the more unique experiences of the region but this is a long trip, requiring essentially a full day to travel down and a day to travel back (about 8-10 hours). Bearing this in mind a 3 or 4 day trip is envisaged. The basic plan is to travel most of the way down on Day 1 (12 Nov) overnight at the Al Areesh Camp which is situated on the edge of the Wahiba Sands. Day 2 (13 Nov) will be spent travelling at a leisurely pace to the Al Naseem Camp at Ras Al Junaiz (near the turtle beaches) not far from Sur, making a possible detour en route to Wad Bani Khaled. We will overnight at Al Nasseem Camp, turtle watching with a guide from the camp and getting up very early next morning to see the turtles returning to the sea. There are various options for Day 3 (14 Nov). Some people may want to return to Dubai or visit other areas. For those who are interested the coast road from Sur to Quriyat is well worth exploring. It is a scenic route with much to offer including the Mausoleum of Bibi Miriam and the Bimah Sink Hole. Then back to Muscat from Quriyat by main road and to stay overnight in Muscat. We have used the Safeer Hotel Suites, which is very reasonably priced, a few times. Then Day 4(15 Nov) back to Dubai or carrying on exploring Muscat/other places in Oman.

Cost for the Turtle Beach camp is estimated at Dh150/- per person/night including dinner and breakfast. Turtle viewing permits are Dh20/- per person. There are two rates for the Wahiba Sands camp approximately Dh160/- per person per night including dinner and breakfast (2 rooms but no bathroom) and Dh350/- (2 rooms x 4 beds with en-suite bathroom) Val Chalmers has all the details. Cost of hotel room at Safeer Suites Hotel is approximately Dh150/- (or less - depends on whether we book 2 or 3 room suites etc. Again, Val Chalmers has the details). We need to make reservations ASAP and then forward deposits. Roads best suited to 4WD. If you are seriously interested, please contact Val on

vmc@latifaschool.co.ae or on valeriechalmers@hotmail.com or fax her on 04-3400990.

**Our Next  
Speaker**

# *Field Clips...*





## *Field Clips ...*

*E.mail your reports to  
pvana@emirates.net.ae,  
(Arial 10 justified) or deliver  
them to Anne Millen on  
floppy disk at monthly  
meetings.*



## Dubai Natural History Group Recorders

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Fossils - Valerie Chalmers

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vmc@latifaschool.co.ae

Plants – Valerie Chalmers

Mammals - **Recorder needed**

The recorders are not necessarily scientific experts in their designated fields. In fact, most are not. However, they are interested and knowledgeable amateurs - please contact them if you have any interesting reports or queries.

The intention is that information will be channelled through to the *Gazelle* editor, so new information can be shared with all our readers.



# *Field Clips...*





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## Dubai Natural History Group Programme

**Lectures at Emirates Academy of Hospitality Management, 7.30 for 8.00pm**

Oct 3: The Beetle Species Carabeus: From Linnaeus to the Internet -- Prof. Mike Gillett

Nov 7: Natural History of Spitsbergen – Simon Aspinall

**Field Trips** (Members only, please. Details inside.)

Oct 8: Fossil hunting and tombs at Jebel Buhays (jointly with ENHG Abu Dhabi)

Oct 22: Wadi Bih trip

Oct 29: Seashell collecting at Black Palace Beach

Oct 28-29: Hajar Mountain camping and hiking

Nov 12-15: Turtle Watching at Ras al Junaiz, Oman