

GAZELLE

Vol 16 no 2 - February 2001



مجموعة دبي للتاريخ الطبيعي

DUBAI NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

PO Box 9234, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Members' News

New faces and farewells

Dubai newcomer **David Snelling** has volunteered for the job of DNHG Bird Recorder after migrating from the UK to Dubai last autumn to join Emirates Airlines.

He is a longstanding member of the UK's Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Norfolk Naturalists' Trust. He is able to count quite a few species on his "life list."

Former DNHG member **John Martin** is back for another visit until mid-March, once again assisting archeological teams working in Ras Al-Khaimah. This year he will also serve as a driver for a two-week field course on the geology of the UAE, being conducted under the auspices of the UK's Open University. John has also done his share of plant collecting in the UAE over the years and is responsible for the collection and identification of several rare plants from the UAE mountains, including *Commelina albescens*, the sailor's harp, and *Malva fruticosa*, a mountain mallow. This season he is pleased to be back just in time for the flowering of many annuals. John is in Dubai intermittently during his stay, courtesy of host **Brian Jolly**, a longtime DNHG member.

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Wernery, Scientific Director of Dubai's Central Veterinary Research Laboratory, has re-surfaced after six months spent editing a revised edition of his text on infectious diseases of camels. Ulli was also in the news recently for his research on the health virtues of camel milk. Perhaps the latter helps to account for Ulli's continued vitality as a field hockey star.

Barbara Couldrey, a mainstay of the DNHG's Ras Al-Khaimah contingent, celebrated a birthday by backpacking and camping out at 1500 meters in the central Musandam with brie for a birthday cake. Her only concern in advance was an unusual one for the UAE – she thought it might be too cold! In fact, she says there was frost in the morning. She also reports a flock of swifts overhead at dusk and two kinds (apparently) of owls calling by night.

Liba and Luban Mrhac have returned to Czechoslovakia, but not before making some last donations of books and photographs to the DNHG library. We thank them for their thoughtfulness. Luban's enthusiasm and energy will be missed, but they have left us their e-mail address, for those who wish to stay in touch.

DNHG Membership

DNHG membership remains the best bargain in town at Dhs. 50 (singles or couples). You can join or renew at the monthly meetings (see Membership Secretary Fi Skennerton) or by sending us a cheque made out to **Lloyds Bank account no. 173746**. (Please note we can *not* cash cheques made out to the DNHG.)

Membership is valid from September 2000 to September 2001.

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

This month's Contributors

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

Dianne Frost
Gary Feulner
Sandy Fowler
Barbara Couldrey
Colin Paskins



Change of Date for Next Meeting

Please note: The DNHG's "March" meeting and lecture will be held a week early, on **Sunday night, February 25**. Our speaker will be archeologist Dr. Peter Magee, who will talk about recent archeological investigations at Muweilah, an Iron Age site in Sharjah

Beehive Tombs at Bat in Oman 22/23 Feb

This trip is now closed, somewhat over subscribed. Peter van Amsterdam will contact all those brave souls who are coming and provide the necessary information. Be ready for a challenging trip!

Overnight camp in the Hajar Mountains 01/02 March

Allen and Marilyn Hartley will lead the group to camp overnight, do some star-gazing on the Thursday evening, and take an optional Wadi walk on the Friday. The trip departs at 15.00 on 1st, from the Hilton car park.

The camp is limited to 5 carloads of 4 people (children over 5 years of age welcome). For sign-up contact Allen and Marilyn on Dubai 352 7114

Eid Special: Fosselling at Jebel Rawdah 09 March

Valerie Chalmers does this well! Meet at the Hilton (International World Trade Centre Hotel) covered car park at 08.30 and leave for Jebel Rawdah at 08.45. 4WD is not necessary. Bring a packed lunch, drinks and a sun hat. Return in the early afternoon.

Camel Souq at Al Ain 16 March

Peter van Amsterdam will lead this easy day to the camel souq in Buraimi followed by a visit to the spring. Meet at the coffee pot (first) roundabout as you come into town from Dubai at 10.30. Bring a picnic lunch, and the usual things for a day in the sun. Contact Peter on 050 - 6425077

Wadi Bih 23 March

Peter van Amsterdam will take a group through Wadi Bih, walking a short way to a deserted Shihuh village. You need walking shoes, 3 litres of water/person and lunch. Children are welcome but should be made aware that climbing on the houses is forbidden because of damage to these ancient but frail structures. The trip ends on the beautiful beach at Dibba, about 16.00, with a relaxing dip.

Meet at the Arz Automatic Bakery (previously Wendy's) on the left just before you reach Sharjah from Dubai, 09.15 on 23rd.

Sir Bani Yas Island 05/06 April

David Snelling will lead this trip to Sir Bani Yas Island off Abu Dhabi. Last April the DNHG paid its first visit to Sheikh Zayed's private island, 260 kms south of Abu Dhabi. Many members chose to stay overnight at the Dhafra hotel as it was an early start on Friday morning. Keen birders were rewarded by many sightings in the grounds of the hotel, and a beautiful sandy beach provided shelling opportunities on the Thursday afternoon. We were taken by dhow to the island at 9 a.m. on Friday and escorted onto buses for a guided tour. There was no charge for the trip and a complimentary curry lunch was also provided. The dhow returned at approx. 4.00pm.

The arrangements are likely to be similar this year, but watch this space for changes. Details and sign-up from Dave Snelling on 351 7187

Inter-Emirates Weekend in Al Ain 19/20 April

Al Ain Natural History Club are organising the annual Inter-Emirates weekend in Al Ain this year. Don't miss it. They plan to host a Bedouin experience on Thursday evening followed by various field trips on Friday. They suggest you make bookings at the Hilton, Intercon, Rotana or Buraimi Hotel soon.

More information will appear in a few weeks time on their website (<http://pages.about.com/enhg>) A special page for the Inter-Emirates Weekend will be listed on the home page.

Our Next Speaker

Dr. Peter Magee, who will speak at our February 25 meeting, is an archeologist at the University of Sydney. For several years he has supervised seasonal excavations at Muweilah, an Iron Age site (early First Millennium B.C.) located near the university area in Sharjah, under the auspices of the Sharjah Department of Culture and Information, Directorate of Antiquities, headed by Dr. Sabah Jassim. The University of Sydney has a distinguished history of archeological investigations in various Emirates, under the general supervision of Professor Dan Potts. The Muweilah site is the subject of a number of research projects by University of Sydney students and graduate students.



Musandam Land Snails

"Palm Paradise" is an idyllic spot, a vast meadow of mallow and other wildflowers, knee-high in places, with abundant *sidr* trees and two groves of palms – all this amidst the typical starkness of the Musandam, far up the Wadi Shah tributary of Wadi Bih. The reason is that here the wadi has silted up naturally over time behind a huge rockfall that acted as a dam, creating fertile, moisture-holding soil.

The environment is also a favorable one for land snails. Several years ago, Barbara Couldrey first noticed the 7-9mm turban-shaped *Xeropicta mesopotamica*, normally a denizen of lower elevation cultivation from Mesopotamia southwards through the Gulf, climbing on boulders in the meadow. More recently, in mid-January, Peter Cunningham spied two additional species of land snails living in cracks in the rock on the steep, permanently shaded limestone cliffs on the south side of the wadi. Here the tiny (3-5mm) *Pupoides coenopictus*, generally common throughout the mountains, was found grazing on liverworts growing in shallow horizontal cracks.

Also found on the liverworts and in deeper vertical cracks were several of the much larger (18-22mm) and rarer *Mordania omanensis*, a fat, bullet-shaped snail with a broadly flared aperture. *M. omanensis* is endemic to the mountains of the UAE and Oman and this observation is one of very few of this snail in situ. It was originally discovered and photographed alive by collectors in Oman (Michael Gallagher and Kathleen Smythe) using peanut butter bait. It may be that the species is nocturnal and/or that those observed at Palm Paradise had just been awakened from drought-imposed aestivation by the rains of the previous few weeks.

At only about 750 metres, this represents one of the lowest known occurrences of *M. omanensis*. It

also suggests a potentially promising habitat in which to look for these snails elsewhere. The permanently shaded, north-facing slopes may themselves be sufficient, at least where they are fractured, since these bore no necessary relationship to the fertile meadow at Palm Paradise and the snails were found from 2-3 meters above ground level. *Report by Gary Feulner*

Dhofar Toads in Musandam

A January post-rain visit by several DNHG members to the Wadi Shah tributary of Wadi Bih revealed a profusion of mating toads in a string of surface pools. Toads are rare in the Musandam area and these were *Bufo dhufarensis*, the rarer of the UAE's two toad species.

The toads had probably not experienced surface water at this site for two or three years, giving credence to reports of their ability to aestivate for such periods of time. Further investigation of this and other occurrences of toads and tadpoles in the Musandam is planned. Peter Cunningham and Gary Feulner welcome any additional reports. *Report by Gary Feulner*

New Hanging Plants

Cuvier's dictum, enunciated during the post-Napoleonic era by the French naturalist Baron Georges Cuvier, said in essence that the world was by then sufficiently well explored that there remained no large land mammals to be discovered. He was proved wrong in short order by the discovery of the black-and-white Malaysian tapir, and discoveries continue to this day, particularly of ungulates in the forests of SE Asia.

It might be thought, however, that the UAE is by now sufficiently well explored that there should at least remain no new species of trees or

large shrubs that have gone unnoticed. Nevertheless, January 2001 witnessed two reports of large hanging shrubs in the musandam area that were not readily identifiable.

Driving along Wadi Kida'ah, behind the Wadi Bih dam, Gary Feulner noticed several large hanging plants that closely resembled the common *Cocculus pendulus*, but with uniformly broad, spade-shaped leaves and distinctive venation. Marijcke Jongbloed agrees that it is surely a *Cocculus*, but it cannot be confidently referred to either of the two species so far recorded locally. Samples were taken for expert identification.

Not far away, on cliffs above Wadi Naqab, DNHG hikers noticed a large, woody cliff-dweller, more of a fig-like straggler than a true hanging plant. Only three specimens were seen, all of them completely out of reach, suggesting that this plant is not only edible but delectable. Nick Hephher's efforts enabled the observers to find a perch within about five meters of one plant, allowing closer study with binoculars. It appeared to bear a few (residual?) flowers and small round fruits. Comparison with mountain plants depicted in Sheila Collenette's *An Illustrated Guide to the Flowers of Saudi Arabia* did not produce an obvious match. Barbara Couldrey hopes to organize some Ras Al-Khaimah rock climbers for a scientific collecting expedition.

A third hanging plant deserves special mention, too. In upper Wadi Bih, some 5 km downstream from the Oman border installation, a large hanging caper on the SE bank (*Capparis sinaitus*, formerly known as *C. cartilagenia*), now sports two showy sprays of bright yellow daffodils. This is understood to be another contribution of Ras Al-Khaimah rock climbers. Don't miss it, but don't risk your neck collecting it. *Report by Gary Feulner*



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

WHITE COLLARED KINGFISHERS

Canoeing in the Mangroves at Khor Khalba

Boats rocking, cameras clicking, "There, can you see him? Almost at 3 o'clock, just behind that dead branch". Dr. Reza Khan's enthusiastic voice directs us to the brilliant blue of the common kingfisher as it flies between the 200 year old dwarf mangrove trees at Khor Khalba.

The weather was absolutely perfect on 26 January, not too warm and with a gentle breeze, when a group of 27 members set off bravely in 12 canoes to explore this wonderland of water, wildlife and trees. Kitted out with life jackets and with somewhat varying degrees of canoe proficiency we paddled for 3-4 hours up and down the branches of the mangroves. Humorous situations occurred as broad channels progressively became more and more overgrown and gradually tapered to narrow creeks and eventually dead ends. Nevertheless, everyone managed to stay the course and no-one capsized.

From the start it was clear that the bird everyone wanted most to see was the relatively rare white collared kingfisher, but while it seemed as though this was going to elude us there was no shortage of sightings of other birds interspersed throughout the trip. The bird we saw most of was perhaps the heron: purple, Indian pond, and reed herons sat like sentinels guarding tree tops or flew up around us in all directions, particularly when we were lucky enough

to pass through a colony of them. Redshanks were strutting around almost everywhere and in the channel closest to the sea we saw the common sandpiper flipping jerkily over the water, wings dipping alternately. We also saw several curlew, red wattled plover and yellow legged and black headed seagulls.

After 2 to 3 hours of paddling, muscles were beginning to ache and some of the party decided to head for home. Not Dr. Khan and his crew, however. They stalwartly continued along the last unexplored arm of the mangroves in search of the white collared kingfisher. Fortunately their efforts were rewarded, but they were not alone. Some of us who had turned earlier were also fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of this sought after bird providing the crowning glory of our day.

After leaving the boats, comparing notes and sightings, and having well-deserved refreshments the group went their different ways. All in all a superb morning and our thanks go to Mary Beardwood for organising it, Dr. Khan for sharing his expertise and enthusiasm with us, and the Desert Rangers for their help and guidance.

List of birds and other wildlife seen on the trip (and numbers where they are known): Indian pond heron, reed heron, purple heron (2), crested lark, yellow legged seagulls, black headed seagulls, Saunders little tern, curlews (6), redshanks, European brilliant blue kingfisher, common kingfisher (4), white collared kingfisher, Pacific plover, ring dove, palm dove, Arabian reed warbler, great reed warbler (2), common sandpiper, green turtle, crabs, mangrove snails and lots of small fish. *Report by Di-anne Frost*

Long-Billed Pipit

The Long-Billed Pipit *Anthus similis* is a UAE mountain resident

year-round but its name is almost always preceded by 'elusive'. It was slightly less so in late January, when Barbara Couldrey, Gary Feulner and Nick Hephner saw a pair on a hillside adjacent to the large and partly refurbished agricultural terraces at Yifnah, at 750m in the Ru'us Al- Jibal, on a ridge between Wadi Naqab and Wadi Kida'ah. One bird had perched on a rock in front of them and posed nicely with a piece of grass/straw in its mouth (presumably indicative of nest-building). It then flew and joined the other, both running about on the ground. This was one of only a few times that Gary has (knowingly) seen this species, and certainly the best views he's had.

Paper Nautilus Finds:

January seems to have been a particularly good month for the paper nautilus (*Argonauta hians*). Patricia Rosetti's observations in Dubai and RAK were reported in the January Gazelle. Later, Barbara Couldrey collected and preserved one of these elaborate egg cases with the cephalopod still attached. This was available for viewing at our January and February meetings. Imke Velde also reported the collection of some two dozen more (and that was only the good specimens) by RAK collectors.

Colin Paskins found nautilus at Ram beach when the tide was just receding, and the sea fairly calm. He found three good specimens close together, not on the main beach, but on one of the small ones between the breakwaters, 1.8 km from the end of the track that runs along the beach towards the creek inlet. The Nautilus were 110,96 and 88 mm long. The two largest were perfect, and the other had one small hole. They were lying on their sides on the sand.

If anyone else has seen nautilus please contact Beryl Comar who collects data on *Argonauta hians*, and needs details of your finds.



Dubai Natural History Group Recorders

Reptiles - Dr Reza Khan
res 344 8283
off 344 0462
fax (off) 349 9437

Archaeology - Robert Lovelace
res 342 0492
lovelace@emirates.net.ae

Birds - David Snelling
res 3517187
fax 2950758
050 - 5526308
david.snelling@emirates.com

Seashells - Sandy Fowler
res 344 2243
fax 344 2243
shellman@37.com

Astronomy - Lamjed El-Kefi
res 06-583 003
off 06-247 958

Marine Life - Lamjed El-Kefi

Geology - Gary Feulner
res 306 5570
fax 330 3550

Insects - Gary Feulner

Fossils - Valerie Chalmers
res 349 4816,
fax 398 3727

Plants - Valerie Chalmers

Mammals - Marijcke Jongbloed
res 349 7963
fax 349 7963
mjongbld@emirates.net.ae

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.

White Crab Spider

Crab spiders (Family Thomisidae) are mostly sit-and-wait hunters that select a likely spot (e.g., a flower petal) and pounce on prey that lands nearby. Females are often readily identifiable by their distinctively shaped abdomens, which widen posteriorly to a blunt end (as if they were dragging a pyramid behind them by its apex), usually with tiny dark "eye" spots at the rear upper "corners."

Like many spiders, crab spiders seem to be masters of camouflage. Many flower-dwelling individuals are a perfect match for their chosen petal color. Hiking in Wadi Naqab, Barbara Couldrey encountered a bright white female crab spider on a discarded white, half-pint laban container. This raised an interesting question: Had the spider chosen the white milk container for the lingering aroma attractive to flies and other prey and then adjusted its own color to match, or did the spider choose the milk container to better conceal its own original white color? The latter is a possibility since, although there are not many white objects in the local landscape, one general guidebook says that some crab spiders appear to mimic bird droppings.

Crab spiders often bear "horns" or other ornamentation on their heads (the cephalothorax). Barbara's white crab spider had two distinctive white horns (making it look a bit like one of the Teletubbies) which carried its 6 or 8 eyes. These were apparent to the naked eye and could be observed well under low magnification in the field. *Report by Gary Feulner*

New in the Library

A Rough Sheller's Guide To The Northern Emirates
by Sandy Fowler

Most shell-collectors new to the Emirates are soon faced with the situation of having a book to identify

their newly collected shells, but no guide as to *where* to go shelling. Sandy Fowler, committee member, family physician at Dubai London Clinic, and enthusiastic shell-collector, has produced "A Rough Sheller's Guide to The Northern Emirates". In it, Sandy details the Gulf beaches from Ghantoot south of Jebel Ali to Sha'am north of Ras Al Khaimah, and the East coast beaches from Dibba to Khor Kalba.

The guide gives precise location details including GPS readings, whether 4-wheel drive is needed to reach the beach, the shells you can expect to find on each beach, and the best tides to go. There are photographs in plenty of the beaches and the shells.

A section on first aid and common sense is included, as well as advice on cleaning your shells after collecting. It is not for publication, but will be retained in the DNHG library, freely available to anyone who wants to borrow it and copy any or all of it for their own use. It is probably best to photocopy it - the file is more than 96 megabytes. Contact Sandy for details.

Snippets and Tidbits

There have been several reports of white owls being seen in the Satwa/Jumeira area, and Colin Richardson has received a report of a pair of barn owls nesting in a tree in Jumeira 1.

Where do glossy ibis find the best tidbits? Barbara Couldrey noticed that there were three healthy specimens beaking their way enthusiastically through a muddy rain puddle in the middle of Ras Al Khaimah town last week, totally oblivious of busy traffic at the intersection near Carrefour.

The editor has noticed that the crows which once cawed incessantly in the gardens along Al Wasl road have gone. Where?



Snail Chase (via Rheas)

Legwork only gets you so far. Sometimes there is no substitute for patience – and luck. Almost two years ago, Stephen Green and Gary Feulner identified a living population of an unknown land snail on the grounds of a Dubai apartment complex. Dr. Eike Neubert, the author of the latest comprehensive survey of Arabian terrestrial and freshwater molluscs, examined and dissected preserved specimens of the turban-shaped snail and recognized it a member of the Hygromiidae family, but he could not find a match in the scientific literature. More-over, he speculated from various anatomical features that it might merit a new genus.

Were there any clues to assist in the identification? Was the snail native to the UAE? This seemed unlikely, but not impossible, given its landscaped environment. Could any more be found at other sites? Stephen and Gary continued to look, but without results.

Then one day a parcel arrived at Gary's office from the Dubai Pest Control Laboratory. Could he possibly identify the enclosed snails? They had been referred by the Central Veterinary Research Laboratory who were concerned about the possibility that they might be a host vector for (unspecified) animal diseases. Well, Gary *could* identify the snail – it was the unknown Hygromiidae. And Dr. Neubert confirmed that with a single exception, no land snails are known to be vectors for disease in higher animals, although a number of species of freshwater snails can play that role.

But, asked Gary and Dr. Neubert, trying to restrain their curiosity, where had these additional Hygromiidae come from? In what environment were they found? Was it a natural or an artificial site? If

artificial, where had the soil and vegetation come from? How recently had the snails appeared or been noticed? These answers took a little longer, until Gary got in touch with Dr. Ulli Wernery and Dr. Jorg Kinne at the CVRL. The snails came, they explained, from a farmstead near Marqab where ostriches and rheas are being raised. Parts of the area are grassy and kept moist and there are also earthen and cement lined ponds on the property. The rheas had become infected with eye flukes (roundworms) which, it is known, can be transmitted by snails. The Hygromiidae and other snails had been collected from the property as potential culprits. See here, they said: An authoritative text lists two snail species as known vectors for avian eye flukes in large ground birds – *Melanoides tuberculata* and another.

Aha! *Melanoides tuberculata*, indeed! The fog begins to clear. This tall, conical red-brown or brown snail is the most common freshwater snail in Arabia. It is common in both natural and artificial water bodies. It is regarded as a pest throughout most of the Indo-Pacific region and had reached the southeastern United States more than twenty years ago. It is ovoviviparous and parthenogenetic, so that even a single individual has the potential to propagate prolifically. If there are ponds and snails at the rhea compound, *M. tuberculata* is likely to be present. And if it is a known carrier of eye flukes, then *M. tuberculata* is by far the most likely carrier locally.

As to the unknown Hygromiidae, more detective work is required, but the inquiries produced some new leads. It was learned that manure for many local agricultural estates is imported from Pakistan. On hearing this, Dr. Neubert immediately remarked that manure would be a favorable environment

for many land snails and that the land snail fauna of Pakistan is all but unknown. Thus a Pakistani origin for the mystery snail may be one of the more likely possibilities and a priority for investigation. *Report by Gary Feulner*

Khor Al-Hamra Development Plans

Billboards beside the coast road at Jazirat Al-Hamra and Refa'ah in Ras Al-Khaimah display a map of the proposed development plan for what is advertised as "Khor Al-Qurm" ("Mangrove Khor"). This is the long khor north of Jazirat Al-Hamra, overlooked still further north by the high coastal dunes that precede Ras Al-Khaimah town. The map shows a dredged and re-shaped khor marked with red and blue and other colors for areas such as "high quality villas", a new "town centre", "hotel and recreational development" and a "golf course." Several areas are marked for the planting of mangroves, which have not existed here in historical times.

At one end of the map is a kilometer square area designated as a nature preserve. The latter is no doubt intended to be thoughtful and environmentally sensitive, but the fact remains that Khor Al-Hamra is the last undisturbed khor that exists in RAK (if you don't count several large villas atop the coastal dunes). Among other things, it is one of the best places in the UAE to observe flamingoes close up. Construction and development are far more likely to change this environment than preserve it, and one of the characteristic habitats of the Northern Emirates will be gone. *Report by Gary Feulner*

* Watch this space for the answer to the question about the Biosaline Agriculture Centre, at the Ruwayyah flyover on the Al Ain road, in our next issue.



| | name | tel home | tel office | fax |
|------------------------|--|-----------------|-------------------|------------|
| Chairman | Gary Feulner messages: 306 5300 | 306 5570 | 330 3600 | 330 3550 |
| Vice Chairman | Valerie Chalmers | 349 4816 | no calls pls | 398 3727 |
| Treasurer | Peter Griffin e.mail: griff@emirates.net.ae | 394 0342 | 394 0342 | 394 0352 |
| Membership Secretary | Fi Skennerton e.mail: skennerf@mkidubai.co.ae | 050-6243028 | | 355 7180 |
| Speaker Co-ordinator | Beryl Comar e.mail: comar@emirates.net.ae | 344 2243 | | 344 2243 |
| Fieldtrip Co-ordinator | Mary Beardwood e.mail: mikemary@emirates.net.ae | 342 2546 | | 344 0376 |
| Fieldtrip Co-ordinator | David Snelling e.mail: david.snelling@emirates.com | 3517187 | 050 – 5526308 | 295 0758 |
| Newsletter Editor | Anne Millen e.mail: pvana@emirates.net.ae | 269 2519 | no calls pls | 269 1654 |
| Publisher | Peter van Amsterdam e.mail: pvana@emirates.net.ae | 269 2519 | 335 5495 | 269 1654 |
| Librarian | Deanne White e.mail: dgwhite@emirates.net.ae | 344 1510 | | |
| Sales Assistant | * Volunteer required | | | |
| Chief Engineer | James Pardoe | 266 6427 | | |
| Member at Large | Sandy Fowler e-mail: shellman@37.com | 344 2243 | no calls pls | 344 2243 |
| Postmaster | Gail Gordon | 349 9879 | | 349 9879 |
| Membership Assistant | Barbara Hayward | 394 5691 | 269 0029 | 338 7875 |

AGM and DNHG Committee Elections

The DNHG's March 2001 meeting (to be held on Sunday, February 25) will also be our Annual General Meeting, at which a new Committee will be elected for the coming year. The following people have volunteered to stand:

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Chairman | Gary Feulner |
| Vice Chairman/Sec'y | Valerie Chalmers |
| Treasurer | Jim Fischer |
| Membership Sec'y | Fi Skennerton |
| Speaker Coordinator | Marijcke Jongbloed |
| Newsletter Editor | Anne Millen |
| Publisher | Peter van Amsterdam |
| Field Trip Coord'r | Mary Beardwood |
| Field Trip Coord'r | David Snelling |
| Librarian | Deanne White |
| Book Sales | Patricia Rosetti |
| Chief Engineer | James Pardoe |
| Special Projects | Beryl Comar |
| At-Large | Sandy Fowler |
| Postmaster | Gail Gordon |
| Membership Ass't | Barbara Hayward |

Many other people have been kind enough to offer their services on an occasional basis, and we thank all. Finally, we remain in need of (1) a person who can deliver our newsletter to the bulk post office in Al-Ramool once a month, in a timely manner, and (2) an Archeology Recorder.

GAZELLE

Dubai Natural History Group Programme

Lectures at Jumelrah English Speaking School, Gymnasium 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm

- Feb 25 Recent archeological research at Muwailah, an Iron-age site in Sharjah – Dr Peter Magee
Apr 01 Environmental conservation in RAK – Robert Llewellyn-Smith
May 06 Camels: The almost forgotten miracle animal – Dr Ulrich Wernery
Jun 03 Members' night

Field Trips (DNHG members only, please).

- Mar 02/03 Camp and wadi walk in Hajar mountains with Marilyn and Allen Hartley
Mar 09 Eid Special – Fosselling with Valerie Chalmers
Mar 16 Camel souq at Al Ain with Peter van Amsterdam
Mar 23 Wadi Bih
Apr 05/06 Sir Bani Yas Island with Dave Snelling
Apr 19/20 Inter-Emirates Weekend in Al Ain

Mrs Valerie CHALMERS
PO Box 12070
Dubai
UAE

From: DNHG, PO Box 9234, Dubai, UAE