**DNHG: East Coast Nature Walk, Friday, Feb 21**

Gary Feulner and Binish Roobas will lead this full-day introduction to the flora and fauna of the Hajar Mountains. The main program will be a leisurely ca. 3-hour hike in a wadi environment on the East Coast, currently rich in plant and insect life after frequent winter rains. The terrain will be mostly gentle but there are no trails, and our route will include a diverting ascent and descent to/from the 20 meter gravel terrace overlooking the wadi. After the main hike, we will have lunch at a scenic overlook and then explore for another ca. 1 to 1.5 hours in a wadi with permanent water.

- When/Where to meet? When to start?

Our hike will start at 9:30am at a site on the East Coast about 2.5 hours from Dubai's Trade Centre area. This means a morning departure at 7:00am or earlier  for most participants. Detailed directions will be circulated after sign-ups.

- What to bring:

Sturdy footwear for walking in a wadi and up wadi banks without a trail.

Day pack for snacks, water, equipment and references.

Water: 2 liters minimum for the day, more if the weather is warm. We will be 'self-contained' for 5-6 hours and away from our vehicles for ca. 3 hrs during the main hike.

Lunch/snacks

Hat or other sun protection

Recommended: camera, binoculars, field guides (esp. *Wild Flowers of the UAE*)

- 4WD required? No. We will start our walk from a paved roadway.

- Estimated time of return to Dubai: ca. 5:30-6:30pm

- Limit:  20 people maximum

**To sign-up**: Contact Gary by e-mail: grfeulner@gmail.com. [Do NOT reply to THIS e-mail.]

 Please include:

(1) **your phone number**

(2) **whether you need a ride**

(3) **if you can offer a ride, how many others you can carry & where you will leave from.**

(Telephone numbers will facilitate liaison en route, and ride-sharing for those in need.)

 Gary will check responses at ca. 7 pm on Sunday, Feb 16. If the trip is then over-subscribed, participants will be selected by drawing names from a hat, and Gary will send notifications accordingly, later on Sunday night, Feb 16, *including* details of how to reach the meeting point.