

# GAZELLE

Vol 17 no 2 – February 2002



مجموعة دبي للتاريخ الطبيعي

## DUBAI NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

PO Box 9234, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

## Members' News

**Dr. Rosemary Leila** has done her part for science by collecting specimens of the so-called Australian redback spider from the Jebel Ali area, to be sent to an Australian researcher who is studying their dispersion and distribution. As noted by our February speaker John Balfour, there is some uncertainty about whether most such spiders in the UAE are introduced or are the historical local representatives of the genus *Lactrodectus*, which is widespread in tropical and subtropical regions. Former DNHG Chairman Alan Dickson, a Ph.D. entomologist and also a pest control expert, likewise inclined to the view that the UAE might have its own native species of *Lactrodectus*. Nevertheless, there do exist professional determinations on record that *Lactrodectus hasselti*, the species found in Australia, is present in the UAE and Oman. Rosemary's specimens have orange rather than red markings. Perhaps this will prove to be significant.

**Gary Feulner** attended a conference and workshop on "The Threatened Fauna of Arabia's Mountain Habitat." This was the third annual Conservation Assessment and Management Plan (CAMP) Workshop held in the UAE, sponsored by the IUCN's Conservation Breeding Specialist Group and hosted by the Sharjah

Environment and Protected Areas Authority at the Breeding Centre for Endangered Arabian Wildlife. Among other things, this year's workshop focused attention on freshwater fish, whose diversity and distribution Gary has studied in the Hajar Mountains. A report on the workshop will follow in the next *Gazelle*.

### *DNHG AGM and Elections*

The March lecture will also be the DNHG's annual general meeting and elections. At that time we will elect a new Committee for the coming year. Most of the current Committee are prepared to stand for re-election, but a few would be happy for relief or assistance. And, Dubai being Dubai, we will be losing some Committee members due to overseas moves and changes of employment.

We are particularly in need of help in (1) organizing field trips (as a Field Trip Co-Coordinator), (2) accounts (as Treasurer) and (3) book sales. If you would like to help, we'd like to hear from you. Within limits, we can tailor responsibilities to suit your time and talents. The DNHG has prospered in recent years because members have stepped up to do what they could. We rely on you to continue this tradition. If you have an interest, or for further information, con-

Chairman Gary Feulner or any of the other Committee members (listed on page 7).

### *DNHG Membership Renewal*

The DNHG membership year begins in September, so renewal is now due. Membership remains a bargain at Dhs. 100 for couples and Dhs. 50 for singles. You can join or renew at meetings (see Membership Secretary Fi Skennerton) or by sending us a cheque made out to Lloyds Bank account no. 173746 and posted to Fi at PO Box 29561, Dubai. (Please note we cannot cash cheques made out to the DNHG.) Membership is valid from September 2001 to September 2002.

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.

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

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

Colin Paskins  
Geoff Cosson  
Gary Feulner  
Marijcke Jongbloed



## Field Trips etc ...

### Botany of Wadi Jazirah 1 March

Marijcke Jongblood will lead this full-day wadi walk through an Oman wadi, but no visa needed! We meet at 9 o'clock at the coffee pot roundabout and we will leave at 9.15 exactly to drive to Jazirah. The walk is easy, no great fitness needed. What to bring: drinks (including one liter of water per person), lunch, hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, camera, comfortable walking shoes. The trip is limited to 8 cars, but seats may be available. Please email : [mjongbld@emirates.net.ae](mailto:mjongbld@emirates.net.ae) or call Marijcke on 04-3497963 or 050-6262411.

### Jebel Ghaweel with Gary Friday 8 March

Gary Feulner will lead a full-day mountain hike to 1 or 2 summits of multi-colored Jebel Ghaweel (Ice Cream Sundae Mountain). Suitable for experienced and fit hikers. Overall ascent will be c.700m. Must descend too. Route is scenic but there are no trails and the ground is often rough and uneven. Guaranteed rare trees and rocks, and probably rare snails and birds. Total walking distance 8 km, anticipated total time 8-9 hours. Bring boots or sturdy shoes, minimum 3 litres of water (plus a 4th in the car), lunch, hat, sun cream, camera, binoculars, etc. 4WD necessary. Leave Dubai at 6:30am. Estimated return c.7:30pm. Max. 12 people. For further information, sign-up and logistics, see Gary at the March 3 DNHG meeting or telephone 330-3600 (office) or 306-5570 (home).

### East Coast Shelling with Sandy Fowler 15 March

Meet at 1030 on the Khor Fakkan cornice at its southern end i.e. quite near the port. Get to the cornice and head south towards the port until forced to go round the roundabout and come back along the same road but on the beach side. A couple of beached dhows are prominent on the seashore and I will be parked opposite them. I'll also give directions for Wentele cove for the really keen. Contact me at home on tel 3442243. Usual advice for people going out in the sun etc.

### Musandam Dhow Trip with

### Lamjed El-Kefi 29 March

Spectacular! Lamjed el Kefi will take you on a delightful cruise/dive on the Musandam peninsular. Contact Lamjed for details at [pearldiv@emirates.net.ae](mailto:pearldiv@emirates.net.ae)

### Sand Trip near Al-Maha with Peter van Amsterdam 5 April

Details closer to the day from Peter on [pvana@emirates.net.ae](mailto:pvana@emirates.net.ae)

### Alternate Date for Dhow Trip with Lamjed el Kefi 11-12:April

This is a two day trip on a diving dhow, led by Lamjed el Kefi, up the Musandam Peninsular. This is not firm yet, so make your interest known at the March 3 meeting and it will become a reality.

### Sir Bani Yas Island with David Snelling April 18-19

Contact David at: [david.snelling@emirates.com](mailto:david.snelling@emirates.com)

### Inter-Emirates Weekend 11-12 April

This year's Inter-Emirates Weekend is at the Mafraq Hotel near Abu Dhabi, just over an hours drive from Dubai. Proposed excursions include astronomy, birdwatching, mammal trapping, and boat trips to islands and mangroves. Mark your calendars now!

Accommodation details:

Single Occupancy: 150 dhs per room per night

Double Occupancy: 200 dhs per room per night

Triple Occupancy: 250 dhs per room per night

These prices are subject to 16% service charge and include buffet breakfast.

2 children below 12 years sharing parents room will be free of charge, with a nominal charge for breakfast of 15 dhs + 16%.

BBQ Dinner is 55 dhs + 16%.

Lunch Boxes for Friday can be arranged at 40 dhs net.

Please ring the hotel on 02-5822666

and ask for reservations. Inform them of your need re accommodation, dinner and packed lunch. Mention Emirates Natural History Group when you book; if you forget the rates will be higher! Please then contact *me* by e-mail: [stephen.james@zu.ac.ae](mailto:stephen.james@zu.ac.ae) stating your contact details and how many in your party. I can then follow up with excursion choices and further information etc.

### Our Next Speaker

Our next meeting on Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup> will feature Yusuf Thakur with two of his nature films. Yusuf will tell us some background information on how the films were shot and then show "Endangered Dugongs" and "Jewel of the Mangroves".

Yusuf Thakur is a filmmaker based in the United Arab Emirates. A qualified filmmaker with a degree in film direction, he has been producing Wildlife Documentaries for the last nine years. He heads Visual Effect and Graphics, a project studio based in Sharjah. Till date he has produced five Wildlife/Nature documentaries, which have been shot, edited and directed by him. His latest "Endangered Dugongs" is an educational tool for children. His other recent films are the "Jewel of the Mangrove", featuring the White-collared Kingfisher, which breeds in the Khor Kalba mangrove forest, and "Kalba, a vital habitat" based on the mangrove eco-system.

He has to his credit the following Wildlife Film Awards:

- International Wildlife Film Festival, U.S.A. (Merit Award for Biological Info)
  - Jackson Hole Film Festival, U.S.A. (finalist)
  - Charleston International Film Festival, U.S.A. (finalist)
  - Earthvision, Japan (finalist)
- Cineciencia, International Scientific Film Festival, Portugal



### New Zoo Site in Mushref

On January 25<sup>th</sup> Dr. Reza Khan hosted a trip around the site in Mushref where the new zoo will be constructed. This park has been there a decade or more, while the zoo area was fenced only about five years ago. Many ghaf trees were transplanted from other parts of the emirate to line the main tracks. It is amazing that these adult trees have taken root and are growing. Strips of about 10m on both sides of the main track are being irrigated and have been planted with locally common trees, as well as a few introduced species. Due to the drought, there were few annuals, but we did see some nice specimens of *Monsonia nivea* and *Neurada procumbens*. Another annual we saw was *Polygonum repens*. A huge stand of intermingled perennials, *Ephedra aphylla* and *Pentstemon nivea*, was unfortunately not yet in flower. *Lycium shawii* was in full flower, as was *Leptadenia pyrotechnica*. One bush of 'arta' (*Calligonum comosum*) showed both the pretty red and white flowers and a few of the red lanterns, but because it is so dry, the full glory of the 'firebush' could not be witnessed. There were many birds – from bulbuls, bee-eaters and babblers to shrikes and even a few raptors. One of the younger participants was able to pick up a nice owl pellet with a complete little rodent skull in it.

Reza lifted any boards and rubbish that could hide critters, and managed to show us a black scorpion. Of rodents and reptiles we only saw tracks. The walk through the grounds was very pleasant, especially because the flowering *Acacia ehrenbergiana* filled the air with a wonderful scent. Many thanks to Dr. Reza Khan and his assistant for showing us around!

### Hajar Mountain Archeology Field Trip

Wadi Qowr in southern Ras al-Khaimah was the traditional cara-

van route across the Hajar mountains and features a number of archaeological sites of various ages. The DNHG field trip in mid-February visited a number of these, as well as the fort at Wahala on the mountain front in Fujairah and the complex site at Harrah in a tributary of Wadi Hiluw. Nature lovers and romantics should be warned, however. The construction of large dams and major highways in this area has robbed it of its former sense of mystery as well as much of its natural beauty and charm. Wadi Qowr is not the place to take out-of-town visitors for a drive, unless they're particularly interested in archeology or engineering.

The first stop on the itinerary was the copper mine near Huweilat. This is best understood in connection with a visit to the National Museum of Ras al-Khaimah, where it is described and depicted. The site itself includes a large excavation and many traces of bright green copper minerals, but is otherwise obscure to the uninitiated.

The hilltop site of Rafaq-2, one of the best excavated of the mountain archaeological sites, is easier to appreciate, if not to understand, since results of the archeological studies have not yet been published. Here one can see the foundations of closely packed structures, some wall-to-wall, a pattern not typical of most sites. Broken shells of *Terebralia palustris*, the giant mud creeper, were abundant on the slope below, as were potshards of various composition and design. The DNHG group speculated from its location, density and the absence of fields that it may have been a defensive refuge. Several flat, square basins were littered with the shells of freshwater snails and were presumably used to hold water for animals.

At Husayn, the group visited one of the UAE's best preserved rectangular defensive towers. We were able to examine this three-storey structure as well as a neighboring house and mosque. Ian MacGregor shared some of his own recent in-

quiries concerning the causes of failure in such structures, including: moisture damage and deterioration of the exterior mud brick at ground level, due to capillary action; water seepage through the rubble fill between the double layered walls; and failure of the mud brick at stress points such as the bearing points of cross beams. It was speculated that this particular tower may have remained intact for longer than others partly because its exterior mud brick is demonstrably harder and better cemented than most.

Near the mouth of Wadi Qowr, along the Oman border, is found the largest concentration of Hafit tombs (also known as Hafit cairns or beehive tombs) in the Northern Emirates. These cairns take their name from Jebel Hafit near Al-Ain, where the largest concentration outside Oman is known. They date from c.3000 BC. In Wadi Qowr, some 50 cairns in various states of preservation are set on gravel terraces and along several nearby ridges. We visited many of these. It stretched our imaginations to try to puzzle out the original architecture (if they were all the same) and the sequence of events leading to various states of collapse. Some, seemingly well preserved, are asymmetrical with a flat front and forward entrance and a sloping back. Others seem to show vestiges of a vertical wall (or vertical basal wall), while still others are roughly symmetrical piles of stones with suggestions of a higher entrance, sometimes marked by a lintel stone. In almost all, however, a more or less well preserved, elongated and corbeled central chamber can be seen.

The apparent development of a small UAE police checkpoint in this area may make visits to the Hafit tombs as a whole somewhat more problematic in the future. On the UAE side, the presence of several tombs is now highlighted by bulldozing of the surrounding gravel plains for future agriculture.



## Field Clips ...

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

The fort at Wahala has seen better days, but a brief visit showed its size and the remains of its tall tower with a spiral staircase and, apparently, a central core.

The final stop for the day was at Harrah, near Hiluw, where several archeological 'generations' seem to be present. On one side of the wadi are both sunken foundations and above-ground stone-walled structures, all built with 'double wall' construction and some exceptionally well-fitted, as well as a very picturesque and well-preserved round watchtower and a large cemetery of oval graves. On the other side of the wadi are the remains of a recent mud-brick mosque and a large and elegant mud-brick residence, as well as the walls of a tobacco drying shed, now restored to use. Harrah was a copper mining site at some stage of its history, as evidenced by copper mineralization (here, blue) in the adjacent hillsides, copper slag and anvil stones. The latter are flattish stones against which the copper ore was finely ground by hand as part of the extraction process. From such use, the flat surfaces develop distinct central concavities, usually on both sides (and sometimes even on a third side). The group looked for anvil stones, but in vain until David Palmer and Geoff Cosson developed an eye for them and found several. With these as examples, we were able to find many more.

The measure of a good day was that as the sun set behind the mountains, we were still pointing off to distant slopes and terraces at structures, trails and traces that required further investigation.

Unscheduled attractions during

the day included several flowering Farfar trees (*Tecomella undulata*), well-spotted by Rosemary Leila and complete with several male purple sunbirds feeding on nectar from the blossoms; a tail-signaling dwarf rock gecko on the wall of the tower at Husayn; and a flock of about a dozen Liechtenstein's sandgrouse, flushed at high noon from among rocks at a low, damp spot in the center of the broad wadi. Two youths at Husayn were washing a camel with a hose at a large cistern. When they were finished, they led it off on donkey-back (the youths, not the camel) – a sight seldom seen in the modern UAE. *Report by Gary Feulner*

### *Qatar in a Nutshell*

Marijcke Jongbloed gave a talk to the Qatar Natural History group in February, and in a weekend her hosts showed her at least half of the country! On Thursday there was a trip to the northern end of the peninsula to look at the famous rock art. On many of the coastal jebels (all of 20m high!) the rocks are covered with engraved symbols and pictures. The pictures are mainly of boats (most likely the pearling fleet, since the best pearling grounds are offshore right opposite the site), with only an occasional animal (crab, turtle) or other figure (man on a donkey). All the other art consists of cups in double rows of seven or in rosettes around a middle cup. There are literally hundreds of these and no one is certain what they mean. Since many of the groups of cups are arranged in the exact same way as the *mancala* game that is still being played in the region, it has been speculated that people sat on the jebels waiting for the pearling fleets to come in and whiled away the time playing this board game. However, some of the rows of cups are cut out in rocks that are on a 45 degree slope, and the counters of the game would not stay inside the cups. Others are very tiny and could only contain seeds or grains of sand. There are also some deep pits with a twenty cm diame-

ter and up to 30-40 cm in depth. One basin is a meter or more across and about 25 cm deep. Were they containers? Do the cups represent some way to keep accounts of the pearl harvest? Very intriguing and mysterious! The carvings have been tentatively dated from between 1000 to 1600 AD and are completely different from any kind of rock art that is found in the mountains of the UAE. Some articles that I read mentioned that Oman had similar carvings of boats.

On Friday there was a trip to the Inland Sea, a very long and winding khor that cuts into the "base" of Qatar from the east. The drive to the khor is spectacular, along wide sabkhas at the foot of very high, very white dunes. Unfortunately many cars have left wide swaths of tyre tracks. It would have been great to see this area when it was still pristine. The incredibly blue water between the white dunes was marvelous. On one side of the khor, huge white sand dunes drop steeply to the edge of the water, while on the other side striated pink and brown rocky hills of Saudi Arabia line the coast. On an island in the middle of the khor was an osprey nest that is more than 14 years old (the time when my hosts first saw it) - it has reached a height of several meters! The ospreys were sitting on the nest as they do every year. Other seabirds were herons and cormorants, while flamingoes were active in another inlet. Of plants we saw only salt bushes, reptiles, one agave, but we did find various tracks that showed there was plenty of small wildlife around: jerboa, gerbil, fox, lizards, small desert birds, but no snake or cat tracks.

My hosts have invited DNHG members for a sightseeing weekend, so if anyone is interested, please contact one of the committee members and we will see about organizing such a trip.

*Report by Marijcke Jongbloed*



## Dubai Natural History Group Recorders

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

Archaeology - Prof. John Fox  
jfox@aus.ac.au

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 06-5583 003  
off 06-5247 958

pearldiv@emirates.net.ae

Marine Life - Lamjed El-Kefi

Geology - Gary Feulner  
res 306 5570  
fax 330 3550

Insects – Gary Feulner

Fossils - Valerie Chalmers  
res 349 4016,  
fax 340 0990

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.

### Khor Kalba Kingfishers

In preparation for next month's film, here are some notes on the Khor Kalba kingfisher:

The White-collared Kingfisher *Halcyon chloris abyssinica* was first reported from Arabia in 1973, based on a specimen collected at Khor Kalba in 1962. In 1971 Graham Cowles of the British Museum, Natural History, Tring, Herts., collected two specimens of a similar kingfisher in the mangrove swamps in the same locality. Subsequent analysis attributes these to a subspecies *Halcyon chloris kalbanesis*. It is similar to *H.c.abyssinica* but differs in having a well-defined white superciliary stripe extending from the sides of the forehead to above and past the eye. Above the ear coverts the white superciliary is suffused with blue-tipped feathers giving a streaked area of light blue-green and white. The bill is smaller than in *abyssinica*. The upper tail coverts and rump are more blue-green. The subspecies is apparently confined to the coastal mangrove swamps at Khor Kalba. The nearest population of *H.chloris* is the race *abyssinica*, about 1900 km across Arabia to the southwest, on the eastern coast of the Red Sea and *H.c.vidali* across the Arabian Sea in the opposite direction, about 2000 km to the southeast, in India.

There are about 49 subspecies of the wide spread White-collared kingfisher, ranging from the Red Sea coast to Samoa. *H.c.kalbaensis* shows more resemblance to *H.c.abyssinica* than to any of the other subspecies from the eastern part of the *H.chloris* range.

(Excerpted from Abu Dhabi NHG Nr 13 Bulletin, thanks to Marijcke Jongbloed)

### Forts of Oman

It is often stated that the restored forts in Oman can only be visited with prior permission. This information was repeated recently in a Gulf News article. This is fortu-

nately no longer true. I spent a happy few hours in the huge keep at Nizwa & the extraordinary palace/fort at Jabrin at Eid in December. Visitors are welcome, entrance is only 5 Dhs. (UAE currency accepted), and there is a glossy leaflet giving descriptions of 22 sites, with opening times. The major ones are open seven days a week, from 9.00 till 4.00 (till 11 on Fridays). Smaller forts are open five days. Bahla is closed, still undergoing renovation. These buildings, beautifully restored, should not be missed. There is a website, <www.omantourism.com>, and a UAE telephone number, (04) 3971000. Thanks to Geoff Cosson.

### Shelling at Jazirat Al Hamra

In January, Colin Paskins visited the beach at Jazirat Al Hamra. This is on the road to Ras Al Khaimah, about half way between UAQ's "Waterworld" and RAK city. The western part of the town is disused – probably a haven for snakes, scorpions rats etc. There is a tarmac road to the west side which leads to a long beach which is undeveloped and unspoilt except for the usual debris, presumably discarded or lost at sea. There was a good crop of brand new pencils and some boxed ball point pens!

There was a good variety of shells, the highlights were the elegant *Ficus Subintermedia* and a perfect paper nautilus, albeit small at 65mm. The largest *Cypraea Grayana* (cowrie) Colin has found, 72mm is just above the 70mm quoted in *Seashells of Eastern Arabia*.

The best parts of the beach are the very West end, and the eastern part close to the coast guard station, which was once fenced off. The fence is gone and the guards did not come out. This end was the source of the specimens mentioned above. Thanks to Colin Paskins





## special reports ...

### Getting Their Goat

DNHG field trips are notorious for the unexpected. Early January's hike to the abandoned terraced settlements at Sal Dhayah followed this rule. The five participants earned their 15 minutes of fame by carrying out a mountain rescue of a different kind in the mountains north of Ras al-Khaimah. As told by Gulf News, they rescued a young feral goat trapped in a deep, dry cistern on an uninhabited plateau. Barbara Couldrey first spotted the unfortunate kid, an adolescent with white "spats" on its front ankles, trapped in the spacious but 12-foot deep, stone-lined cistern.

The young goat was apparently uninjured, but subdued. Its fate was certain – death from starvation or dehydration. The bleached bones of another goat already lay in the bottom of the cistern. What was to be done? Geoff Cosson succinctly told the newspaper, "The walls of the cistern were smooth and it was impossible for any of us to climb down to rescue the animal. If we had gotten down, we could not have come out." While the would-be rescuers pondered the problem, they threw fruit from their lunches into the pit, which the goat quickly consumed. There were trees in the vicinity but no large branches available to serve as a ladder. Mounting an expedition to return the next day, a Saturday, would be difficult. The volume of stones required to build a ramp up out of the deep cistern was daunting, but Mike Lorrigan was prepared to try.

It was evident that all were concerned – they could not just "turn the page." Conflicted but determined to preserve the value of the field trip, trip leader Gary Feulner volunteered to return downhill to the cars for his tow ropes, but only on condition that the group should otherwise continue their tour of Sal Dhayah. He pointed out a few things to look for and then depart-

ed downhill, leaving Barbara to lead the group across one of the largest high terraces in the Ru'us al-Jibal, and show off the beautiful views over Khor Hulaylah from the vantage point of a snow white stone waterfall.

Three hours later Gary was back, down and up, tired but triumphant. Barbara, a prize-winning sailor, tied a bowline in the long tow rope for a harness and the group debated and practiced various techniques in a shallow cistern. It wasn't as easy as it looks in the movies. Finally Mike threw caution to the winds and stepped into the breach, literally, and "walked" down the wall without incident, as the others held the rope. The goat was frisky, but its efforts to escape were halfhearted and Mike "bagged" it, again literally, in a sturdy plastic bag. Once in the bag, the young goat was calm and the bag was raised by the second tow rope.

The goat received a bowl of water (the metal bowl found conveniently in the cistern) from real-life veterinarian Dr. Renata Majka. Her professional instincts aroused, Renata was torn away only with difficulty to assist in the task of raising Mike back to the surface. "Up" was harder than "down," but it was accomplished with no more than a moment's inelegance at the very lip.

With everyone safe and sound, thoughts turned to photography, and several cameras closed in while the goat, still swaddled in its plastic bag, enjoyed a second bowl of water. Little 'Spats' however took one look at all the lenses aimed his way and bolted from the bag to a safe distance. He quickly regained his agility and began to browse on the still-parched vegetation, but, although never coming within feeding reach, he followed the departing group for almost a kilometer, sometimes at a trot, until they had left the plateau and descended via a barren gully, waving a sad and silent goodbye.

Will he make it? There are foxes in the area, but Spats is no longer a baby, so his chances are probably

relatively good. As to food and water, there is no surface water at present in the Sal Dhayah area, but goats do not need to drink regularly. Spats must have been in reasonably good physical condition when he fell into the cistern, which suggests that there is enough vegetation available to serve as food, at least for one small goat. More sadly, nearby was found a recently dead goat hanging by its neck near the center of a small Acacia tree, its head and horns having become wedged in a small fork in the branches. We hoped it wasn't little Spats' mother, having hung herself in despair – never knowing what miraculous intervention was to come. *Report by Gary Feulner*

### Don't Forget We've Moved!

Remember, the DNHG's monthly lectures are now held at **The Emirates Academy of Hospitality Management**, located opposite "Wild Wadi" near the Burj Al-Arab and the Jumeirah Beach Hotel. The Emirates Academy features a 140-seat auditorium, excellent acoustics and a built-in audio-visual system.

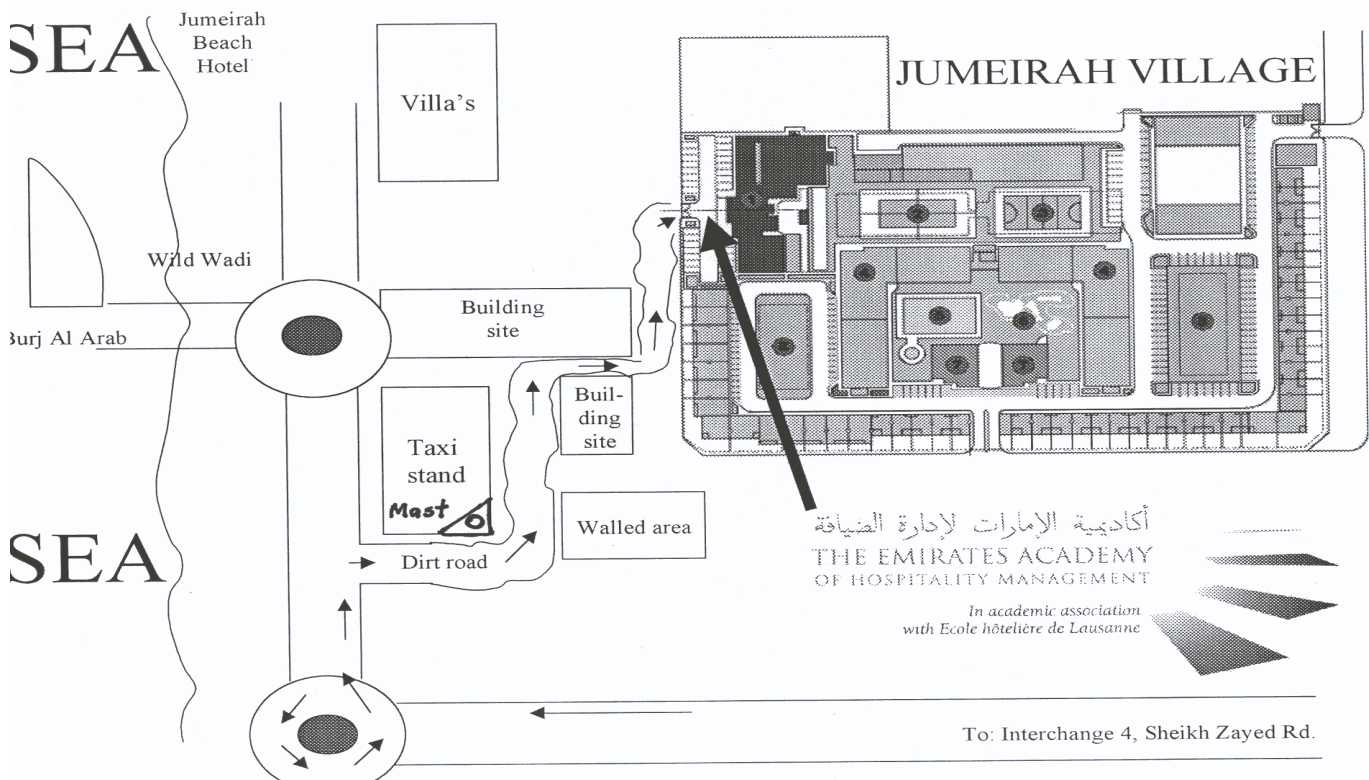
The auditorium is adjacent to the main entrance, on the Beach Road side. The Emirates Academy facade resembles an Arabic fortress, with four flags flying at the front gate. These are normally illuminated at night. The complex is visible from Beach Road but is set back about 100 yards from the road and is now partly obscured by construction. Direct access is currently over an open lot; for easiest access, it is best to follow the map on page 7. There is a paved parking lot within the gates. For those coming via Sheikh Zayed Road/Abu Dhabi Highway, the best exit is flyover #4 (Al-Barsha/Dubai Police Academy).

Members who are coming to lectures directly from work may find it convenient to take advantage of the cafeteria located on the Emirates Academy premises, on the left of the outdoor courtyard behind the main lobby.



	name	tel home	tel office	fax
Chairman	<b>Gary Feulner</b>	306 5570 messages: 306 5300	330 3600	330 3550
Vice Chairman	<b>Valerie Chalmers</b>	349 4816	no calls pls	340 0990
Treasurer	<b>Jim Fischer</b>	282 7463 e.mail: james.fischer@hct.ac.ae	208 9454	267 3939
Membership Secretary	<b>Fi Skennerton</b>	050 – 624 3028 or 348 6775 e.mail: hifi@emirates.net.ae		355 7180
Speaker Co-ordinator	<b>Marijcke Jongbloed</b>	349 7963 e.mail: mjongbld@emirates.net.ae		349 7963
Fieldtrip Co-ordinator	<b>Mary Beardwood</b>	050 – 624 3687 e.mail: mikemary@emirates.net.ae		
Fieldtrip Co-ordinator	<b>Fi Skennerton</b>	348 6775 or 050 – 624 3028 e.mail: hifi@emirates.net.ae		355 7180
Fieldtrip Co-ordinator	<b>David Snelling</b>	3517187 e.mail: david.snelling@emirates.com	050 – 552 6308	295 0758
Special Projects	<b>Beryl Comar</b>	344 2243 e.mail: comar@emirates.net.ae		344 2243
Newsletter Editor	<b>Anne Millen</b>	269 2519 e.mail: pvana@emirates.net.ae	no calls pls	269 1654
Publisher	<b>Peter van Amsterdam</b>	269 2519 e.mail: pvana@emirates.net.ae	335 5495	269 1654
Librarian	<b>Deanne White</b>	342 9153 e.mail: dgwhite@emirates.net.ae	344 0824, ext 220	344-1510
Sales Assistant	<b>Patricia Rosetti</b>	332 1567 e.mail: rrosetti@emirates.net.ae		334 5510
Chief Engineer	<b>James Pardoe</b>	394 3821		
Member at Large	<b>Sandy Fowler</b>	344 2243 e-mail: shellman@37.com	no calls pls	344 2243
Postmaster	<b>Sandi Ellis</b>	050 – 644 2682 e.mail: peterjon@emirates.net.ae		394 8641

## EMIRATES ACADEMY OF HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT



## Dubai Natural History Group Programme

**Lectures at Emirates Academy of Hospitality Management (see map), 7.30 for 8.00pm**

Mar 3: Two Films by Yusuf Thakur: "The White-Collared Kingfisher" and "The Dugong"

**April 7 : To be advised**

**May 5:** Reptiles of the Near East – Dr. Ted Papenfuss

June 2: Member's Night [Short presentations by members: Volunteers welcome!]

**Field Trips** (DNHG members only, please).

Mar 01: Wadi Wildflower Walk with Marijcke Jongbloed

Mar 08: Mountain Hike with Gary Feulner

Mar 15: East Coast Shelling with Sandy Fowler

Mar 21-22: Wildflowers in Ghubrah Bowl with Peter van Amsterdam and Anne Millen

Mar 29 Musandam Dhow Trip with Lamjed El-Kefi

April 5: Sand Trip near Al-Maha with Peter van Amsterdam

April 11-12: Inter-Emirates Weekend and Alternate Date for Dhow Trip

April 18-19: Sir Bani Yas with David Snelling