

# GAZELLE

Vol 15 no 5 - May 2000



مجموعة دبي للتاريخ والطبيعي

DUBAI NATURAL HISTORY GROUP  
PO Box 9234, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

## Members' News

### All Change

Former *Gazelle* Editor **Neil Curds** has been in touch from Vancouver, British Columbia, to give us his new address and pass on good news as well. Sarah quickly found a job and Neil has been accepted in a graduate programme at Simon Fraser University, leading to a Masters Degree in Resource Management, with a specialization in tourism, outdoor recreation and parks.

Neil thanks all those here who cultivated and encouraged his interest in natural history. He's looking forward to enjoying the great outdoors in Canada, but after having had the feeling of exploring terra incognita in the UAE and Oman he was slightly disappointed to find that he can obtain maps of everywhere in BC. He also comments that BC is a big change from Arabia in terms of the preparation and equipment necessary for outdoor activities. Instead of worrying about overheating and running out of water, he now has to worry about keeping warm and keeping body and gear dry.

We're sorry to have to say goodbye to Geni and Bob White. They're retiring at the end of the school year and returning to live in Eugene, Oregon. Geni, in fact, has been back for a couple of months establishing their new home. Bob has been our Engineering Officer for the past four

years, during which he has had a near perfect attendance record and contributed various reports on shells and rocks.

"Micro-life" **Mike Kerley** is also retiring and he and Janet will be returning to England in June. Before they leave however they will be taking a week's holiday in Cyprus. Mike is a former DINHG Speaker Coordinator and was energetic and imaginative in his efforts to find and attract new and interesting speakers, able to twist arms or bend elbows with equal ease.

**Stephan Green** was back in the UAE in March and April, mostly with business responsibilities, but he also found time for a family visit to the Arabian Wildlife Centre in Sharjah, liaison with local archaeologists, and a day's investigation of archaeology, rock art and small animal life (snails, scorpions, dragonflies, butterflies and a legless lizard (!)) in the mountains near Masafi.

**Gary Feulner** led a nature hike for Dubai Boy Scouts (and about as many parents) in mid-April in the Masafi area. Despite the continuing drought they were able to see various pond life and a number of flowering or fruiting plants, shrubs and trees. The highlight of the day was a red fox. Many of the questions were those we all seem to have: How do the wadi fish get to their

poole? What is oshilite? How much farther? What is lunch?

Early morning on May 1<sup>st</sup> found member **Chris Speller** and her daughter **Rachel** clipping their toes in the sea at the Jumeirah Beach Park. Feet were hastily removed however when they sighted two schools of sea snakes, around 30 in each group, in shallow water. No, surprisingly Chris and Rachel decided to take their swim further up the beach.

### END OF SEASON Get-Together

This popular function will be held at the Dubai Country Club on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June. The cost is Dhs 85 per person for a buffet and grape juice.

The annual photographic competition will be held for the DINHG Trophy. Members are invited to enter one photograph on any natural history subject.

There will also be a wide-ranging "Natural History" team quiz with prizes.

Tickets will be available and payment required at the next meeting or Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June, so make a date in your diary.





## AN OMANI EXPERIENCE 18/19 October

In order to forge closer links with Members of the Muscat Historical Association, we are planning a joint venture on the 18th/19th October to visit Ras al Had beach, the site where Green Turtles can be seen nesting. Perhaps some hatchlings will also oblige by appearing at the same time. We have arranged our weekend to start on the Wednesday evening, with an Omani meal plus traditional music, at the beautiful purpose-built flat of Siw Rantapa. Siw has 10 rooms available for bed and breakfast at very reasonable prices. On Thursday we shall be camping on the beach. Ras al Had is a 5 hour drive from Muscat, and 4 wheel drives are needed. It is a long journey, but well worth it!

If you are interested in putting your name down for this trip please contact Mary Boardwood 3422548 e.mail [mary@amirates.net.ae](mailto:mary@amirates.net.ae) or Fi Skennerton 3557150 e.mail [skennertf@rr.kiduzsi.co.ae](mailto:skennertf@rr.kiduzsi.co.ae)

15 passes will be available for our group. We shall have a guide with us to tell us all about the life cycle of the turtles. A true adventure is promised!

## Giant Skippers all year round?

The Giant Skipper butterfly (*Coeliades anchises jucunda*) is a medium-size brown butterfly with a distinctive white patch in the centre of its wings (don't confuse it with the White-Edged Rock Brown which has a white rear rim). Like skippers generally, it has a relatively large body and head – more like a moth than a butterfly – and the Giant Skipper's head is bright orange. The caterpillar of the Giant Skipper is also very distinctive, being relatively large and coloured with alternating bands of white and calceol-red.

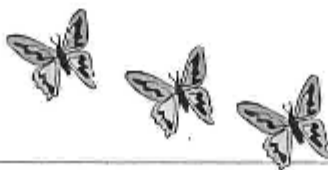
The distribution of the Giant Skipper seems to be determined largely by the occurrence of its larval food-plant, *Acridocarpus orientalis*, a large shrub or small tree common in the Hajar Mountains of Oman but essentially absent north of Wadi Jizzi. Thus the Giant Skipper can be seen in the Al-Ain area but not elsewhere in the UAE. Small numbers of *A. orientalis* are found at the Hanging Gardens (Jebel Qatar) and Jebel Hafet, so the Giant Skipper can sometimes be seen there.

*A. orientalis* is found both in wadis (where it appears to occupy the niche of the wadi fig) and on hillsides between about 600-1200 meters. Both the adult butterfly and the caterpillar can be found on or around *A. orientalis* shrubs. If you see a shrub with many lower leaves partly eaten, closer inspection may well reveal one or more caterpillars, either on a branch or hidden within a rolled leaf held together with silk threads.

Brooms of the Giant Skipper have been noted near Wadi Kitnah, south of Wadi Jizzi, in October and November in past years. Giant Skippers were also common (along with the Copor White butterfly) in March 2000 from the Wadi Jizzi area south to the Jebel Akhdar. It is not known whether spring blooms are an annual phenomenon or only an occasional one.

Several Giant Skippers seen in late March in Wadi Kitnah were observed to "dip" themselves lightly to touch the surface of the water as they flew over small wadi pools. Were they drinking? Cooling off?

Report by Gary Feulner



## Highlights from the Inter-Emirates Weekend 9/10 March 2000

Members of the 3 Natural History Groups from Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and Dubai gathered at the recently refurbished Hilton Hotel in Fujairah, on Thursday afternoon. There were two trips one to Khar Kalba for bird-watching, and the other to visit the Old Town and Fujairah Museum, among other places of historical interest. Unfortunately Beryl Comar, who with the rest of the sub-committee had organised the weekend, was unable to attend, so Valerie Chalmers very kindly came to the rescue.

First stop was the museum where the curator gave a talk and told of other buildings worth seeing within walking distance, including the former residence of the father of the present ruler of Fujairah. The group then had a look around the museum itself. Next they made their way to the Fujairah Fort which was being restored. From the fort they drove to Kalba to visit the Khar Kalba Fort (called 'Al Hosi'). They then walked across the road to visit the Sheikh of Sharjah's house which has been beautifully restored and which has a wonderful collection of ancient manuscripts.

After enjoying early evening sundowners, everyone assembled in the hotel ballroom to hear the guest speaker Minnie Van Der Weg talk of her life and work in the Maternity Hospital in Fujairah over the last 30 odd years. She gave a most entertaining account, illustrated by some excellent old slides. Minnie's talk was followed by the first part of the quiz. The second part of the quiz was held under the stars during the buffet dinner.

The following day was taken up with a variety of different activities before the return home. The reports of some of these follow on Pages 3 and 4.

Report by Valerie Chalmers



## Indigenous Plants and Trees with Dr Reza Khan

Dr Khan's choice of wadi Hayl as a route meant that we would see a variety of specimens, along with the signature trees of Arabia: *ghaf*, *sadr*, *acacia*. After stopping to taste the fruit from both *sadr* and fig, we looked up to view *Moringa peregrina* trees on the highest elevations of mountain oak where they prefer to grow, away from arboreal competition.

Closer to ground level were noted standards such as *Dyerothymum indicum* (wild thyme), *Tephrosia apollinea*, and *Euphorbia lasica* which is well known locally as a thatching material. Then trail-blazing through thick undergrowth, we came upon a much less common specimen: *Tecomella undulata* with its profusion of large, bright orange flowers that had everyone's camera clicking. These flowers are favoured by the Purple Sunbird (*Myzomela asiatica*), which we were also lucky to see. As mentioned in last month's *Gazelle*, Dr. Khan managed to spot a wild olive tree-much to his gloom, as it is rarely recorded.

Adding further interest to the expedition was a stop to wander round the old summer palace of the Ruler of Fujairah, followed by a walk along the wadi bed with its pools and flowing stream. The afternoon outing proved a delightful trip, made more so by the chance to watch a Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*) on his perch, and a Wadi Racer (*Coluber rhodostichis*) having a swim in the stream. Our thanks to Dr Khan for all his efforts and enthusiasm.

Report by Jen Denning

## Archaeology with Robert Lovelace

9:30am found 12 history, antiquities and engineering buffs collected in the ballroom of the Hilton Hotel, Fujairah, to listen to a presentation by the Fujai-

rah archaeologist, Ahmed Shamsi. Technical difficulties limited our discussions of significant sites such as the long tomb at Bicya (1800 BC) and others. So we were treated to a first hand tour of the reconstruction of the fort and surrounding village in central Fujairah. Seen in the village were houses with gabled roofs, a very different architecture from traditional Arab housing. The fort has seen many battles, the last in 1825 between Shikh Hamad and the British political resident.

Evidence of war could be found in the collection of cannon balls in Amrik Pasha's office. Amrik is in charge of the restoration and gave us technical types a first hand look at the workshops where they are reproducing many of the replacement architecture, features, doors, windows, beams and even the plaster used on the walls using original technology. Thank you Amrik. The afternoon found us just down the road over the Hajar mountains in wadi Ham, which was unusually dry. We were met by the local 'keeper' of the fort who encouraged photographs of the fort and himself. The Binah fort controlled the passage through Wadi Ham as late as the 18th century. Evidence of people living in the region as far back as 3500 - 3000BC has been found in the tombs in the area.

Here the party split up with some returning home while others checked out sites described in the morning discussions. Little protection is afforded these sites and people had to be careful to protect the digs from accidental damage.

Report by Robert Lovelace

## The Wadi Bih option, with Peter van Amsterdam

This was taken only by Abu Dhabi people, all newcomers to the Northern Emirates. Four people in two cars joined us, and they found so much of interest that we had rather a slow trip through! Despite the very dry conditions, we saw a lot of insects - beetles, hornets, butterflies,

and a dragonfly. In the old deserted village on the RAK side, some restoration work appears to be under way. The house with the three grinding stones has been cleared out and tidied. Exploring a little further afield, we found more photographs, and a channel that took village water over the edge into the wadi below. Obviously, there is sometimes too much water for all to be conserved.

Sadly, the beautiful aqueduct between the road and village has been destroyed. This seems to have been the work of humans, as the large stones are gone, and there are no signs of flood damage. Small wonder that the shady village further up has been closed off with rocks concreted together to prevent visitor access. There is graffiti on the side of a house in this village now.

The Abu Dhabi contingent enjoyed the archaeological sites so much that we ended the day by taking them to see the large excavated communal grave at Shimaal. It was a good end to a great week-end in Fujairah.

Report by Anna Millett

## Birding with Steve James

Many thanks to Steve James for an excellent birding weekend in and around Fujairah. At every stop he set up his binoculars so that all the group could get a good view of each bird sighted and over the two days we saw more than 80 different species, too many to mention in this report.

On Thursday afternoon some of the birds seen on the corniche were sootie cormorants, sooty, black-headed and yellow-legged gulls. The most exciting sightings were at the Khor Kalba mangroves. Seen here were the endangered White Collared Kingfisher of which there are only 30

Continued on Page 4



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



Socotra Cormorants by Frank Jarvis

April Wadi Walk

pairs left in the area, and the Boated Warbler, also known as Syke's Warbler. Among others spotted at the mangroves were Whinherbels, Western Reef Herons in both phases, Lesser Sand Plover and a Clamorous Reed Warbler.

I today found the twitchers out and about from early in the morning until mid afternoon. The mangroves were re-visited, followed by the nearby beach. Green Cormorants were sitting on a rock out at sea off the picnic while a Rock Thrush flew from grass up into the palm on the central reservation of the dual carriageway. After breakfast it was on to the fish drying beds where Ringed, Kentish, and Little Ringed Plovers were congregating on the track, and an Isabelline Wheatear was seen between the two beds of drying sardines. Then on to the Qurayyah pools where 20 different birds were observed including Black-winged Stills, Little Stints, Ruff, Woodchat Shrike, Temminck's Stints a Citrine Wagtail, and a pair of Bonelli's Eagles. The final stop was at a dry gravel plain, with acacia trees (compare with sparrows' nests) and a few palms. By this time, in the heat, there were not many birds to be seen, except a Hoopoe, an Indian Roller, Purple Sunbirds, and Little Green Bee Eaters.

Report by Anna Griffin

The Quiz: It was an Abu Dhabi team that prevailed in this audio-visual intellectual competition, organised by our own Vice Chairman Val Chalmers. The winners were Keith Gibbins, Mollie McQuarrie and John Reid.

A palm fringed natural oasis was the area of exploration for this walk, up a wadi located in a natural clearing some eight kilometres along the Manada road.

As tour guides for the day, Allan and Marilyn Hartley showed the group of fourteen members the extent of their exploration trips over the past few months in the hope that they could affect a connection through the wadi and over adjacent mountains to a second wadi located a further five kilometres along the Manada road. So far this connection, following a circuitous tour, had proved elusive. However, the group enjoyed the trip even though it was rather hot. Most members easily consumed the obligatory three litres of water.

And what did they see.... Sadly without water in the wadi the natural world is at survival level. In the little pond that remains - three toads, some wadi fish, a water scorpion and a number of dragonflies provided some interest. A small snake of unknown identity was also spotted in a tree.

Elsewhere spring me tried to show itself with the odd flower adding a splash of colour to the wadi walls.

Report by Allan & Marilyn Hartley

Hawksbill Rescue II

Patricia Rosetti was on the beach near Mina Siyahl on one of last winter's windiest days and found a baby hawksbill turtle, only 7-8 inches, washed ashore by the storm. She waded in as far as she dared to release it in the sea, but found it

washed up again about 45 minutes later, apparently unable to overcome the heavy surf. What to do? With the assistance of lifeguards (for whom she filed in briefly) she obtained a bucket and filled it lovingly with seawater and a comfortable bed of algae and took the little turtle, now obviously a bit weak, to Dr Reza Khan at Dubai Zoo.

Sadly the little one couldn't be induced to eat, and despite vitamin shots it died a few days later. Reza reports more cheerfully, however, that it had the company of two other young hawksbills brought in at about the same time (see the March 2000 Gazelle), each slightly larger, both of which ate and survived. One also benefited from a scrubbing to remove barnacles. Why the sudden appearance of all these hawksbills? Was it the heavy seas that brought them to human attention? Or was there a seasonal hatching? Or something else?

Patricia couldn't resist going online to investigate on her own. She says she was amazed at how much information was available and says the hawksbill was readily identifiable. She adds that she also began to realize how easy it is to get caught up in these little "mysteries" of natural history.

This month's Contributors

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

- Jan Denning
Valerie Chalmers
Peter Cunningham
Gary Foulner
Anna Griffin
Allan and Marilyn Hartley
Ann and Ian Holt
Frank Jarvis
Robert Lovelace
Anne Miller



## Dubai Natural History Group Recorders

- Reptiles** - Dr Reza Khan  
tel 344 3283  
off 344 9162  
fax (cell) 349 9437
- Archaeology** - Robert Lovelace  
tel 342 6192  
lovelace@emirates.net.ae
- Birds** - Rod Fox  
tel 208 9416  
fax 767 3939  
foxdrn@emirates.net.ae
- Seashells** - Sandy Fowler  
tel 344 2243  
fax 344 7743
- Astronomy** - Larijed El Kadi  
tel 06-783 003  
off 06 247 348
- Geology** - Gary Faulner  
tel 306 5570  
fax 311 3371
- Fossils** - Valerie Chalmers  
tel 319 4016  
fax 398 3727
- Insects** - Gary Butler  
(see above)
- Mammals** - Merrilee Jorgensen  
tel 349 7963  
fax 319 7963  
mjorgj@emirates.net.ae
- Marine Life** - Larijed El-Kadi  
(see above)
- Plants** - Valerie Chalmers  
(see above)

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 Gazette editor, so new information can be shared with all our readers.

## Trip to Sir Bani Yas Island - April 21<sup>st</sup>

It was the first trip for the DNHG to this island, so a new and interesting experience for the leaders, Michael and Jill Ostes, and the large group of intrepid field trippers. A long drive to Jebel Dhara tempted some people to stay overnight at the hotel which was a beautiful oasis after the barren desert. Bird watchers were rewarded by some interesting migrants in the hotel gardens.

### Ann and Ian Hoff report:

The channel to the island is narrow and shallow, underlining the fact that back in the ice-age Sir Bani Yas was part of the mainland. Now owned by Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the island has been turned into a fascinating mixture of wildlife reserve, breeding centre and experimental agricultural estate.

The boat trip takes some 30 minutes and it arrived at a quayside which is part of the waterfront for two palaces. Buses had been organised to take us round the island with the drivers setting off on a whirlwind tour of the remarkable variety of animals and birds. An added bonus was the inclusion of Dr Reza Khan from Dubai Zoo, who was keen to see as much as possible in the day so we were able to get good views of most that was on show.

Much of the island is flat and divided into a mixture of pens and large open areas, all planted with a variety of trees and shrubs. To see so many Rheem Gazelle and Black Buck roaming completely free was an amazing sight, along with a mixture of Common Eland, Defassa Waterbuck, Addax, Rhuu, Emu, Ostrich, Zebra, Giraffe and Arabian Oryx.

We were even provided with lunch in the work's canteen. We ended the afternoon with a stop at Sheikh Zayed's palace and had a pleasant

stroll around the grounds. There was not time to see everything but it was a fascinating weekend. The Dhafra hotel is thoroughly recommended and there is also basic accommodation on the island 'tels'. Many of us felt that a two day visit, accompanied by a guide, would be the best way to explore.

Many thanks to Mike and Jill for putting so much effort into finding out the details of how the island can be visited, thus enabling us to see this intriguing place.

NB: Mike and Jill have offered to run a second trip to Sir Bani Yas in the autumn when the weather cools down.

## Bird Report from Sir Bani Yas Island

Swallows (*Rustica*) were seen frequently going to the greenish edges and centre of the road on the long drive to the Dhafa Beach Hotel.

**Hotel Grounds or nearby scrub:** 2 Hoopoe, 1 Rock Thrush, 16 + 5 Red Throated Pipit, 2 Cattle Egret, 5 to 10 Ortalen Bunting, 3 Isabelle-line Snipe, 2 Yellow Wagtail, 10 to 20 European Bee-eaters 1 Female Redstart, Swallows, Pallid Swift, 2 to 4 Isabelline Wheatear House Sparrows, Palm and Collared Doves, 3 Turtle Doves, Tree Pipit, 1 Rufus Bushchat, 1 European Roller, 2 Black Crowned Finch Lark, 1 Spotted Flycatcher.

**Crossing to Sir Bani Yas Harbour:** Osprey on the cliff, Wh to Crooked Terns.

**Out at sea:** Bridled Terns, Socotra Cormorants.

**On Sir Bani Yas:** House Sparrows, Palm Doves, White Cheeked Bulbuls, 3 Slender Billed Gulls, Female Montague's Harrier at the Ferry.

**Introduced:** Egyptian Goose, Crowned Crane, Guinea Fowl.

Report by Frank Jarvis



## The Second Arab International Conference and Exhibition on Environmental Biotechnology (Coastal Habitats):

The Commission of Environmental Research (CER) was instrumental in the successful organization of the above mentioned conference on Coastal Habitats held at the Officers' Club in Abu Dhabi between 8 and 12 April 2000.

### Day 1: Mangroves, Saltmarsh and Seagrass

Session 1 was designated to authors presenting papers on the mangrove resources of the UAE as well as the genetic characterisation of mangroves and its role in conservation and management of tidal wetlands from Australia to Vietnam. According to estimates made by remote sensing, there are about 40 square km of mangroves in Abu Dhabi. Another interesting study, from Australia, was the frequency of mutant genes correlated with the concentration of petroleum hydrocarbons in sediments, suggesting a link between "abnormal" and oil pollution. The physiological response of mangroves as affected by oil, as well as a comparison between a natural and "man-made" mangrove forest, were some of the topics discussed. Presentations by local scientists included Dr's Roer and de Soyza from ERWDA and Dr Khan from Dubai Zoo.

Session 2 focused on seagrass resources, a favourite food of Dugongs and Green turtles, in the Abu Dhabi area. Seagrasses have one of the highest primary production rates of any plant type in the world and as many as 21,000 seagrass stalks per square metre occur in some dense stands in Abu Dhabi waters.

### Day 2: Intertidal, Benthic Communities, Coral Reefs and Fisheries Resources

Session 3 reviewed marine algae (including harmful algae species - "algae booms" or red tides), marine

invertebrate assemblages and artificial reefs by speakers from the UK, Germany, Oman and Qatar.

Session 4 was limited to discussions (UK & USA delegates) on coral reefs, especially the environmental factors affecting reef corals as well as the fate of reefs and monitoring techniques to determine change. A disturbing factor is that the majority of Abu Dhabi's corals have died in recent years due to higher than normal seawater temperatures in the summer months.

Session 5 was dominated by fisheries resource management strategies for the UAE. Statistics show that the UAE fish catch has increased from 64,000 metric tonnes in 1978 to 114,000 metric tonnes in 1998 with the number of fishermen and boats increasing from 4,000 and 1,000 to 16,000 and 7,600 during the same time, respectively.

### Day 3: Endangered Marine Species, Marine and Coastal Birds and Human Interactions in the Coastal Zone

Session 6 focused on the distribution and abundance of dugongs, dolphins and turtles as well as the assessment of turtle nesting sites from the UAE. 65% of dugong sightings (estimated population of 2,600) were within a 45 km radius of Murawah Island while an estimated population of 12,000 turtles (predominantly Green turtles) were determined within Abu Dhabi waters. A paper was also presented on the whales and dolphins of the Arabian Peninsula. Five species of baleen whales and 18 species of toothed whales, dolphins and porpoises (only one porpoise - finless porpoise) are known to occur in waters off the Arabian Peninsula. Papers were presented by Dr's Proan and Miller from Australia and Robert Baldwin from Oman.

Session 7 (chaired by Simon Aspinall), discussed the conservation

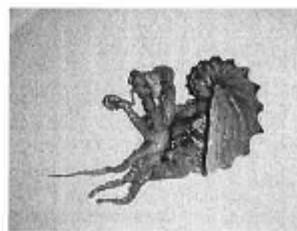
and monitoring of seabirds and shorebirds from the UAF. Domestic cats are responsible for huge mortalities on nesting seabirds, especially burrowing species such as the Red-billed Tropicbird. Oiled seabird rehabilitation as well as the details of the Al-Jazya oil spill, which occurred during late January off Abu Dhabi, leaking approximately 200 tonnes of fuel oil, were also discussed (Dr Pearson ERWDA). The decrease in animal diversity as a result of the "Aral Sea Problem" (lowering of the sea level by 17m and a threefold increase in salinity), caused by human interference, was presented by Dr Gubin from Kazakhstan.

Session 8. Peter Hellyer and Mark Booth discussed the archaeology of the coastal areas of the UAF with Mark's presentation indicating the use of archaeological fish remains to reconstruct ancient fishing practices.

### Day 4: Future Prospective and Planning for Change in the Coastal Zone

The last session mainly focused on the use and importance of satellite data to map coastal habitats. Other presentations included climate change and management; food production, coastal protection and conservation; sustainable development of mangrove ecosystems and the state of tropical coastal halophytes by speakers from the Netherlands, Austria, ERWDA and Sudan.

Report by Peter Cunningham



**Liva Nautilus**

photograph by Dr Sandy Fowler



	name	tel home	tel office	fax
Chairman	<b>Gary Feulner</b> messages: 308 5300	306 5570	331 3320 x500	331 3371
Vice Chairman	<b>Valerie Chalmers</b>	349 4816	no calls pls	398 3727
Treasurer	<b>Peter Griffin</b> e.mail: griff@emirates.net.ae	394 0342	394 0342	394 0352
Membership Secretary	<b>Fi Skennerton</b> e.mail: skennorf@mkidubai.co.ae	355 7150		355 7160
Speaker Co-ordinator	<b>Beryl Comar</b> e.mail: comar@emirates.net.ae	344 2243		344 2243
Fieldtrip Co-ordinator	<b>Mary Beardwood</b> e.mail: mlcomary@emirates.net.ae	342 2546		440 376
Fieldtrip Co-ordinator	<b>Jan Denning</b>	331 1463		331 1483
Newsletter Editor	<b>Anna Griffin</b> e.mail: griff@emirates.net.ae	394 0342	394 0342	394 0252
Publisher	<b>Peter van Amsterdam</b> e.mail: pvana@emirates.net.ae	369 2519	335 5495	2691 654
Librarian	<b>Deanne White</b> e.mail: dgwhite@emirates.net.ae	344 1510		
Sales Assistant			<b>Volunteer required</b>	
Chief Engineer	<b>James Pardo</b>	266 6427		
Member at Large	<b>Sandy Fowler</b>	344 2243	no calls pls	344 2243
Postmaster	<b>Gail Gordon</b>	349 8070		349 8870
Membership Assistant	<b>Barbara Hayward</b>	394 5691	690 029	367 875

## Dissolving Snails

Stephen Green and family paid an impromptu visit to Gary Feulner late one evening in order to examine some odd snails that Steve had collected from a tank of local freshwater fish in Sharjah. They resembled the common *Melanoides tuberculata*, a tall, conical snail common in JAE wadis and afalaj and widespread and prolific throughout the Indo-Pacific region. However the fish tank snails all had very deep sutures and truncated ends. Comparison with living snails satisfied Steve and Gary that these were *M. tuberculata*, but that their calcium carbonate (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) shells were being dissolved by acid water conditions (pH<7). Even the latest whorls showed patches where the coloured, ribbed outer layer of shell had been corroded to expose a dull white interior. This was a good demonstration of a phenomenon

that also occurs in nature, as a result of which molluscs are generally rare in acid water bodies.

*Report by Gary Feulner*

## Members' Night Speakers

**Helen Emery** is from the UK. She is currently teaching at Zayed University. She has worked in Africa on voluntary service, Oman and UAE. Her Talk on travels in Irian Jaya last year had everyone enthralled and she has led many popular and strenuous walks for the DNHG.

**Kim White** is married to DNHG Librarian Dianne and has been a biology teacher at the American School of Dubai for two years following a teaching assignment in Cairo. He loves visiting all areas of the UAE

and Oman to study the living desert.

**Mike Lorrigan** is General Manager of Spearhead Training in Dubai, when not guiding his friends through mountain walks, desert camping and fossiling. He has previously worked in Kuwait and UK.

**Luban Mrjac** is from Czechoslovakia. He has been an enthusiastic member of the DNHG for seven years. A keen photographer, he often wins approval for his detailed observations of difficult subjects such as dragonflies, lizards and other "creaky newbies", and has made numerous donations to the DNHG photo reference collection. He has spoken at previous members' evenings, and his slides are legendary.

# GAZELLE

## Dubai Natural History Group Programme

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

June 4: Members' Night	Helen Emery	- Ethiopia: People, Culture and Religion
	Mick Lomign	- Kuwait Oil Fires
	Luber M'hac	- Scorpions' Tales
	Kim White	- Raising Egyptian Tortoises

Sept 17	Peter Cunningham	- Adaptations of Desert Mammals/Reptiles
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**Field Trips** (DNHG members only, please).

Oct 18/19	An Omani Experience
	From Muscat to Ras al Had Beach where Green Turtles lay their eggs

There are many exciting trips planned for the Autumn. Details will be published in the July/August newsletter so watch this space.

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**Mrs Valerie CHALMERS**  
**PO Box 12070**  
**Dubai**  
**UAE**