

# QATAR NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

2018/2019 SEASON

Newsletter



Welcome back! As we celebrate the group's 40th anniversary, we're looking forward to an exciting year ahead!

The Qatar Natural History Society, as it was initially named, was inaugurated on Wednesday, November 8, 1978. The founding president was Mr. Jassim Zaini, Director of the then Department of Tourism and Archaeology at the Ministry of Information.

Soon after, the Society started organizing the monthly meetings and field trips, as we know them now as rambles.

We're looking forward to making positive contributions to learn more about Qatar, but also to raise awareness on the environment, through a better understanding of the ecology of the peninsula, and through site cleanups during our rambles and field trips.



*QNHG visit at Khor al Adaid, on a geology and ecology field trip, November 2017*



*Let's keep in touch!*

*Make sure to update your email address during registration in order to receive our regular announcements*

*You can follow us through*

*Our website*

[www.qnhg.org](http://www.qnhg.org)

*On Facebook*

[www.facebook.com/qnhg.org/](http://www.facebook.com/qnhg.org/)

*On Instagram*

[www.instagram.com/qatarnaturalhistory/](http://www.instagram.com/qatarnaturalhistory/)

Our activities take place between October and June. We organize talks on the first Wednesday of each month. They're usually held at Doha English Speaking School (DESS), in Madinat Khalifa.

Doors open at 6:30 pm, so that we can take some time to share tea and biscuits, and borrow books from our small but rich lending library filled with books on various topics of the natural and cultural world of the Arabian Peninsula. The talks are usually followed by a field trip or ramble on the first Friday of each month.

Feel free to bring some friends as our talks are free and open to everyone, but the rambles and fieldtrips are for members only. Sometimes, the number of participants is limited, so do make sure to register ahead of time.

This season, the membership structure and fees remain the same. QR 75 per adult and QR 150 per immediate family (including any children under the age of 18).



## Season 2017/18 Overview

It's been a fantastic busy year, especially thanks to our wonderful speakers and ramble leaders. Many thanks for your contributions, for sharing your time, your knowledge, and your pictures. We really appreciate it. Please, do not hesitate to come forward with suggestions on topics, speakers, visits, activities that you'd like us to organize in the future.

### October:

UNESCO protection of natural heritage: Al Reem and beyond (Dr. Anna Paolina, the regions UNESCO Representative in the Arab States of the Gulf and Yemen and Director UNESCO Doha Office)

- Msheireb Museums Tour led by Sheri Kenly
- Birdwatching along Qatar's north coast led by Richard Angwin

### QNHG explores Qatar's amazing bird life

24 Oct 2017 - 0:54



QNHG members strive to discover Qatar's amazing natural heritage and culture. Pic: T. Lesales, QNHG

*One of our birdwatching trips as featured in the Peninsula newspaper.*

### November:

The Geology of Qatar for Non-Geologists (Dr. John M. Rivers, Geologic Researcher at ExxonMobil Research Qatar)

An Underwater Video Survey of the Sharks & Rays (Elasmobranchs) & Fish of Qatar: Can Virtual Reality Be a Useful Tool? (Dr. J. Jed Brown, Research Scientist Center for Sustainable Development, College of Arts and Sciences, Qatar University)

- Trip to Inland Sea: 125,000 years of Khor Al Adaid (Inland Sea) through the looking glass of geology and ecology led by Dr. John Rivers, Geologist, Ms. Ruqaiya Yousif, Environmental Specialist, Dr. Aspa D. Chatziefthimiou, Ecologist
- Desert driving safety and etiquette class



*QNHG members learning the necessary skills for desert driving*

### December:

Wastewater : the untapped resource (Dr. Stefan Uhlenbrook, Coordinator of the UN World Water Assessment Programme of UNESCO / Director of the UNESCO Programme Office on Global Water Assessment)

- Camping trip led by Anthony Smith

- Stargazing, the Geminid's meteor shower led by Hani Dalee and Olympiad students.
- Educational Tour to Al Reem Protected Biosphere Reserve, Environmental Awareness Pilot Programme led by Dr. Aspasia Chatziefthimiou and Mrs. Jeanne Bédard.

### **January:**

Education City Golf Club: Our sustainability Mission (Michael Braidwood, Golf course Superintendent, and Darren Smith General Manager)

- Visit to Education City Golf course
- Educational Tour to Al Reem Protected Biosphere Reserve, Environmental Awareness Pilot Programme led by Dr. Aspasia Chatziefthimiou and Mrs. Jeanne Bédard.



*A first look at the future Education City Golf course*

### **February:**

The Marvelous Journey – A road trip from Qatar to Europe and Back in 2001 (Marcello Terzano, Fellow QNHG member since 1997)

- Kayaking trip to Al Thakira Flamingo Island and beach, led by Dr. Aspa D. Chatziefthimiou, Ecologist

### **March:**

Our Warming World: What it means for Qatar and the rest of the world (Richard Angwin, Weather presenter, Al Jazeera Media Network)

Screening of the documentary : *Toxic Puzzle: the hunt for the hidden killer* followed by Q&A session with Ecologist Dr. Aspa D. Chatziefthimiou and Neurologist Dr. Basim Uthman of Weill Cornell Medicine Qatar.

- 2 bird watching trips at Arkhiya Farm led by Richard Angwin
- Visit to Al Kharamaa Awareness Park

### **April:**

Murwab, 9th century Qatari village from the early Abbasid period : *Between sea and desert* (Dr. Alexandrine Guérin, curator of Archaeological galleries of National Museum)

- Exploration of the archaeological site at Murwab led by Dr. Alexandrine Guerin
- Kayaking trip to Al Thakira Flamingo Island and beach led by Dr. Aspa D. Chatziefthimiou, Ecologist



*Kayaking trip in Al Thakira Mangrove*

**May:**

Lions: Winners who lost everything (Dr. Nobuyuki Yamaguchi, Associate Professor, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, Qatar University)

- Field trip to Inland Sea
- Dhow buffet cruise around West Bay

**June:**

Talk on Coral Reefs: Wonders at risk in the Qatar marine environment (Radhouane Ben-Hamadou, Assistant Professor and Head, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, College of Arts and Science, Qatar University)

- Visit to Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani Museum
- Ecological Tour in the Mangrove of Al Khor led by Dr. Aspasia Chatziefthimiou in support of the Animal Shelter PAWS.



**Help Needed!**

At QNHG we're all volunteers, and we now have a few open positions that we need to fill up fast in order to keep the group running.

Please contact Sheri Kenly  
[chairman@qnhg.org](mailto:chairman@qnhg.org)

Or any committee member at the table during the next meeting.

*Thank you !*

**Citizen Science**

**Q**NHG members and the general public are encouraged to report their observations while roaming around Qatar. By sharing their pictures of species, along with GPS coordinates and some information on the context, people can help improve the knowledge about plants and animals population throughout Qatar.

Check our website under *Activities* to learn more about it, and how to report your observations.



*Kingfisher, observation submitted by J. Vincy.*



*Dead turtle, observation submitted by J. Bédard*

# QATAR NATURAL HISTORY GROUP (QNHG)

## MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM 2018/ 19 SEASON

### PERSONAL INFORMATION *(PLEASE PRINT IN CAPITAL LETTERS)*

FAMILY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CHILDREN \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ MOBILE PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ COMPANY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are renewing membership; how long have you been a member? \_\_\_\_\_ Years

Subscription Fee Paid (QR 75 per adult or QR 150 per family): \_\_\_\_\_ YES / NO

### INTERESTS

I am interested in giving a talk on: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in helping with activities related to: \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick those interests that apply to you and/or your family:

Ornithology

Marine Ecology

Terrestrial Ecology

Rambles

Geology

Astronomy

Archaeology

Cultural Heritage

Other. (please state)

\_\_\_\_\_

### LEGAL WAIVER FOR ALL QNHG ACTIVITIES

**The committee members and trip leaders of the QNHG are volunteers and are not remunerated for their efforts. They are not, and do not claim to be, experts.**

I, the undersigned, on behalf of myself and my family, acknowledge the above facts and waive any and all claims against the QNHG, its committee members and field trip leaders for any incidents or accidents that may arise as a result of Group Activities.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_