

▶ Photo of the Month



The Research and Survey Team of RSCN takes special care during the animal handling process to ensure that both the team's and the animal's safety are protected throughout the procedure.

▶ Did You Know?

Did you know that Russia's government has recently decided to create nine new nature reserves totaling 3.8 million hectares – nearly half the size of Jordan!



▶ BioBit



Egyptian Fruit Bat (*Rousettus aegyptiacus*)

The only representative of its family in Jordan, the Egyptian Fruit Bat plays an ecologically important role as a pollinator and seed disperser.

Go Greener!

When wrapping gifts, get creative with environmentally friendly materials, such as old maps, cloth, or magazines, instead of buying wrapping paper.



Anniversary Issue

This issue marks the one-year anniversary for our e-newsletter, and we are proud to have journeyed through the last twelve months with you, bringing you the latest news and highlighting RSCN events and achievements.

To commemorate this issue, we have chosen to do something rare in today's world of ecological doomsday predictions: focus on the positive. Without denying the sobering reality of today's conservation challenges, we at RSCN adhere to the idea that there is hope for the future. And we embrace that hope, whether it is found in a determined group of conservationists that risk their lives for their beloved country, a musician performing to make Palestine a little greener, or a new technology that enables a plane to run exclusively off of solar rays (full stories below).

We are honored to partner with you on behalf of nature and we look forward to another year of news, facts, milestones, member profiles...and progress.

RSCN News

Jordan, RSCN Lead the Way in Middle East

A London-based reporter explains how RSCN's work in Jordan continues to challenge the western world's traditional perspectives of the Middle East while setting the standard for the region by integrating successful conservation with community support.

[Read the article](#) ▶



Green Technology

Solar Plane Makes Record-Breaking Flight

A UK-built solar-powered plane has smashed the previous record for the longest flight by an unmanned vehicle with its continuous flight of over a week. The plane, which uses advanced solar technology and aerodynamics to stay in flight, has vast potential for use in military operations and scientific programs.

[Read more](#) ▶



Regional Environmental News

Iraqi Conservationists Seek to Heal a War-Torn Land

Flanked by soldiers, Omar Fadhel and his Nature Iraq colleagues brave the dangers of Western Iraq in the name of conservation. As the only scientists still conducting active field research in Iraq, this undaunted group serves their country through environmental restoration, no matter the cost.

[Read more](#) ▶

[Visit Nature Iraq's official site](#) ▶



Take Action

Control Summer Pests the Natural Way

Along with warm days, endless sunshine, and opportunities for family nature excursions, summer also brings something less desirable: household pests. Find out how to control ants, flies, mosquitoes, cockroaches and other unwanted guests the natural way.

[Learn how](#) ▶



MEMBER PROFILE CHRIS JOHNSON

He's been portrayed as a pioneer, a visionary, a trailblazer. Whatever the descriptor, one thing is for certain: Chris Johnson sees things which are not yet, and brings them to pass. But what transformed this British ecologist, who fell in love with nature while traipsing through the UK forests as a boy, into a business-savvy conservation innovator?

Chris joined the RSCN in 1994, when an unexpected call from the World Bank interrupted his settled life in the UK and recruited him to oversee a massively funded project in Dana and to transform the RSCN from a quasi-government institution to a dynamic, target-oriented entrepreneurial entity.

"We did it together, we did it as a team," he remembers, "and that is why it worked." The end result? A completely reinvented institution and a hugely successful ecotourism hot spot run by a 100% local staff that feeds money back into conservation and the local community. The project became a model for the world and catalyzed the RSCN's transformation into a strategic, results-driven organization. In 2006, Chris was awarded an MBE by the Queen of England for his services to nature conservation in Jordan.

"It is a personal dream of mine to see conservation connected with the heart of the real world," Chris explains. In addition to flourishing eco-tourism projects at four RSCN reserves, he has realized this dream in the impressive Wild Jordan center in Jabel Amman, which, like all of Chris's projects throughout his 17 years with the RSCN, combines lofty conservation ideals with a pragmatic business appeal to create a place that is at once accessible, classy, and uniquely successful – much like the man behind the project.

