long island aquarium

Guest Lecture Series

Join us for these special guest speaker presentations…free with your admission.

January 25, 2020 – Seafloor Secrets and Muddy Mysteries.
Wehrmann Laboratory (Lisa Herbert, Darci Swenson, Ashley Braunthal), Stony Brook University. The seafloor is an extraordinary recorder of past environment and climate changes of the ocean and earth. Particles of sand, mud, volcanic ash, marine fossils, and plant matter serve as clues to understanding these changes. Let's dig into some colorful sediment and uncover mysteries of the past ocean!

February 8, 2020 - *Extreme Weather and Climate!*
Kevin Reed, Stony Brook University. The climate system consists of complex interactions between its various components, including the atmosphere and ocean, which impact our daily lives. The next century will see unprecedented changes to the climate system with direct consequences for society. We will explore how scientists study these potential changes and what it means for those living on Long Island!

March 21, 2020 – See some Seabirds!
Kim Lato, Stony Brook University. Seabirds rely on Long Island's waterways and shorelines for food and nesting habitat. However, changing landscapes and increased urbanization is currently threatening their survival. Not only does their beauty make them worth protecting, but they are also critical components of our coastal ecosystems. Come learn about the special adaptations that allow seabirds to fly, dive, and steal your french fries at the beach! Also learn about native seabirds, where you can find them, how you can identify them, and how you can help protect them.

April 18, 2020 – Discover the Living Fossils on Long Island Beaches
Matt Sclafani, Cornell Cooperative Extension/Stony Brook University. Learn all about the amazing horseshoe crabs, creatures that survived five mass extinctions, lived alongside dinosaurs, and play a crucial role in human health today. These "living fossils" travel from the oceans to our local bays every spring, and our volunteers venture out at night to monitor them under the light of the moon. Visit us to learn more about these fascinating animals and find out how you can get involved!

May 16, 2020 – Our Changing Oceans: What's Really Happening?
Theresa Schemmer, Stony Brook University. Human activities and natural processes are constantly changing the ocean conditions. But how can we figure out just what is happening to the animals living in the mysterious blue depths? Meet with scientists who are studying how the ocean is changing, and what it means for life under the sea!

June 20, 2020 – Are you happy as a clam?
Sabrina Geraci-Gee, Stony Brook University. Learn all about the hard clam and other bivalves of Long Island! Hard clams, oysters and scallops are common bivalves of Long Island. Besides being delicious to eat, bivalves provide important ecosystem services, such as water filtration, nutrient cycling, reduction of coastal erosion, and maintaining biodiversity. Come learn about bivalve anatomy through live dissections and water filtration demonstrations. You can even take a closer look under the microscope at your favorite bivalve and take home a bivalve shell as a souvenir.