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

July 21, 2018 - What's for Dinner in an Acidified Ocean?
Alison Lowell, Caroline Schwaner, and Teresa Schwemmer, Stony Brook University. Though we may not feel ocean acidification just by swimming in the ocean, it will affect many of the plants and animals living in the water full time. Find out how the shellfish and fish you like to eat may be harder to find as the ocean continues to be more acidic, and how marine plants such as seagrass could help relieve some of the stress on our marine ecosystems around Long Island.

August 11, 2018 - You Are What You Eat Pollution in the Marine Food Web
Lisa Crawford, Stony Brook University. Everyone knows pollution is bad, but what happens when pollutants enter the ocean? Find out what happens to sharks, rays, and other marine critters when they are exposed to contaminants. Meet with a local marine biologist to learn about marine predators and the risks they face in the ocean.

September 22, 2018 - WANTED! Oxygen
Luis Medina, Stony Brook University. You may have heard of "dead zones" in the ocean, but what does this mean? Meet with local scientist and find out why the ocean is running out of oxygen, what areas this is happening to and the potential impacts on your favorite marine organisms!

October 22, 2018 - Choosing fish wisely
Maureen Murphy, Stony Brook University. The story of mercury in the environment is complex. But the story is also fascinating in that mercury is a naturally occurring element. The story includes intriguing science on how mercury enters into the ecosystem and how it is transformed to more toxic forms by microorganisms, how it biomagnifies in the food chain, how that translates to levels of methylmercury in different fish species, and ultimately how it ends up inside of us. Meet with the project coordinator of The Gelfond Fund for Mercury Research & Outreach and learn about mercury cycles.

November 17, 2018 - Life is jawesome - unless you're a shark!
Oliver Shipley, Stony Brook University. In the media, sharks have long been painted as terrifying, blood-thirsty killers, but they are definitely more than that. Meet with a local shark scientist and learn about the role of sharks in governing healthy marine ecosystems, and why we should care about conserving their populations.

December 15, 2018 - How Old is My Striped Bass?
Zachary Schuller and Stephanie Rekemeyer, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Striped bass is a valuable species for New York's commercial and recreational fisheries. They spend the majority of their life in the ocean, returning to our local bays and rivers to spawn in the spring. Come learn how to age striped bass scales and learn how you can help contribute to management of this species.