



## NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Johanna Zucaro, Marketing Manager  
Phone: 631.208.9200, ext. 220; 631.926.5332 (cell)  
Email: jzucaro@amwny.com

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 6, 2006

### IT'S A NATURAL THING!

#### *Atlantis Marine World Offers Long Island Natural Environments Program*

Atlantis Marine World (AMW) offers Long Island Natural Environments, a new seasonal program for adults led by an AMW naturalist, Director of Education Eileen Gerle, beginning this winter on Saturdays.

This winter session consists of four classes that highlight specific plants, animals, and Long Island habitats, including freshwater ecology, the Pine Barrens, marine ecosystems, and hardwood forest ecology. The schedule is as follows:

On February 11, from 1:00 to 8:00pm, the class will focus on Owls. An afternoon talk will be followed by an evening owl prowl to try to call in Screech Owls. On February 18, from 1:00pm to 8:00pm, the class will focus on Tiger Salamanders. An endangered species in New York State, the tiger salamander breeds on Long Island each winter, despite being cold-blooded. A trip to their breeding ponds is included in the class. On February 25, from 9:30am to 4:30pm, the class will focus on Seals and Sea Ducks. The Riverhead Foundation Marine Mammal Hospital will be toured prior to a trip to Montauk to look for seals in the wild. On March 11, from 9:30am to 4:30pm, the class will focus on Winter Waterfowl. Each winter ducks migrate to Long Island waters. Several local lakes and bays will be visited to observe many waterfowl species.

"I'm looking forward to establishing adult environmental programs for the Aquarium," enthused Ms. Gerle.

The cost for all four sessions is \$140.00, plus tax, for Aquarium members, and \$155.00, plus tax, for non-members. Contact Eileen Gerle at 631.208.9200, ext. 114, for reservations or more information.

Atlantis Marine World, Long Island's newest Aquarium, is located in downtown Riverhead on 3.2 acres along the scenic Peconic River. By capturing our visitors' imaginations and emphasizing the importance of marine life and environmental conservation and preservation, Atlantis Marine World's mission is to provide visitors with an interactive and exciting educational experience. Atlantis Marine World is also the home of The Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation, New York's only authorized marine mammal and sea turtle rescue and rehabilitation center.

###

431 East Main Street, Riverhead, NY 11901 • p.631.208.9200 • f.631.208.0466