

Nocturnal Emissions

Bioluminescence: A Survival Tactic

Join us for cocktail hour, dinner, science quiz (with prizes!), and presentation by scientist Mark Siddall at the

11th Annual Darwin Day Dinner

Saturday, February 16, 2019



Marine bioluminescence has fascinated researchers since Pliny the Elder used jellyfish slime on his walking stick as a make-shift torch two-thousand years ago. You may wonder about minute sparks and brief glints of light which are seen seasonally in Long Island Sound. Missionaries proclaimed the sun "impregnated and filled the sea during the day with an infinity of fiery and luminous spirits."

What causes this? What species use it? How do they do it? What purpose does it serve? Find out what caused the ocean to glow, as Christopher Columbus documented in 1492, just before his historic landfall in the Americas. How are bioluminescent displays timed so precisely? Dr. Siddall answers these questions and examines the genes that are behind this incredible marine bioluminescent display.

Mark Siddall is Curator, Division of Invertebrate Zoology, American Museum of Natural History. Self-styled "Curator of Wormy-slimy Stuff", his research focusses on evolutionary biology of charismatic microfauna from microbes to leeches. Mark recently led expeditions to South Sudan, Cambodia and the Lower Amazon. His

work varies from sequencing the first whole genome of bed bugs to leveraging iDNA as a measure of endangered animal diversity.

DARWIN DAY is an international celebration of science and humanity held around Charles Darwin's February 12th birthday. It celebrates the discoveries and life of the man, and expresses gratitude for the enormous benefits that scientific knowledge, acquired through human curiosity and ingenuity, has contributed to the advancement of humanity.

Date: Saturday, Feb 16, 2019

Time: 6 pm Cocktail Hour, 7 pm Full Course Dinner

At: The Italian Center; 1620 Newfield Ave; Stamford, CT

Price: By check \$69 per person, discounted to \$64 if received by Feb 6. Or online \$71.42, discounted \$66.24.

darwindayct.org

contact: John at (646)221-9134 jlevin6@zoho.com

Sponsored by Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk, Bartlett Arboretum, Earthplace, Congregation for Humanistic Judaism, Wilton Quaker Meeting, Unitarian Church in Westport, Humanists and Freethinkers of Fairfield County (HFFC), and Norwalk Public Schools Science Department.

For reservations mail the following information with check. Or reserve online at darwindayCT.org

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ E-mail address _____

City, State, ZipCode _____ Number of people you are paying for _____

Names of your guests & menu selections: _____

Chicken Francese (C) _____ Oven Roasted Salmon (S) _____ Boneless Short Ribs (R) _____ Vegetable/Glutenfree option (V) _____

Amount: _____ Additional contribution to sponsor a high school student: _____ Total: _____ Thank you !

See box above for price.

Checks payable to CT Darwin Day Committee. **Mail to** 249 Chestnut Hill Road, Norwalk CT 06851-1412