



Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Presents



THE GREAT SPERM WHALE

THE MOST MYSTERIOUS AND MAGNIFICENT
CREATURE ON EARTH

With Richard Ellis

December 12, 2012 at 7pm

The sperm whale. Although it is probably the most familiar of all the great whales (Moby Dick was a sperm whale), it is still one of the least-known of all large animals. We do know that this animal has a 20-pound brain, the largest brain of any animal that ever lived. We also know that the squid-immobilizing sonic blast of a sperm whale is the loudest sound ever made in nature and that they are among the deep-diving champions of the mammalian world. Their history is deeply entwined with humans: the sperm whale was the primary target of the Yankee whale fishery, providing oil to light the lamps of 19th-century America. Although they were heavily hunted during the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries, sperm whales are now protected throughout the world, and the population is believed to number around 300,000 down from 2 million before whaling began. Join us tonight as we delve into the mysterious world of the magnificent sperm whale with acclaimed author Richard Ellis!!

Richard Ellis is one of America's leading marine conservationists and is the author of 18 critically acclaimed books and more than eighty magazine articles, which have appeared in such journals as *Geo*, *Audubon*, *Natural History*, *Animal Kingdom*, *Curator*, *Smithsonian*, *Science Digest*, and *National Geographic*. He has been the subject of cover stories in *American Artist*, *Ocean Realm*, *Wildlife Conservation*, Yale's *Discovery* magazine, and his alumni magazine, the *Pennsylvania Ga-zette*. He has appeared in numerous television specials, and has written screenplays on whales for PBS. His research has taken him to Quebec, Baja California, Newfoundland, Hawaii, Bermuda, Nantucket, South Georgia, the Azores, Alaska, Patagonia, Japan, South Africa, Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, Australia, New Zealand, England, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Russia, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, the Faroes, the Galápagos, the Falklands, the Aleutians, the Commander Islands, the Kuriles, the Antarctic, Kamchatka, Spitsbergen and the North Pole.



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