



The City College
of New York



You are invited to

A Science of the Living City Seminar:
Our Animal Nature: Living with Wildlife in New York City

Wednesday January 15th, 2014, 4:00-5:30pm

An evening exploring relationships between animals and humans in the urban realm

Hosted and moderated by

Denise Hoffman Brandt and Catherine Seavitt

Featuring presentations from **Sarah Grimké Aucoin** and **Mark Weckel**

Sponsored by the New York City Urban Field Station

A partnership between the USDA Forest Service and NYC Department of Parks & Recreation
and the City College of New York

Sarah Grimké Aucoin, Director, Urban Park Rangers, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation

Sarah Aucoin holds an MS in Evolutionary Ecology and has worked at the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation for fourteen years. As Director of the Urban Park Rangers, she has worked to develop endangered piping plover preservation efforts in Rockaway Park, the Bald Eagle reintroduction initiative in Inwood Hill Park, and the Alley Pond Adventure Challenge Course. Additionally, she has expanded outdoor adventure and education opportunities through a variety of programs citywide. Previously, Ms. Aucoin worked in environmental ecology and education at institutions including the American Museum of Natural History and the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies. She has conducted ecological research at biological stations nationwide, presented her work at national events, and published her results in peer reviewed scientific journals. She is also an instructor at Columbia University's Center for Environmental Research and Conservation and sits on the advisory boards of the New York City Audubon and Columbia University's PoLAR Partnership.

Mark Weckel, Postdoctoral Conservation Research and Teaching Fellow, American Museum of Natural History

Mark Weckel is a conservation biologist whose research is focused on urban and suburban ecology. Mark received his master's degree from Fordham University studying jaguar feeding ecology in Belize with the Wildlife Conservation Society. His doctoral research was on the management and population biology of overabundant suburban white-tailed deer populations. He is a Postdoctoral Conservation Research and Teaching Fellow at the American Museum of Natural History and a Co-Principal Investigator on the Gotham Coyote Project. Together with his collaborators, Mark started the Gotham Coyote Project in 2010 to explore the ecology of coyotes colonizing the NYC metropolitan area (<http://www.gothamcoyote.com/>).

Denise Hoffman Brandt is the director of Landscape Architecture and an Associate Professor at the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture at the City College of New York and a Principal at Hoffman Brandt Projects, LLC. **Catherine Seavitt** is an Associate Professor at the City College of New York and a Principal at Catherine Seavitt Studio. Together, with support from the Van Alen Institute and the New York State Council on the Arts, they have pioneered *We Live With Animals*, a series of exhibitions, installations, performances, public walking tours, and discussions devoted to exploring themes of human-animal encounters in the urban realm.

RSVP encouraged but not required: gillianbaine.ufs@gmail.com

Location: Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture, The City College of New York
141 Convent Ave, Room 107, New York, NY 10031

Directions via MTA: B/C to 135th street or 1 to 137th street - City College