Living World Lecture  
February 15, Living World Lecture  
Room 001 Earth and Space Sciences, 7:30 P.M.  
Jeffrey Levinton, Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolution, Stony Brook University  
Title: **Pollution and Rapid Evolution: Answers Not in Genesis**

Summary

Pollution is a major ecological challenge to natural populations and many have rapidly evolved resistance to pollutants and insecticides. We will explore a case in the Hudson River, where a species evolved resistance in only a few generations and lost resistance when the source of pollution was removed. The nature of variation is an important subject in evolution and we will discuss how biblical literalists have misinterpreted the meaning of this pollution-caused evolutionary event and how they have even misunderstood the application of logic itself.

Brief Biography

Jeffrey Levinton is a Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolution at Stony Brook University. He has worked for many years on both ecological and evolutionary problems in marine and freshwater environments. He is the author of two texts on marine biology and ecology, a monograph on Macroevolution, and he has recently edited a comprehensive volume on the Hudson River Estuary (2006, Cambridge University Press). He has been a Fulbright Senior Scholar, a Guggenheim Fellow, and is a Fellow of the A.A.A.S. He also is the Founding Academic Director of the Stony Brook University Freshman College of Science and Society and was awarded the President’s and Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence in Teaching at S.U.N.Y. He is author of over 125 scientific publications.