



Humanities Institute at Stony Brook  
p r e s e n t s

Friday, March 7th, 2014

1:00 p.m.

Humanities 1006

Reception to follow

# Eric Sanderson

## The Welikia Project: Mapping Frontiers in New York City Ecology

Ever wondered what New York looked like before it was a city? After a decade of research, the Mannahatta Project at the Wildlife Conservation Society un-covered the original ecology of Manhattan in an innovative virtual map. Building on that initiative, the Welikia Project goes beyond Mannahatta to encompass the entire city, discover its original ecology, and compare it to what we have today. Welikia (pronounced “WAY-lee-ki-a”) means “my good home” in Lenape, the Native American language of the New York City region at the time of first contact with Europeans. Welikia provides the basis for all the people of New York to appreciate, conserve and re-invigorate the natural heritage of their surroundings.

**Eric W. Sanderson** is a Senior Conservation Ecologist at the Wildlife Conservation Society in New York. He is the author of *Mannahatta: A Natural History of New York City* and *Terra Nova: The New World After Oil, Cars, and Suburbs*. Starting at WCS in 1998, he established the “Landscape Ecology and Geographic Analysis,” and in 2002 Dr. Sanderson and colleagues created the Human Footprint map, the first look at human influence globally at less than 1 square mile resolution. He is also an expert on conservation planning and has contributed to efforts to save many endangered species worldwide.

