

Councilwoman Bonner Thanks North Country Road Middle School Students for their Efforts to Improve the Miller Place Duck Pond

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Pictured left to right are Miller Place School District Superintendent Marianne Higuera, North Country Road Middle School Principal, Matthew Clark, students Brianne Ledda, Kristin Nappi, and Patricia Stade, Councilwoman Jane Bonner, Science Teacher Mrs. Laura Opitz and Town Assistant Waterways Management Supervisor Tom Carrano.

Farmingville, NY - On May 12, Councilwoman Jane Bonner presented certificates of appreciation to North Country Road Middle School students and Science Teacher Mrs. Laura Opitz for their advocacy to have the Miller Place Duck Pond dredged and for addressing other environmental issues that exist there.

The Miller Place Duck Pond is located along North Country Road in Miller Place, and like many lakes and ponds, it has environmental issues including invasive plants that have taken a foothold, primarily the common coontail. This plant thrives in loose sediments and water that is nutrient rich, both conditions that are found in the pond. The Town plans to undertake a complete study later this year and expects that actions to remediate the state of the pond could begin in 2014.

Councilwoman Bonner said, "Community involvement and education is an important aspect of this project and I thank the students and Mrs. Opitz for their efforts to improve the Miller Place Duck Pond. Invasive species have such a detrimental affect on the ecology of our waterways, so we must make every effort to discourage people from dumping them from their home aquariums into the local waterways."

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