

Councilwoman Bonner Joins BOCES Students for Aquaculture Program

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Shellfish provided by the Town of Brookhaven planted at Cedar Beach



Councilwoman Jane Bonner (second from lower right) is pictured with BOCES students from Bayport-Blue Point High School and Brookhaven Assistant Waterways Management Supervisor Tom Carrano (lower right) at Cedar Beach in Mount Sinai. The shellfish seedlings are pictured on the right.

Farmingville, NY - On May 31st, Councilwoman Jane Bonner joined Western Suffolk BOCES students from Bayport-Blue Point High School, Assistant Waterways Management Supervisor and Project Manager Tom Carrano, BOCES Coordinator Dan Stenzler and Bayport-Blue Point High School Marine Biology teacher Donna Edgar to take part in the BOCES Aquaculture Program at Cedar Beach in Mount Sinai as students placed their clam-rafts into the water. The goal of the program, which is sponsored by the Town of Brookhaven, is to educate students about aquaculture techniques and how to raise seed clams for planting at public restoration sites.

As part of the new Shellfish Aquaculture Program, the Town provides materials to Western Suffolk BOCES to construct new shellfish rafts, mooring supplies to anchor the rafts and shellfish to stock the rafts. Students do the work required while being supervised by their teachers and Town of Brookhaven personnel. The Town also provides personnel and machinery to assist in the installation and removal of the rafts and periodic maintenance.

"I am proud to see these students out here lending a helping hand to preserve our region's environment," Councilwoman Bonner said, "It is a very worthy investment that the Town of Brookhaven has made to help promote the survival of Long Island's shellfish population, which helps maintain the area's ecological system and stimulate the North Shore economy since many of these clams may one day be harvested and brought to market by our local bay men."

This year, in addition to supplying schools and community groups with shellfish to grow out, the Town of Brookhaven's Division of Environmental Protection will grow out one million hard clam seed, one million juvenile oysters and one million soft shell clams at its Mariculture Facility at Cedar Beach in Mt. Sinai. These animals are grown on land in upweller tanks and transferred to protective cages that are placed within the intertidal zone. The juvenile shellfish will be released into Brookhaven waters in the fall to repopulate the species and aid in the improvement of water quality.

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

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