Supervisor Romaine and Councilwoman Bonner Join Shellfish Mariculture Program Students at Cedar Beach

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Farmingville, NY - On May 28, Supervisor Ed Romaine and Councilwoman Jane Bonner joined students from Western Suffolk BOCES who participated in the 2015 Shellfish Mariculture Program at Cedar Beach. The program, which is sponsored by the Town of Brookhaven, is aimed at educating students about aquaculture techniques and how to raise seed clams for planting at public restoration sites. Pictured left to right are North Babylon High School Biology Teacher John Jaeger, Councilwoman Bonner and Supervisor Romaine preparing seed clams for planting in Mount Sinai Harbor.

As part of the Shellfish Mariculture Program, the Town provides shellfish rafts, mooring supplies to anchor the rafts in Mount Sinai Harbor 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.

"Shell fishing has such a rich history in Brookhaven Town and has always been vital to our economy and our ecology," said Supervisor Romaine. "This program goes a long way in educating students that we must do whatever it takes to preserve and protect marine life in all our Town waterways."

Councilwoman Bonner said, "The Town's Shellfish Mariculture Program is a great way for students to do their part and help preserve our marine life and protect the environment. The key to this program is educating our young people so they will continue to make progress in maintaining and growing the shellfish population."

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor
One Independence Hill • Farmingville • NY 11738 • Phone 631-451-6595