

## **GCEH Hosts Annual Drug Disposal Days**

Promoting clean water continues to be a priority for the Garden Club of America and the Conservation Committee of The Garden Club of East Hampton. In fact, the GCA's Position Paper "recognizes that all life is dependent upon clean, uncontaminated water." Unfortunately, approximately one third of the waters in the United States are contaminated and Long Island is not immune to the problem. With this in mind, members of the GCEH Conservation Committee ask you to join them in taking steps to protect the Long Island aquifer system, which is our principle source of drinking water.

Currently, this Sole Source Aquifer which receives special Environmental Protection Agency protection is ecologically fragile and at serious risk due to contaminants such as agricultural and landscape run-off, leaking septic tanks, overdevelopment and improper use and disposal of chemicals and medications. In an effort to improve water quality, GCEH hosts annual Drug Disposal Days at White's Apothecary in East Hampton.

These Drug Drop-off Days are terrific opportunities for our committee to educate the community about the harmful impact of flushing medications down the toilet and drain. Other opportunities to drop-off unwanted medicines exist anytime at White's pharmacy counter or at their medication drop box for anonymous return. There are also medication drop boxes at local police departments. In order to protect Long Island's aquifer system and surface waters, please participate in our Drug Disposal Days. According to Group for the East End President Bob DeLuca, responsible disposal "assures that unwanted medications don't find their way into our bays, harbors, and drinking water." Pollutants contaminate waterways, fish, shellfish, and as a result, impact human health.

Commercial and recreational fishing, boating, swimming, on the East End make this an issue of great concern. GCEH efforts aim to educate our members and the community while having a positive impact on the ecosystem.

### Sources:

The Garden Club of America, New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, Drug Enforcement Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, Group for The East End, The Long Island Clean Water Partnership, The Ocean Conservancy