

# THE GREAT SOUTH BAY OYSTER GARDENING PROGRAM



# 2020

TOWN OF ISLIP SHELLFISH CULTURE FACILITY

333 BAYVIEW AVE.,

EAST ISLIP, NY 11730

The Great South Bay Oyster Gardening Program is designed to provide local residents with the opportunity to learn and participate in Oyster Aquaculture.

Oyster Gardening is the non-commercial production of cultured oysters for **resource enhancement, improvement of water quality, and/or consumption**. Participants will learn in a classroom setting, and then put that knowledge to work by being able to garden the world famous *Blue Point Oyster*.

Located on the shoreline of Great South Bay in East Islip, NY; our private yet accessible intertidal oyster garden is the perfect place to start culturing your own oysters.

### Why should YOU get involved in oyster gardening?

- ❖ Oysters are a **keystone species** within the marine environment, which means they play a vital role in the formation of a stable ecosystem
  - Great South Bay has seen a decline of wild oyster populations from historic levels due to Destruction from Natural Events
  - Anthropogenic sources, such as overharvesting and inadequate resource management, have impeded recovery
  - Gardening oysters in Great South Bay is beneficial for the ecosystem as well as the local community
- ❖ Oysters filter water as they feed which aids in improving water quality
  - Individual adult oysters can filter up to 50 gallons of water a day. Picture 20 program participants keeping personal oyster gardens of 1,000 oysters each. Their oysters, once adults, could filter up to 1,000,000 gallons of water a day!
- ❖ Oyster gardening programs are a great way to make new friends and enjoy the outdoors all while broadening your knowledge
- ❖ Getting involved in this program can be your way of giving back to Great South Bay

### The Program

- ❖ Attend 2 seminars at:

**ISLIP TOWN HALL WEST  
401 Main Street Rm. 302  
Islip, NY 11751**

**Seminar 1:** The History of Oyster Aquaculture

- **Wednesday May 20, 2020 at 7-9pm**

**Seminar 2:** The Science of Oyster Aquaculture

- **Wednesday May 27, 2020 at 7-9pm**

**Seminar 3:** Shellfish Hatchery ‘hands-on’ tour

- **Date to be determined**

- ❖ Field Experience
  - Field work will begin after the completion of **Classroom Seminars**
    - **Dates To Be Determined**
  - Each gardener will be given 500 juvenile oysters to raise

- ❖ Field Experience (continued)
  - Grow-out gear will be provided to each gardener, and returned to the Shellfish Culture Facility when the field experience has ended
  - Each gardener will collect data on their oysters
    - Water Temperature and Mortality will be recorded at each visit
    - Growth will be recorded twice a month and at least one week apart
  - Experience in the field will vary depending on how often participants can voluntarily take care of their oyster garden
  - The field work will stretch from May - October 2020
  - Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:30 -8:30am
  - Saturdays 9:00 -10:00am
  - **To participate on a Saturday, gardeners MUST email/call the Wednesday before**
- ❖ The oysters will be moved to deeper water for winter (October 2020 – April 2021)
- ❖ Each gardener will take home up to 200 Blue Point Oysters
- ❖ Each gardener will receive a Certificate of Completion

### **Become an oyster gardener!**

- ❖ Adults - *18yrs and older* (\$450.00)
- ❖ Students - *college included* (\$350.00)
- ❖ Teachers - (\$350.00)

### **Be a sponsor!**

- ❖ Sponsor a local high school student who is interested in Marine or Environmental Sciences!
- ❖ Student Class Price (\$350.00)
- ❖ Sponsor a student you know or we will contact a local school!
- ❖ To be a sponsor fill out **Part 1** of the Student Sponsor Form on page 4

### **Payment**

- ❖ Please mail registration form and check payable to:

**Sixto Portilla**  
**1781 Cornelius Avenue**  
**Wantagh, NY 11793**

**Contact:** Sixto E. Portilla, Ph.D.  
(516) 939-5545  
[GSBOysterGardening@gmail.com](mailto:GSBOysterGardening@gmail.com)

## Oyster Gardening Registration Form

### Name

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

### Address

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### Emergency Contact Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about this program?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Become an oyster gardener!

❖ Adult (\$450.00)

❖ Student (\$350.00)

○ School: \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Teacher (\$350.00)

○ At what school do you teach? \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Student Sponsor Form

### Part 1 - Sponsor's Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Address

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### Part 2 - Student Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Address

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### Emergency Contact

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_