

# **East Hampton's 2009 Rain Garden / Rain Barrel Contest** **"Gardening to Absorb the Storm and Protect our Town's Lake and Streams"**

*Sponsored by the Lake Pocotopaug Commission, the Belltown Garden Club and the East Hampton Village Lions.*

**ENTER NOW – Deadline is July 15, 2009**

**REGISTRATION Fee is a \$10 Donation – Check made out to the East Hampton Fuel Bank (with note for contest)  
Gardens will be judged in early September**

**Register early – Receive gardening advice from our town's own Gardening Club and articles published all summer long.**

**You may enter your 'homeowner-designed/built' Rain Garden or Decorative Rain Barrel arrangement.**

**To enter, your rain garden (or decorative rain barrel) at your home may be located anywhere in Town. Based on your specific home site...you'll be using storm runoff from your roof, in a creative way, to irrigate your garden. Winners will be chosen on predetermined categories (originality, use of native plants, stormwater reduction, best presentation) for the 2 categories: Rain Garden or Rain Barrel arrangement.**

### What is a Rain Garden?

**A bowl-shaped, slightly sloped garden designed to capture and absorb Stormwater runoff (rain fall from a roof) into the ground after a storm. Directs water at least 10 feet from a foundation, absorbs into ground in 4-6 hours, does not leave standing water, and uses appropriate native (non-invasive) plants. (It's not a water garden).**

### Benefits to a Homeowner?

**Creates a visually pleasing landscape – Attracts birds & butterflies to your yard – Cultivates diverse plant life –  
Reduces Stormwater runoff from your home – provides an alternate source of water for irrigation**

### Benefits to the Environment?

**Keeps Stormwater out of streams & Lakes – Reduces water pollution – Reduces harmful nutrients phosphorous from entering the Lake – Improves water quality – Reduces the problem impact of so much impervious surface around our Lake/Streams by reducing runoff to storm drains.**

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## **REGISTRATION FORM**

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

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

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Family members who worked on the garden: \_\_\_\_\_

**Specific location of rain garden on the site / Please send BEFORE photos with this form:**

**Brief description of garden:**

**Did you plant all native species in your rain garden, If yes, which species?**

**Please mail this registration form -and- BEFORE photos... by July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009 to:**

**Irene Curtis 13 Wangonk Trail East Hampton, CT 06424 (current Lake Pocotopaug Commission member)  
or contact her at 860-416-1934(mobile) -or- John Ciriello (Lake Commission chairman) at 267-6601  
(use back of form for any additional information)**

**Watch for more Rain Garden advice in upcoming published news articles.**

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