



Water...the Planet's Most Precious Resource

By Joanne McEvoy-Samborn

We know this, but somehow we also think the supply is endless and eternal. It's not. Here are a few facts about how much water use we take for granted.

- * The average American uses about 50 gallons (190 liters) of water daily
- * Flushing a toilet uses 2-7 gallons (7.5-26.5 liters) of water
- * A five-minute shower uses 25-50 gallons (95-190 liters) of water
- * Leaving the water on while brushing your teeth wastes two gallons (7.5 liters) of water each time
- * At least 400 million people live in regions with severe water shortages
- * Water is the original health drink. It contains no fat, no calories and no cholesterol

Source of material, with kind permission from HM Digital.com

INTERESTING WATER FACTS

- * In just 16 hours, the US Water Utilities produce as much potable water as the oil industry produces in a year
- * When we use water, we generally add contaminants such as soap, food products and chemicals, which must be removed before the water is used again
- * Close to three-quarters of the earth's surface is covered by water. But less than one percent is suitable and available for drinking using conventional water treatments

* Ice cubes float because ice is less dense than water. Water freezes in a lattice like formation, which creates buoyancy and allows ice to float

* Hardness in drinking water is caused by calcium and magnesium -- two naturally occurring, non-toxic, minerals. Excessive hardness makes it difficult for soap to lather, leaves spots on dishware and reduces water flow

* Because 60 percent of an adult's body is water, it is essential to replenish the water lost through breathing, perspiration and excretion. For most people that equates to approximately 8 cups (2 liters) a day. We can consume water not only by drinking water, but also through food and other beverages.

* Through the process of evaporation, condensation, precipitation and infiltration (the hydrological cycle) the total amount of water on the earth remains constant. The availability of fresh drinking water, however, continues to diminish, as demand continues to increase.

Source: American Water Work Association (AWWA) 2010

<p>The Rogers Memorial Library & League of Women Voters present</p>
<p>BEYOND EARTH DAY: WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW RMP844 with</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="text-align: left;"> <p>Brian Halweil, editor, Edible East End Barbara Shinn, Shinn Vineyards Kim Tetrault, Cornell Cooperative Extension Scott Chaskey, Peconic Land Trust and Quail Hill Farm</p> </div> </div>
<p>Monday, April 8, 2013 5:30 p.m., Morris Meeting Room</p>
<p>East End environmental innovators will discuss their plans for 2013 and talk about what you can do throughout the year to implement the ideals of Earth Day.</p>
<p>Reservations are appreciated. Register at www.myrml.org or call 283-0774 x 523.</p>