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Re: Nomination of **Anthony Sblendorio** for Person of the Year.

Gentlemen:

It is my honor to nominate **Anthony Sblendorio**, the founder of Back to Nature Home and Garden, as your Person of the Year.

I have known Anthony both professionally and personally for the past ten years. We first met as part of the development team for The Willow School, a LEED-certified project in Bedminster Township, New Jersey. Anthony was initially brought onto the team to prepare the landscaping plan for the school, but through the exercise of his powerful leadership capabilities, his knowledge of his field, and his contagious enthusiasm and confidence in the outcome, he ended up refocusing the development team and working closely with the owners of the school to make the entire project not only "green" but also **restorative** of the land it occupies.

I had the pleasure of being the professional planner on that team, and Anthony's ideas not only helped to sell the project to the environmentally-conscious Township of Bedminster, enabling the owners to secure the variance approvals they needed to build the school, but also have turned out to be instrumental in making the Willow School a model for environmentally restorative development, an expression of the owners' own personal values, and a living example of responsible environmental management for the students of the Willow School.

I personally hired Back to Nature to landscape my own property, an historic home in Flemington, New Jersey, about five years ago, and have been completely happy with both the design and execution of the work, but my on-going relationship with Anthony has really been

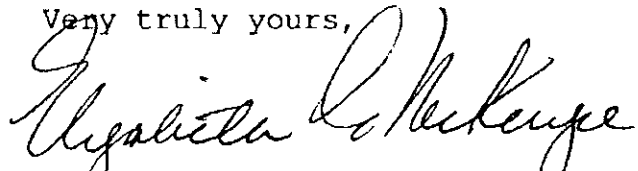
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in the field of land use and development, where his role as an advisor to landowners has been consistently one of evaluating the land and its condition and developing a plan to restore its original ecological functions. What is exceptional about Anthony, and what inspires me to nominate him as Person of the Year is the strength of his leadership and enthusiasm, qualities that convert skeptics into believers and that make things happen. He has undertaken projects in Tewksbury Township, Delaware Township and Bernards Township, all in New Jersey, that are living, breathing examples of his vision and his expertise in bringing his vision to the ground.

I have nothing but good things to say about Anthony Sblendorio. I highly recommend him for the honor of being named Gardener News' Person of the Year!

Very truly yours,



Elizabeth C. McKenzie, AICP, PP