



Owner of Back to Nature in Basking Ridge named Small Business Person of the Year

By [The Messenger-Gazette](#)

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Local business owner and landscape architect, Anthony Sblendorio, has been named the 2013 Small Business Person of the Year by the Small Business Council of America.

Sblendorio launched Back to Nature in 1994 as one of the first landscape architecture firms in the area to primarily focus on regenerative design. As the firm grew and expanded the roots remain focused on eco-friendly practices and the practices have expanded from design to construction/build and now retail at their in Basking Ridge.

Sblendorio is in good company. Former award winners include Vita-Mix executive chairman, John K. Barnard; Mark Levine, CEO & founder of UnitedCompanies; and founder of Jabara Venture Group and VentureKids, Fran D. Jabara.

The award ceremony will take place at the Thirtieth Annual Congressional Awards Reception on May 8, in Washington, D.C., where awards will also be presented to Senators and Representatives who have been particularly helpful to small business development. In 2012 SBCA recognized the efforts of former Senators Olympia Snowe and Rob Portman, Senator Kay Hagan, and Congressmen Steny Hoyer and Tom Price).

Back to Nature Home & Garden is at 3055 Valley Road, Basking Ridge, Tel. 908-350-7506 - backtonature.net.

Back to Nature has 17 years of experience within sustainable and regenerative landscape design-build. Recently, Back to Nature expanded their offerings with the opening of Back to Nature Home & Garden, the company's first retail location. The store offers a new take on the traditional garden center with a wholly organic approach, focus on native plants and an interior space with artisan crafted house wares and gifts. Realizing that education is key to ensuring change, Back to Nature also included an event center at the store.

Educational classes on eco-friendly topics ranging from organic gardening to honey bees and rain garden design are held regularly. As a committed member of the local community, Back to Nature has also extended invitations to area organizations to use the space for their meetings or events, thereby helping to increase their success and visibility.

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