



1551 Highway 88 West \* Brick, New Jersey 08724-2399  
(732) 458-7000 \* FAX (732) 836-9170  
www.brickmua.com

CHRIS A. THEODOS, PE, PP, CME, CPWM, CFM  
*Executive Director*


### Letter of Recommendation for Pamela Almeida

To Whom It May Concern,

Pamela Almeida gave a Pollinator Garden presentation for the Brick Township Municipal Utilities Authority's Weekend at the Reservoir Program on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Weekend at the Reservoir provides a series of programs throughout the summer informing people how they impact the Metedeconk River and Barnegat Bay watersheds and actions they can take in water conservation and improving water quality within them. Ms. Almeida's presentation not only explained how creating a pollinator garden in one's backyard helps in preserving and providing habitat for pollinators and threatened species, but also in protecting our vital water resources in using native plants. She explained how native plants help to improve water quality by using nutrients from stormwater runoff and how their roots create deep channels in the soil helping to recharge groundwater supplies. She discussed why non-natives (invasive species) are destroying our ecosystems by only supporting habitat for very few species, causing water quality issues in our waterways by needing fertilizers, and use vast amounts of water with their excessive thirst. She concentrated on one species, the Monarch butterfly, on how these gardens help restore threatened creatures with native plants that can only support their life cycle.

I highly recommend Pamela Almeida for presentations on native landscapes. Ms. Almeida has vast knowledge on native gardens, which she has gained through personal experience as well as being affiliated with the Native Plant Society of New Jersey. She explains how these habitats are beneficial to our environment in water conservation, water quality improvement and wildlife restoration. She is able to enthusiastically describe how small changes each of us make can have major impacts in restoring our natural world. She engages the audience and motivates them to explore these topics and incorporate native gardens in their yards.

Sincerely,

  
Shari Kondrup  
Watershed Education and Outreach  
Brick Township Municipal Utilities Authority  
1551 Highway 88 West  
Brick, NJ 08724  
732-701-4282  
[skondrup@brickmua.com](mailto:skondrup@brickmua.com)

#### COMMISSIONERS

GREGORY M. FLYNN  
*Chairman*

THOMAS C. CURTIS  
*Vice Chairman*

WILLIAM NEAFSEY  
*Secretary*

SUSAN LYDECKER  
*Treasurer*

MARIA E. FOSTER  
*Asst. Secretary/Treasurer*

#### ALTERNATES

SANDRA P. HAWTHORNE-TORMEY  
JASON M. KIERNAN

