



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:
REGINALD DURANT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
BACK TO NATIVES RESTORATION
(949) 509-4787

BACK TO NATIVES DROUGHT TOLERANT LANDSCAPE FEATURED ON CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY GARDEN TOUR

Garden proves that native plants can be used to create a beautiful yet water wise landscape.

SANTA ANA, Calif., April 5, 2016 – Back to Natives Restoration, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public charity will be showcasing a drought tolerant native plant landscape on the 2016 California Native Plant Society Garden Tour on April 23 from 10AM to 4PM. The garden is located in Santa Ana's celebrated Floral Park neighborhood. According to CNPS it is "one of 15 outstanding, successful, beautiful Orange County gardens on the tour."

"This garden design proves that natives can fit in anywhere – even blanketing the yard of a historic colonial home," said Back to Natives Executive Director Reginald Durant. "Our goal with this design was to prove that native plants are appropriate for any location. A native garden does not mean a desert-like landscape with just cactus, succulents and rocks."

50% or more of the water used daily goes on lawns and outdoor landscaping. Planting natives is one of the best ways for homeowners and businesses to help solve the crisis brought on by one of California's worst droughts.

The garden was installed by Back to Natives Executive Director Reginald Durant, along with interns and volunteers, as part of the BTN Workforce Development Program. Participants learned how to install water wise irrigation, fencing, a landscape drain, a brick path, native plants, and mulch. The BTN Workforce Development Program prepares volunteers and interns for a green career in an "up and coming" industry that also happens to benefit the community, the environment, and local wildlife.

The landscape was designed by BTN Director of Education Lori Whalen. It features water wise irrigation, a brick path lined with native carex and sages, a white, gothic style picket fence interwoven with native buckwheat and fuchsia, a seating area surrounded by native strawberries, and two young sycamore trees.

"Our garden is unique because it features plants locally native to Orange County – no hybrids or cultivars," said BTN Director of Education Lori Whalen. "The plants in this yard are what you'd see growing in our local wildlands in their original, habitat providing form. It's fun to imagine what this young garden will look like in the years to come!"

Visit occnps.org to purchase tickets (\$10), which include a guidebook with information and directions to all of the gardens. Members of the media are invited for a preview of the garden beginning April 16. Contact lori@backtonatives.org to schedule an appointment and receive directions.

About Back to Natives

Back to Natives Restoration, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is dedicated to the restoration and conservation of Orange County and California wild lands, through education and restoration programs featuring native plants as a centralizing theme. For more information, please visit www.backtonatives.org or call 949-509-4787.

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