



**\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\***

## **BACK TO NATIVES ANNOUNCES VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR AUGUST 20<sup>TH</sup>**

**Who:** Back to Natives Restoration (BTN), a Santa Ana based 501 (c)(3) non- profit public charity, connects the community to habitat restoration through service learning and native plant education. Over 250 BTN volunteers gave over 4000 hours of their time to restore habitat in Orange County over the last year.

BTN's 2015-16 volunteers of the year are Peter Conlon (557 hours) and John Kaiser (307 hours). Four students graduated from the 2015 BTN USFS Restoration Training Class ("Green Shirts"): Hilary Mills, Erin Hammes, Nadiya Balukh and Trina Ming. Three students graduated from the 2015 BTN Volunteer Leader Training Class ("Dirt Shirts"): Julie Garner, Sharon Estrada, and Ram Chary.

**What:** Back to Natives' "Volunteer of the Year" award presentation, along with the presentation of "Dirt Shirts" and "Green Shirts" to this year's graduates of the United States Forest Service & Back to Natives Restoration and Volunteer Leader Training programs.

**When:** Saturday, August 20, 12:30 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.

**Where:** Downtown Anaheim Community Center  
250 E. Center Street  
Anaheim, CA 92805

**Why:** Part of Back to Natives Restoration's ongoing effort to assist in the recovery of Orange County's biodiversity through restoring open spaces, promoting native plant landscaping, and providing environmental education programs to educate the community about the importance of native plants and biodiversity.

**Quote:** "Our volunteers of the year and graduates of our joint training programs with the USFS, have selflessly dedicated their time to restoring habitat in Orange County," said **Back to Natives Executive Director Reginald Durant**. "Their passion for the environment has fueled their passion for service. They play an integral role in our efforts to restore native habitat. Back to Natives could not exist without volunteers like these!"



**Website:** <https://backtonatives.org>

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