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BACK TO NATIVES RESTORATION PARTNERS WITH MONARCH JOINT VENTURE

OC Non-Profit joins US Forest Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, USGS, BLM, National Park Service, and more in protecting Monarch Butterflies and their Migration.

SANTA ANA, Calif., September 29, 2015 – **Back to Natives Restoration**, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit public charity, has joined the Monarch Joint Venture, a partnership of federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations, and academic programs that are working together to support and coordinate efforts to protect the monarch migration across the lower 48 United States.

“California is home for much of the western population of monarchs; conservation and restoration in this state is essential to the survival of western monarchs,” said Monarch Joint Venture Program Coordinator Wendy Caldwell. “The Monarch Joint Venture is excited to partner with Back to Natives, a nonprofit working to promote monarch conservation in California.”

Back to Natives connects the community to habitat restoration through service learning and native plant education. Currently, Back to Natives assists in the recovery of Orange County’s biodiversity through the restoration of open spaces, and the development of habitat gardens. The volunteer run Back to Natives Nursery grows locally native milkweed and other native plants that provide habitat for animals. Environmental education programs at the Nursery educate students and community members about the importance of native plants and biodiversity.

“Back to Natives has used resources from Monarch Joint Venture for a while now to help educate our community about native milkweed and the plight of monarchs,” said Back to Natives Executive Director Reginald Durant. “We appreciate that MJV’s education and conservation efforts are based on science and extensive research to back it up.”

Look on Back to Natives website, backtonatives.org, for educational events and opportunities to obtain native milkweed and other locally native plants. All plant sales raise funds for habitat restoration and service learning programs. Back to Natives works with many local high schools and universities, whose students participate in service learning projects to grow locally native plants at the Native Plant Nursery, and restore habitat in local wildlands.

“Together, Back to Natives and the Monarch Joint Venture will be able to expand monarch conservation across Orange County and Southern California,” said Caldwell. “We are excited to partner in promoting native plant gardening, growing and distributing milkweed, habitat restoration, and monitoring. We look forward to working together!”

About Back to Natives

Back to Natives Restoration, a 501(c)(3) non profit organization, is dedicated to the restoration and conservation of Orange County and California wildlands, 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.

About Monarch Joint Venture

The Monarch Joint Venture is a partnership of federal and state agencies, non-governmental agencies, and academic programs working together to protect monarchs and their migration. MJVs partners are experts in the fields of monarch conservation and education and are working to make colossal progress toward the ultimate goal of monarch conservation in the U.S. For more information, please visit <http://monarchjointventure.org>

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