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BACK TO NATIVES PARTNERS WITH CITY OF SANTA ANA TO PROVIDE PUBLIC PROGRAMS AT SANTIAGO NATURE CENTER

Community invited to spend time in nature while learning about the environment and sustainable living.

SANTA ANA, Calif., February 23, 2011 – **Back to Natives Restoration**, a 501 (c)(3) non profit public charity is partnering with the City of Santa Ana Parks and Recreation Department to provide public programs at the Santiago Nature Center beginning in March, 2011. Community members will have an opportunity to enroll in classes on a variety of topics, including biodiversity, butterflies, mushroom identification, native plant propagation, composting, edible landscaping, rain water harvesting, nutrition, fitness, and even pilates. A schedule of classes is available online at <http://www.santa-ana.org/parks/LeisureClasses.asp>. Community members can RSVP through the City of Santa Ana's website. The Santiago Nature Center is located at 600 E. Memory Lane in Santa Ana.

“Back to Natives has recruited local experts to teach classes on topics related to the environment and living sustainably. This partnership will increase Santiago Nature Center's potential as a resource for community members of all ages and backgrounds,” said Back to Natives Director of Restoration Reginald Durant. “Program participants will learn to connect with the environment in a positive way.”

Educational programs promote sustainability, native plants, habitat restoration, and conservation. Back to Natives hopes to increase public understanding and appreciation of our quickly diminishing resources, and inspire the community to use resources wisely and respectfully. Back to Natives works to create public awareness of the rich environmental resources the County has to offer, and the need to preserve and protect it for generations to come.

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. Back to Natives uses profits from designing locally native plant landscapes to fund service learning and environmental education programs. For more information, please visit www.backtonatives.org or call 949-509-4787.

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