



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

CONTACT:

REGINALD DURANT, DIRECTOR OF RESTORATION
BACK TO NATIVES RESTORATION
(949) 335-8655

BACK TO NATIVES RESTORATION HOSTS VALENTINE'S DAY EARTH DATE

IRVINE, Calif., February 2, 2009 – **Back to Natives Restoration**, a 501 (c)(3) non profit public charity is collaborating with Earth Resource Foundation to restore native habitat at Jeronimo Creek, in Mission Viejo on February 14, 2009 -- Valentine's Day -- from 9AM to 12PM. Volunteers will show their love for the Earth by removing non-native weeds from the site, enabling the native vegetation to grow and provide habitat for animals.

Back to Natives hosts volunteer events throughout the year. At Caspers Wilderness Park Back to Natives and community volunteers are performing a Service Learning Project to restore oak savannah habitat near the park's entrance. At Mason Regional Park in Irvine Back to Natives and community volunteers are performing a Service Learning Project to restore coastal sage scrub. Service Learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.

“Our focus is on volunteerism because we believe that a little ‘ecological enlightenment’ and a chance to ‘get your hands dirty’ is the best way to improve relations between people and nature,” said back to Natives Director of Restoration Reginald Durant. “When people come to our volunteer events they learn why what they are doing is so important, and leave with a renewed commitment to their community and the Earth.”

Durant was recently awarded a Gold Level Presidential Volunteer Service Award by the United States Forest Service for volunteering over 500 hours during the 2007-8 fiscal year. He teaches the USFS Restoration Volunteer Training Program, and led volunteers during the Post Fire Weed Survey and Habitat Assessment after the 2007 fires in the Cleveland National Forest.

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.

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