



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

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BACK TO NATIVES' REGINALD DURANT NAMED WYLAND FOUNDATION "EARTH MONTH HERO"

The Wyland Foundation, Toyota and KCBS / KCAL Donate \$250 to Back to Natives Restoration.

IRVINE, Calif., December 9, 2012 – Reginald Durant, Director of Restoration at Back to Natives Restoration, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit public charity was named an "Earth Month Hero" by the Wyland Foundation in 2012.

The Earth Month Hero program was created by Toyota and the Wyland Foundation to annually recognize exemplary citizens who find ground-breaking ways to work toward sustaining a healthy planet. The Wyland Foundation, Toyota and regional broadcast partner KCBS / KCAL donated \$250 on behalf of Reginald to Back to Natives Restoration.

Back to Natives is collaborating with the City of Santa Ana at the Santiago Park Nature Reserve and the United States Forest Service in the Cleveland National Forest to bring community volunteers into local wildlands and distant wilderness areas to remove invasive, non-native plants and restore habitat for native animals. Volunteers learn about the importance of biodiversity and habitat restoration as they perform meaningful community service to improve habitat for both wildlife and humans. Volunteer dates for 2013 are listed on Back to Native's website, www.backtonatives.org.

"The program is intended to introduce potential science careers, and generate interest in the environment," said Durant. "Volunteers learn what it is like to be a real restoration ecologist, as they participate in the restoration process. They become aware that, even if they do not choose a career in the natural sciences, they can play a direct role in the health of their local natural areas."

About Toyota

Toyota (NYSE: TM) established operations in the United States in 1957 and currently operates 10 manufacturing plants in eight states. Toyota directly employs nearly 30,000 people in the U.S. and its investment here is currently valued at more than \$18 billion, including sales and manufacturing operations, research and development, financial services and design facilities. Toyota's annual purchasing of parts, materials, goods and services from U.S. suppliers totals more than \$23 billion.

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Toyota is deeply committed to being a great community partner and is focused on supporting programs in ways that achieve long-term sustainable results. Toyota supports numerous organizations across the country, with a particular concentration on education, the environment and safety. Since 1991, Toyota has contributed more than half a billion dollars to philanthropic programs across the U.S.

For more information on Toyota, please visit www.toyota.com.

About the Wyland Foundation

Founded in 1993 by environmental artist Wyland (best known for his series of 100 monumental marine life murals), the Wyland Foundation, a 501c3 non-profit organization, is actively engaged in teaching millions of students around the county about our ocean, rivers, lakes streams, and wetlands. The foundation's latest project, FOCUS (Forests, Oceans, Climate – and us) brings together the U.S. Forest Service, NOAA, and numerous non-profits to teach young people about the future of our water supplies, climate, and global health.

www.wylandfoundation.org

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, though 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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