



Press Release

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BACK TO NATIVES NATIVE PLANT LANDSCAPE FEATURED ON CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY GARDEN TOUR

SANTA ANA, Calif., March 14, 2017 – Back to Natives Restoration, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit public charity will be showcasing a native plant landscape on the 2017 California Native Plant Society Garden Tour on April 8th from 10AM to 4PM. The garden is located in Santa Ana's celebrated Floral Park neighborhood. According to CNPS it is "one of several outstanding, successful, beautiful Orange County gardens on the tour."

"Due to the year's high rainfall levels and the micro-irrigation we installed, the front yard - planted in Spring 2016 - has experienced exponential growth," said BTN Executive Director Reginald Durant, "So much so that CNPS invited us back despite having this yard on the tour last year."

This year visitors will also have the opportunity to visit the backyard, installed by Back to Natives this winter. They will see the early stages of a water wise carex lawn, and walk past fresh plantings along a decomposed granite path that loops through the yard and into the side yard where a stainless steel trellis was installed along the cinderblock wall for morning glory and clematis.

The garden was installed by Back to Natives Executive Director Reginald Durant, along with interns and volunteers, as part of the BTN Workforce Development Program. Participants learned how to install water wise irrigation, fencing, landscape drainage, brick and decomposed granite paths, native plants, a stainless steel trellis, and mulch. The BTN Workforce Development Program prepares volunteers and interns for a green career in an "up and coming" industry that also happens to benefit the community, the environment, and local wildlife.

The landscape was designed by BTN Director of Community Relations Lori Whalen. It features native carex and sages, buckwheat and fuchsia, native strawberries and grapes, and two young sycamore trees. There are two seating areas - a casual widening of the trail in the backyard beneath a mature avocado, and a more formal, circular area designed with bricks in the front.

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“Our garden is unique because it features plants locally native to Orange County – no hybrids or cultivars,” said BTN Director of Community Relations Lori Whalen. “The plants in this yard are what you’d see growing in our local wildlands in their original, habitat providing form.”

This Back to Natives landscape will also make an appearance at 25th Annual Floral Park Home & Garden Tour on April 29 and 30. More info at floralparkhometour.com

“This garden design proves that natives can fit in anywhere – even blanketing the yard of a historic colonial home in Floral Park,” said Durant. “A native garden does not mean a desert-like landscape with just cactus, succulents and rocks.”

Visit occnps.org to register for free tickets to attend. A guidebook with information and directions to all of the gardens will be included.

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, 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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