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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 10, 2017

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Get Growing at Eastern Sierra Land Trust’s GardenFest Celebration

Spring has finally arrived, and the Eastern Sierra is budding to life. Birds and butterflies are on the wing, early blooms are showing off their colors, and locals across the region are ready to get their gardens growing.

To celebrate this season of growth, Bishop-based nonprofit Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT) invites community members of all ages to join them as they “Ring in the Spring” at their annual *GardenFest*.

This free, family-friendly celebration will take place from 11am – 2pm on Saturday, May 6th in ESLT’s office backyard, located at 250 N. Fowler St. in Bishop.

This year’s GardenFest is happening in conjunction with *Take it Outside California* – an annual, statewide movement taking place on that same day. Its goal is to inspire Californians to get outdoors and connect with the natural world. And at GardenFest, locals in the Eastern Sierra will find a great opportunity to do just that – and much more.

For those eager to get planting, native plants from California Native Plant Society and vegetable plant starts from Chalfant Big Trees Farm and Feed will be available for purchase. A free seed swap will be offered, and Master Gardeners will be on hand to share their tips and tricks.

All are encouraged to stop by GardenFest to hear live music, performed by Bill Planchon, as well as to enjoy lunch – with the Owens Valley Grower’s Co-Op selling brick-oven pizzas made on-site. And while kids get their faces painted, adults can look forward to sampling beers offered by Bishop’s own Mountain Rambler Brewery.

GardenFest will also offer opportunities to learn about Eastern Sierra Land Trust’s *Eastside Pollinator Garden Project*, which is helping local gardeners bring their gardens to life by attracting hummingbirds, butterflies, and other important pollinators. At the event on May 6th, everyone can learn more about the benefits of signing up for this free project – including how to receive a complimentary voucher for \$125 in native plants.

For more information about GardenFest, please contact Indigo Johnson, ESLT’s Education Coordinator and AmeriCorps Member, at indigo@eslt.org or call (760) 873-4554.

Eastern Sierra Land Trust works with willing landowners to conserve vital lands in the Eastern Sierra for their scenic, agricultural, natural, recreational, historical, and watershed values. To learn more about ESLT’s work and how to get involved, please visit www.eslt.org.

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Sample low-resolution images with captions displayed below; high-resolution images attached to email. For additional images, please contact Marguerite Merritt, ESLT Communications Director, at marguerite@eslt.org.





Image Caption 1: Eastern Sierra Land Trust's annual GardenFest on May 6th will offer a free, family-friendly opportunity to celebrate spring, learn about gardening, enjoy live music, lunch, and more.



Image Caption 2: At GardenFest, community members will have the opportunity to purchase plants for their gardens this spring.