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**Get Growing at Eastern Sierra Land Trust’s GardenFest**

Calling all green thumbs: are you ready to get your garden growing? Throughout the Eastern Sierra, birds flit from tree to tree and butterflies float from each sweet, fresh blossom to the next. To celebrate this season of growth, Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT) invites you to join them as they “Ring in the Spring” at their annual GardenFest Celebration.

This year’s GardenFest is happening in association with *Take it Outside California*, a new movement aimed at inspiring Californians across the state to get outdoors and connect with the natural world on April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>. Eastern Sierra Land Trust’s GardenFest will take place from 11 am – 2 pm on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> in ESLT’s office backyard at 250 N. Fowler St. in Bishop.

This free, family-friendly event will be buzzing with activity. 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 sale. Attendees will also have the opportunity to learn gardening tips and tricks from Master Gardeners, sign up for a CSA share through Abundant Harvest Organics, and much more.

Looking for a place to have lunch that Saturday? Treat your family to glasses of coconut limeade and a brick-oven pizza made on-site, provided by Owens Valley Grower’s Co-Op. Adults should look forward to sampling the local beers offered by Mountain Rambler Brewery.

GardenFest will also offer opportunities to learn about ESLT’s *Eastside Pollinator Garden Project*, and how to transform your backyard or garden into a pollinator sanctuary. Now in its third year, this project is bringing native birds, bees, and butterflies to gardens throughout the Eastern Sierra. These pollinators play a vital role in maintaining the beauty and productivity of the region: without them, there would be no new growth. At GardenFest, learn more about this issue and find out what you can do to help keep the Eastern Sierra abloom.

For more information about GardenFest, please contact Catherine Tao, ESLT’s Education Coordinator and AmeriCorps Member, at [catherine@eslt.org](mailto:catherine@eslt.org) or call (760) 873-4554.

*Eastern Sierra Land Trust works with willing landowners to preserve vital lands in the Eastern Sierra for their scenic, agricultural, natural, recreational, historical, and watershed values. ESLT’s goal is to preserve a healthy balance of land uses that can be sustained forever, ensuring both a strong local economy and environment. To learn more about ESLT’s ongoing work and how you can get involved, please visit [www.eslt.org](http://www.eslt.org).*

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Sample low-resolution photos shown here; high-resolution photos are attached to email. For additional pictures, please contact Marguerite at (760) 873-4554.



*[Please include this logo with publication of press release]*



Caption: At ESLT's GardenFest, purchase vegetable and native plant seedlings to get your garden growing.



Caption: GardenFest is fun for all ages, and there will be plenty of activities for young green thumbs – including face painting by A Whimsical Face.



Caption: Gardening experts with Master Gardeners of Inyo and Mono Counties will be on hand to answer all your questions and provide information on how to make this year's garden your best one yet.