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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 23, 2018

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**Join ESLT to Kick Off Spring at GardenFest**

**April 23, 2018, Bishop, CA** - Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT) invites everyone to “ring in the spring” at their annual GardenFest, held in their backyard in Bishop on Saturday, May 5. This free, family-friendly event celebrates the arrival of spring with plants and delicious food for purchase, a free beer tasting, live music, children’s games and much more.

Blooming trees are filled with birds singing their melodies as butterflies, bees and hummingbirds bounce from flower to flower inspiring new life. In celebration of this magical time, this year’s GardenFest coincides with Take it Outside California – an annual, statewide movement held every year on the first weekend in May. Its goal is to connect Californians of all ages with outdoor places and experiences.

At GardenFest, guests can learn gardening tips and receive expert advice from local Master Gardeners. They will have the opportunity to bring their gardens to life with native plants from California Native Plant Society and vegetable starts available for sale. Representatives from Bishop Paiute Tribe’s Food Sovereignty Program and Eastern Sierra Audubon Society will share their information. Folks can enjoy live music and delicious brick-oven pizzas for purchase made on site by Mark Wagner of Owens Valley Grower’s Co-Op. Plus, while kids play nature-themed learning games and a raffle for a children’s book on bees, adults can look forward to sampling beers offered by Bishop’s own Mountain Rambler Brewery.

GardenFest will also offer opportunities to learn about ESLT’s *Eastside Pollinator Garden Project*, and how community members can transform their yards or garden into pollinator havens. This project helps keep the Eastern Sierra blooming by enticing native birds, bees, and butterflies to gardens throughout the Eastern Sierra.

GardenFest will be held on Saturday, May 5 from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm at 250 N. Fowler St. in Bishop. For more information, please contact Ryan, ESLT’s Education Coordinator and AmeriCorps Member, at [ryan@eslt.org](mailto:ryan@eslt.org) or call (760) 873-4554.

**ABOUT EASTERN SIERRA LAND TRUST**

*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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Photo Caption 1: Purchase plants and mingle with friends and neighbors on a fun-filled Saturday to celebrate all things spring.



Photo Caption 2: Visitors at GardenFest can enjoy brick-oven pizza, live music and more!