

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### *Eureka Springs Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration to be Held April 22*

A celebration of both Arbor Day and Earth Day will be held on Saturday, April 22 from 10 am until noon. The event will be held in downtown Eureka Springs on First Street next to the Downtown Native Plant Garden (with the pagoda) and the Art Wall. The celebration begins with the reading of the Arbor Day Proclamation by Mayor Robert “Butch” Berry. Christopher Fischer will follow with the story of the Downtown Native Plant Garden, a Main Street Eureka Springs project. A native species tree will be planted in the garden.

The Downtown Native Plant Garden project and their sponsor, Spa 1905, will be giving away 100 free native shrubs to those attending.

The morning will also feature an *Eco-Info-Fair* with members of many local environmental groups setting up tables of information to take away and one-on-one consulting. Joining the event will be the Eureka Springs Pollinator’s Alliance with information on bees; Northwest Arkansas Master Naturalists – understanding and managing natural resources and ecology; Carroll County Solid Waste – recycling; Community Development Partnership – energy efficiency and weatherization; Eureka Springs Tree City Committee – best urban forestry practices; Eureka Springs Parks & Recreation Commission Springs Committee – low impact development and Trails Committee – trails; Eureka Power & Light -- solar car and home solar possibilities; Community Solar Partners – solar education, and The Nature Conservancy -- land and water conservation.

Main Street Eureka Springs, Eureka Springs City Advertising and Promotion Commission and the City of Eureka Springs are sponsors of the event.

These activities commemorate Eureka Springs’ 35th year as a *Tree City USA* and the fact that Eureka Springs is the oldest *Tree City USA* in Arkansas. *Arbor Day* began in 1872 when J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of

Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees. This holiday, called *Arbor Day*, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska. It is now a holiday observed throughout the world as a day to remember that trees provide many environmental and economic benefits.

Underway for two years, the *Native Plant Garden Project* is an on-going volunteer-based partnership effort with the City of Eureka Springs and several community groups. The purpose is to develop and present a natural habitat promoting the critically important function that native plants provide towards improving the diversity and ecology of the urban environment.

Each year April 22 is celebrated as *Earth Day*, an annual day on which events are held to demonstrate support for environmental protection in over 193 countries. It was first celebrated in 1970 and marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement. It is now coordinated globally by the Earth Day Network. Today, the fight for a clean environment continues with increasing urgency, as the ravages of climate change become more manifest every day.

The Eureka Springs *Arbor Day/Earth Day* celebration and *Eco-Info Fair* is free and open to the public. Please contact Glenna Booth, 479 253-9703 for more information.

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Contact: Glenna Booth 479 253-9703