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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Bern Celebrates 300 years of Gardens! GARDEN LOVERS WEEKEND – April 9-11

(NEW BERN, NC) ---Tryon Palace is celebrating the beauty of spring this weekend, April 9-11.

All 13 gardens are open free to visitors from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

Garden lovers visiting North Carolina's first capitol will discover thousands of tulips and other spring blooms. Visitors will also be treated to a music program in the formal Latham Garden.

Free garden tours will be given on Friday and Saturday.

The Great Heritage Plant Sale

Other activities taking place during Garden Lovers Weekend include the very popular Heritage Plant Sale. For visitors who want to take a bit of history home to their own gardens, the Heritage Plant Sale will be held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Featuring perennials, herbs, annuals, trees, and shrubs grown in our greenhouse, the sale also offers the public a chance to own unique, rare, and historic plants. Master gardeners will be on hand to answer your planting questions. Come early for the best selection! Sale hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. both days.

Grounds and gardens are open free from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, however interior tours require the purchase of a ticket. New Bern Historic Homes Tour ticket holders will receive a \$3 discount off the two day Governors' Pass, which includes interior tours of the three historic houses as well as the Palace. For more information about Garden Lovers Weekend or the Heritage Plant Sale visit the website www.tryonpalace.org or call 252.514.4900.

Garden Lovers Weekend is held in conjunction with the annual New Bern Historic Homes & Gardens Tour, sponsored by the New Bern Historical Society and the New Bern Preservation Foundation. A separate ticket is required for the Historic Homes tour. # # #

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The Department of Cultural Resources is a state agency dedicated to the promotion and protection of North Carolina's arts, history, and culture. For more information, visit www.ncculture.com

Tryon Palace's mission is to engage present and future generations in the history of North Carolina from early settlement and development of statehood through the mid-twentieth century by collecting, interpreting and preserving objects, buildings, landscapes and events that enrich understanding of the making of our state and nation. The North Carolina History Center, scheduled to open in August of 2010, complements and enhances this mission.

Tryon Palace, located in New Bern, N.C., is part of the Office of Archives and History, an agency of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources. The Department of Cultural Resources is a state agency dedicated to the promotion and protection of North Carolina's arts, history, and culture. For more information, visit www.ncculture.com.

Buildings currently open to the public include the reconstructed Palace, the John Wright Stanly House, the George W. Dixon House, and the Robert Hay House. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Last tours begin at 4 p.m. The New Bern Academy Museum is closed until March 2010, but is open for group tours. Tickets and tour information is available at the Visitor Center located at the corner of George and Pollock streets.

The visitor center and the first floor of the Palace and gardens are accessible to visitors with disabilities. The North Carolina History Center is under construction and is scheduled to open in July 2010.

For directions and further information about special events, programs or group tours, phone (800) 767-1560 or (252) 514-4900 or visit our web site: www.tryonpalace.org.

