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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GARDEN LOVERS WEEKEND
Come celebrate spring at Tryon Palace April 11-13 – Free!

NEW BERN, NC ---Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens celebrates the beauty of spring each year on Garden Lovers Weekend, Friday through Sunday, April 11-13. Visitors to North Carolina's first capitol will discover thousands of colorful tulips and other spring flowers creating a spectrum of colors that only Mother Nature can create.

Members of the Fife & Drum Corps will be on the grounds from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

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. Tours are offered at regular prices from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. New Bern Historic Homes Tour ticket holders will receive a \$3 discount.

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Other activities taking place at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens during Garden Lovers Weekend include the very popular Heritage Plant Sale, and an open house at the Craft and Garden shop.

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 5 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.

For more information about Garden Lovers Weekend or the Heritage Plant Sale visit the website www.tryonpalace.org.

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. # # #

Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens, located in New Bern, N.C., is under 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 Tryon Palace, the John Wright Stanly House, the George W. Dixon House, and the Robert Hay House. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Tickets and tour information are available at the visitor center located at the corner of George and Pollock streets. The visitor center and the first floor of Tryon Palace are accessible to visitors with disabilities. For directions and further information about special events, programs or group tours, phone (800) 767-1560 or (252) 514-4900 or check our web site: **www.tryonpalace.org**.