SUMMER EVENTS

The Calendar: Pages 8-11

Celebrating North Carolina’s history

... naturally!

Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens

Summer 2009
Council of Friends Annual Meeting
Fulfilling the Dream: Our Leaders Past and Present

The Council of Friends Annual Meeting opened on May 2 with the introduction of the new Board of Directors president, Patricia Naumann. Patricia then welcomed the members to the meeting, and the meeting continued with presentations by Karen O’Connell, Council of Friends Coordinator; Philippe Lafargue, Deputy Director, Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens; Cheryl Kite, Director of Development; Fran Campbell, Volunteer Coordinator; and Nancy Gray, Exhibit Developer.

Following the staff updates, Kay Williams, Director of Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens, paid tribute to David L. Ward, Jr., past president of the Board of Directors. David served as president of the board from 1994 to 2009, and was instrumental in growing the Council of Friends into an organization that provides substantial financial support for programming at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens. From his work as a teenager scraping stucco from the bricks of the original stable office to his efforts to ensure the reality of the North Carolina History Education Center, David has been a steady guide in bridging the past and the future of Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens. His leadership has been truly effective and is greatly appreciated. 

Our Apologies to the Following . . .

for omitting their names among donors in the 2008 Annual Report:

Donors of Cash Gifts to the Collection
Dr. James B. Congleton III, a Collections Society charter member

Donors of Objects to the Collection
Ms. Mary Jay
Mr. Thomas London

2008 Individual Supporters
Mr. Philippe Lafargue

On the Cover – This Edition

The Kitchen Garden today (right) looks little different from how it appeared in 1959, when the Palace reopened. Located behind the Kitchen Office, its mixture of vegetables and herbs indigenous to North America as well as imports from Europe keep the Palace cooks well supplied with fresh fare – just as it would have in the 1770s.

Thank you, David!

The Palace is published four times a year by the Tryon Palace Council of Friends to provide information about and build support for Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Send correspondence to Karen O’Connell, The Palace, PO. Box 1007, New Bern, NC 28563. E-mail: koconnell@tryonpalace.org. Fax: 252-514-4876.

For more information about Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens, click on our website at www.tryonpalace.org or call 252-514-4900, 800-767-1560.

Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens is a part of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Linda Carlisle, Secretary. www.ncculture.com.
**Ask a Gardener**

*By Lisa Wimpfheimer, Curator of Gardens*

**Q:** Why is the Kitchen Garden separated into squares instead of long rows?

**A:** The early eighteenth century English kitchen gardens were laid out in that fashion. It made it simpler for individuals to tend the many vegetables that were grown. The concept of long rows was established for cultivation by oxen or horses pulling plows. In the twenty-first century, tractors and mechanized equipment also drive more easily down long rows before having to turn. Today’s home gardens are frequently built in raised beds, again using squares containing many different vegetables and herbs needed for a household.

**Q:** How can I control all the weeds and insects in my vegetable garden? I prefer to use organic methods.

**A:** Weeds and insects cause the most damage when they are allowed to grow in the garden unchecked. Walking through your garden daily to pull weeds when they are small and to squash or hand-pick caterpillars or beetles before they cause extensive damage is the best way to manage pests.

One reason for the brick wall around the Kitchen Garden at the Palace was to exclude mammal pests, such as deer, raccoons, and other pillagers. Besides weather conditions, these are still some of the most challenging problems in New Bern’s gardens today.

**Q:** What kinds of apples are grown at Tryon Palace?

**A:** Apples were one of the most important fruits cultivated in the colonies. Besides being hardy enough to last through storage in the winter, they were used to make cider, vinegar, and brandy.

Some of the apples in the Kitchen Garden are from the initial planting done in 1959, and some were planted just last fall. “Bevan’s Favorite” originated in 1842 and was sold for many years by traveling salesmen throughout North Carolina. This summer apple ripens in early July. Another variety found on our grounds is “Carolina Red June,” one of the oldest varieties in our region. One horticulturalist notes, “For almost two centuries, Carolina Red June was the early apple of choice for most Southerners.”

Because of the lack of continuous cold weather, many of the most productive varieties mature at a yellow color rather than red. “Horse” is a very common heirloom apple, noted in 1869, and ripening in July and August to a yellow/green color. “Hunge” is a light green variety, and used for cooking, drying, and brandy as well as eating fresh.

Happy Gardening! Lisa Wimpfheimer, horticulturist and head of the Garden Services Branch at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens, is a plant pest consultant and directs the planting and care of the site’s 14 acres.


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**Spend Sunday afternoons FREE in the Tryon Palace Gardens**

Beginning on Sunday, April 5, the gardens at Tryon Palace are open to the public at no charge on the first Sunday afternoon of each month through October.

This is a wonderful opportunity to stroll through our many gardens and enjoy what’s blooming, to simply sit down and read a book in a peaceful environment, or to take family photographs in your Sunday best. For photography lovers, take some great garden photos, e-mail them to us, and we’ll post them on our Facebook page! As you exit, be sure to stop by our new gift shop location in the Daves House, next to the Palace gates.

If you want to visit the historic homes on the first Sunday, our Governor’s Pass (admission to all historic buildings) will also be available at a reduced price, $12 for adults and $5 for students. Make it a monthly event for friends and family, and take a stroll through Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens.
Constructing Nature: The Eighteenth-Century Garden and Tryon Palace

By Rebecca Reimer, Curator of Education

"To build, to plant, whatever you intend, 
To rear the Column, or the Arch to bend, 
To swell the Terras, or to sink the Grot, 
In all, let Nature never be forgot."
- Alexander Pope, An Epistle to Lord Burlington, 1731

The scenery greeting the visitor to the site of Governor William Tryon’s Palace in 1952, perhaps, have been jarring to modern eyes. Private homes and businesses abutted the property lines, the recently-removed Highway 70 ran like a scar across the ground, and there was a distinct lack of Georgian architecture visible. It was with this backdrop that Morley Jeffers Williams joined the workforce of the Tryon Palace reconstruction and was given two intimidating tasks: firstly, to find the foundations of the original Palace complex and secondly, to transform the landscape into one befitting the home of an eighteenth-century royal governor.

Morley Williams had utilized archaeological processes previously in his career and, as a professor of Landscape Architecture at Harvard University, was well-versed in historical garden design. He had worked at various historic sites, including Stratford Hall (the home of the Lee family of Virginia) and Mount Vernon, both in archaeological and landscape design capacities. While being entrusted with the rediscovery of the Palace foundations must surely have been daunting, the procedure, at least, was relatively straightforward. Williams oversaw a series of diagonal trenches (which later led to the complete excavation of certain areas of the site), uncovered remnants of foundations, and collected tens of thousands of artifacts that would prove useful in the restoration and decoration of the reconstructed Palace.

Labor-intensive though the archaeological excavations were, they progressed in a timely fashion and uncovered the hoped-for remains of the Palace. The gardens project, however, would prove to be challenging. Not only did Morley Williams have to oversee the restoration of the eighteenth-century gardens at Tryon Palace – he also bore the responsibility for researching and designing said gardens. With little extant information on the state of the gardens in Governor Tryon’s time, and little to no archaeological evidence, this task would have been exceedingly daunting.

The eighteenth century garden may, perhaps, conjure images of intricately-pruned hedges intertwined with graceful flowering plants – providing a rather romantic backdrop in which gentlemen and ladies could genteelly wander. Indeed, such gardens existed in eighteenth-century Europe and America. Yet the hundred years between 1700 and 1800 were an age of massive change in gardening, and this was especially evident in the second half of the century. Vastly different styles of gardens were falling in and out of fashion rapidly, and new ideas on the role of nature in landscape were being born. How, then, was Morley Williams to decide upon “fitting” garden designs for Tryon Palace?

Naturally, Williams looked to eighteenth-century English gardens for inspiration. Governor Tryon, after all, had utilized the skill of an English architect – John Hawks – in order to construct an English-style home in North Carolina. It would be only natural that he would also have wanted gardens that would have been considered stylish in England at the time. Morley Williams, in his discussions with the Tryon Palace Commission (quoted above), consciously chose the decade between 1760 and 1770 in which to concentrate his efforts – the time in which Tryon would have probably been thinking about his own gardens. This narrows the time frame, perhaps, but still gave Williams a plethora of garden designs from which to choose.

The “English garden,” as one is wont to call it today, was born out of a variety of foreign influences in the eighteenth century. Foremost among these was the French influence, which gained prominence in England after 1660, when Charles II (who had been exiled in France during the Civil War) returned. France, with large amounts of land, developed garden designs in which “avenues [led] towards distant horizons.” French garden designers also made great use of the parterre, a formal garden enclosed by hedges and forming highly symmetrical patterns. Both the avenue and the parterre spread quickly to England, where French gardening manuals were being translated and put into use. In 1712, for example, the translation of The Theory and Practice of Gardening gave an overview of varieties of parterre: “There are divers Sorts of Parterres, which may be all reduced to these Four that follow; namely, Parterres of Embroidery, Parterres of Compartiment, Parterres after the English Manner, and Parterres of Cut-Work. There are also Parterres of Water, but at present they are quite out of Use.”

Dutch garden influences gained a foothold in England with the coronation of William III at the end of the seventeenth century; a prince from Holland, his tastes in garden design exemplified the Dutch aesthetic. Here, too, parterres made up a large component of the garden; yet emphasis also rested on “topiary, water features, orchards, and the planting of avenues in the countryside.”
These designs found themselves working alongside more traditional garden features that had been used in England since the beginning of the seventeenth century. The knot garden, often seen to be a cornerstone of the British constructed landscape, combined with the parterre idea to form overly elaborate patterns. The formal British garden in the middle years of the eighteenth century combined sweeping avenues with enclosed parterres, carefully clipped hedges and knot patterns with water features and flowering plants.

Yet another innovation was to add to the complexities of eighteenth-century garden design. In the face of such carefully constructed landscapes, people were starting to yearn for wilder, more “natural” landscapes. Alexander Pope, quoted at the beginning of this article, reminded his reader to never forget Nature. Indeed, in 1712 Joseph Addison published similar sentiments in The Spectator:

“... Our British Gardeners . . . instead of humouring Nature, love to deviate from it as much as possible. Our Trees rise in Cones, Globes and Pyramids. We see the marks of the Scissors upon every Plant and Bush . . . I would rather look upon a Tree, and all its Luxuriance and Diffusion of Boughs and Branches, than when it is thus cut and trim’d into a mathematical Figure, and cannot but fancy that an Orchard in Flower looks more delightful, than all the little Labyrinths of the most finished Parterre.”

In opposition to formally ornate gardens in the French and Dutch styles, which suited royal court life, a movement began around the middle of the century to recapture landscapes that would instead accentuate the ideal of “rural retirement.” This more “natural” sense of landscape design was a movement away from the geometry and symmetry of enclosed gardens and parterres, and toward landscapes with a “freer” feel and more utilization of serpentine, rather than straight, lines. It is a style that is commonly remembered today by one of its most prolific and well-known architects – Lancelot “Capability” Brown.

Morley Jeffers Williams had to take these landscape design influences (as well as numerous variations on such themes) into account when presented with the task of creating gardens for Tryon Palace. Historical documentation for the existence of gardens was minimal and contradictory: a 1769 map completed by Claude Joseph Sauthier shows parterre gardens to the north of the Palace, while a later drawing by Francisco de Miranda shows formal gardens existing to the south of the Palace. While Morley Williams completed successful archaeological excavations for the foundations of the colonial buildings, the science of plant remains analysis was not developed enough to tell him about the colonial plantings. (Indeed, such analysis remains elusive and inconclusive to this day; no clear answers have been reached about the types of plants growing at the colonial Palace.) Williams’ task, therefore, was to design gardens based off of historically competing landscape aesthetics and contradictory historical documents. In addition, he had to ensure that the gardens would be pleasing to upcoming generations of visitors.

The resultant landscape design for Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens is, of necessity, a combination of the styles of gardens in existence in the latter half of the eighteenth century. Formal, ornate gardens – after the French and Dutch styles – are balanced by the industrious kitchen gardens. Serpentine avenues curve through native North Carolinian plants in the Wilderness Garden, recalling the ‘natural’ landscape movement. It may not be precisely what Governor Tryon desired in his gardens (we will, unfortunately, never know that for certain), but Morley Williams’ efforts nonetheless managed to combine historical landscape designs with modern aesthetics, artfully reconstructing an eighteenth-century vision of nature.

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4 Ibid.
5 Ibid.
6 Robinson, Three Decades of Devotion, p. 67.
7 Turner, English Garden Design, p. 54.
10 Ibid, pp. 70-71.
11 Fleming and Gore, The English Garden, p. 79.
12 Turner, English Garden Design, p. 76.
13 Ibid, p. 82.
14 Beaman, “A Pioneer of Landscape Archaeology.”
A Monumental Quest Becoming a Reality

The North Carolina History Education Center, a significant undertaking for North Carolina and its people, offers to all who cherish the importance of history in our culture an opportunity to be an integral part of it. Moving toward its opening in July 2010, the Center is drawing increasing numbers of supporters near and far who are realizing its value in commemorating the unique heritage of eastern North Carolina and in educating generations of young and new citizens and visitors.

You can take your place in history with a named gift that will be a part of the Center throughout future generations. All donors to the Center will be recognized on the donor wall in the Center’s Great Hall in addition to recognition at the location of the named feature. Additional details about these naming opportunities may be found at www.tryonpalace.org/historyeducationcenter

The North Carolina History Education Center
Naming Opportunities

The North Carolina History Education Center $5,000,000
Administration Wing – second floor, includes Training Room (Debnam-Hunt Conference Room) $1,656,800
and multiple office and work spaces

Major Themes Exhibits Hall – (Regional History Center) $1,000,000
East Pavilion – includes Museum Shop, Special Exhibits (Minnette Chapman Duffy Gallery) $1,000,000
and Cafe

Museum Shop $250,000
Riverside Café $250,000

Main Hall (Mattocks Great Hall) Pillars - Two remaining @ $5,000
Auditorium (Cullman Performance Hall) Seats - inscribed @ $1,000

Technology Fund - Underwriting for electronics support throughout the Center and Historic Complex $1,000,000

Partners for Programs and Performance $10,000
A collective endowment in which the principal will be held in perpetuity and from which the interest will provide History Center program and performance support. Number of partners unlimited.

Second Floor Administration Wing Spaces

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<td>East Border - Coastal Grasses</td>
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<td>Riverside Garden - Levee Forest</td>
<td>H3</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Border - Floodplain Forest</td>
<td>F2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Riverside Garden - Wetland Fringe</td>
<td>H1</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Border</td>
<td>F1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Entry Sign Wall</td>
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<td>Riverside Garden - Levee Forest</td>
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<td>Floodplain Forest - Rain Garden/Bio-retention Area</td>
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<td>Metcalf Streetscape - East</td>
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<td>Riverwalk Landscape</td>
<td>D3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Floodplain Forest - Rain Garden/Bio-retention Area</td>
<td>E6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metcalf Streetscape - East</td>
<td>A6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Entry Wall West, Companion to Sign Wall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building North - North Façade</td>
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<td>Riverwalk</td>
<td>G2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building Base - North Façade</td>
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<td>South Front Street Streetscape</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metcalf Streetscape - East</td>
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<td>Riverwalk</td>
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<td>Building Entry Landscape</td>
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<td>Building Base - West Façade</td>
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<td>(3) Street Trees, Metcalf Streetscape - West</td>
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*Diagram references and exhibit details may be found at [www.tryonpalace.org/historyeducationcenter](http://www.tryonpalace.org/historyeducationcenter), or by contacting Director of Development Cheryl Kite at 252-514-4956 or cheryl.kite@ncdcr.gov

Since this publication went to print, some naming opportunities have been requested and may no longer be available.
July

Thursdays, July 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30
Tryon's Tales for Tots
10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.; program begins in the Visitor Center. $4 per child, adults FREE. Ages 3-5, with parental accompaniment
You're never too young for history! Pre-schoolers and parents will learn about life in the past through stories, objects, and crafts. Come listen, look, and learn about life in the past!

Tuesdays, July 7, 14, 21 and 28
Tryon Fun Tuesdays
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.; program begins in the Visitor Center. $5 per student (Save $10 and sign-up for the whole summer! $40 must be paid first day of attendance; sorry no refunds). Ages 8-14
Parents can enjoy a morning off while their children enjoy a "blast from the past." Kids will participate in popular games and activities from the 18th to 20th centuries. Come experience the lighter side of history this summer at Tryon Palace! Parents must register children first day of participation.

Saturday, July 4
The Fourth of July
Festivities: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Dramatic Reading of the Declaration of Independence: 11:00 a.m. FREE Garden Admission, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (Interior tours require the purchase of a ticket)
Visitors on this patriotic day will enjoy performances by the Fife and Drum Corps, free family entertainment including crafts and games for children and the opportunity to mingle and chat with colonial characters presenting views of those loyal to the crown and those supporting the colony’s independence.

Saturday, July 11
African American Lecture
Guest Speakers include Dr. Reginald Watson
“New Bern Literary Read In”
12:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.; Visitor Center
Auditorium. FREE
Come learn about the historical legacy of African American writers in North Carolina. Meet historians and present day authors, hear their stories and purchase their works in this recitation, reception and book fair. This event is co-sponsored by Shelia Peele-Miller, author.

Thursday, July 16
African American Lecture
Guest Speaker: Dr. Clarence E. Willie
“The Marines of Montford Point: Fighting for Freedom”
7:00 p.m.; Visitor Center Auditorium FREE
In 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt issued an executive order that the United States Marine Corps needed to begin recruiting and enlisting African Americans. The first black recruits received basic training at Camp Montford Point. The US Marine Corps was the last all-white branch of the U.S. military. More than 20,000 men were trained at Montford Point; most of them went on to serve in the Pacific Theatre in World War II.

Saturday, July 18
Tryon Palace Theater: Punch and Judy
11:00 a.m.; Stable Office Carriage Bay $4 per adult, $2 per student; FREE with regular admission
Watch a real colonial puppet show, once performed in Governor Tryon’s time. Our version is adapted for young audiences and brings Punch & Judy to America just before the American Revolution.

Sunday, July 19
African American Historic Downtown Walking Tour
2:00 p.m.; leaves from Visitor Center Lobby, $4 per adult, $2 per student Learn about 300 years of African American history on a walking tour of New Bern’s historic district. This tour lasts approximately 90 minutes and covers 16 blocks. Reservations required: 252-514-4935. (Minimum enrollment: 10)

Monday, July 27–Friday, July 31
Fife & Drum Corps Recruit Camp
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily; drop-off at Eden Street side gate. $150 per student ($120 for Council of Friends Members). Grades 6-10
In this camp, participants will learn from experienced instructors the basics of reading music, scales and rudiments, marching, history, and tunes that will prepare them to join the Tryon Palace Fife & Drum Corps. See page 10 for more information. Advance registration is necessary. Contactkbrightman@tryonpalace.org or call 252-514-4939 for more information. Scholarships are available. Registration closes Monday, July 20. (Minimum enrollment: 8)

August

Saturdays, August 1, 15
Tryon Palace Theater: Meet John Lawson
11:00 a.m.; Visitor Center Auditorium $4 per adult, $2 per student; FREE with regular admission. Learn about John Lawson—early 18th century explorer, surveyor, and father—as he prepares a special gift for his daughter, Isabella.

Tuesdays, August 4, 11 and 18
Tryon Fun Tuesdays
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.; program begins in the Visitor Center. $5 per student (Save $10 and sign-up for the whole summer! $40 must be paid first day of attendance; sorry no refunds). Ages 8-14
Parents can enjoy a morning off while their children enjoy a “blast from the past.” Kids will participate in popular games and activities from the 18th to 20th centuries. Come experience the lighter side of history this summer at Tryon Palace! Parents must register children first day of participation.

Thursday, August 6, 13 and 20
Tryon’s Tales for Tots
10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.; program begins in the Visitor Center.$4 per child, adults free Ages 3-5, with parental accompaniment. You’re never too young for history! Preschoolers and parents will learn about life in...
the past through stories, objects, and crafts. Come listen, look, and learn about life in the past!

**Sunday, August 16**

African American Historic Downtown Walking Tour

2:00 p.m.; leaves from Visitor Center Lobby. $4 per adult, $2 per student

Learn about 300 years of African American history on a walking tour of New Bern's historic district. This tour lasts approximately 90 minutes and covers 16 blocks. Reservations required: 252-514-4935. (Minimum enrollment: 10)

**Thursday, August 20**

African American Lecture

Guest Speaker: Reginald Watson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English at East Carolina University

"Black Citizenship from 1616 to Present"

7:00 p.m.; Visitor Center Auditorium

FREE

This lecture will be about slavery and the Jim Crow era. Dr. Watson will present a backdrop consisting of two to three Thespian members who will act out certain scenes that depict the loss of civil rights and citizenship for black people.

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**September**

Autumn Garden Hours

September 8-October 31, Gardens open until 6:00 p.m.

Last ticket sold at 4:30 p.m.

**Saturdays, September 5, 19**

Tryon Palace Theater: The Making of a State

11:00 a.m.; Visitor Center Auditorium

$4 per adult, $2 per student; FREE with regular admission.

Don't just listen to history; take an active part in it! During this interactive program, the audience will participate in our First Provincial Congress and help determine North Carolina's course leading towards the Revolutionary War.

Monday, September 7

Stanly-Spaight Duel Reenactment

1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.; Academy Tours

4:00 p.m.: Fife & Drum Corps Concert followed by Duel Reenactment; New Bern Academy Green. FREE

Tour the New Bern Academy, enjoy a concert by the Tryon Palace Fife & Drum Corps, and step back in time to an era when a man's personal honor was his most cherished quality. Any incursion on this sacred value could result in fiery and violent retribution. Watch the spectacle of the September 5, 1802 Stanly-Spaight duel unfold before your eyes. In this historical reenactment of a duel between Nineteenth-century New Bern political rivals, costumed characters battle to protect their reputation.

**Saturday, September 12**

Garden Lectures

Speaker: Brent Heath, Brent & Becky’s Bulbs

“100 Years of Daffodils & More”

10:00 a.m.; Visitor Center Auditorium

FREE. Sponsored by The Harold H. Bate Foundation

Back around 1900, Brent’s grandfather, Charles Heath, ate a cantaloupe that caused him to discover daffodils in tidewater Virginia. Heath, a Yankee, was soon accepted by the local southern farmers for his instrumental development of a daffodil flower industry that would later help with cash flow during the depression. Brent’s father and mother, ‘Pappy George’ and Katie Heath, developed a mail order business that once catalogued over 1500 cultivars of daffodils.

Brent, who grew up in the business, fell in love with the flower and bought the business from his mother in 1972. He married Becky in 1979, and the rest is history. Hold on to your seats while this slide seminar tells the story!

AND a 2nd lecture – a true "gardener’s delight"!

“Heirloom Bulbs for Restoration Gardens”

2:00 p.m.; Visitor Center Auditorium

FREE. Sponsored by The Harold H. Bate Foundation

Flower bulbs were among the first plants in commerce and are even mentioned several times in the Bible. Whether it’s a colonial home or a grandmother’s garden that you wish to restore with authentic bulbs of the time, your options include a palette full of colors, seasons, heights, shapes, and sizes. This talk will cover hundreds of possibilities, anywhere from 50 to over 500 hundred years old, and will be highlighted with slides taken in real gardens. Many of the garden slides are from gardens like Monticello, Colonial Williamsburg, Mount Vernon, and a wealth of other period gardens.

**Thursday, September 17**

African American Lecture

Guest Speaker: Dr. David Dennard, Associate Professor of History at East Carolina University

“From Slavery to Freedom: Race and Citizenship in the Americas”

7:00 p.m.; Visitor Center Auditorium

FREE

This lecture will explore the significance of race in British, Caribbean, and Latin American countries after the death of chattel slavery. Overall, it will offer a comparative perspective on race as a factor in defining the status of blacks after emancipation.

**Sunday, September 20**

African American Historic Downtown Walking Tour

2:00 p.m.; leaves from Visitor Center Lobby. $4 per adult, $2 student

Learn about 300 years of African American history on a walking tour of New Bern’s historic district. This tour lasts approximately 90 minutes and covers 16 blocks. Reservations required: 252-514-4935. (Minimum enrollment: 10)

**Wednesday, September 23**

Dig into History!

10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.; program begins in the Visitor Center. $4 per child, adults free

Ages 3-5, with parental accompaniment.

Dig up fun this fall in this special archaeological program for pre-schoolers and parents. Children will learn about history, archaeology, and artifacts and participate in a mock archaeological dig. Advance registration not required. Please arrive in the Tryon Palace Visitor Center at least 15 minutes before the program to register. (Minimum enrollment: 5)
Fife & Drum Corps Recruit Camp
Monday, July 27–Friday, July 31, 2009

Musicians were an important part of the eighteenth-century military. Fifes and drums played from sunrise to sunset, and served as a primary mode of communication from commander to troops during battle. Tryon Palace has undertaken the exciting task of recreating a colonial fife and drum corps, which plays at numerous events throughout the year in New Bern and beyond.

In this camp, participants will learn from experienced instructors the basics of reading music, scales and rudiments, marching, history, and tunes that will prepare them to join the Tryon Palace Fife & Drum Corps. Join this outstanding program and help bring history to life in a truly unique way.

Advance registration is necessary. Contact kbrightman@tryonpalace.org or call 252-514-4939 for more information; or simply fill out and return the form below with your payment. Scholarships are available.

Registration closes Monday, July 20. Minimum Enrollment: 8

2009 Fife & Drum Corps Recruit Camp Registration Form

Participant name ____________________________
Birthdate/Age _______________________________
School __________________________ last completed grade in school _____
Parent/Guardian name(s) ________________________________
Address _______________________________________
City, State, Zip ________________________________
Home phone number _________________________________
Work phone number ________________________________
E-mail address _________________________________
Council of Friends member?  ☐ YES  ☐ NO
Membership no. ______________________ Exp. date __________

Method of Payment
(Fee for camp: $150 per person, $120 for Council of Friends members).

☐ Check (make payable to Tryon Palace)
Credit Card:  ☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard
Card no. ________________________________ Exp. date __________
Amount __________ Authorizing signature ________________

A completed registration form and payment are necessary to register for camp. Send this form and your payment to:
Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens
Attn: Katie Brightman
P.O. Box 1007
New Bern, NC 28563

Upon receipt of your payment and registration form, you will be sent a confirmation packet with information and additional paperwork pertaining to the camp. If you have any questions, please contact Katie Brightman at 252-514-4939 or kbrightman@tryonpalace.org.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 3
Home School Day: Step into History
9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.; $10 per student, $12 per adult (tickets valid 2 consecutive days). Home-school families enjoy interactive activities as well as tours of the Palace and three other historic homes in this popular event. Bring your picnic lunch and spend time immersed in the past. This year’s focus will be on historical clothing and accessories. See dress-making and tailoring demonstrations; dress-up in colonial costumes; and make a variety of clothing craft items. Activities are designed for school-age children. Some activities have a minimum age requirement. Space is limited; pre-registration and pre-payment required by September 18. Call (252) 514-4935 to register.

Saturday, October 24
Saturday Sampler: All About Tea
10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.; $25 per person
Program begins in Visitor Center Auditorium
On October 25, 1774 fifty-one women gathered in the Edenton home of Mrs. Elizabeth King, but this was no ordinary tea party. In response to the British Tea Act, these women signed an agreement to boycott British goods and “give memorable proof of their patriotism.” In this special tour, you will explore the historical, social, and political importance of tea in colonial America. At the end of the program a 21st-century tea will be served. Prepayment and reservations are required. Please call 252-514-4935. Registration is limited to 25 people. (Minimum enrollment: 10).

Thursday, November 5
Parlor Talk
Speaker: Shirley Willis, Former Domestic Skills Manager at Tryon Palace
“The 18th Century Holiday Table”
12:00 p.m.; FREE, bring Your own lunch (beverages will be provided.)
Commission House Parlor
Feasts and parties were an integral part of the colonial and early American Christmas tradition. In this program, learn about the dishes and desserts that made for a joyous 18th century holiday celebration.
Tryon Palace Goes Green

By Tiffany Yecke Brooks

When the North Carolina History Education Center opens its doors in 2010, it will mark the beginning of a new era for Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens. Our scope as a museum is expanding beyond “history” in the most conventional sense, to include multi-faceted explorations of cultural, political, and natural history, as well – and we’re not just looking at the past.

Some of the most innovative and cutting-edge building techniques are being used in the construction of the Center itself – all for the purpose of preserving and maintaining the delicate ecosystem of eastern North Carolina for the future.

The environmental initiatives of the construction (which is taking place on the former site of Barbour Boat Works) are extensive. Before building could begin, the soil had to be reclaimed and decontaminated to bring it up to current environmental standards – a time-consuming process that eliminates any foreign metals or other materials that may have been deposited on the site during its decades as an industrial location. This first step enabled construction to go forward on a site that is now ecologically sound and sustainable.

The actual building itself also highlights our goal of responsible stewardship. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification is a national accreditation honor given to buildings that have been rated as “green” for their efforts to minimize negative impacts on the environment, and that actually have a positive contribution through their structure and design. The Center is being built according to these standards so as to merit LEED certification upon completion, thanks in large part to the inclusion of an innovative wet pond system and riverwalk.

Wet ponds, which are a series of subterranean pools constructed beneath the Center, will help to collect storm water runoff from more than forty acres of town that surround the NCHEC’s site. In these ponds, the water will have a chance to settle, leaving behind silt and other debris, as well as promoting algae growth essential for maintaining a nutrient-rich ecosystem.

When the Center opens, it will feature a boardwalk, railings, pavilions, and interpretive text plates along the river, which will highlight unique aspects of a riverine ecosystem, explain the importance of ecological balances, and encourage guests to think about the place of nature in shaping exploration, culture, development, and industry.

This celebration of North Carolina’s biodiversity and the significance that our natural resources have played in affecting our shared history will be an important and prominent part of the new Center. By educating our visitors on these matters in a space that clearly reflects our commitment to responsible environmental stewardship, we hope to emphasize the importance of preserving, protecting, and respecting the natural world for future generations of North Carolinians.

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Friday-Sunday, November 27-29
Festive Holiday Kick-Off
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Friday-Saturday; 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Sunday; Admission included with regular ticket purchase
Join us as we kick off the holiday season on Thanksgiving weekend. Christmas decorations are up in the Palace and in our three historic houses. Holiday tours of the festooned gardens and bedecked halls and special activities officially launch us into Christmas.

Saturday, December 5
Saturday Sampler: ‘Twas the Night Before Christmas
1:00 p.m.; $4 per adult, $2 per student; FREE with regular admission. Visitor Center Auditorium
Get into the holiday spirit as you enjoy an entertaining performance of the Christmas classic ‘Twas the Night Before Christmas, warm up with cider and cookies, and sing festive holiday carols.

Saturdays, December 12, 19
Christmas Candlelight
5:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Tickets will be sold for specific tour time slots beginning October 1: $15 for adults, $6 for students.
Costumed guides will escort visitors through the first floor and cellar of the Palace and Kitchen Office, which will be outfitted for the holidays and lit with candle globes and fire baskets to create an ambiance of times past. Music and entertainment will take place throughout the Palace and gardens with costumed dancers, musicians, and dynamic performers giving shows of acrobatics, juggling, sword swallowing, and more. There will be plenty of activity outside the Palace gates too, as our Fife & Drum Corps parades from George Street to the Palace and the Jonkonnu troop performs their lively mix of songs and dances in an African American Christmas celebration from the 18th and 19th centuries. At the end of each evening, a Grand Illumination of period-appropriate fireworks will take place on the Palace grounds.

Thursday, December 31
First Night Celebration
Join in this city-wide celebration of New Bern’s first three hundred years! Tryon Palace activities will include historical films, performing arts programs, children’s craft activities, and costumed characters.

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A worker stands next to one of the wet ponds that is part of the North Carolina History Education Center's innovative design.
Celebrating the grand opening of
Hats Off to the Dreamers: Rebuilding and Furnishing Tryon Palace, April 23, 2009

North Carolina Secretary of Cultural Resources Linda A. Carlisle and Tryon Palace Commission President Bob Mattocks do the honors at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

(left to right) Carroll Hawkins, Elinor Hawkins, and former North Carolina Secretary of Cultural Resources Betty Ray McCain wait their turn to tour the new exhibit.

The Fife & Drums Corps performed a selection of 18th century music to announce the opening and escort guests into the Palace.

May Gordon Kellenberger’s extensive hat collection will be rotated through the exhibit as a light-hearted tribute to the Leading Ladies of Tryon Palace.

Admission to “Hats Off to the Dreamers” is included with the purchase of an all-inclusive Governor’s Pass ticket ($15 – Adults; $6 – Students). Special discounts are available to groups.
The Carolina Parakeet: A story of extinction

By Tiffany Yecke Brooks

On February 21, 1918, a brightly colored bird named Incas died quietly in a cage at the Cincinnati Zoo, the last confirmed specimen of his kind. In 1939, the species was declared officially extinct. How was it that the Carolina Parakeet, which once filled the skies of eastern North America as its only indigenous parrot, was completely obliterated within a few hundred years?

The Carolina Parakeet would have been well-known to anyone in North Carolina in the 18th century. In fact, the bird’s natural habitat ranged from Florida to Pennsylvania, and as far west as the Mississippi River and the swamps of Louisiana. Its high-energy antics and reasonably simple domestication made it a popular pet during the Colonial era; its jewel-toned plumage made it popular with milliners, who found its feathers highly desirable for decoration.

Prolific and hearty, these birds seemed ideally suited to have thrived rather than rapidly descended towards extinction; however, it was their sheer numbers that led to the species’ ultimate demise.

John Audubon’s serial release of Birds of America, from 1827 to 1838, included his study of the Carolina Parakeets, which notes that the bird:

eats or destroys almost every kind of fruit indiscriminately, and on this account is always an unwelcome visitor to the planter, the farmer, or the gardener. The sacks of grain put up in the fields are resorted to by flocks of these birds, which frequently cover them so entirely, that they present to the eye the same effect as if a brilliantly coloured carpet had been thrown over them . . . Do not imagine reader, that all these outrages are borne without severe retaliation on the part of the planters. So far from this, the Parakeets are destroyed in great numbers . . . I have seen several hundreds destroyed in this manner in the course of a few hours, and have procured a basketful of these birds at a few shots.

Their aggressive and destructive feeding habits made them a severe threat to agriculture. Their meat, which Audubon describes as “tolerable,” made them the favorite game of many hunters and farmers. So plentiful were the kills in the 1830s, Audubon noted that the bird’s numbers were already beginning to dwindle in areas where they had previously been plentiful.

By the close of the 19th century, the Carolina Parakeet had become a rarity. In 1904, the last confirmed wild Carolina Parakeet was shot in Okeechobee, Florida, located in the rural heartland of the state. The species held on in public aviaries and zoos until the death of Incas fourteen years later.

Excitement mounted when a film clip emerged in the late 1950s, which seemed to depict a few of the birds flying through the Okefenokee Swamp in Georgia. However, experts could not make a conclusive identification and it was later concluded that the birds were probably escaped domestic birds of similar colors but a different species.

Flocks of parakeets – a site that would have certainly been commonplace to the residents of colonial North Carolina – now strikes many moderns residents as exotic and surprising. These brilliant birds, once a fixture in the Carolina sky, stand as an example of the delicate balance in which our unique ecosystem hangs.

Lead the way – VOLUNTEER!

Need to exercise – and enjoy it? Escort visitors along the Architectural Walking Tour of 18 historical homes and buildings on Metcalf, Johnson, Hancock, and New Streets. Tours focus on exteriors of 18 historical homes and many of the people who made significant contributions to the development of New Bern from the late 18th century to the middle of the 19th century.

Schedule: 1st and 3rd Saturdays beginning on May 2nd and ending on November 21. Special tours on December 12th and 19th (Candlelight Saturdays) can be arranged with advanced reservations. Training will be provided by experienced guides.

Something old... The New Bern Academy Museum, the first chartered School in North Carolina, opened in 1766, became part of the Graded School System of New Bern by an Act of the General Assembly in 1883, and operated until 1971. New Bern Academy Museum Guides provide information and guided tours. We’d especially love to have former students, faculty members, and others who love history to join the “A Team” and share their memories of the Academy.

...Something new! There is an exciting new exhibit in the Palace: “Hats Off to the Dreamers,” which celebrates the story of the forward-thinking women who dreamed of restoring Tryon Palace fifty years ago.

Schedule: The exhibit requires two docents each for the morning and afternoon shifts, Monday-Saturday, and two docents on Sunday.

The Museum Gift Shop is now located in the Daves House. Come visit, come volunteer.

Shop associates are greatly needed for the fall as school tours begin and the holidays are just around the corner.

Schedule: Volunteers are needed Monday-Sunday. Stop by the shop to talk with the manager and learn how you can become a part of this winning team.
Our New Friends

The Tryon Palace Council of Friends welcomes the following members who have joined between March 3, 2009 and May 11, 2009.

- **BENEFACOR**
  - Mr. and Mrs. Champion Mitchell, New Bern

- **FAMILY/GRANDPARENT**
  - Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Brandli, Bayboro
  - Dr. and Mrs. Martin L. Hamilton, Winterville
  - Mr. and Mrs. Anthony S. Howe, New Bern
  - Ms. Rosa C. Johnson, New Bern
  - Mr. and Mrs. Bruce T. Swan, Chocowinity

- **SUPPORTER**
  - Capt USN(Ret) Jo A. Carlton, New Bern
  - Mr. and Mrs. Duke Ellis, New Bern
  - Ms. Beverly Harrington, New Bern
  - Ms. Virginia H. Carter, New Bern
  - Ms. Elaine Bjorkund, New Bern
  - Ms. Loretta Chase, Havelock
  - Mr. Herbert Gant, Wilmington
  - Ms. Ann Herndon, New Bern
  - Mr. Terry A. Rollins, Bath
  - Mrs. Zeda Trice, New Bern
  - Mrs. P. A. Zachwieja, New Bern

- **ASSOCIATE**
  - Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Scoppe, New Bern
  - Mr. T erry A. Rollins, Bath
  - Ms. Ann Herndon, New Bern
  - Mr. Herbert Gant, Wilmington
  - Ms. Loretta Chase, Havelock
  - Mrs. Zeda Trice, New Bern

Friends Movie Series

To help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the restoration of the Palace, the Council of Friends’ monthly movie series is featuring some of the top movies from 1959. Please come join us as we look back at what was popular when the Palace opened.

**Tuesday, July 7: A Summer Place**

When self-made millionaire Ken Jorgenson (Richard Egan) takes his family to the island where he’d lifeguarded as a teenager, he finds himself renewing an old romance with Sylvia Hunter (Dorothy McGuire). The scandal pushes Jorgenson’s daughter (Sandra Dee) and Hunter’s teenage son (Troy Donahue) together as they are shamed by their parents’ actions and resolve to do better with their own lives.

**Tuesday, August 4: Porgy and Bess**

A Gershwin opera that is often at the center of discussions on portrayals of race in entertainment, the film version of Porgy and Bess tells the story of Bess (Dorothy Dandridge), who is trying to break free from her past and the disabled Porgy (Sidney Poitier) who is trying to help her. Set in 1912 Charleston, the film also features Sammy Davis, Jr. as the nefarious Sportin’ Life.

**Tuesday, September 8: North By Northwest**

One of Alfred Hitchcock’s most famous films, North By Northwest finds the mild-mannered advertising executive Roger O. Thornhill (Cary Grant) caught up in a case of mistaken identity and espionage. With the beautiful blond Eve Kendall (Eva Marie Saint) by his side, Thornhill runs for his life from errant crop-dusters and down the faces of Mount Rushmore. The iconic scenes in this movie make it a memorable and classic icon of American cinema.

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The Tryon Palace Council of Friends is pleased to announce a trip to Switzerland and Germany, departing November 30, 2009. The trip will begin in Bern, offering travelers the opportunity to attend the opening of Bern’s exhibit on New Bern, a collaborative endeavor with Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens and the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources. The beautiful city of Bern will be especially festive with the decorations of the Christmas season. The three days in Bern will give time for visits to sites of interest, as well as the opportunity to meet many of her fine citizens.

Leaving Bern on December 4, we will travel to Heidelberg for a visit to that historic city and its famous Christmas Market. After an overnight in Heidelberg, we will take the short drive to Speyer and visit sights including its beautiful cathedral. Another short drive will bring us to Worms and its cathedral of great historic importance. Speyer and Worms will be our introduction to the German Palatinate, the beautiful area from which many early settlers to New Bern came.

Leaving Worms, we will travel a couple of hours to Trier, a city of great importance since the time of the Roman occupation, a period that left Trier with remarkable monuments. After two nights in Trier, we will travel about three hours to Mainz, seeing beautiful villages and dormant vineyards en route. Spending two nights in Mainz, we will visit important historic sites, including many associated with Johannes Gutenberg and his groundbreaking printing press.

This early-December trip will allow visitors to celebrate the beginning of New Bern’s first 300 years, important for all North Carolinians, with the people of her mother city. The Christmas season adds to the festivity as we visit the Palatinate, which hug the River Rhine and the French and Luxembourgian borders.

**Itinerary**

November 30: Raleigh to Zurich via Delta Airlines
December 1, 2, 3: Bern, Switzerland
December 4: Heidelberg, Germany
December 5, 6: Trier, Germany with visits to Speyer, Worms and other Palatinate towns
December 7, 8: Mainz
December 9: Frankfurt to Raleigh via Delta Airlines

**Trip Fees:** $3500.00 double occupancy (single supplement $725.00)

The trip fee includes round trip air from Raleigh, all tour transportation and transfers, all hotels, all tours and events, all breakfasts, five lunches, five dinners.

*The Friends travel program is a benefit offered to members of the Council of Friends. If you would like to participate in this trip and are not a member of the Friends, please contact Karen O’Connell (252-514-4933 or koconnell@tryonpalace.org) for membership information.*
New In The Shops

By Paul Brown, Retail Operations Manager

Produce for jams, jellies, preserves, pickles, and dressings were all naturally grown and harvested from the Tryon Palace Kitchen Garden by the various governors who lived here. Strawberries, blackberries, figs, grapes, berries, apples, tomatoes, and green peppers were just some of the crops grown to produce accompaniments to the governors’ table.

The Museum Shop presents an array of select foods made expressly for the Palace by Braswell Foods. We offer old colonial favorites such as strawberry & rhubarb jelly, sweet green pepper jelly – and a North Carolina favorite, muscadine jelly – to accompany your breakfast biscuits or afternoon tea sandwiches.

For your casual gatherings, we offer “Good and Evil” pickles (sweet and hot), delicious marinated mushroom caps, and chow-chow relish. Always warm weather favorites are our dressings with delicious names like Vidalia Onion, Summer Tomato, Creamy Ranch, and Balsamic Blue Cheese & Walnut.

Each jar and bottle comes with our custom Tryon Palace label to let your guests know they are tasting something unique! Dressings are priced at just $5.00 each. Gift giving? We have available a four jar gift sets for $17.99.

Summer Living

We’ve moved! You can now find the Museum Shop in the historic Daves House, to the right of the Palace gates on the corner of Pollock and Eden Streets.