

Annual Beaufort Homes and Gardens Tour

With more than 100 houses over a century old in the picturesque seaport town of Beaufort, it is essential that every year a special time is set aside to showcase the history of the third oldest town in North Carolina. This year, the Fifty-first Annual Beaufort Old Homes and Gardens Tour will take place June 24 and 25. For the eighth time this Holmes and Garden Tour as one of the Southeast Tourism Society's Top 20 Event for 2011. This prestigious award includes such events as the Kentucky Derby, the International Cherry Blossom Festival in Georgia and Carteret County's own Beaufort Wine & Food Weekend, to name just a few.

Beaufort is a delight for anyone who enjoys the lure of the sea and the wonderful stories of star-crossed lovers, Confederate spies, and pirates that make up the rich history of the area. The Old Homes & Gardens Tour is a perfect opportunity for visitors and locals alike to explore beautiful restored historic homes, glorious gardens, churches and public buildings throughout the town. From small cottages to Bahamian inspired double-porched homes this year's tour will feature 12 private homes, the restored buildings on the Beaufort Historic Site, an Antique Car Show, musical concerts and a narrated tour of the Beaufort Historic District aboard a vintage English double-decker bus.

Since 1960, this annual weekend has been the largest fundraiser for the Beaufort Historical Association (BHA) and has been a time of community involvement and pride, when Beaufort residents proudly open the doors of their splendid historic homes to help and support the BHA's preservation and educational programs.

"It's the way everyone opens their doors (literally) to all our many visitors and the whole town comes alive with different events surrounding the homes and gardens that makes it such a special event for our community. Our southern hospitality really is unmatched," says Old Homes Tour Committee Chair, Lucia Stanley.

Each of the private homes on the tour has a distinct personality from classic architecture and beautiful antiques to whimsical adaptations of tradition. This year's homes include: The First Methodist Parsonage, c1820; the W.F. Bell House, c1860; the home of Dan and Mary Lou Stetka; the Halbert L. Potter House c1902; the Asa Canaday House, c1829; the home of Pete and Tracy Huley; the Thomas Murray House, c1846; the Gible House, c1772; the home of Lise Johnson; the home of Woody and Terry Billings; the home of John and Polly Hagle; and the Fishhouse, c1940's.

The Carteret Chorale, under the direction of Laurence Stith, will present a concert on Thursday June 23 that will commence the weekend's activities. Beginning at 8 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 215 Ann Street, the concert will honor this year's Honor-

ary Chairperson as well as the hundreds of volunteers who help make the busy weekend so successful. The concert is free and open to the public with a reception following in the Parish Hall.

Held in conjunction with the Old Homes Tour, the Antiques Show and Sale will be held June 24, 25, and 26, with dealers from throughout the Southeast, displaying furniture, silver, crystal, jewelry, linens, dolls and much more. The Antiques Show will be held in the Crystal Coast Civic Center in Morehead City and offers 3 days of great antiquing to fit any budget. A Gourmet Tea Room will be open during the Antiques Show and Sale and will offer specialty sandwiches, beverages and desserts provided by area restaurants.

This annual event gives visitors the chance to find out more about the wonderful history of Beaufort with most wanting to return for more. Advance ticket orders can now be placed for the Old Homes & Gardens Tour and Antiques Show and Sale. Ticket prices for the Old Homes & Gardens Tour and Antiques Show and Sale combination are \$20 in advance and \$24 the days of the events. A ticket for the Old Homes & Gardens Tour is \$16 in advance and \$20 at the door. The Antiques Show and Sale tickets are \$7, good for all three days. For more information on any of these events, contact the Beaufort Historical Association at 728-5225, stop by the Beaufort Historical Association Visitor's Center at 130 Turner Street or visit their website at www.beauforthistoricsite.org.

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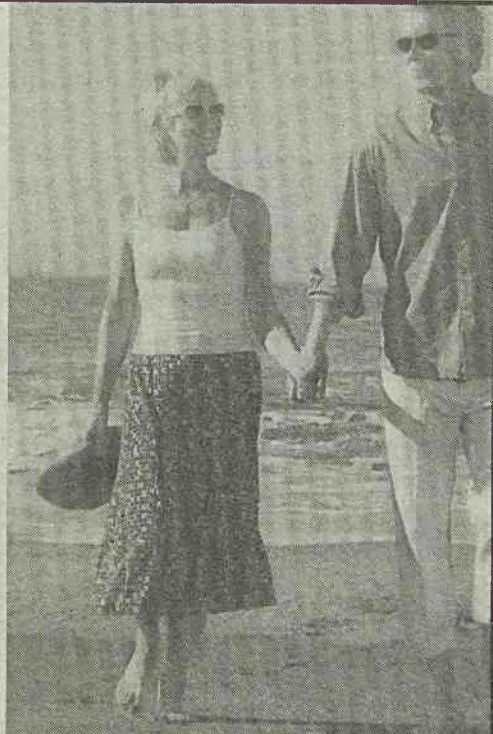
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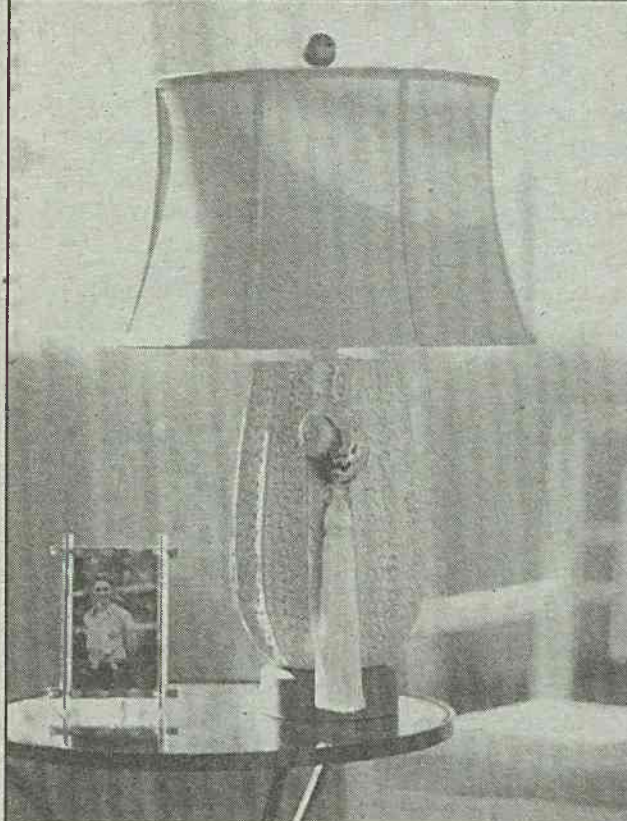


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