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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“FREE DAY”
DISCOVERING OUR PAST, CELEBRATING OUR FUTURE
Saturday, February 7
Bate Foundation Community Appreciation

NEW BERN - Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the restoration of the Palace by welcoming visitors to come tour the Palace, three historic houses and the New Bern Academy free of charge on Saturday, February 7. Games and activities for children are also free throughout the day. This annual community appreciation event is made possible by the **Harold H. Bate Foundation**.

Special Programs: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- 1) **DIG IT** – This is an archaeology focused activity for children. Objects will be buried in two flowerbeds, which children will excavate and try to determine what the objects are and may have been used for.
- 2) **TIME CAPSULE**: Children will decorate containers that can be used as time capsules. They will be given information on what sorts of things to put in them, how to seal and preserve them, and how to recover them in the future.
- 3) **MAKE A DIARY**: Children will learn what a primary source is (something written or created by someone from the past), and learn about some famous historical diaries. They will make their own diary to take home, so people of the future can learn about their lives.
- 4) **JOURNAL IN A JAR**: Children will write down answers to questions about what their life is like, what they like to do, and then seal their answers in a jar. The

- keepsake jar will be a great source of memories for the children when they get older, or provide a great record of their lives to future historians.
- 5) **BE A HISTORIAN:** Everyone will be given information on how they can discover history in their own home, and what they can do to leave a better record of their lives for future generations.
 - 6) **TOUCH AND TELL TABLE:** The table features tools and materials relating to archaeology, preservation, and the restoration of Tryon Palace. Children will handle these objects and learn how “we know what we know.”
 - 7) **LAWN GAMES:** Graces, Hoops, Bowls, Jacob’s Ladder

FIFE & DRUM CORPS performances (times to be announced).

11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. - **STORY TELLER** Terry Rollins. Terry will tell stories of NC history that show how oral history can reveal life in the past.

12:30 p.m. **LECTURE** with Rebecca Reimer, Curator of Education: How we learn about eating and social customs by looking at ceramics and artifacts. (Auditorium)

Tours of Historic Buildings:

9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. - The first floor of the Palace, cellar and kitchen office will be open to visitors throughout the day, as will the first floors of three historic houses on the site.

The John Wright Stanly house, c.1780, was home to a wealthy ship owner; the Robert Hay house, c.1820, will provide visitors with a hands-on living history experience; and the George W. Dixon house, c.1830, home to a once prosperous merchant and tailor.

Visitors will also be able to tour the New Bern Academy, which was North Carolina’s first chartered school. The Academy features artifacts from the Civil War, examples of early New Bern architecture and reveals the experience of schoolchildren in past generations.

A visit to Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens allows new and returning visitors the opportunity to experience North Carolina’s history from colonial days through the Civil

War – and, in so doing, understand more about the rich and colorful history of the Old North State.

Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens is at the corner of George and Pollock Streets in New Bern's historic downtown. It will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Free Day.

Before entering the grounds, visitors should go to the Visitor Center to pick up their free passes. Tours of its historic sites begin on the hour and half-hour. The last tours of the day begin at 4 p.m.

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Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens (www.tryonpalace.org) is part of the North Carolina 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

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.