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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**TRYON PALACE HISTORIC SITES & GARDENS
First Sunday Afternoons from March 7 through October are FREE**

NEW BERN, NC (2/9/10) --- Spend Sunday afternoons FREE in the Tryon Palace Gardens! Beginning on Sunday, March 7 the Gardens at Tryon Palace will be 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, simply sit down and read a book in a peaceful environment, or 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 new Facebook page! Be sure to stop by our new gift shop in the Daves House right next to the Palace gates.

If you want to come inside to tour the Palace and historic houses, our all-inclusive two day Governors Pass will be available at a reduced price of \$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.

For more information about visit the website www.tryonpalace.org or call 1.800.767.1560 or

252.514.4900. # # #

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 Historic Sites & Gardens' 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 Education Center scheduled to open in July of 2010 complements and enhances this mission.

Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens, 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 Education 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.