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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE PALACE, BY GEORGE! February 20-22

[NEW BERN, NC] - - President's Day may have come and gone, but George Washington's Birthday isn't until February 22 and Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens is celebrating the occasion. In honor of the birthday of our nation's first president, Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens is holding "The Palace, by George!" For the weekend of February 20, 21, and 22, special events at the Palace will celebrate George Washington and the years of early statehood.

Visitors named George or with variations of 'George' as their names will be given discounts for the Governor's Pass ticket (visitors must show proof of ID).

Tours of the Palace will discuss George Washington's 1791 visit to New Bern, and the festivities held in his honor. Learn how the Palace operated as the first state capital of North Carolina, and visit the Stanly House, where George Washington stayed during his time in New Bern.

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On Saturday, kids can get hands-on and make a patriotic craft as part of the celebration.

If you're looking to make your own large-scale patriotic decorations, attend the free bunting lecture at 1 p.m. Saturday afternoon - - - learn about America's history of celebrating patriotism with bunting, and get some decorating ideas of your own!

Crafts will take place Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The bunting lecture will be Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m. Special tours will run Saturday through Monday, as will the discounted admission. The all-inclusive two day Governors Pass will be available at a reduced price of \$12 for adults and \$5 for students named George or with a variation of "George" in their names.

Your tickets are valid for two days and the complete schedule of events will be posted in the Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens visitor center. ###

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 August 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.