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Second Saturday in June is a BLAST at Fort Fisher

KURE BEACH —If you're looking for some family fun that's easy on the pocketbook, visit the Fort Fisher State Historic Site on Saturday, June 11, from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., as the site celebrates the second Saturday in June with "Storms of Shot and Shell," a field artillery extravaganza. Visitors will see and hear the frequent firing of a full six-gun battery lining the south air strip. They can also meet historian Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr., who will debut his new book on Timothy O'Sullivan's historic photography of Fort Fisher.

At the event, wet-plate photographer Harry Taylor will demonstrate 19th century photography. Free costumed tours of the fort's remaining earthworks—complete with rifle demonstrations—will also be held. At 12:00 noon special public recognition will be accorded State Representative Carolyn Justice (Pender/New Hanover) for her leadership in working to save funding for NC State Historic Sites in the House of Representatives Appropriations Bill that was recently passed by the full House.

This event is part of "2nd Saturdays," a statewide summer initiative at the NC Department of Cultural Resources' State Historic Sites and museums that combines arts, history, culture, and fun for all ages.

"Our 2nd Saturdays programs are designed to have something for everyone," said Assistant Site Manager Amy Thornton. "Best of all, it gives us the opportunity to show visitors that history, culture, and fun don't have to come with a heavy price tag."

Fort Fisher, the largest earthen fortification in the Confederacy, once protected the port of Wilmington and the vital blockade running trade on the Cape Fear River. After two massive bombardments the fort fell to a Union infantry assault on January 15, 1865. With the capture of Fort Fisher, Wilmington's port – "the Lifeline of the Confederacy" – was closed to foreign trade.

Fort Fisher State Historic Site is located at 1610 Fort Fisher Blvd S, Kure Beach, N.C. 28449. For more information on the site, call (910) 458-5538 or visit the web site www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher/. Fort Fisher State Historic Site is part of the Division of State Historic Sites in the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, the state agency with the mission to enrich lives and communities, and the vision to harness the state's cultural resources to build North Carolina's social, cultural and economic future. Information is available 24/7 at www.ncculture.com.

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Photo Cutline:

Visitors of the Fort Fisher State Historic Site will be treated to a field artillery extravaganza on Saturday, June 11, 2011. (Photo courtesy of the NC Department of Cultural Resources)