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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TRUST TO HOST STORYTELLING WEEK
Environmental Story Telling Week located at the Historic Mission House

THURSDAY, 8 April – The National Trust for the Cayman Islands will host an Environmental Storytelling week at the Mission House 19 – 23 April to celebrate Earth Month. The storytelling week is open to primary school children and features stories from Fish Tea – A Collection of Caymanian Tales.

“Earth Day will be celebrated in Cayman and around the world on April 22, 2010. This year we have decided to host an Environmental Storytelling Read-Aloud,” said Erica Daniel, Education Programmes Coordinator at the National Trust for the Cayman Islands, “We hope to change student attitudes toward the environment through this event”.

These engaging story telling sessions will provide teachers with the opportunity to introduce students to new genres of literature, while modeling desired reading and thinking strategies that foster critical thinking. While science-related books motivate students, science related literature, especially science fiction, is often untapped resource for read aloud book selections and this exercise is also designed to complement the curriculum and should provide content to support and inspire hands-on investigations for many year groups.

The location for the storytelling week brings together the Environmental and Historic aspects of the National Trust for the Cayman Islands in the month of April, which hosts Earth Day and World Heritage Day. The history of the Mission House can be traced backed to the mid 1800’s and this historic site transports visitors to an earlier time in Cayman’s history by recreating the living situations of the last three families known to have owned the home. The house sits on its original ironwood posts in a unique setting on the edge of a wetland. Upon surveying the grounds one will quickly notice that the front of the yard is reserved for flowering and shade trees and in the backyard tower traditional fruit trees such as Guniep, Tamarind and Indian Almond.

Prior to its destruction by Hurricane Ivan in 2004, the Mission House was one of Cayman’s oldest known dwellings. A respectable replica of the house was built and re-opened to the public in 2007. The original house was made from wattle and daub with a separate kitchen or “cook-room” along the side of the house. Separate buildings reduced the risk of the main house being destroyed should a fire occur which was a particularly clever idea.

A board walk, which surrounds the house, leads to a fresh water pond at the rear of the building. In the past, this pond was a reliable source of drinking water for the inhabitants of the area and is also the site of many local species of birds such as the Common Moorhen and the West Indian Whistling Duck.

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(TRUST TO HOLD STORYTELLING WEEK CONTINUED 2/2)

For more information on the Environmental Storytelling Week please contact Erica Daniel at 749-1126 or e-mail edaniel@nationaltrust.org.ky.

For more information, to arrange a private tour or to hold you event at the Mission House please call 749-1132 or e-mail mission@nationaltrust.org.ky. The Mission House is opened Tuesday – Thursday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with the last tour held at 4:30 p.m.

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Editors note-

Photo attached: The Mission House. Photo taken by Denise Bodden.