



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Lori Geller

The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

773/755-5108

lgeller@naturemuseum.org

Nature Museum Names Director of Exhibits

CHICAGO (February 25, 2009) – The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum has promoted an experienced manager of exhibits to its senior management team. Alvaro Ramos has been named Director of Exhibits, effective immediately.

Ramos' responsibilities in his new position include conceptualizing, designing and managing all permanent and temporary exhibitions at the Nature Museum. He will also oversee the work of exhibit technicians, graphic designers and project installers as well as develop and implement enhancements and improvements to all Museum exhibitions.

Ramos has been a vital part of the Museum staff since 2007, where he served as Manager of Exhibits and Design. Ramos' major accomplishments include spearheading *Lawn Nation: Art and Science of the American Lawn*, the Museum's first home grown exhibition in 2008, and, more recently, showcasing the Chicago Academy of Sciences' extensive collections at the Museum through its new permanent exhibition, *Birds of Chicago*. Ramos directed the development and design of the Museum's current exhibitions, *Amazing Amphibians*, an interactive exhibition which offers a rare glimpse into the world of live amphibians; as well as *Planet of the Arthropods*, a photographic show that features the unique work of Chicago photographer Jim Rowan.

"We are delighted to elevate Alvaro to the senior management team," said Donna Gustafsson, interim president and CEO of the Nature Museum. "He is deserving of the position, and the visiting public will continue to benefit greatly from his talent. "

-more-

Alvaro Ramos – Page 2

Prior to joining the Nature Museum, Ramos worked at the Adler Planetarium, the Chicago Historical Society, and 555 International. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Note to editors: Photo available upon request.

About the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

Celebrating more than 150 years of science exploration and education, the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum is the teaching and learning center of the Chicago Academy of Sciences, founded in 1857 as Chicago's first museum dedicated to educating Chicagoans about nature and science through the preservation and display of native specimens, classroom activities, and dissemination of scientific knowledge.

Today the Nature Museum continues the Academy's tradition of education about nature in greater Chicago, research, and conservation through participatory exhibits and programs, educational outreach, and ongoing scientific activity. Its collections, due to their age and type, are among the most important in the region. The Museum's distinctive experience includes extensive involvement in schools and classrooms, and the opportunities for visitors to learn about nature up close.

Since its opening 10 years ago, the Nature Museum has welcomed more than 1.8 million visitors and provides hands-on exhibitions and programs to 70,000 students annually and trains and provides resources for more than 1,500 Chicago teachers in over 430 schools. The Nature Museum engages visitors, especially urban dwellers, in new ways to connect with and preserve the natural world through a unique indoor/outdoor experience. The Museum is one of the city's best examples of eco-friendly building technology with lush outdoor nature trails and habitat, green roof, rain barrels and solar panels.

###