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**Paradise Lost Explores the Effects of Climate Change
*Environmental Art Exhibition at the Nature Museum Starts May 30***

CHICAGO (March 19, 2009) –Climate change is leaving its mark on every environment and ecosystem in the world, and a group of artists, scientists and educators recently came together to increase public understanding about the topic through art. The result is *Paradise Lost: Climate Change in the North Woods*, a thought-provoking environmental art exhibition on display at the Chicago Academy of Sciences' Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum May 30 through August 16.

Paradise Lost addresses how Wisconsin's North Woods may be affected by global warming. Featuring everything from paintings, quilts and puzzles to drawings and music, the exhibition explores the roots of climate change, encouraging everyone to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and preserve the environment. Each piece of artwork reflects a unique perspective on the effects of climate change in the North Woods.

Climatologists predict that by the end of the 21st century, North Woods summers will feel like Arkansas—much hotter and drier. Scientists believe these climate changes will deeply affect North Woods plants, animals and people.

"*Paradise Lost* has an underlying positive message that says that there's a lot we can do about climate change," said Alvaro Ramos, director of exhibits at the Nature Museum. "Behavior choices, large or small, can affect the degree of climate change, and this great exhibition brings to light such an important topic."

Within the exhibition, visitors will notice three prominent themes: Consider Climate Change, which examines human impacts on climate; Celebrate the Cold, which takes a look at the northern ecosystem and elements that we stand to lose with a warmer climate; and Alter the Course, which suggests actions we can take to preserve the North Woods.

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“Being in such close proximity to Wisconsin’s North Woods, we want to remind Chicagoans that climate change impacts us all,” said Ramos. “And this exhibition paints a great picture of climate change from different perspectives.”

Paradise Lost also includes illustrations about the effect of climate change on local species, completed by members of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators. Additionally, the Museum will be showing short films about climate change in the exhibition gallery theater.

Paradise Lost is a traveling exhibition from the University of Wisconsin Center for Biology Education and the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology. The exhibition will be on display at the Chicago Academy of Sciences’ Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum May 30 through August 15, 2009. Admission to the Museum, including special exhibitions, is \$9/adult, \$6/child 3-12, \$7/seniors and students. Thursdays are suggested donation days. Located at 2430 North Cannon Drive in Chicago’s Lincoln Park, the Museum is open weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.naturemuseum.org or call 773-755-5100.

Photos available upon request:

1. Ice Messengers, by Diana Randolph.
2. It’s Just Math, by Bonnie Peterson.

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.