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Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum Appoints Five New Trustees to Board

CHICAGO (February 2, 2009) – The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum announced today that John Barron, Gregory C. Case, Val R. Jensen, Patricia Novosel and Brian Walls have been recently appointed as members of the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees is the governing organization of the Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum. The 38-member Board supports the Museum’s mission of nature and science education in Chicago.

“I am delighted to welcome these accomplished individuals to the board during this exciting time for the Museum,” said Charles W. Douglas, chairman of the Board of Trustees. “Each one of these individuals brings a unique perspective to the board, and I am certain they will help us continue to strengthen the Museum’s position as Chicago’s key resource for nature and science education.”

John Barron is the General Manager of *Chicago Sun-Times* News Group, a frequent sponsor of the Nature Museum’s special exhibitions and events including Orbitz Go Go Green 5K race. Gregory C. Case is the president and CEO of AON Corporation. He co-chaired the Nature Museum’s 2008 Butterfly Ball with his wife, Mamie. Aon has been a strong supporter of the Museum through the Corporate Lecture Series. Val Jensen is the vice president of Marketing & Environmental Programs at ComEd. Jensen and ComEd have funded the Museum’s *Science on the Go!* program for the past several years. Patricia Novosel is a Global Food Leader at Ernst & Young, which supports the Museum’s education programming. Brian Walls serves as the Global Head of Alternative Investments at Newedge USA, LLC. In 2008, his family provided support for the Museum’s Blanding’s Turtle Restoration Project.

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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.

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