



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum Appoints New Trustee and Elects Lifetime Trustee to its Board

CHICAGO (October 27, 2009) – The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum has appointed Dr. Joel S. Brown as a new trustee to its Board and elected Dr. Paul Heltne as a life trustee, both effective immediately.

The Board of Trustees is the governing organization of the Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum. The now 46-member Board (six of which are life trustees) support the Museum’s mission of nature and science education in Chicago.

“We are so fortunate to welcome both Dr. Joel Brown and Dr. Paul Heltne to our Board,” said Stephen R. Ferrara, Chairman of the Board. “Both bring to the table valuable knowledge and expertise in their respective fields. We are grateful for the invaluable contributions these individuals have already made to the Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum and are confident of the support they will continue to provide in the future.”

Dr. Joel S. Brown is a professor of biology and director of Undergraduate Studies for the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). Brown is a co-founder of Project Squirrel, a collaboration between the Nature Museum and UIC. Project Squirrel employs citizen scientists to track the presence of squirrels in city neighborhoods to draw conclusions about the local environment. Since the program’s re-launch in March, more than 3,100 citizen scientists have participated.

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Paul Heltne, PhD, previously served as director and president of the Chicago Academy of Sciences for 17 years from 1982 to 1999. As president of the Academy, Heltne's major accomplishments included opening the doors of the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum in 1999, establishing the *Science on the Go!* outreach science education program in Chicago Public Schools, and creating the TEENS (Teens Exploring and Explaining Natural Science) program to train high school students in interpretative science. Heltne has served as president emeritus and counselor to the Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum since 1999.

About the Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

The Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum inspire people to learn about and care for nature and the environment. The Academy, founded in 1857, improves the quality of life in Chicago and the region by delivering superior environmental and science education programs to students and teachers, by offering Museum exhibitions and conducting public programs that foster green living, by restoring local ecosystems and advancing scientific knowledge through collections and research.

During the past 10 years, the Chicago Academy of Sciences has welcomed more than 1.8 million visitors to its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum. The Museum provides hands-on exhibitions and programs to 70,000 students and trains and provides resources for more than 1,700 Chicago teachers in over 430 schools annually. The Museum engages visitors, especially urban dwellers, in new ways to connect with and preserve the natural world through a unique indoor/outdoor experience. It 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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