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### **NATURE MUSEUM HOPPING WITH NEW AMAZING AMPHIBIANS EXHIBITION STARTING FEB. 7**

**CHICAGO** (November 21, 2008) – Jump right in to the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum and experience a rare glimpse into the life of frogs, toads, salamanders and other animals that make up the Amphibia class. *Amazing Amphibians*, the Museum’s new temporary exhibition, begins February 7 and runs through April 12, 2009. The interactive, high-energy exhibition is designed to open visitors’ eyes to the diversity of amphibians, and to learn about the 13 species of frogs and toads in the Chicago region.

“This exhibition shows the astonishing diversity and fascinating life cycles of amphibians, particularly frogs,” said Jill Riddell, vice president of exhibits and strategic initiatives. “It’s something that opens up the visitors minds to the richness of the natural world.”

Young visitors will enjoy the maze and a zipline, where they can grab hold of a bar and glide from one tree to another like a frog in a rainforest. They can also test their frog skills by comparing their jumps to the leaps of various frogs.

In addition to the interactive components that offer insight into how amphibians differ from reptiles, *Amazing Amphibians* also increases public awareness about the threat of extinction amphibians face and the role humans play in both their decline and survival.

“Increasing public awareness of amphibians is critical, since they are one of the more endangered groups of animals in the world,” said Riddell. “It is our hope that after visiting the exhibition, people will understand what they would be missing if the number of frogs keeps going down.”

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*Amazing Amphibians* offers Museum goers several unique areas:

- **Live Animals** – Get up close and personal with local and exotic frogs and toads, including Cane Toads, Leopard Frogs, and Cuban Tree Frogs.
- **Frog Maze** – Travel through an interactive maze testing your knowledge on metamorphosis and extinction, and discover a new amphibian fact at every turn!
- **Zipline** – Zipline through a make-shift rainforest and experience what it's like to be a tree frog and glide through the air.
- **Leap 'n Learn** – Test your leaping skills as a measured jumping line on the floor allows kids to compare their best jumps to those of various frogs.
- **Cane Toad Documentary** – View a documentary detailing the spread of Hawaiian sugar-cane toads through Australia in a botched effort to introduce them as counter pests.
- **Scientific Illustrations of Frogs** – Drawings and collages, designed by local artists highlight the beauty of amphibians.

*Amazing Amphibians* is a temporary exhibition from Minotaur Mazes, with special assistance from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. *Amazing Amphibians* will be at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum February 7 through April 12, 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](http://www.naturemuseum.org) or call 773-755-5100.

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*Celebrating more than 150 years of science exploration and education, the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum is the public face 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 Museum continues the Academy's tradition of research, conservation and education about nature in the Midwest 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 distinguishes itself through extensive involvement in schools and the opportunities it provides for visitors to experience nature up close.*

*As one of the city's best examples of eco-friendly building technology with its lush outdoor nature trails and habitat, green roof, solar panels, and natural light sources, the Museum engages visitors, especially urban dwellers, in new ways to connect with and preserve the natural world. Since its opening in 1999, the Museum has welcomed more than 1.5 million visitors and provides hands-on exhibits and programs to 65,000 students annually and trains and provides resources for more than 2,000 Chicago teachers.*

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