



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Lori Geller
Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum
312/755-5108
lgeller@naturemuseum.org

**Chicago Wilderness Establishes Magazine Office at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum
Museum's Jill Riddell Appointed Chair of Magazine's Editorial Board**

CHICAGO (October 21, 2008)—Two staff members of *Chicago Wilderness Magazine* have a new place to call home – the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum. Last month, Chicago Wilderness moved the magazine's editorial office to the Nature Museum in Chicago's Lincoln Park.

Melinda Pruett-Jones, executive director of Chicago Wilderness, said the move was a tremendous step for the future of the magazine.

“We are thrilled to have a presence at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum. For years, the magazine has reported on the amazing nature we have in this region, and the people and organizations working to protect and restore it, including the Nature Museum,” said Pruett-Jones. “As a founding member of the Chicago Wilderness consortium, the Nature Museum is an important actor in regional conservation efforts, and we are excited to enter this new phase of partnership. We are also most grateful to the magazine's former host, Audubon-Chicago Region, which played a critical role in bringing the magazine into existence and making it successful for more than a decade as the voice of local nature.”

Laurene von Klan, president and CEO of the Nature Museum, said the decision to host *Chicago Wilderness Magazine* staff at the Nature Museum is a testament to the Museum's dedication to the community.

“Both the Nature Museum and Chicago Wilderness are strongly committed to inspiring others to learn about, care for and improve nature and our environment,” said von Klan. “Our core missions align very well, and we were happy to give one of our local partners working space within our organization.”

-MORE-

Chicago Wilderness Partnership —page 2

Chicago Wilderness and the Nature Museum also hope to continue their partnership through the magazine's publication's editorial board. Recently, Jill Riddell, vice president of exhibitions and strategic initiatives at the Nature Museum, was named chair. Riddell's duties as chair of the editorial board will include overseeing the editorial board and directing board-related activities.

About Chicago WILDERNESS Magazine

Chicago WILDERNESS Magazine is a publication of Chicago Wilderness, a regional alliance of more than 230 organizations working to protect local biodiversity and enrich the lives of the region's residents. For more information, visit www.chicagowildernessmag.org or www.chicagowilderness.org.

About the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

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 exhibitions 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 exhibitions and programs to 65,000 students annually and trains and provides resources for more than 2,000 Chicago teachers. For more information, visit www.naturemuseum.org.

###