



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:  
Amanda Golucki  
Chicago Academy of Sciences  
and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum  
773-755-5192

## THE CICADAS ARE COMING!

*Learn about 17-year Cicadas at the Notebaert Nature Museum*

CHICAGO (March 8, 2007) – The whole city's abuzz, preparing for the largest influx of cicadas since 1990! *Magicicada*, the periodical cicadas expected to swarm the skies this summer emerge from beneath the ground once every 17 years. Programs and exhibits offered throughout the summer at the Notebaert Nature Museum reveal the wheres, whens and whys of these mysterious creatures.

The periodical cicadas expected to emerge this June – in numbers as high as several hundred thousand per acre – are different from those we see toward summer's end each year. Unlike annuals, periodicals develop in sync with each other, so that almost all members of the species mature into adults the same year. All seven species of periodicals have remarkably long life spans: four have 13-year lifecycles and three have 17-year cycles. Just think, since 1990, the year we launched the Hubble space telescope, thousands upon thousands of cicada nymphs have been sucking root fluids and eagerly awaiting their big day right beneath our feet!

"If you don't see them, they're not there. If they are there, you can't miss them," says Doug Taron, PhD and Notebaert Nature Museum Curator of Biology. "Populations are patchy so you may not find any in one area, but a few miles away, there'll be thousands." Their above-ground debut will likely take place on a June evening around dusk.

- more -

Cicadas clamber up to the surface through tunnels finding nearby plants on which to molt into adults. From then on, life above the surface is a frenzy of eating and mating – only six weeks to lay eggs that will turn into nymphs, tunnel beneath the ground, and re-visit us as cicadas in 2024.

This summer, the Notebaert Nature Museum will feature special programs designed to educate visitors about cicadas. Discover how they make their distinctive sound, create your own cicada instrument, explore more about this fascinating insect's morphology and anatomy, and learn how to start your own collection. Visit [www.naturemuseum.org](http://www.naturemuseum.org) for program dates and times.

The Chicago Academy of Sciences was founded in 1857 as Chicago's first museum, dedicated to the preservation and display of native specimens. Today the Academy's collection, due to its age and type, places it among the most important in the world. In 1999, the Academy opened the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, increasing the amount of green space in Lincoln Park. It has welcomed more than 1.1 million visitors and is a unique venue for the public, especially urban dwellers, to find new ways to reconnect with the natural world. The Museum provides hands-on exhibits and programs to 65,000 students annually and trains and provides resources for more than 2,000 Chicago teachers. The Nature Museum is one of the city's best examples of eco-friendly building technology, including a green roof, solar panels, natural light sources and native landscaping. The Academy and its Museum are engaged in important conservation and research work, such as its Butterfly Restoration Project. Located at 2430 N. Cannon Drive in Chicago's Lincoln Park, the Museum is open every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day; weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, visit [naturemuseum.org](http://naturemuseum.org).

# # #