

***Cantigny in Focus* Photo Contest Enters Final Weeks**

WHEATON, IL, Nov. 3, 2009 — Amateur photographers of all ages are invited to share their best images by entering the *Cantigny in Focus* annual photo contest. The entry deadline is Friday, Dec. 15.

Submitted images must be from the grounds of Cantigny in Wheaton, the 500-acre former estate of Robert R. McCormick and part of the McCormick Foundation. Judges will select the “best” photograph from each of 10 categories or themes including events, gardens, concerts, statues, children’s activities and wildlife. An additional 10 winners will be chosen from all images submitted, for a total of 20 finalists.

“This is the third year for *Cantigny in Focus* and the contest keeps growing,” said Laura Evans, director of visitor services. “Photographers really enjoy the diversity of the estate. Gardens and nature are probably the main attractions but special events and family gatherings are very popular subjects, too.”

The top 20 contest entries will be displayed starting Feb. 5, 2010, in the Cantigny Visitors Center Gallery. The general public will then vote for their favorite images. Based on those results, first, second and third place winners will be named, with each receiving a prize. The 20 entries selected for display will be enlarged, professionally framed at Cantigny’s expense and returned to the photographers at the end of 2010. Top 20 finishers also will receive a free annual parking pass.

Full details about *Cantigny in Focus*, including rules and official entry form, are available at Cantigny.org. Questions may be directed to Brian Gray at 630 260 8167 or via e-mail at bgray@Cantigny.org.

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About the McCormick Foundation

The McCormick Foundation is a nonprofit organization committed to strengthening our free, democratic society by investing in children, communities and country. Through its grantmaking programs, Cantigny Park and Golf, museums and civic outreach program the Foundation helps build a more active and engaged citizenry. It was established as a charitable trust in 1955, upon the death of Colonel Robert R. McCormick, the longtime editor and publisher of the Chicago Tribune. The McCormick Foundation is one of the nation’s largest charities, with more than \$1 billion in assets. For more information, please visit [McCormick Foundation.org](http://McCormickFoundation.org).

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