

Cantigny Greenhouse Open to Public on May 3

WHEATON, IL, April 16, 2009 — The Horticulture Department at Cantigny Park, part of the McCormick Foundation, will host “Cantigny’s GreenhouseEffect” on Sunday, May 3, from 10 am to 3 pm. The open house event with an eco-friendly theme will take Cantigny visitors behind-the-scenes where more than a thousand varieties of flowers are propagated annually.

“It will be a fun day and also an educational one,” said Bob Waterman, Cantigny director of horticulture. “Home gardeners as well as families who just want to experience a different part of Cantigny will enjoy this event.”

The 18,000-sq-foot greenhouse supplies the plants displayed throughout the Cantigny gardens and golf course. Self-guided tours will be available and much more, including expert gardening advice, demonstrations, workshops, kids’ activities, plant sales and free refreshments.

Cantigny’s GreenhouseEffect participants, in addition to Cantigny horticulture staff and volunteers, will include: SCARCE; University of Illinois Extension Service (vermi-composting demo by Master Gardeners); College of DuPage (horticulture programs); rain barrel talk and demo; *Chicagoland Gardening* magazine; Midwest Fruit Explorers on grafting and growing fruit; Lynn Bennett on composting; and Mike Bock on beekeeping.

Container planting workshops are planned for the morning and afternoon. Guests are invited to bring their own container, 14 inches to 24 inches, and take home a patio-ready showpiece. (Cost is \$40, which includes guidance, soil and one flat of plant material; registration required, please call 630 260 8162.)

A planting activity for children includes a Save the Planet papier-mâché pot with a seedling they can nurture at home (\$1 fee). In addition, SCARCE will lead a papermaking craft for kids using recycled paper.

The Greenhouse Effect will also be a collection point for old batteries and cell phones.

Admission is free, and guests should enter Cantigny through the east gate off Shaffner Road. For more information, please visit 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 five grantmaking programs, Cantigny Park and Golf, and three world-class museums,

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 McCormickFoundation.org.

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