



Press Release

Red Alert: Poinsettia Display at Cantigny Greenhouse on November 30

WHEATON, IL, November 11, 2010 — The Cantigny Park Horticulture Department, part of the McCormick Foundation, will host the *Shades of Crimson* poinsettia display on Tuesday, November 30. Hours are 10 am to 2 pm for this free holiday event at the park's greenhouse.

Visitors will see more than 4,000 poinsettia plants in a variety of colors. Horticulture staff members will be on hand to discuss the plants and answer questions.

"This is one of just two times during the year when we're able to welcome the general public inside the greenhouse," said Joy Kaminsky, Cantigny director of horticulture. "To see so many poinsettias all in one place is quite a spectacle."

Cantigny's plants are purchased as three-inch-long cuttings and then carefully nurtured by the park's expert horticulture team. Water, fertilizer, light and temperature are each regulated to achieve the spectacular results that visitors will see at the greenhouse. The plants on display will be about five months old and in full bloom.

More than half of the Cantigny poinsettias are destined for the Central DuPage and Naperville Sunrise Rotary Clubs, which use them for fundraising. Another 300 plants are used for holiday decorating in the museums, restaurants and other buildings throughout the 500-acre Cantigny estate.

Poinsettias will be offered for sale at *Shades of Crimson*. After the event, sales to the public will continue at the Cantigny Visitors Center Gift Shop and the Cantigny Golf Shop. Any unsold plants are donated to local nursing homes and care centers.

Shades of Crimson will include self-guided tours of the greenhouse and light refreshments. Garden clubs and senior groups are welcome in addition to individuals. There is no fee to attend but advance registration is requested for groups of 10 or more. Forms may be downloaded at Cantigny.org or guests may call 630 260 8162. Parking will be at the greenhouse, so visitors should enter Cantigny from the east at Shaffner Road.

Cantigny Park is open daily in November and December from 9 am to sunset. More information is online at Cantigny.org.

###

About Cantigny

Cantigny, part of the Chicago-based McCormick Foundation, is the 500-acre Wheaton (Illinois) estate of Robert R. McCormick, longtime editor and publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*. Cantigny Park is home to the McCormick Museum, First Division Museum, formal gardens, picnic grounds, walking trails and a Visitors Center with banquet and dining facilities. More information, including hours, directions and upcoming events is

online at Cantigny.org. Cantigny Golf, adjacent to the park, features a 27-hole championship golf course, full-service clubhouse, Cantigny Golf Academy and the 9-hole Cantigny Youth Links. For more information, visit CantignyGolf.com.

Media Contact:

Jeff Reiter

Cantigny/McCormick Foundation

630 260 8218

JReiter@McCormickFoundation.org