

## ***Shades of Crimson Blooms at Cantigny Greenhouse on November 29***

**WHEATON, IL, November 16, 2011** — The Cantigny Park Horticulture Department, part of the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, invites the public to *Shades of Crimson* on Tuesday, November 29. Hours are 10 am to 2 pm for this free holiday event at the park's greenhouse.

Visitors will see about 3,000 poinsettia plants in full bloom and in a variety of colors. Horticulture staff members will be on hand to discuss the plants and answer questions.

"This is just the right spark of holiday cheer to get you ready for the season," said Joy Kaminsky, Cantigny Park director of horticulture. "People really enjoy seeing so many poinsettias in one place. This year's crop is spectacular."

Cantigny's plants are purchased as three-inch-long cuttings and then carefully nurtured and groomed by the park's expert horticulture team for over six months. Water, fertilizer, light and temperature are each regulated to achieve the spectacular results that visitors will see at the greenhouse.

Well over half of the Cantigny poinsettias are destined for the Central DuPage and Naperville Sunrise Rotary Clubs, which use them for fundraising. Another 400 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](http://Cantigny.org) or guests may call 630.260.8162.

Parking (no fee) 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](http://Cantigny.org).

###

### **About Cantigny Park**

Cantigny Park, part of the Chicago-based Robert R. McCormick Foundation, is the 500-acre Wheaton estate of Robert R. McCormick. It is home to the McCormick Museum, First Division Museum, formal gardens, picnic grounds, walking trails and a Visitor Center with banquet and dining facilities. More information, including hours, directions and upcoming events is online at [Cantigny.org](http://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](http://CantignyGolf.com).

**Media Contact:**

Jeff Reiter

Cantigny/McCormick Foundation

630.260.8218

[JReiter@McCormickFoundation.org](mailto:JReiter@McCormickFoundation.org)