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Cantigny Park Recognized for Environmental Excellence

WHEATON, IL – Cantigny Park has achieved designation as a “Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary” through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP), an Audubon International program.

Cantigny Park is the 2nd property in Illinois and the 72nd property in the world to be certified in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. It joins Cantigny Golf, which was designated as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary in 1993 through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses.

“Cantigny Park has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program,” said Joellen Lampman, ACSP Programs Director. “By taking action to implement indoor and outdoor conservation projects, including a sanctuary for wildlife, Cantigny has demonstrated sound and sustainable natural resource management.”

Joy Kaminsky, Cantigny’s Director of Horticulture, led the effort to obtain sanctuary designation on the property and is being recognized for Environmental Stewardship by Audubon International.

“This is an honor for Cantigny and validates our ongoing efforts to be responsible stewards of this beautiful park,” said Kaminsky. “Our goals are simple: to live up to the high ideals that go with our sanctuary designation and to keep improving every day. It is our responsibility to protect and preserve our natural environment, and to educate the public about the importance of sustainability.”

To earn certification, a property must demonstrate that it maintains a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas. Categories include: Environmental Planning, Wildlife and Habitat Management, Water Quality and Conservation, Resource Management, and Outreach and Education. Properties go through a recertification process every two years.

As part of the certification process, properties are required a host a visit by a local community representative. Dr. Nicole Cavender, Vice President of Science and Conservation for The Morton Arboretum (Lisle, IL), toured Cantigny Park and sent her observations to Audubon International. “Cantigny is an absolutely beautiful place,” Cavender said. “The staff is committed to continuously improving their ‘greening’ initiatives for the benefit of the wildlife, environment and the park visitors.”

“The site visit is an important component of a property’s certification,” added Lampman. “It provides an objective verification of some of the more visible aspects of the property’s environmental management activities. In addition, it offers an opportunity for property representatives to share publicly some of the voluntary actions they have taken to protect and sustain the land, water, wildlife and natural resources around them.”

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program provides information and guidance to help businesses and organizations preserve and enhance wildlife habitat, and protect natural resources. Businesses, schools, parks and other properties from the United States, Africa, Australia, Canada, Central America, Europe and Southeast Asia have also achieved certification in the program.

In addition to businesses, Audubon International also includes programs for golf courses, schools, hotels, communities and new developments. For more information, contact Audubon International, 46 Rarick Road, Selkirk, NY 12158, (518) 767-9051, acsp@auduboninternational.org or visit www.auduboninternational.org.

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