

“Season of Roses” Blooming Again at Cantigny Park

Annual rose bush dedication program offers a unique gift or remembrance opportunity; proceeds benefit the nonprofit Cantigny Foundation

WHEATON, IL, April 9, 2012 – Cantigny Park is again offering a beautiful way to honor someone special with *A Season of Roses*.

The second-year dedication program features seasonal naming rights to the rose bushes growing in Cantigny’s formal Rose Garden, a favorite attraction at the park.

For \$95, patrons receive a dedication package that includes a gift announcement and a plaque engraved with the rose’s name and name of the honoree. The marker will be displayed from May through October. Purchasers also receive a photo of their dedicated rose bush in full bloom.

A premium dedication package (\$175) also is available and includes four tickets to a special Rose Reception in the garden on the evening of Wednesday, June 27. The event, coinciding with National Rose Month, will include remarks by a Cantigny Horticulture rose expert along with music, wine and light hors d’oeuvres.

“We know from our first year that *Season of Roses* patrons tend to be loyal fans of Cantigny who want to support the park,” said Joy Kaminsky, Cantigny Park director of horticulture. “They also really appreciate the chance to connect with one of the park’s most popular natural assets in a personal way. Many of the dedications were Mother’s Day gifts.”

Rose dedication packages may be purchased at the Cantigny Gift Shop or online at Cantigny.org/roses. Patrons may also place orders by calling 630.668.5161.

Cantigny’s Rose Garden, a key element in one of the largest display gardens in the Midwest, occupies 12,000 square feet and contains about 1,000 rose bushes. More than 55 varieties and 16 classifications of roses are represented. One of the varieties is the Chicago Peace Rose, a glowing pink rose with a butter-yellow heart, discovered on the Cantigny estate.

The Rose Garden is flanked on the west side by a 130-foot cedar pergola that offers shaded benches and a spectacular view of the roses and adjacent prairie. Peak rose season is usually late June, but the flowers keep blooming well into September.

Proceeds from *A Season of Roses* benefit the not-for-profit Cantigny Foundation, operator of Cantigny Park and part of the Chicago-based Robert R. McCormick Foundations.

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About Cantigny Park

Cantigny Park, part of the Chicago-based Robert R. McCormick Foundations, is the 500-acre Wheaton (Illinois) estate of Robert R. McCormick (1880-1955), longtime editor

and publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*. It is home to 30 acres of spectacular gardens, the Robert R. McCormick Museum, the First Division Museum and a spectacular 27-hole golf course. All are open to the public. Cantigny also is a favorite destination for special events, weddings, concerts, lectures, workshops and other recreation and learning opportunities for all ages. Full-service banquet and dining facilities are on site. More information, including hours, directions and a calendar of upcoming events is online at Cantigny.org. For details about Cantigny Golf, including the Cantigny Golf Academy and 9-hole Cantigny Youth Links, please visit CantignyGolf.com.

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