



**News Release**

## **Cantigny Welcomes Chicago Open October 7-9**

*History-rich tournament with \$50,000 purse will benefit the Illinois Junior Golf Association*

**WHEATON, IL, Sept. 10, 2013** — The Chicago Open is back, and Cantigny Golf will have the honor of hosting the 54-hole tournament starting Monday, October 7.

The Open was first played in 1914 at the Chicago Golf Club in Wheaton, just a couple miles from Cantigny. Notable winners of the event include Gene Sarazen, Sam Snead, Ben Hogan, Byron Nelson, Ken Venturi and Luke Donald. The tournament has not been contested, however, since 2001.

“When we heard the Chicago Open was coming back, and that the Illinois Junior Golf Association would be its beneficiary, we jumped at the chance to be the host golf course,” said Patrick Lynch, Cantigny’s head golf professional. “It’s going to be a fun three days and we’re thrilled to support IJGA and its mission of providing golf opportunities for kids across the state. Junior golf is a huge part of our program here at Cantigny, too.”

Cantigny provides instruction for more than 1,400 youth golfers annually and Cantigny Youth Links features a 9-hole golf course and clubhouse just for kids.

The Chicago Open is geared toward aspiring PGA Tour professionals, club professionals in the region and top amateur players. A series of five qualifiers in Illinois and neighboring states began earlier this month and will conclude on Sept. 26 at Makray Memorial Golf Club in North Barrington, IL. When the qualifying process is complete, a field of approximately 120 golfers is expected to compete at Cantigny for the Open’s guaranteed minimum \$50,000 purse.

IJGA Executive Director Carrie Williams said her organization undertook the event as a unique and high-profile fundraising opportunity that utilizes IJGA’s expertise in tournament operations.

“Administering tournaments is one of the things we do best,” Williams said. “Reviving the Chicago Open is a way for us to put our skills to work for the betterment of the game at multiple levels.”

IJGA is the second-largest junior golf program in the nation, serving 2,800 golfers between the ages of eight and 18, and managing more than 100 separate events throughout Illinois. The IJGA also is the umbrella organization for the Mid-American Junior Golf Tour (MAJGT), which specializes in conducting tournaments for higher-level junior players, particularly those seeking exposure to college golf coaches.

This will be Cantigny’s first Chicago Open but the golf course is a proven venue for important amateur championships. In June it hosted the 2013 Illinois State Women’s Amateur and in 2014 Cantigny will welcome its fourth Illinois State Amateur. Cantigny

also was chosen for the 2007 U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship, conducted by the United States Golf Association.

Spectators are welcome to attend the Chicago Open free of charge. Cantigny Golf is located at 27w270 Mack Road in Wheaton, about 30 miles west of Chicago. More information about the tournament is online at [thechicagoopen.com](http://thechicagoopen.com).

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### **About Cantigny Golf**

Cantigny Golf, part of the Robert R. McCormick Foundations, opened for play in 1989. That year, *Golf Digest* magazine named it the “Best New Public Course in America.” Designed by Roger Packard, Cantigny has hosted the Illinois State Amateur three times and also the 2007 U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship. The 300-acre Cantigny Golf complex includes 27 scenic holes, the year-round Cantigny Golf Academy, the 9-hole Cantigny Youth Links and a full-service clubhouse with dining and banquet facilities. For more information, visit [CantignyGolf.com](http://CantignyGolf.com).

### **About IJGA**

The Illinois Junior Golf Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing playing opportunities for its members ages 8-18, conducting educational clinics and events, and serving as a junior golf informational clearinghouse. For more information, visit [ijga.org](http://ijga.org).

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