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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VINTAGE “BASE BALL” FESTIVALS ON DECK AT CANTIGNY

Pull up a hay bale and watch the game as it was played during Civil War times!

Wheaton, Ill., June 23, 2014 — Cantigny Park will celebrate “America’s pastime” in July with two vintage base ball festivals featuring local clubs playing the game under the rules of 1858. Spectators—or “kranks” as they were called back then—are welcome!

- **Saturday, July 12**
Red Oaks Vintage Base Ball Festival
12 pm to 3 pm

The home club Cantigny Red Oaks and DuPage County Plowboys welcome their Illinois friends the Oregon Ganymedes and Creston Regulators back to Cantigny. Plus, the Cream City Junos from Milwaukee make their Cantigny Park debut!

- **Sunday, July 27**
Northern Illinois Vintage Base Ball Festival
10 am to 3 pm

Clubs scheduled to appear: Deep River Grinders, DuPage Plowboys, Chicago Salmon, Rockford Forest Citys, Springfield Long Nine, Aurora Town Club and Somonauk Blue Stockings.

Each festival will feature a round-robin tournament format. All games are played on the Cantigny Parade Field and there is no charge to watch.

Cantigny began hosting vintage base ball in 2008 and the park soon became the favored venue for the region’s local clubs. The players often don authentic wool uniforms from yesteryear and the competition is spirited.

Will Buhlig, assistant director of the Robert R. McCormick Museum at Cantigny, coordinates the vintage base ball program at the park and also plays for the Cantigny Red Oaks. He says the players enjoy chatting with the spectators and explaining the on-field action. They view themselves as living history actors.

Onlookers quickly pick up on the most obvious differences between vintage ball and the modern game. For example, the vintage players do not wear gloves, pitching is underhand, and foul balls are not considered strikes. And if an outfielder catches a ball after just one bounce, the batter is out.

Cantigny is open every day throughout the summer from 7 am to dusk. Parking fees are \$5 per vehicle or \$2 off-peak (after 5 pm). Annual memberships starting at \$50 include unlimited free parking and a welcome gift.

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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 27-hole championship 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.