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CAVE HILL CEMETERY AWARDED LEVEL II ACCREDITATION BY ARBNET ARBORETUM ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

LISLE, Illinois (Dec. 22, 2014) – The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program and The Morton Arboretum are pleased to announce that the Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville, Kentucky has been awarded a Level II Accreditation. By achieving particular standards of professional practices deemed important for arboreta and botanic gardens, the Cave Hill Cemetery is now recognized as an accredited arboretum in The Morton Register of Arboreta.

A Victorian Era cemetery, Cave Hill was chartered in 1848 by the State of Kentucky. The cemetery has interred 135,000 people and is still active, burying around 600 people a year. Its grounds feature monuments and sculptures in a vast array of styles and stone types in the Victorian Extravagance memorial design motif.

Part of the Rural Garden Cemetery movement of the mid-1800s, Cave Hill Cemetery is among those that represent the country's first versions of arboreta, taking cemeteries from drab spaces to inviting gardens for visitors. Cave Hill comprises nearly 300 acres of rolling hills, a cave and 64 sinkhole basins. Five springs feed a chain of lakes that are home to hundreds of birds, and a wide variety of cultivated and unusual trees and shrubs have been collected for 166 years.

“The employees and Board of Managers of Cave Hill Cemetery are very pleased and excited to receive our Level II Arboretum Accreditation,” said Lee Squires, President & CEO. “This accreditation is important as it helps to explain that Cave Hill is much more than a cemetery. We look forward to sharing our plant database with other institutions.”

About the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program

The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program is sponsored and coordinated by The Morton Arboretum in cooperation with American Public Gardens Association and Botanic Gardens Conservation International. This international initiative offers four levels of accreditation, recognizing arboreta of various degrees of development, capacity and professionalism. Accreditation is based on self-assessment and documentation of an arboretum's level of achievement of accreditation standards. Standards include planning, governance, labeling of species, staff or volunteer support, public access and programming and tree science, planting and conservation. More information is available at www.arbnet.org.

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