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**THE NEWPORT MANSIONS ARBORETUM** **AWARDED LEVEL II ACCREDITATION**

**BY ARBNET ACCREDITATION PROGRAM**

LISLE, Illinois (August XX, 2015) –The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program and The Morton Arboretum are pleased to announce The Newport Mansions Arboretum in Newport, Rhode Island, has been awarded a Level II Accreditation. By achieving particular standards of professional practices deemed important for arboreta and botanic gardens, The Newport Mansions Arboretum is now recognized as an accredited arboretum in The Morton Register of Arboretum.

Encompassing 88 acres of land and 11 historic properties owned and maintained by The Preservation Society of Newport County, the institution includes a unique topiary garden, a public park and landscapes designed by renowned landscape architects Ernest Bowditch, Jacques Greber and the Olmsted Brothers. The Arboretum also maintains a collection of outstanding specimen trees, which have long benefitted from the mild climate and rich soil of Aquidneck Island.

“Accreditation as a Level II Arboretum recognizes several decades of stewardship by The Preservation Society of Newport County of its historic estate landscapes,” said Jim Donahue, curator of historic landscapes & horticulture for The Preservation Society of Newport County. “The newly formed Newport Mansions Arboretum looks to take its place among institutions seeking to educate the public about the trees and landscapes that are our heritage.”

In addition to its landscapes, the institution includes historical properties such as the Nicholas-Wanton-Hunter House, dating back to 1748, and the opulent summer cottages of Newport’s Gilded Age. Its programs for the public seek to educate the public about the grounds and the value of preservation.

**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](http://www.arbnet.org). 

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