UWRA Trip to Prairie du Chien – October 13, 2010

Summary Comments:

There were 53 participants for this trip, which left West Towne Mall in Madison at 8 am. The charter bus company was Meister, which provided excellent service throughout the trip.

The first stop was at the Montfort Wind Energy Center in Iowa County, located near Highway 18 just east of Montfort. Our host was Carol Anderson, one of the landowners participating in the wind energy center. Carol is a UW alum who recently retired from a faculty/administrative position at Cornell University. She discussed wind energy, answered a host of excellent questions from our group, then had them don hard hats and take a close-up look at one of the turbines. Everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy this very informative visit.

The next stop was the Villa Louis in Prairie du Chien, where small groups were escorted through the Dousman mansion. Then the group had lunch aboard the Mississippi Explorer. Because of high water on the Wisconsin side, the boat was tied up at the dock in Marquette, Iowa. During the 2-hour cruise, Michael Douglass, curator of the Villa Louis Museum, shared the locality’s Native American history and its significance to the development of the area and nation. Because the boat is specially designed to be able to go into the protected backwaters of the Mississippi, we were able to see several eagles and an eagles’ nest.

According to participant comments as they left the bus at the end of the day in Madison, it was a “wonderful day”!

On behalf of the UWRA Travel Committee,
Mary Mennes, Co-chair