Travel Committee 2011-12

The Travel Committee offered two successful tours in spring 2012. It was a warm, windy day on Monday, March 12, when we took a bus to the Chicago Flower and Garden Show on Navy Pier. About 40 people participated and enjoyed the day viewing the 25 varied flower displays and plantings created by designers and local landscape contractors. Beautiful areas created with outdoor furniture, waterfalls, and fire pits showcased ways to create or improve our own personal green spaces. There was a trade show with a hundred vendors and an opportunity to purchase garden implements and ornaments and flower bulbs and plants. Many of us toured the colorful 800 foot long series of galleries of the Smith Museum of Stained Glass Windows. Lunch was on our own. We left Chicago in late afternoon and stopped at an oasis on the return trip to purchase food for dinner on the bus. And it was pleasurable to feed our spring souls.

Last year the tour of the UW-Madison campus was so popular there was a waiting list! So the Travel Committee again offered this tour for two dozen people on Wednesday, May 23. Art Hove provided the narrative as the bus drove us all around the campus from one end to the other. Art’s long-time connection with the campus and his invaluable knowledge gave us a new perspective of campus history. After a guided tour of the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery, we enjoyed lunch on our own in the new Union South and had time to explore the building. Back on the bus, we went to the American Family Children’s Hospital for wonderful guided tours of this outstanding facility and to learn of their powerful stories of care and the impending expansion of two floors with 26 critical-care beds and state-of-the-art clinical spaces. Next we enjoyed a self-guided tour of the Allen Centennial Gardens that were poised for hundreds of plants to be added in the next few days to the two dozen gardens. We dashed past the water sprinklers that were already trying to keep plants alive and healthy, not knowing that extreme temps of 102 and 104 would be forthcoming!

Unfortunately, our three-day North Woods Color Tour in September 2011 had to be cancelled for lack of registrations. We were hoping of offer it again in October 2012 but found that the timing was too late for some of the venues and activities.

The members of the Travel Committee are Carrie Aberle, Peggy Daluge and Mary Mennes (co-chairs), Gail Holmes, and Colleen McCabe.

Gail L. Holmes
Travel Committee Member