Northeast Wisconsin’s Lower Fox River Valley offered a memorable Fall Tour for the 50 or so SIA members who met up for a three-day event that began on Oct. 27. The Lower Fox River flows northeastward from Lake Winnebago through Appleton, Kaukauna, and De Pere to Green Bay. Our itinerary took us up and down the valley several times, and extended somewhat beyond the valley along the west shore of Lake Michigan. Process tours ranged from a traditional handcraft cheese factory to a high-tech maker of computer circuit boards. A series of museums and historic sites featured railroads, canals, automobiles, papermaking, hydroelectric power, and wood type and printing machinery. Accommodations were in two boutique hotels, one with an Irish theme (the St. Brendan’s in Green Bay) and the other with a French theme (Chateau De Pere in De Pere), both of which offered cozy pubs in which to spend time with SIA friends.

The National Railroad Museum in Green Bay was host to our Thursday-evening opening reception. We were greeted by a nice spread of food and drink laid out buffet style, but the centers of attention were beautifully restored locomotives and cars, including Union Pacific No. 4017, a 4-8-8-4 “Big Boy,” which towered over the reception area. There was time to take in the exhibits, one of which, Pullman Porters: From Service to Civil Rights, featured a fully furnished 1920s Pullman sleeper. SIA President Maryellen Russo and SIA Events Coordinator Julie Blair welcomed participants and explained logistics for the next several days of tours. Julie introduced Candice Mortara, SIA’s local coordinator and a member of Friends of the Fox, a not-for-profit group that works to preserve and protect the environment and heritage of the Lower Fox River.

Following introductions, Mark Walter, Business Development Manager for the Port of Green Bay, presented (continued on page 2)
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May 18-21: SIA 46th ANNUAL CONFERENCE, HOUSTON, TEX. Members will be sent registration materials and tour itinerary in March. Info: www.sia-web.org.


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