

THE GRAND CIRCUIT

July 11, 2010—The tour starts with a morning visit to the Shelburne Museum which exhibits 150,000 works of art and early Americana located in 39 buildings. Lunch is on your own at the museum cafeteria, but keep in mind that we stop at Ben & Jerry's ice cream factory in the early afternoon where you can buy your choice. We have a guided tour of the factory, but, unfortunately, it won't be operating on this Sunday afternoon. Before completely gorging on ice cream, remember that we overnight at the Trapp Family Lodge a few miles up the road where we will enjoy a six-course Austrian buffet dinner! After dinner, Johannes von Trapp, the youngest of the singing family, will introduce the movie *The Sound of Music*, answer questions and tell us how the family actually escaped Hitler's Nazis.

July 12—We visit Vermont's 2010 Outstanding Tree Farm and then tour Goodrich's Maple Farm sugarhouse where the sap gathered from 32,000 taps is boiled down to maple syrup and maple sugar products—a chance to buy direct if you so desire.

Then on to the Mt. Washington Cog Railway, the first in the world. Ascend to the summit of the northeast's highest mountain where the world-record wind velocity of 231 mph was set in 1932, just recently eclipsed by an oil rig off New Zealand. See the Weather Observatory display and visit the stone Summit House.

Overnight at the Mt. Washington Hotel, the grandest of the grand old White Mountain hotels and the site of the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference that set the monetary standard for the free world after World War II. Wander the great veranda or enjoy a view of the mountain from the bar. Coats for men and appropriate attire for women required for dinner.

July 13—We visit Bartlett Experimental Forest where nationally known silviculturalist Bill Leak and wildlife biologist Mariko Yamasaki will showcase their many years of research. Then on to another US Forest Service Experimental Forest, Hubbard Brook, where acid rain was first discovered in America. After an explanation of the research being conducted there, we do a quick bus tour of Vermont's 2000 Outstanding Tree Farm and then back to Burlington for the opening reception.

Tour guides are Put Blodgett, organizer and guide for the Best of Vermont tour after the 2006 Massachusetts Convention and current president of the Convention host, the Vermont Woodlands Association and John O'Brien, NH Tree Farm Re-inspection Chair and 1999 National Outstanding Inspecting Forester.

Tour price of \$1,160 per couple/\$770 per person includes all tips, taxes and expenses except for the first day's lunch and ice cream and any personal expenses.