

Dear BioNova Partners & Customers,

If the weather prediction is to be believed, the severe winter here in Germany will be followed by a beautiful and warm spring. According to the calendar, March 21st marks the first day of spring, so it's the right time to start thinking about spring maintenance of BioNova Natural Swimming Pools. In this edition of our newsletter we want to give you some useful tips on this topic. As usual, we will introduce one member of the BioNova Family and present our „Project of the Month“. Furthermore, we want to inform you about the latest energy-saving concept for your BioNova NSP. As you will see, we have prepared lots of interesting information for you! Enjoy reading!

Your BioNova Global Head Office Team

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Project of the month



Mediterranean atmosphere. The small space is optimally used and all elements of design fit together perfectly, so that the overall impression is very harmonious.

This month we want to show an exclusive BioNova Minipool built by gardening and landscaping company, A. Bitters, in Hamminkeln, Germany. It's predominantly used for a cool post-sauna dip. The small city yard it inhabits is only 80 qm, so the NSP has a total area of only 24 qm and was designed using the one-pot building method.

The water plants, which are responsible for water purification in the NSP, are conveniently from Bitters' own nursery.

A small waterfall and the gutters / terrace made of Larch wood radiate a

The BioNova Family



The BioNova Family also has some Swiss-based members. In this current edition of our newsletter we want to present one of them: the VIVA Gartenbau AG.

The company was founded in 1992 by Severin Brenneisen and Heinz Gutjahr and is located at Binningen, near Basel. The company has 14 employees and takes much care with its trainees.

Since 2002, the company has also offered BioNova Natural Swimming Pools. At their homepage (www.viva-gartenbau.ch) they show many beautiful pictures of realized BioNova NSPs. Because of the multifarious and flexible design possibilities of BioNova Natural Swimming Pools, the VIVA Gartenbau AG can always build

something to fulfil the wishes of the customers. From a nearly natural swimming pond to a geometrical Natural Pool, for huge or small properties - there is something for every demand and taste.

The company will also offer many interesting events around the topic of Natural Swimming Pools in 2011. The next one will take place on Saturday, April 4th, 2011 at the property of VIVA Gartenbau AG at Binningen.

For further information please visit:

www.viva-gartenbau.ch/html/4veranstaltungen.html

Dates 2011

Training events, fairs, meetings – we've got a lot going on with the BioNova Family! Review the following to see where the next activities of the BioNova Global Head Office and the BioNova Partners will take place:

March 2011

InterBud Expo
March 22-26, 2011, Kiev (Ukraine)

Fa. Homepark will inform visitors at this Ukrainian fair about the benefits of Natural Swimming Pools

OneDay-Seminar
March 29, 2011, Washington DC (USA)

A OneDaySeminar on the European Standards (FLL) for Natural Swimming Pools is scheduled March 29, 2011 in Washington DC.

This seminar is designed for Landscape Architects, Designers, Pool Builders and Pond Builders.

To find more information or to register yourself for this Seminar, please visit:

www.bionovanaturalpools.com/seminar.html

April 2011

Information event with tour
March 16, 2011, Binningen (Swiss)

On Saturday, 16th, 2011 the company VIVA Gartenbau AG will organize an informative event with tour at its property at Binningen.

For further information please visit:

www.viva-gartenbau.ch/html/4veranstaltungen.html



Shown in the picture: Some of the French BioNova Partners at their training event in January, which was organized by the leader of the French Head Office, Serge Paz.

Meeting of the English-speaking BioNova Partners



In the German-speaking world, and also in France and Poland, the BioNova Group is already very well-established. But during the last few years, companies from farther away have decided to become BioNova Partners. So at the moment the BioNova Family has 84 members from 38 different countries from all over the world.

For that reason the BioNova Global Head Office also offers training sessions in English, French and Polish. From February 15 -17, 2011 the second English-speaking training took place in Munich.

Partners from Serbia, Italy, Spain, Sweden and the USA came to listen to Dipl.-Ing. Rainer Grafinger (founder of BioNova), who gave a lecture on the details of the Bio-

Nova System. During the two training days the Partners learned about the basics of BioNova building Methodologies (from the Eco Pool to the biological Pool), basics of limnology and hydraulics of biological systems. In the end, every participant took a test. As they all passed with flying colors, Rainer Grafinger presented every partner with a certificate.

The partners also tested the Bavarian cuisine by visiting some typical inns. The „oldest“ member of the BioNova Family, Norbert Deppisch, also presented 3 Natural Swimming Pools near Munich, built by his company.

Maintenance of Natural Swimming Pools in Spring



As soon as it gets warmer and the ice melts, owners should begin work in their Natural Swimming Pools. First, all the brown plant stalks remaining from the winter have to be cut down to gravel level. It is important to finish this before the plants begin to sprout. The sides of the Natural Swimming Pool should be checked and contaminants removed. It may be necessary to recover the liner with gravel in some areas as it sometimes gets out of place during the long winter.

The ground of the Natural Swimming Pool should be cleaned, with a special vacuum cleaner for Swimming Ponds, to remove sediments. Please don't drain the water from the Natural Pool! If needed, BioNova Partners from your region will help you to clean up your Pond with specially developed vacuum cleaners. This work should be finished by May at the latest. Please note that your pond specialist may have to visit twice for this work.

In this case, only the coarse pond sludge is removed from the system. A residual amount of deposit may also be followed on the seal.

Even in spring the water might turn a little cloudy. Please don't worry. This cloudiness won't last long. It will only be cloudy until the microbiological system has redeveloped. Often, the water will then get clear overnight.

You can help this process along by adding an appropriate dose of artificially produced microorganisms or specially-developed nutrients into the water each spring. Also, remember that the absorption substrate should be placed in a non-woven cartridge (oblong green bags) around the fine filter. It is an ion-exchanger which should be replaced after 1-2 seasons. These materials can then be used in the garden to fertilize shrubs and perennials.

After the water plants have been cut back and the pool has been vacuumed, the circulation pumps should be turned on to keep the surface of the water free of airborne particles (pollen, leaves, etc.) At the same time, this will activate the flow of water through the filter and the cleansing functions of plants and microorganisms. The pump should be turned on at least 6 hours a day (ie. 24 x 15 min. Pump) at the beginning of the season. After all this work has been completed, you and your BioNova pool are ready for the swimming

Latest Energy Saving Concepts



During the spring meeting the BioNova group introduced a new circulation system that upholds the standards of the energy conservation bill.

Because of the CO₂ balance, it is extremely important to use energy efficient pumps in addition to our chemical-free cleaning methods.

Therefore, two partners have been selected during the last two years to test some innovative new systems. Basically, the procedure is based on the use of a separate through-flow filter and the water-skimming filter.

Energy savings come from the intermittent-control pumps, which reduce the total amount of time that the pump runs. This new method has

tested using 70-100 watt pumps for surface skimming, though it could work with even lower voltage pumps. In addition, a second pump is used and this one is only for cleaning the surface of the water. This pump is regulated by a timer to suit the pools' individual needs. Theoretically, the run-time may be as little as 4 hours a day. The new pumps now available in plug-in sump pump form. BioNova can be an active advocate for energy saving, as this new technique can yield up to 70% energy savings.

BioNova historical



For this „BioNova historical“ column this month we present to you a Natural Swimming Pool near Bremen.

It's the first BioNova Natural Swimming Pool built outside of Bavaria. The picture shows the Natural Swimming Pool right after construction.

This Pond was built in 1997 by the founder of BioNova, Dipl.-Ing. Rainer Grafinger, and BioNova Partner Rainer Herkenrath.

It was the very first Natural Swimming Pool for Rainer Herkenrath from the company „Begrünungstechnik Holle“.

As it was state of the art at this time, the pond was designed according to the one-pot building method. The swimming area was separated from the regeneration area by pond bags, a method which isn't in use at all today.

The picture below shows the so called „Schaffel“, which was formerly responsible for the suction of the water surface. Today it is totally replaced by overflow gutters and skimmers.

