BioNova® natural pool

Newsletter

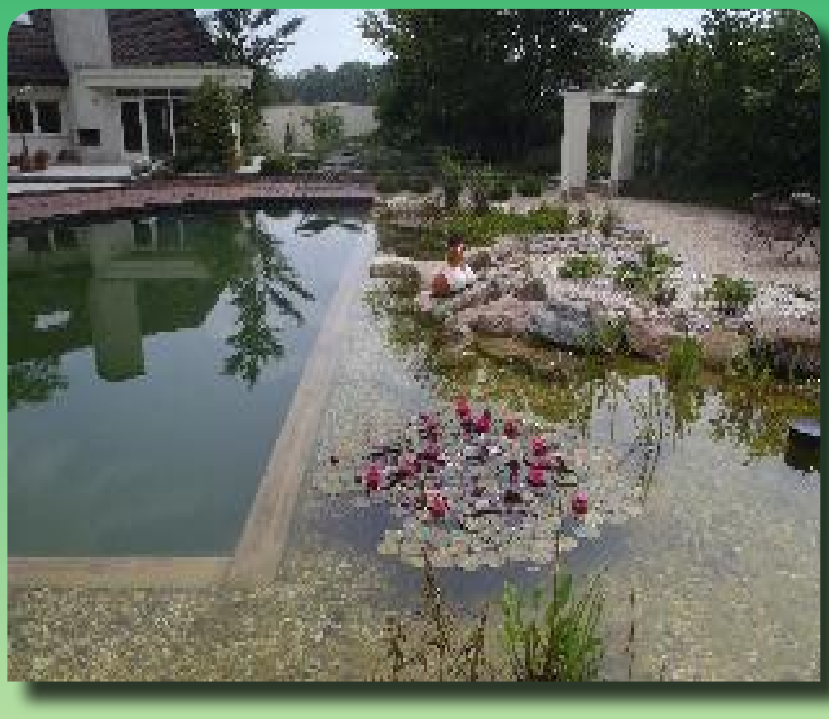
September 2011

Dear BioNova Partners & Customers,

Autumn is around the corner. Although the summer was perhaps not as typically hot and sunny as expected in most regions of Europe, we hope all the NSP owners out there had at least a few days of poolside enjoyment.
This month we venture out of Germany and introduce to you BioNova Partner Jonkers hoveniers B. V. from the Netherlands. We also chose a NSP at the Dutch Venlo as our project of the month. As natural pools are also home for many different kinds of animals, we want to introduce our readers to a very special insect: the dragonfly, queen of the flying insects. Additionally, we hope you will enjoy our short „BioNova Historical“ report on an NSP in England that was built back in 2002.
Your BioNova Global Head Office Team

Rainer Grafinger, Christine Schoeck, Andrea Enseleit, Stephanie & Jusuf Rifatov

Project of the month



The Dutch town of Venlo, located near the German border, is characterized by the cultivation of vegetables and ornamental plants. In this beautiful region lies the wonderful NSP of Bart Jonkers, owner of the BioNova Partner Company Jonkers hoveniers, which we also will present in detail later in this newsletter. The NSP was built in the BioNova one-chamber building method and finished by the winter of 2006 / 2007. Three overflow gutters hidden under the terrace extract the used water from the swimming area. The NSP has an additional water reservoir for this reason. The clean-lined geometric design of the swimming area is about 1,044 ft2 and 7.2 ft2 deep. It is bordered on two sides by the planted regeneration area, which is 904 ft2. The swimming area was sealed with liner and features a so-called “Schoppenkante”.* A wooden wall separates the regeneration area from the swimming area. There is both a granite stairway and a wooden terrace so everyone can get into the swimming area easily. In addition, the NSP is equipped with a BioNova fine filter, a pump, 5 LED underwater lights and an automatic water-backfeed. The water quality is tested regularly, and it is always stable.

* Definition of „Schoppenkante“: A step in the swimming area about 3 - 4 ft. deep and wide where you can stand to enjoy a cold drink in your NSP.

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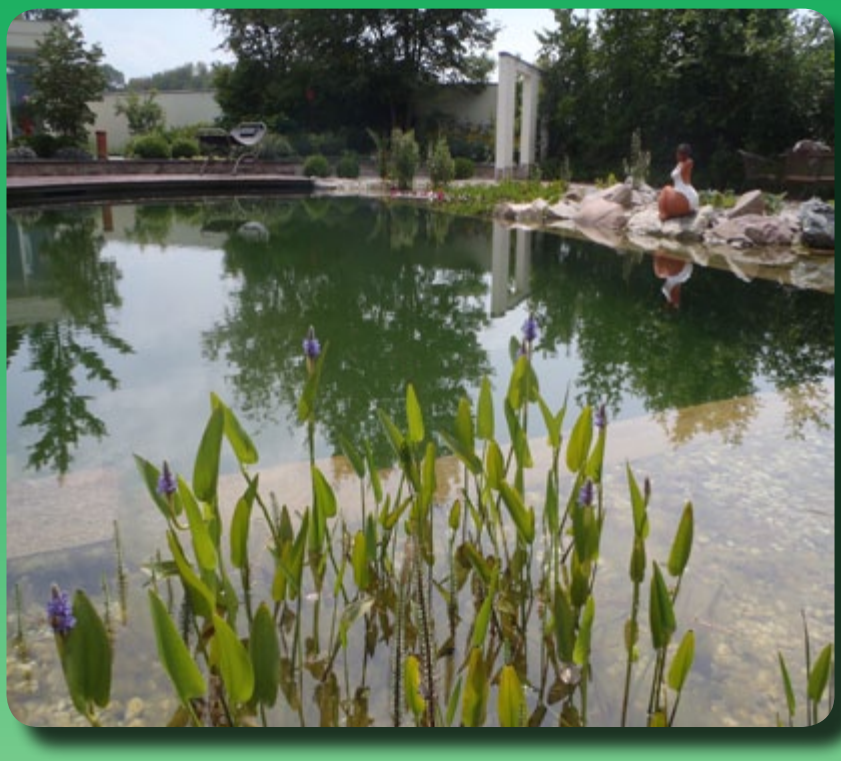
The BioNova Family



You just read in the previous section about a NSP built by the company Jonkers hoveniers, a gardening and landscaping company established in Venlo since 1948.

They are well-known throughout the region for their work. They offer design and maintenance of gardens and green roofs, taking special care to preserve floral diversity.

Jonkers hoveniers joined the BioNova group in 2006, widening its range of work with the professional building of NSPs. They preferred the BioNova system because of the broad experience of the BioNova group and the high number of constructed BioNova NSPs.

The company employs about 34 builders and 3 engineers, and the managers make it a point to train their staff in all matters of NSP construction. Because Jonkers hoveniers has such a good reputation throughout the region, they have customers from Venlo, Nimwegen, Eindhoven, Maastricht and even Aachen.

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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:

September 2011

Industrial Exhibition
September 3 - 4, 2011, Gudensberg (Germany)
During the first weekend of September the team of the landscape construction company Niklas Sobotta will represent BioNova Natural Swimming Pools at the regional industrial exhibition in Gudensberg.

October 2011

Greenbuild
October 4 - 7, 2011, Toronto (Canada)
The American BioNova Natural Pools partner will represent BioNova NSPs and biological pools at this fair.
Further information: http://www.greenbuildexpo.org/Home.aspx

Aquanale
October 26 - 29, 2011, Cologne (Germany)
As in years past, the BioNova Global Head Office will represent the BioNova group at this international trade fair for pools and saunas. Rainer Grafinger will explain the concept of biological pools to interested fairgoers.
Please find more information at the official website of the Aquanale:
http://www.aquanale.de/de/aquanale/home/index.php

ASLA, Annual Meeting and Expo
October, 31 - 01, 2011, San Diego (USA)
Landscape architects and interested constituents meet for this event at a different city every year. James & Hae-Sun Robyn will once again represent the BioNova Group at their booth.

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Insects in Natural Swimming Pools

Humans aren't the only ones who love Natural Swimming Pools. These pools are also the perfect habitat for many different kinds of insects. And that's a good thing, because this abundance of life is what makes a Natural Swimming Pool so unique. For that reason, we will begin highlighting some common NSP creatures in our newsletters.

This month we want to talk about dragonflies (Odanata). Surely every NSP owner has seen this colorful insect flying across the water.

It's a very old species of insect. Fossils of dragonflies were found in sediment dating back to the Stone Age (over 350 mio. years old).

About 80 native species of dragonflies exist throughout Europe. There are about 5,000 species the world over, many of which are endangered.

The dragonflies spend most of their lifetime underwater as grub. The lifespan of a hatched dragonfly lasts only 6 - 8 weeks, often only 14 days. The grubs hatch after 3 - 4 weeks after the eggs are deposited and they molt about 10 times. The dragonfly lives about 2 - 3 months as grub. During this stage, they feed on things such as mosquito larvae, helping to control adult mosquito populations.
In order to hatch, the dragonfly grub must climb up a stalk where it sheds its skin and reveals new wings. The dragonfly will take flight for the first time once its wings are dry.

Mature dragonflies are predators that hunt prey, mostly other flying insects. The dragonflies orient themselves in space visually, with their big complex eyes. They can also turn their head 180° around.

Dragonflies are absolutely harmless to people. They don't bite or sting people at all. As endangered species, it is forbidden to kill or even catch them.

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BioNova Historical

The expansion of the BioNova group from Europe into other parts of the world began as early as 2001 with the cooperative agreement between the BioNova Global Head Office and the company Fairwater Ltd., based out of Ashington (Northumberland / England). The owner of Fairwater Ltd., Mr. Martin Kelley, had done previous research on natural swimming pools, so he was happy to get in contact with BioNova. The historical NSP this month is the second BioNova NSP built in England, constructed by Martin Kelley in 2002.

It's a BioNova one-chamber 1,292 ft.2 NSP that features overflow gutters and a fine filter. As is typical for English pools, it is sealed with a rubber lining. All BioNova components had to be modified in order to make them compatible with the EPDM sealing. To hide the sealing and to preserve the beautiful charm of the gardens, the whole liner was covered with natural stones.
On one side the natural stone wall is higher than the water level. On the front side there's a terrace with a ladder so you can easily step down into the swimming area. Flanking that is a shallow water area that invites you to slowly ease into the water.
The problem of high phosphate levels of fill water was easily solved by using a BioNova phosphate filter. This impressive NSP became a model for more BioNova swimming & bathing pools in southern England.