

Hälsningar

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WINTER 2010

Tack för Bioenergy 2009

The nine Rockford delegates who attended Bioenergy Days 2009 in West Sweden said they had a very productive experience. Mark Podemski, RAEDC vice president for development said, "We continue to be impressed with the progress Sweden is making toward its goal of being fossil fuel-independent by 2020. We have much to learn from them."



Participating in the Rockford delegation were:

- John Chadwick, WREX-TV vice president/general manager; RAEDC board chair
- Katy Chadwick, RAEDC intern to Lidköping
- Russ Dennis, Jr., Leading Edge Hydraulics vice president
- Steve Graceffa, Rock River Water Reclamation District director
- John Groh, Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau president
- Dan Morgan, Morgan Building Maintenance chairman
- Mark Podemski, RAEDC vice president
- Karen Thomas, Steiner Electric purchasing expeditor
- C. Mark Williams, Growth Dimensions executive director

Steve Graceffa, of the Rock River Water Reclamation District said, "what really interested me was Lidköping's refuse incinerator. That they are heating their homes and making electricity from burning their waste is very impressive. They are so conscious of energy."

Mark Williams of Growth Dimensions added, "I see incredible opportunities for us, based on what I saw in Sweden. We need to develop our huge, untapped market here, like Sweden has done."

In the photo, from left to right: C. Mark Williams, Growth Dimensions executive director; Karin Stenlund, head of Energy & Environment at Innovatum Technology Park; Ann Palmnäs, Project Manager for IBED 2009; Bengt-Erik Löfgren, President of AFAB/founder of IBED; Steve Graceffa, Rock River Water Reclamation District director; and Leif Ericsson, Lidköping's director of industrial development.

See You in Rockford for Bioenergy Days 2010!

Contact Mark Podemski Now for Exhibits, Matchmaking and More

"Rockford is honored to host Bioenergy Days 2010 and looks forward to welcoming our Swedish friends to Rockford," said Mark Podemski of the Rockford Area Economic Development Council.

"We encourage Swedish companies and organizations to participate by attending, exhibiting and matchmaking. Please contact me so that we can



identify the best potential U.S. partners for you. The sooner we start to work together, the more we can help each other, so it's very important to get involved early in the process," requested Podemski. His contact information is mpodemski@rockfordil.com.

The dates are September 27-29, 2010, Monday through Wednesday. Attendance is expected to be strong, with Rockford's location near Chicago, Milwaukee and other large metropolitan areas, including the Wisconsin Bioenergy Initiative created by the University of Wisconsin-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences in Madison, Wisconsin.

Photo Caption: The Rock River Water Reclamation District's new LEED-certified facility will be open to participants of Bioenergy Days 2010.

Lidköping's De la Gardie Gymnasiet Helps Build House in Rockford

Four carpentry students and a teacher from De la Gardie were in Rockford last month to help Rockford's East High School carpentry students build a house. The project is in part an outgrowth of the Industrial Partnership Agreement established by Lidköping Mayor Hedvall and Rockford Mayor Morrissey in 2006.



When the house is completed in spring of 2010, it will be sold to an employee of SwedishAmerican Hospital or a resident of that neighborhood. The hospital's foundation is sponsoring the project as part of its neighborhood-improvement program around the hospital.

This is the second group of students from De la Gardie Gymnasiet to come to Rockford for the project. Next the groups plan to build an energy-efficient house to Sweden's high standards. They expect it to be under construction by fall 2010, in time for the 2010 International Bioenergy Days in Rockford. The Swedish involvement in the project is being managed by Linnea Bengtsson, the first intern from Lidköping to Rockford in 2008.

Photo Caption: Four students and a teacher from Lidköping's De la Gardie Gymnasiet help build a house in Rockford.

Rockford Sends Intern to Lidköping

As part of the Industrial Partnership Agreement between Lidköping and Rockford, the two cities agreed to exchange interns.

Katy Chadwick arrived in Lidköping in September 2009 to begin her one-year internship. She will focus on business-matchmaking opportunities for Lidköping and Rockford companies, as well as recruit organizations to participate in Bioenergy Days 2010. Katy is a graduate of the University of Iowa.



Photo Caption: Katy Chadwick is Rockford's first intern to Lidköping.

Öland's Larsson Family Holds Reunion in Rockford

Descendants of Johan and Anna Lisa Larsson from Öland held a family reunion in Rockford in July, drawing nearly 30 family members from Sweden, Canada and America. One of the highlights of their gathering was a tour of Estwing Manufacturing in Rockford, started by Ernest Otto Johansson, a son of the Larssons, who immigrated to Rockford.

Ernest changed his last name to Estwing, to honor his boyhood home, the east wing of the island of Öland.

In 1923 he founded Estwing Manufacturing to make hammers. Today it manufactures a complete line of top-quality hammers and other hand tools. Each visitor received an Estwing hammer as a memento from Martin Tuckett, Ernest Estwing's grandson.



Photo Caption: A Larsson family reunion included a visit to Estwing Manufacturing in Rockford, a company founded by a relative from Öland.

Cultural Exchanges Continue Between Borgholm and Rockford

The VIDA Museum near Borgholm presented an exhibit of seven Rockford artists from early September through December 20. The exhibit was a collaboration between the VIDA Museum and the Rockford Art Museum. A group of Rockford artists and arts patrons attended the opening. The exhibit was part of a Borgholm/Rockford Sister City program.



"Our group was welcomed and received so warmly and graciously, we were overwhelmed at the attention and hospitality," said Anne O'Keefe, executive director of the Rockford Area Arts Council, part of the Rockford contingent. "This was a wonderful way to reciprocate for the great visit last fall when artists from Sweden came to Rockford for the Rockford Art Museum's Greenwich Village Art Fair. Exchanges like these reinforce the fact that the arts really do bring people together," she added.

<http://www.vidamuseum.com>

Photo Caption: Rockford visitors Lisa Lindman, Betsy Youngquist, Keith Grace at Rockford art exhibit, visit with Swedish artist Bertil Vallien.

Anticipating Santa Lucia Fest

The Swedish Historical Society of Rockford presented its annual Svensk Julmarknad och St. Lucia Program on December 5 at First Lutheran Church & Loreen Hall. As we enjoyed a kaffestuga, bageri and stor julmarknad, we sent you best wishes for the holidays, God Jul!



Photo Caption: Swedish Historical Society of Rockford's Lucia Fest.