

# Hälsningar

från Rockford, Illinois, USA *Global Partners Build Local Wealth*

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FALL 2010

Ambassador Jonas Hafström and Energy Economist "Skip" Laitner Opened IBED 2010

The Swedish ambassador to the United States, Ambassador Jonas Hafström, and energy economist John A. "Skip" Laitner delivered keynote remarks to open International Bioenergy Days in Rockford, Illinois on Monday, September 27. Ambassador Hafström also provided an overview of how Sweden's energy policies have driven innovation and energy independence at Monday's lunch.



Ambassador Hafström also spoke at a special dinner for the Swedish Historical Society of Rockford. This was Ambassador Hafström's first visit to the Rockford area.

- At IBED 2010, 35 speakers presented best practices and successful commercialization examples of bioenergy that are available today. For an up-to-date list of the internationally renown speakers and their bios, visit [www.ibed2010.com](http://www.ibed2010.com). Presentations are also posted at this site under the "Presentations/Agenda" tab.
- Participating in the fifth annual IBED were energy companies, organizations and municipalities from around the world that are looking for partners to help expand and grow energy businesses and practices. Visit [www.ibed2010.com](http://www.ibed2010.com) for the list of attendees. To learn more about partnering with another company or organization, contact Mark Podemski, Rockford Area Economic Development Council vice president at [mpodemski@rockfordil.com](mailto:mpodemski@rockfordil.com).
- Four tours were featured as part of IBED2010.
  1. BioVantage Biodiesel produces high-quality biodiesel from used cooking oil. It is a direct replacement for diesel and can be used as an additive to diesel. [www.bio-vantage.com](http://www.bio-vantage.com)
  2. Adkins Energy LLC, a corn-to-ethanol production facility. [www.adkinsenergy.com](http://www.adkinsenergy.com)
  3. Freedom Field, a renewable energy center that hosts projects that can be commercialized, such as wastewater algae study, waste heat uses, lake-loop geothermal projects and more. [www.freedomfieldenergy.com](http://www.freedomfieldenergy.com)
  4. Swedish-influenced, energy-efficient house built by students from De la Gardie High School in Lidköping and East High School in Rockford.

IBED 2010 is hosted by the Rockford Area Economic Development Council.

## IBED2011 to be in Lidköping

IBED2011 will be held in Lidköping next year. To participate in next year's IBED, contact Mark Podemski at [mpodemski@rockfordil.com](mailto:mpodemski@rockfordil.com).

The first International Bioenergy Days was held in Lidköping as part of the SwedishAmerican Chambers of Commerce Entrepreneurial Days 2006. Due to its success, it became a separate and independent event. IBED 2008 was held in Mankato, Minnesota and 2009 in Lidköping and Trollhättan.

## New Lidköping Students Help Complete Home Construction

A new group of students and a teacher from De la Gardie Gymnasiet in Lidköping were in Rockford during September to help put the finishing touches on an energy-efficient, Swedish-influenced house. The project is part of the Industrial Partnership Agreement between Lidköping and Rockford. The project also involves students from Rockford's East High School and is sponsored by SwedishAmerican Foundation. The home was part of an IBED2010 tour.

*Albin Larsson and Pernilla Antonsson from Lidköping's De la Gardie Gymnasiet help build a Swedish-influenced, energy efficient house in Rockford.*



## Lidköping Intern Having "Pretty Cool Experience"

"Patience" is what 23-year-old Filip Lasson, Lidköping's intern in Rockford has learned about economic development. "A lot of economic development is about establishing long-term, personal relationships," he said. He considers himself lucky. "I got to meet a lot of big names, mayors and county chairman, so that's been a pretty cool experience. Also, I've seen the same kind of partnership spirit in both Rockford and Lidköping, and that is pretty impressive," he added.

Filip has worked on IBED2010, coordinating conference details and helping assure a successful event.

He is all for continuing the internship program which is part of the industrial partnership agreement between the two cities. "The long-term commitment will become more and more important as the world keeps getting smaller," he predicted. Filip leaves Rockford on Sept. 30 and will work one month in Lidköping to complete his internship.

*Filip Lasson, Lidköping's intern in Rockford.*



## Swedish Culinary Students Intern in Rockford Region

As part of the Sister City Program between Borgholm and Rockford, four culinary students from Borgholm's Halltrop Culinary School are in Rockford until the end of November. The students are working at a high-end restaurant, Josef, and a casual-style restaurant, Pearl. This is the second such group to extend their culinary education in Rockford. "These types of culinary and cultural exchanges are so meaningful to the students and both sister cities. They help foster and promote that personal touch which is so important to promote global progress," said John Nelson, a member of Rockford's Sister City program.

*Culinary students from Borgholm work in Rockford.*



## Sister Cities Borgholm and Rockford Continue to Grow Closer

Two groups from Borgholm visited Rockford this summer, the Borgholm Brass Band and Kalmer County officials Jan Erics and Maria Johanson.

The band performed at several events, including the Swedish Historical Society's Kräftskiva (Crayfish Party) at the Erlander Museum in Rockford. Jan Erics and Maria Johanson met with Rockford's tourism head John Groh and representatives from the Rockford Area Economic Development Council, Janyce Fadden, Mark Podemski and Filip Lasson.

*Borgholm's Brass Band performing at the Swedish Historical Society of Rockford's Kräftskiva.*



### ABOUT THE RAEDC

The primary role of the Rockford Area Economic Development Council is to enhance wealth creation in the Rockford Region by marketing the area and helping employers retain and create quality jobs. The RAEDC works closely with many partners to serve as a one-stop resource for clients, to improve the competitiveness of the region and to engage the community in the work of economic development.

For information about the RAEDC, contact Mark Podemski at [mpodemski@rockfordil.com](mailto:mpodemski@rockfordil.com).

