

## Swedish associations were honoured

The Swedish allotment garden congress was organised in Uppsala on 12th and 13th August 2017.

During this congress two allotment associations were honoured.

The allotment association “Gubbängen” in Stockholm was rewarded for their activities in the nature and environment protection area and the allotment association “Pepper and Pumpkin” in Stockholm for their social activities.

You’ll find more information about these projects in the documents below.

## **The allotment association “Gubbängen” in Stockholm (S) received the diploma for ecological gardening**

The Swedish Allotment Federation has an environmental certification program that our member allotment associations can choose to follow.

There are more than 30 allotment associations that have become certified since the program started in the early 2000s. The environmental certification is constructed so that the allotment association can achieve certifications on 4 different levels; basic/mandatory, bronze, silver and gold.

So far, only two associations have reached the Gold-level; Björkhagen and Gubbängen in Stockholm. The former received a diploma for their environmental work from the Office International a number of years ago.

Gubbängen started their environmental work in 2001. They reached the basic level in 2006, and after passing through the bronze and silver levels, they reached gold in 2015.

They fulfill a number of requirements, such as: every allotment holder has his own compost. They do not use pesticides or chemical fertilizers. The association has a gardening advisor (trained in the Swedish Allotment Federation’s course for advisors), and a study organizer. Half of the gardeners use crop rotation. The association has a meadow that is maintained by using a scythe and a lot of traditional plants, bird’s houses, bee hives. There is no electricity on the area and their machines use environmental fuel.



# Diploma



Anerkennung für naturgerechtes Gärtnern

Reconnaissance pour un jardinage écologique

Recognition for an ecological gardening

Koloniträdgårdsförening

## Gubbängen

On proposal of the Koloniträdgårdsförbundet, this diploma is granted with the hearty congratulations of the Office International du Coin de Terre et des Jardins Familiaux a. s. b. l. to Gubbängen domiciled in Stockholm following to the efforts made by its members in order to practice an ecological gardening and care of their leisure garden site and their individual plots.

The Office International hopes that the members will continue to take an interest both in the aesthetic sight and the ecological care of their gardens and will be an example for the other leisure gardeners beyond all borders.

Stockholm, 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> August 2017

Malou Weirich  
Secretary general

Peter Paschke  
President

Wilhelm Wohatschek  
Chairman of the executive board

Office International du Coin de  
terre et des Jardins familiaux



## **The allotment association « Pepper & Pumpkin » in Stockholm (S) received the diploma for social activities**

“Pepper & Pumpkin”, received the diploma for their great work in bringing allotment holders together and organizing inspiring activities to the benefit of not only allotment holders, but also to the general public, politicians and the allotment garden movement.

Pepper & Pumpkin started in 2007-2008 when the allotment leases in Stockholm were being renegotiated and the city wanted to change many of the terms to the worse. This caused a group of allotment holders to get together to organize a harvest market in 2008 where allotment holders from all over Stockholm sold vegetables and flowers. There were also a number of other activities such as a café, scarecrow competition and a show with music and singing. A number of allotment holders with roots in other countries, talked about the vegetables they grew and how they used them. This was the starting point of the “the Allotment Chefs”, participating now every year in the Swedish Allotment Federation’s stand at the big Garden Fair in Stockholm.

The Harvest festival was a success and the allotment gardeners were successful, as the terms of the lease contracts were not changed in any dramatic way in the end.

Until 2015 Pepper & Pumpkin had a Harvest festival every year, in different locations.

Last year they choose to change and to organize an activity in the spring i.e. a large garden market/garage sale.

Every year in February Pepper & Pumpkin also organizes what they call “Fröruset” the Seed race in English. During this event allotment holders and other gardeners swap seeds and exchange gardening knowledge. There is always a number of lectures related to seeds and gardening. This year a woman made a call for collection of seeds for Syria and about gardening in refugee camps.

Pepper & Pumpkin has also had activities such as “Test allotment life”, where the organisers encourage allotment associations to open up to the neighbourhood and to invite people to try allotment gardening.

# Diploma

## Recognition for special social activities

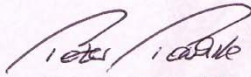
On the proposal the Koloniträdgårdsförbundet this diploma is granted with the hearty congratulations of the Office International du Coin de Terre et des Jardins Familiaux a.s.b.l. to the network of allotment holders

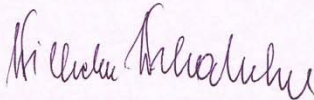
## Pepper & Pumpkin

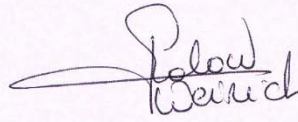
for their great work in bringing allotment gardeners together and organising inspiring activities for the benefit of not only the allotment holders, but also the neighbourhood, the general public, politicians, the allotment garden movement and people in need abroad.

The Office International hopes that the network of allotment holders "Pepper& Pumpkin" will successfully continue its efforts in the social area, will continue to develop its project or launch new initiatives.

The Office International hopes that this project will be an example to other allotment gardeners beyond all borders and will best document the efforts of the allotment gardeners in the social area to the authorities and the citizens.

  
Peter PASCHKE  
President

  
Wilhelm WOHATSCHEK  
Chairman of the  
executive board

  
Malou WEIRICH  
Secretary General

Stockholm, 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> August 2017

