



ESBG 2011

European Straw Bale
Gathering
23rd-27th August

PermaLot Centre
of Natural Building
Bouzov Podoli, Czech Republic



Dear 'Straw Baler',

Whether you are involved in straw bale building as a builder, architect, engineer, researcher, educator or apprentice, the ESBG is the central event for sharing latest developments, while also meeting and networking with your peers.

We're delighted to host this year's bi-annual gathering at the PermaLot Centre of Natural Building in the Czech Republic. You'll be in the midst of our certified organic land trust, and we aim to continue the initial tradition of making ESBG one of the most environmental and socially sustainable international trade gatherings in existence.

The details of the schedule are likely to keep on being fine-tuned until the end of the gathering but here's our main 'menu':



13-20/8 Straw bale building workshop
Tuesday 23/8 8-16:00 Optional bus tour

Tuesday 17:00 Start of ESBG. Social evening with music.

Wednesday Hands on workshops during day, plenum evaluation and social slide show evening.

Thursday "Open Space": Sharing of information in large and small groups; further development of topics through evening "World Café", leading to work groups.

Friday Conference, press meeting and concert.

Saturday 4th National Natural Building Celebration, a joyful mix of trade fair, hands-on workshops, music and presentations. 16:00 Closing circle of ESBG. Camp fire evening

Sunday 28/8 1st National 'Open Door' day of residential straw bale homes
10-17:00





Registration

The event is limited to a maximum of 130 people: We open for registration on 15th of February at 12:00.

Registration is based on a 'first come, first served' basis, with the twist that we will initially only supply the first five applicants from each country with payment details. Payment will need to be made by bank transfer within one week of application.

**Big
Early
Bird
Discount!**

Registration:

[www.permalot.org
/esbg2011](http://www.permalot.org/esbg2011)

Open from:

15/02 12:00

After March 15th we will assess the number of spaces left and offer them (for same price) to the first in line on a list compiled according to the time stamp of initial registration... regardless of nationality. Any remaining tickets will then be up for sale until all 130 people are registered.

To encourage a broad mix of representatives, we would suggest each country agrees on the five people best suited to represent them, who can later share the information gained from the ESBG at national events.

ESBG 2011 Price

From 15/02 until 15/03: **150** Euro

From 15/03 until 01/07: **200** Euro

From 01/07 until 23/08: **240** Euro

Fee includes program, materials, meals etc. but does **not** include transport or accommodation.





Transport

We will be coordinating 4 mini-busses (or big ones) that will drive from France in the West, Lithuania in the North and Slovenia in South/East



The busses will visit straw bale houses along the way, so this would be the ideal way to arrive to ESBG among friends, inspired and not dog-tired! Consider the potential of joining a different bus before or after the ESBG, simply as a vacation tour.

To find out 'How to get here' go to:
www.permalot.org/en/how-to-get-here

Meals

We aim to provide a gastronomic experience at the ESBG, with the use of local organic produce and a wholesome and healthy menu designed by *Franta Zacek* and his team. The menu is predominantly vegetarian and yummy!, ...And is available to view at:
www.permalot.org/esbgmenu





Accommodation

Please register through us, as we have tentatively reserved the pensions/hotels already

Camping (whether in tent or van, etc):
3 euro/person/night
(This covers our investment in camping facilities, incl. hot showers.)

Dormitory: Simple 'sleep on mattresses on floor under roof' type scene. We still don't have this settled, but hope to find a solution for 6 Euro/person/night



Pensions: 2 small options, at 12 Euro/person/night.

Hotels: 2 options either at 20 Euro/person/night 2 km away at www.hotelbouzov.cz or 16 Euro/person/night 6 km away (4 km biking through the forest) at www.valaskuvgrunt.eu

Discounts

The price of the event is being kept low to allow all a chance to attend. Please let us know if this is still preventing you from coming, or alternately, if you are able to offer a sponsorship. Potentially a grant could be coming through which will help the overall 'economy' of the event, but it's too early to tell.





Presentations



As you register please also write if you have a subject you would like to present, either at the conference or though the 'Open Space', or perhaps if there is a workshop you would like to lead. *Fano* will contact you about which materials, walls etc. you might need.

Natural Building Trade Fair

Please contact us if you are interested in promoting your products or services at a booth during this Saturday event. It will be open to the public at the Bouzov castle, well promoted, and coincides with...

Balloons over Bouzov

This is the 11th year in which balloon captains will meet and joyfully display their skills over the picturesque Bouzov landscape. More information about that event can be found here:

<http://balonynadhradem.aspone.cz/>





Straw bale building workshop

We still don't have the necessary building permits for a big bale building, but are working on a couple of possibilities. Please indicate your interest on the registration form and *Max* will get back to you.

Optional Bus Tour

You may want to arrive a day earlier, dine at local restaurants, and join one of the 2 bus tours during Tuesday the 23rd:



Option 1: Slovakia. Visit the load-bearing strawbale dome and vaults, covered by green roof designed by Doc. Gernot Minke and build as an educational centre for Artur o.z. The tour stops at a typical Slovak restaurant for lunch (included), and may stop by the Bratislava airport to pick up other participants.

Price: See online registration sheet.

Option 2: Visit four very different Czech approaches to Straw Bale building: From a circular family house to a 'boxy' passive house, to a house made with a minimum of non-processed materials in a modern eco subdivision. The tour includes lunch stop at a typical Czech restaurant. Price: See online registration sheet





National Open Door event

Please refer to www.slamenedomy.cz/navsteva



Local Tourism

Horseback riding, biking, touring the caves or visiting the castle? We are surrounded by rolling hills, fields and vast forests. You may also want to enjoy the University City of Olomouc (second only to Prague in its number of historical buildings but with a fraction of tourists), where we have been offered a free guided tour by Olomouc tourist information. Let us know if you are interested in vacationing here before or after the ESBG.

Vital supplies

Our small shop will feature various snacks as well as juices, cigarettes and conveniences. We'll have a well-supplied bar available as well as a Czech speciality: a tea-house to rest and recover in.



Internet

Free wi-fi is provided, as well as wi-fi free areas. One PC is available for public use, but we advice you to curtail online activities and enjoy the ESBG instead... Twitter/Facebook can wait!





Clothing

The ESBG is planned as an outdoor event in big tents. Please dress according to weather predictions. To get a feel of the area you may want to look at www.permalot.org/en/photos

Children

Our forest kindergarten is closed during vacation season, but let us know if you wish to bring a child and we'll see what we can do to accommodate them.



Environmental impact

Water is from our own well and very clean. Hot water is heated with solar and wood and 25% of our electricity is generated from the sun.

Wastewater will be cleaned by a reed bed filter and all toilets are separating composting toilets. Materials used at the ESBG are purchased locally and we aim to grow all the vegetables we use here. Your name badge will be a ceramic mug, which we hope you'll keep with you at all times.

