



**Closer
to Nature**

PRESS RELEASE

Nature trips with side programs again free of charge thanks to NET4GAS and the ČSOP campaign “Encounters with Nature”

Prague, June 9, 2014: In its Encounters with Nature campaign (www.setkanisprirodou.cz) the Czech Union for Nature Conservation (ČSOP) has prepared 17 interesting nature trips in the regions of Moravia-Silesia, Southern Moravia, Zlín, Southern Bohemia, Olomouc, Liberec, Central Bohemia and Prague. These events, aimed at the public and offered free of charge, will take place from June 13-22. ČSOP, together with its main sponsor NET4GAS, has also announced that it will be holding a photographic contest for participants, with a tent and a subscription to the Naše příroda (Our Nature) magazine up for grabs as prizes.

Between June 13 and 22, 2014, ČSOP will offer the public throughout the country the chance to visit 17 natural attractions. These trips and excursions will also provide breath-taking views and offer commentary by knowledgeable guides – ČSOP members, who have chosen sites where visitors can observe rare plants and animals. Specifically, participants will get to see an orchid meadow, carnivorous sundews and bats at their fingertips, or they will find themselves strolling along various nature trails.

The events at U Chlumu Quarry, Hády and Čelechovice na Hané have the added benefit of a program that will fascinate families with children: the nocturnal observation of bats using bat detectors, a walk with lanterns, the chance to learn about animal tracks, and light-hearted tasks shedding light on the life of the Nymphalidae family of butterflies.

ČSOP is keen for this campaign to show people that nature is not something remote and mysterious, but that, in fact, its immense value and rarity may literally be on the other side of the garden fence. No membership fees are charged for these events – the trips are open to everyone and there is no need to book in advance. A summary of all the meetings, maps and additional information about the sixth round of the campaign and details of the photo competition can be found at: www.setkanisprirodou.cz.

Contact for Additional Information:

Lucie Matulová
Office of CSOP Central Executive Board
Phone: 731 760 872
E-mail: lucie.matulova@csop.cz

Zuzana Kučerová
NET4GAS, s.r.o.
Phone: 739 537 273
E-mail: zuzana.kucerova@net4gas.cz

The **Czech Union for Nature Conservation** (Český svaz ochránců přírody) is a club of people who love nature and wish to actively contribute to its conservation. Today, we have almost 7,000 members, among them expert ecologists, as well as enthusiastic volunteers, both adults and children. Everyone can make a difference. Are you a friend of nature? Come join us! Visit www.csop.cz for additional information.

NET4GAS is both a reliable and safe gas transmission system operator, and at the same time pursues a responsible policy aimed at protecting nature and the environment for future generations. The commercial operations of NET4GAS are very closely connected with the issue of nature conservation, as during both the construction and the operation of its gas infrastructure it must comply with strict environmental standards. In fact, its concern for the natural environment extends even beyond the requirements of legislation. It is this principle which underlies the long-term strategy of corporate philanthropy and sponsorship which has been implemented under the programme NET4GAS Closer to Nature since 2007. NET4GAS has been systematically providing long-term support to projects where a major aspect of sustainable development is expressed by precisely that motto "Closer to Nature" and can therefore be proud that in the long run it is the Czech Republic's largest private corporate donor in the field of nature conservation.