



Closer
to Nature

PRESS RELEASE

New tourist destination in Brno region – Panská skála (Manor Rock) near Habrovany

Habrovany (13. 11. 2011) - Český svaz ochránců přírody (The Czech Union for Nature Conservation, ČSOP) together with its general partner, NET4GAS company, has made accessible to public a new natural site in Brno region – Panská skála (Manor Rock) natural treasure site, an abandoned quarry with a system of water pools.

When construction rock production ceased in 1970s, the abandoned place started to merge gradually with nature. A water system of intertwined pools developed in the course of time, fed partly by rain and partly by groundwater. The declaration of the site as a natural treasure was motivated by the fact that several rare species of amphibians choose the place for mating. The pools and their surroundings are a habitat of such species as the mountain and common newt, the common frog and tree frog. As for interesting plants, herb Paris can be found.

Two newly installed information board not only introduce visitors to the local wildlife, but give them the overview of the geological conditions of this location, where ancient marine sediments can be found. The visitors thus learn about fossils found in the neighbourhood or of the quarry history. *“We wanted to give an idea to both local people and tourists of the recent history of the quarry, but also of the times where the whole region was flooded by the sea”*, Hana Drobničková from ČSOP local organization said. Jan Nehoda, the Managing Director of NET4GAS, added: *“I am glad that due to the NET4GAS Closer to Nature programme, we could make the Panská skála (Manor Rock) natural treasure site accessible the public. This walk and trip destination can at last show to people how interesting and abundant the location is, which really deserves the protection.”* The best way for the visitors to reach the place is to start in Habrovany village, approximately 1.5 km far from the site; from a “memorable” linden tree named “Márinka” growing next to the church, they will go on a main road a little uphill. After approximately 200 m is a turning to the left to a hard-surface road, accessible even for cycling tourist or for families with children and a pram. The quarry is less than 1 km far.

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The Czech Union for Nature Conservation is a civic association of people who share an active interest in nature conservation and the environment. ČSOP's mission is to protect and restore nature, the landscape and the environment, to promote environmental education and support sustainable living. The Union currently has 9,000 members coming from the ranks of professional naturalists, experienced volunteers as well as pure enthusiasts who simply love nature. In 2009, ČSOP celebrated its 30th anniversary. For more information please go to www.csop.cz.

NET4GAS is aware of its social responsibility and therefore develops and constantly deepens its concept of sponsorship and corporate philanthropy. The company acts as a reliable and safe gas transmission system operator and develops a responsible environmental policy that takes into account the interests of future generations. The NET4GAS long-term sponsorship strategy - which is put into practice through the NET4GAS Closer to Nature programme - springs from the close relation between the line of business pursued by NET4GAS on the one hand, and nature-conservation and environmental issues on the other. Supporting also various other entities, NET4GAS is the general partner of the Czech Union for Nature Conservation and of the Peat Bog Revitalization project in the Ore Mountains, organized by the civic association DAPHNE ČR – Institute for Applied Ecology. For detailed information on the locations newly opened to the public and on other natural spots of interest, as well as for destination tips, please see www.blizpriode.cz.