



Closer
to Nature

PRESS RELEASE

New Nature Trail near Mariánské Lázně

Trstěnice (25 November 2011) – The Czech Union for Nature Conservation (ČSOP) has opened to public a new nature trail named Cech Sv. Víta (Saint Vitus Guild). The circuit passes through one of the most treasured nature spots of Mariánské lázně region.

The nature spot was created in the extensive area of former military training ground. The local organization of ČSOP, Berkut, opened for public a 1.5 km wooden path circuit built on marshland. From nine information boards, the visitors can learn not only of the rare and endangered, but also of the more common species of plants and animals, as well as of interesting nature spots and of how they are preserved. There are three places at the circuit for the visitors to sit and rest under gazebos, as well as a pond vista.

The Czech Union for Nature Conservation (ČSOP) intends to present the public with a preserved nature spot, a habitat of one of the rarest European butterflies – the Marsh Fritillary. In addition, seven species of amphibians can be found there, such as newts, frogs or toads. All these animals live there mainly due to a long-term impact of military machinery during military trainings. *"What most people do not know is that by intentional disruption of the terrain by heavy machinery, ideal conditions for a whole range of amphibians were created; this is why we now have to simulate the heavy machinery impact,"* Jiří Šindelář, the Chairman the ČSOP local organization Berkut said.

Due to regular care, such rare orchids as the Lesser Butterfly-orchid and the Western Marsh Orchid appear each spring in this locality.

"Cech Sv. Víta (Saint Vitus Guild) clearly shows the mission of the Closer to Nature programme; because of the new nature trail, people can access treasurable nature spots, which could not be safely visited so far," Jan Nehoda, NET4GAS company Executive, said.

The nature trail was opened owing to cooperation of the Czech Union for Nature Conservation (ČSOP), Mariánské lázně local authority, the village of Trstěnice, Agency for nature and countryside protection of the Czech Republic in Karlovy Vary, and, above all, NET4GAS company, the general partner of ČSOP. It is owing to the contribution of those organizations that the locality will hopefully be preserved for next generations.

So, do not hesitate – you can visit the unique nature spot for free, whenever during the year!

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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.