



**Closer
to Nature**

PRESS RELEASE

New Fun Trail for Children and Parents in Zásmyky Near Kolín

Zásmyky, June 25, 2014 – In the last week of school, the Czech Union for Nature Conservation (ČSOP) presented the general public with a new educational trail near Kolín, named "Zásmycká Bažantnice" (i.e. the Zásmyky Pheasantry). The two-kilometer circular track around the local game preserve offers five stations, a seating and resting area, and interactive features for children. The trail was created courtesy of the NET4GAS Closer To Nature program, with the support of the town of Zásmyky. "Šestka" (The Six), the Young Conservationists section within the ČSOP, contributed significantly to making the trail a reality.

The trail familiarizes locals and tourists alike with the history of this game preserve - in particular, the raising of a stock of white stags kept as hunting trophies, and the ancient Leopold oak. It also presents the animals and plants that keen observers can spot here. In spring, for instance, one finds lesser celandines, anemones, corydalis flowers, Stars-of-Bethlehem, and primroses. As for the animal world, the attentive nature-lover may notice the hermit beetle crawling up the bark of trees, and in the treetops of the old oaks, one can see bats, squirrels, and a number of cavity-nesting bird species.

"Preparatory work on this trail was done by the local ČSOP chapter, including the children from our group of Young Conservationists. They helped with the landscaping and with clearing the paths. I have a feeling that our bevy of kids will want to return here often and enthusiastically. Also, the place will surely be frequented by the local pre-school and elementary school," said Milan Petr of the Local Zásmyky Chapter of the ČSOP Zásmyky.

Small visitors, in particular, will enjoy the opportunity to measure the length of their jump against that of various animals in the newly-installed jumping pit, put their knowledge of birds to the test with rotating signs, grasp the concept of the natural food chain thanks to an ingeniously designed brain-teaser, or play with a beetle mockup. Together with their parents, they can peek into the Deer Tunnel, or climb the safe route above it to watch the brook as it runs through the gorge, or take a rest at the nearby seating area.

"It is not all that easy nowadays to motivate children to go outside and explore nature. This is why we make special efforts to make particular sites accessible and attractive to them, through means that are at once playful and didactic. Environmental education is one of the fundamental elements of the Closer To Nature program," says Zuzana Kučerová, senior promotion specialist at NET4GAS.

Five new info panels have been put up along the trail, as well as four interactive installations for children, seating, and steps leading up to the Deer Tunnel gorge. The railings above the tunnel have been repaired and secured, so that the trail is now also accessible to parents with strollers.

The festive opening of the trail took the form of a commented tour around the entire (well-signposted) two-kilometer footpath, attended by children from the local school, Zásmyky town hall representatives, and representatives of NET4GAS, the general partner of the Czech Union for Nature Conservation.

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 the reliable and safe gas transmission system operator, and has been developing a responsible policy for protecting nature and the environment that takes into account the interests of future generations. The line of business in which NET4GAS is active is closely related to the issue of nature conservation, which fact is the point of departure for the firm's long-term strategy being implemented under the colors of NET4GAS Closer To Nature. Since 2007, NET4GAS has been acting as the general partner of the CSOP, while the firm also supports other projects that endorse the motto "Closer To Nature" as an integral part of sustainable development. Detailed information on the sites that we have opened thus far, and on other natural points of interest, as well as tips for excursions, can be found on the website www.blizpriode.cz.