



**Closer  
to Nature**

## PRESS RELEASE

### **New Hiking Destination on Outskirts of Šluknov – Shooting Range Trail near Local "Pazderák" Pond**

**Šluknov: September 18, 2015 - In a festive ceremony, the Czech Union for Nature Conservation (ČSOP) has opened part of the former military shooting range near Šluknov to the general public, on which it installed an educational trail. As of today, visitors can take the route from a nearby protected alluvial meadow along a corduroy path and footbridge to a 300-year-old oak tree.**

Thanks to the NET4GAS Closer to Nature program, a beautiful spot for pleasant strolls has been brought into existence, which will be especially attractive to the inhabitants of Šluknov. "In an educational, and yet playful way, this program seeks to make people aware of the natural treasures that are literally found right in their backyard, but which may still be completely unknown to some," commented Zuzana Kučerová of NET4GAS.

The trail presents a small fish pond ("Wenisch Pond"), wetlands and alluvial meadows, but also a memorial oak on the former military shooting ground that is the namesake of the new trail. Local flora and fauna are composed of rather common species, but the discerning visitor may spot protected kingfishers, toads and salamanders. Even today, remnants of firing positions and backstops are scattered about the landscape, and visitors both big and small are invited, by means of interactive elements along the trail, to engage in a guessing game and estimate the distance to various targets.

"One of the main reasons behind our choice to include this particular site in our program was the memorial oak, which we wanted to show to the public, and which in a sense is a final destination and 'bonus' for visitors to the trail," said local ČSOP chapter member Pavel Bolík, adding that "thanks to the corduroy path and the footbridge, folks may now safely cross the waterlogged parts of the terrain without getting their feet wet, and the whole trail is perfectly negotiable for families with children in strollers, as well as for handicapped visitors with assistance. Once they arrive at the end point of the trail, people can take a rest under the canopy of the gazebo that we've installed."

The trail is about 450 m long and can be found two kilometers from the signpost on the town square of Šluknov, which represents the central hub from where the local hiking trails depart. Visitors get to the trail coming from the town center by following the blue hiking trail or cycling trail 3043. GPS: 51.0094981N, 14.4694756E.

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The **Czech Union for Nature Conservation** is a group of people who love nature and share an active interest in nature conservation. It currently has close to 7,000 members, some of whom hail from the ranks of professional naturalists, but others are enthusiastic volunteers, while some are adults and others are children. Everyone can help. Do you love nature? Then join us! For more information, visit [www.csop.cz](http://www.csop.cz).

**NET4GAS** is the Czech Republic's reliable and safe gas transmission system operator, pursuing the responsible policy of protecting nature and the environment for current and future generations. The commercial operations of NET4GAS are very closely connected with the issue of nature conservation, and it is this fact that underlies the firm's long-term strategy of corporate philanthropy that has been implemented within the context of the NET4GAS Closer to Nature programme. Since 2007, NET4GAS has been the general partner of the Czech Union of Nature Conservation, while the firm also supports various other projects for which the slogan "Closer to Nature" is at the heart of sustainable development. For detailed information on the sites that have been opened to the general public, and for lots of additional interesting information related to nature, please visit [www.blizpriode.cz](http://www.blizpriode.cz).



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### **Overview of the 72 sites opened to the public by Czech Union for Nature Conservation under the NET4GAS Closer to Nature programme**

#### **2007**

NT Klíč Valley, Svor / Česká Lípa  
NT Hloučela Biocorridor, Prostějov  
Opičák, Liberec  
Jelenice, Pozořice / Brno-venkov  
Myslík Quarry, Myslík / Frýdek-Místek  
NT Milovice Observation Post, Milovice / Nymburk

#### **2008**

NT Footpaths in the Beskid Foothills, Kunčice pod Ondřejníkem / Frýdek-Místek  
NT A Forest Full of Senses, Krásná Lípa / Děčín  
NT Bludov Hillside, Bludov / Šumperk  
NT VINOŘ Park – Satalice Pheasantry, Praha-VINOŘ  
Golden Hill, Bečov nad Teplou / Karlovy Vary  
Kamenec, Kamenec u Radnic / Rokycany  
NT Zvole Hummock, Zvole u Prahy  
NT Fryšták, Fryšták / Zlín  
Salamander Spring, Myslík / Frýdek-Místek  
NT Velký Košíř, Litomyšl / Svitavy  
NT Mnichov Serpentine, Prameny / Cheb  
NT Hasina Valley, Lipno / Louny  
Chlum Quarry, Srbsko / Beroun  
Mokroš Biocentre, Mořice / Prostějov  
NT Zahrady, Český Brod / Kolín  
Blahutovice Observation Post, Blahutovice / Nový Jičín  
NT Votočnice, Sázava / Benešov

#### **2009**

Rezavka, Ostrava  
Štěpán Nature Reserve, Děhylov / Ostrava  
NT Medník, Hradištko / Praha-západ  
Vladař Mountain, Vladořice / Karlovy Vary  
NT Podkovák, Lesná / Tachov  
Kudlačena, Horní Bečva / Vsetín  
Podlešák's Elm, Vimperk-Boubská / Prachatice  
Above the River, Bečov nad Teplou / Karlovy Vary

#### **2010**

Choryn Wetland Nature Reserve, Lešná / Valašské Meziříčí  
NT Water World, Lesná / Domažlice

Poustka, Pozořice / Brno-venkov  
Skalka Nature Reserve, Kunčice pod Ondřejníkem / Frýdek-Místek  
NT Sudslavice Circuit, Vimperk / Prachatice  
Žák's Hill National Nature Reserve, Cikháj / Žďár nad Sázavou  
Moses Spring - Emperor's Stone, Vesec / Liberec  
Semanín Trail, Semanín / Ústí nad Orlicí

### **2011**

NT Na cvičišti - At the Training Ground, Valašské Meziříčí / Vsetín  
Střelenská Meadow, Střelná / Teplice  
Capartice Meadows, Capartice / Domažlice  
Chlum Mountain Nature Reserve, Chlum / Karlovy Vary  
Manor Rock Natural Monument, Habrovany / Vyškov  
NT Around Vřesina, Vřesina / Opava  
NT Saint Vitus Guild, Trstěnice / Cheb

### **2012**

Litovice Pond Bird-Watching Spot, Litovice / Praha-západ  
Kolo Wetland, Slavkov / Uherské Hradiště  
NT Vidžín - Telecí potok, Vidžín / Plzeň-sever  
NT Housle, Praha-Lysolaje  
Pančava, Pozořice / Slavkov  
NT Mýto, Nedvězí / Prague  
Bohumilice Avenue, Bohumilice / Prachatice  
Ořešník, Hejnice / Liberec  
NT Heřmanice Pond, Heřmanice / Ostrava

### **2013**

Lačnov Crocuses, Lačnov / Vsetín  
NT Umíř, Plachtín / Plzeň-sever  
NT Pňov Mead, Pňov-Předhradí / Kolín  
NT St. John's Rapids, Štěchovice / Praha-západ  
Třemešské rybníky Bird-Watching Spot, Dolní Studénky / Šumperk  
Path to Sulphurous Springs, Zádveřice / Zlín

### **2014**

NT Libušín Fortification, Libušín / Kladno  
Lušová Valley, Lušová / Vsetín  
NT Zásmuky Pheasantry, Zásmuky / Kolín  
Canopy Road Beneath Hořínkova Forester's Lodge, Buchlovice / Uherské Hradiště  
NT Chlum, Nepřevázka, Mladá Boleslav  
NT Through landscape of floods, Jeseník nad Odrou / Nový Jičín  
NT Hády Quarries and Surroundings, Brno

### **2015**

NT Vesec Valley, Liberec  
NT Choryně Sentinel, Vsetín  
Kozmice Bird Meadows, Opava  
Shooting Range Trail /Děčín

NT = nature trail

**Find more information at [www.blizpriode.cz](http://www.blizpriode.cz)**

