



**Closer
to Nature**

PRESS RELEASE

Benches and info panels have sprung up on Velká Homolka, and the summit cross has been restored

Vimperk, 2 October 2015: New wooden furniture and accessories, and the restored summit cross on Velká Homolka ('Big Knoll') in Vimperk, have been presented to the public today. The local Šumava / Bohemian Forest chapter of the ČSOP successfully saw through its project proposal for beautifying yet another interesting spot of nature for the general public within the "NET4GAS Closer to Nature" programme.

Velká Homolka is a place of great interest to natural science, and it is being looked after by the local Šumava / Bohemian Forest chapter of the ČSOP. "Biological field research has taken place here and has yielded some interesting results. Around 180 plant species and several dozen protected animal species can be found here, of which the insect life is the most interesting – in particular the presence of the baton blue butterfly. We from the Bohemian Forest Land Stewardship Club have been mowing the local meadows with scythes and letting sheep graze on them for a couple of years, and we cut back the shrubs and trees that propagate through windborne seeds. We consult with the property owners and closely collaborate with them in all our efforts. On some land plots, we are the tenants. But other plots can, in fact, be bought and are today owned by the ČSOP, thanks to the nation-wide public fundraiser "A Place For Nature", says Jana Zrnová, manager at the local Šumava chapter of the ČSOP.

Three all-new wooden benches have been installed on Velká Homolka, and info panels have been attached to the backrests of these benches which provide information about the past and present of the Big Knoll and its ecological and scientific relevance. The access routes up the slopes have also been restored. Small visitors will appreciate the new wooden memory game depicting animals and plants. Finally, a leaflet with information on the site has been produced which includes a map, making it easy and safe to move about the location. A copy of this leaflet can be picked up at any of the rest areas or downloaded from the internet at www.blizprirode.cz.

In the upper part of Velká Homolka (751 m above sea level), a stone cross dating from 1899 was restored by removing the moss and lichen and by gold-plating the corpus. All work, from making wooden furniture and accessories to repairing the summit cross, was carried out by local artisans who thus proved the mastery of their craft.

"We are happy and proud that the Velká Homolka is already the fourth location within the valuable natural area of Pošumaví, alongside Podlešák's Elm, the Sudslavice Circuit, and Bohumilice Avenue, which ČSOP has made accessible to the general public thanks to the NET4GAS Closer to Nature programme," said Zuzana Kučerová from NET4GAS.

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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.

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.



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Overview of the 73 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
Velká Homolka, Vimperk / Prachatice

NT = nature trail

Find more information at www.blizpriode.cz

