



Closer
to Nature

PRESS RELEASE

The unique rowan species, *Sorbus Rhodanthera*, now also from an avian perspective

Today, Český svaz ochránců přírody (The Czech Union for Nature Conservation, ČSOP) together with its general partner, NET4GAS, s.r.o., and Střední lesnická škola (secondary school of forestry) inaugurated a nature spot in the Karlovy Vary region – an observation point Chlumská hora (Chlumská mountain) near the small baroque town of Manětín.

The observation point on Chlumská hora is at the altitude of approx. 640 m; as the spot rises high above the surrounding country, it affords a fine view over the countryside. From now on, the visitors can make themselves familiar with unique fauna and flora of the nature reservation spreading on the slopes under the observation point.

The visitors can go 3 km from Chlum to Chlumská hora (Chlumská mountain) following the tourist trail marked in green and turn to a marked path to the observation site. Although the hill is named as “mountain”, a solid, if not reinforced, path leads to the peak, which is accessible by families with small children or pushing a pram or by cycling visitors. Another option is to follow a tourist trail marked in green from Manětín, a steep uphill non-maintained path.

The observation site was almost not known to visitors, tourist and nature lovers for a long time. Now, you can sit there and look over the countryside of Manětín region almost from an avian perspective, and read an information panel. *“This project fulfils the mission of our program completely. We wanted to make accessible and attractive for public nature spots, which, however not too far, were often completely unknown. We wanted that people learned something new and interesting of this spots, so the nature comes closer to them,”* said Jan Nehoda, Managing Director of NET4GAS.

With a bit of luck, a keen observer can spot one of Chlumská hora treasures – rowan *Sorbus Rhodanthera*, a hybrid of *Sorbus Danubialis* and *Sorbus Terminalis* (Wild Service Tree), endemic to the region. You can tell the species immediately by its pink anthers in typical white blossoms. Another rare species to be found are the reservation is *Carlina Vulgaris Bifolia*, tutsan *Hypericum Montanum*, *Lilium Martagon* (Turk’s cap lilly), *Mellittis Melissophyllum* (bastard balm), *Carlila Biebersteinii*, *Latirus Linifolius*, *Alium Montanum*, *Cotoneaster Integerrimus*, orchid *Epipactis Helleborine*, *Vincetoxicum Hirundinaria*, *Platanthera Bifolia* or *Sorbus Terminalis*.

The local forest where this species of rowan can be found is kept by the Secondary school of forestry in Žlutice, which is why the events of the local ČSOP organization, Alter Meles, are organized in close cooperation with this school.

Come and enjoy a peaceful autumn walk, discovering the magic of the local countryside. You will be welcomed!

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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.