



**Přátelé přírody**

[www.pratele-prirody.cz](http://www.pratele-prirody.cz)

**Friends of Nature Czechia**

**Annual Report 2020**



## What have the Czech Friends of Nature behind after the first year of coronavirus? They established cross-border cooperation, celebrated their holiday and contributed to a project in Bosnia

Which successes and good moments in the otherwise strange year 2020 for the Czech branch of the Friends of Nature movement on its national level should be recalled and not forgotten? An important and plus point was the first Czech-Saxon Cooperation Meeting of Friends of Nature, which took place in early March 2020 in Naundorf on the German side of Czech-Saxon Switzerland. Subsequently, a state of emergency began, which lasted with breaks until the end of the year. In June, we managed to celebrate our holiday, Day for Nature, but neither our joint summer trip to Lusatia, Germany, nor our national gathering took place, the ninth year of which we had to postpone until this year. However, our charitable St. Nicholas Collection was successful, from which the money raised supported a Bosnian Friends of Nature project.

2



### Neighbours should know about each other

*Friends of Nature from Czechia and Saxony established mutual contact and agreed on the next cooperation*

The first weekend of March 2020 belonged to a long-prepared meeting of representatives of Friends of Nature from Czechia and German Saxony, which, in addition to membership in the same movement, is also connected by a common state border. From 6 to 8 March 2020 in Naundorf on the edge of the Saxon Switzerland National Park, dozens of Czech and once so many Saxon Friends of Nature introduced their associations and local groups to each other, debated the problems they had in common, presented their proven projects and thought about opportunities for further cooperation between its members at national

and local level. It was, in fact, the first meeting of neighbors connected by a common border, counting from the 1990s, when the Friends of Nature movement resumed its activities in Czechoslovakia and the former East Germany. Let us hope that this first meeting, which was unfortunately followed by a coronavirus break, is the beginning of a fruitful future cooperation.



### **Czech Friends of Nature celebrated their holiday for the seventh time**

*Members and supporters of the Friends of Nature Association from the Czech Republic celebrated their holiday with events in various parts of the Czech Republic, but in their minds all together*

If you wanted to join the Day for Nature on the first Saturday in June, you could choose from several events that took place at the same time in different places in the Czech Republic. This holiday is not celebrated by members and supporters of the national association Friends of Nature in one place, but in the localities where its local groups operate. Always on the next Saturday, June 5, which falls on World Environment Day, they undertake events under the common logo "Day for Nature" with the aim of showing those interested in active leisure time nature as a place where you can do and experience a lot of interesting things.

And it doesn't have to be complicated to make it a successful day that lifts your spirits. Thus, on June 6, 2020, after a trip around ponds and rocks, sausages were roasted in the Českolipsko region, grandparents and grandchildren set out on an educational trail in the Jablonec region, and a joint trip of hikers and cyclists along the former Amber Trail took place in the Olomouc region. It is clear from the responses that everyone enjoyed it very much and spent the Day for Nature doing what they like to do and what they invented themselves.





### Money from St. Nicholas Collection of Czech Friends of Nature went to Bosnia

During November, the “St. Nicholas” charity collection took place for the second time among members and supporters of the Friends of Nature. This time it was selected for the project of our Bosnian colleagues, the Friends of Nature - Oaza Mira from the town of Srebrenica, which is still recovering from the 25-year-old scars of the civil war. The collection managed to collect CZK 6,074. The highest contribution came from Tomáš Pospíšil from Lutín, a member of the Olomouc group of the association.





## Brief reports from the local groups



5

### Friends of Nature „Mala Liska“, Olomouc

→ In July, we organized an exhibition of large-format photographs in the Olomouc Regional Centre, mapping ten years of our group's activities. It was not at all easy to choose a few dozen of the best shots, but we were finally satisfied with the result. The opening of the photo exhibition took place with the participation of city representatives and musical accompaniment, and those interested could view the exhibition for three weeks.

→ At the opening, the brochure “Into Nature in the City” was launched, published with the financial support of the city of Olomouc in the number of two thousand copies. The brochure contains 16 walking routes along the outskirts of Olomouc and its surroundings, including photographs. The brochure is available free of charge at the city information center and a reprint is planned for great interest.

→ Last year, we decided to celebrate the International Day of Friends of Nature with work. That is why in the second half of September we joined the Clean Up the Czechia campaign. Around 15 participants cleaned the banks of the Morava River in Olomouc during one Saturday. Each of us collected about 25 kg of garbage. Our efforts were rewarded with a financial award from the International Friends of Nature.





## Friends of Nature Liberec

→ At the end of the winter, we were looking forward to joint meetings, which were limited by quarantine. We took trips in smaller groups - meadow of spring snowflakes, Novoborsko, Jičínsko, surroundings of Liberec, Frýdlant, Mladoboleslavsko. We also attended concerts rehearsals held in Prague's Rudolfinum music hall.

→ After the release, we took a visit to God's tomb in Mimoň and a walk around the Dutch Ponds in a larger group. Finally, we were able to go on multi-day stays, such as a trip to Domažlice with accommodation on the Koráb lookout tower - we saw Přeborn, Klatovy, Švihov and Stříbro.

→ We celebrated the Day for Nature on June 6 with a meeting of our members in Brniště connected with roasting excellent sausages.

→ During the school holidays we made trips - Berounka (Řevnice, Mníšek pod Brdy, Karlštejn, Křivoklát) and a foreign trip to the Austrian Alps with beautiful trips to the lakes and mountains to the Dachstein glacier.

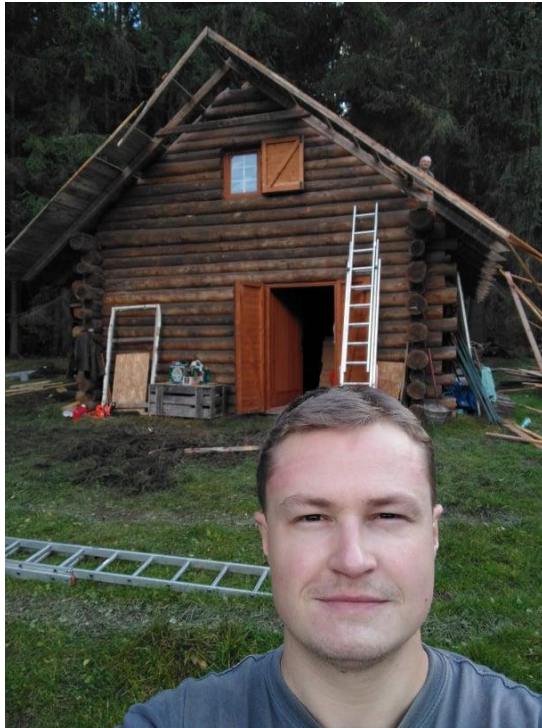
→ Before the autumn restriction, we managed to organize a trip to South Moravia: Znojmo, Cornštejn, Bítov, the Rumburak lookout tower, the Šobes vineyard, a one-day trip to Vienna. On the way back we stopped in Litomyšl.





## Friends of Nature „Javory“, Nové Město na Moravě

Last year, under the influence of the covid pandemic, the group of Friends of Nature Javory from Nové Město na Moravě focused mainly on work, so that we have a reason to stay at home as much as possible. The log cabin on Javorka, which we use both as a



clubhouse but also as a base for hikes in nature, needed a general overhaul of the roof (it was finally found that it needed a new one), so we repeatedly set off to the valley of our Fryšávka to deal with it. And that it was no fun, it is certainly clear from the photos.

In the meantime, we went on half-day or full-day trips to the surrounding area, such as the monument remembering a fairy tale book “Broučci” (The Fireflies) by J Karafiát near Jimramov, the Last Wolf in the Vysočina monument, the ruins of Štarkov Castle, which was once the last of the Hussite-owned castles, but also the monument of partisans from the time of World War II in Koníkov and to many other goals. The Fryšávka valley itself is extremely beautiful and staying there has beneficial effects on the human soul.

7

## Friends of Nature Prague mapped the hop-growing region of Bohemia on wheels

Friends of Nature Prague once again joined the Tourist Academic Club and organized its cycling part as part of the 62nd annual tourist tour of the Trail. The four-day bicycle tour, held on September 25-28, 2020, led from Prague via Rakovnícko, Podbořansko, Lounsko, Plzeňsko to the region of Ota Pavel na Berounka. Eight Friends of Nature met us at the start on Friday morning in the rain, two of them on an e-bike. The rain accompanied us for three days out of four, on Monday the extra temperature +5 degrees. I have not experienced such a slot on a bike for a long time, if at all. Daily portion: 77 km the first day, the following days a little over 50 km. You don't want to see our bikes after Friday's stage, when the boss forgot that there would be mud on the field roads. Sleeping under the roof assisted by a guitar, violin and blowers while falling asleep. There was also a tour of the castles in



Chyšě and Manětín. The mayor of Břasy and the local Sokol, Mr. Kroc (pictured in the middle), the very great-grandson of the founder of the McDonald's network, Raymond Albert Kroz, an emigrant from Břasy to America, spoke very engagingly about the former mining region. 5 participants arrived at the planned destination in Beroun. Two dropped out after half a day in the rain, the third last day at noon and two fled 10 km before the finish line in Zdice for a train.



## Friends of Nature “Společenství Severských pánů”, Krnov

On August 22-23, 2020, the Great Archery Tournament took place at Sovinec Castle. The main organizers - the Přemyslid Court and the Association of Nordic Lords - with great support of a perfect sunny weekend prepared great fun for all who arrived. The atmosphere is almost difficult to describe. The castle, merchants, organizers, participants and castle staff were all in costumes. Prizes for the winners are also more than valuable - a perfect replica of a battle hammer, forest (green glass) bows and arrows from a master in the field, Mr. Lazecký.



Another great success is the grant for 2020 - purchase of a historic tent - kitchen with complete equipment and 6 benches and 3 tables. Equipment for medieval games - screens for archery, fixed targets for throwing a dagger, axe and spear and others. So the fourth grant in this value in a row.

▫ For the year 2021, the Nordic lords had a calendar made, a very successful and great promotional material for our supporters, by the way. And in addition to the calendar, we also have new badges - buttons for clothes, pens, bottle openers, folding knives, car stickers and a new four-leaf jigsaw puzzle about SSP.



## Friends of Nature Jablonec nad Nisou

→ *Thursday trips during coronavirus.* In March, we made only two trips to Křižany and Líšeň. There was a break for coronavirus, we followed all precautions and we went on trips only privately in pairs. And some found that thanks to coronavirus they passed and got to know Jablonec and its surroundings. The measures ended at the end of April and we managed to make all the planned trips, even though it was already in May and June. In total, we walked about 100 km.

→ *Children's Day - educational trail Harcovský hřeben, June 6, 2020.* As every year, we celebrated the Day for Nature by wandering around Jablonec. The bus took us to Harcov, where we walked an educational trail with information panels about forestry, missing beasts, and the famous poacher. With the help of grandparents, the children solved various tasks and competitions, played games on poachers and squirrels. Attendance despite the bad weather was record - 20 children and 20 adults.



→ *Tours for cyclists and pedestrians Český Krumlov, July 22 - 26, 2020.* This trip took place thanks to the coronavirus, due to which we missed the planned accommodation in Příbram. We quickly arranged accommodation in a tourist hostel in Krumlov and filled the bus with 30 cyclists and 15 pedestrians. The city surprised us because it was half empty and thanks to that we were able to ride them by bike and walk. We also went to Klet', went to nearby Budějovice and to Lipno. We were all excited and we will remember these five days for a long time.



## Friends of Nature Czechia

10

**We are keen on nature, history and culture. We like influencing the world around us**

**Friends of Nature Czechia** is a Czech national non-profit organization whose local groups and associate members are active in several regions of Czechia. The association deals with nature, culture and history of the Czech Lands, exploring other regions and cultures and actively collaborates with like-minded groups in Czechia and elsewhere in the world. It gives the opportunity for self-fulfilment, active leisure, space for volunteering and interpersonal contact.

The association is part of the international movement of the Friends of Nature (Naturfreunde Internationale). In whole Czechia, the movement of the Friends of Nature unites about 600 members active in several regions. **Friends of Nature Czechia** is also an associate member of Green Circle - a Czech national association of environmental organizations.

The local groups and associate members of **Friends of Nature Czechia** promote healthy relationships between people and nature, raise awareness about natural and cultural attractions of the Czech Lands and commemorate their rich history, are not afraid to travel elsewhere in the world, actively participate in solving current social issues, meet and collaborate with other like-minded people and help to cross various boundaries that divide societies. The association and its members maintain partnerships within Czechia as well as with Friends of Nature in other countries, both at central and especially at the local level and are open to new trends and contacts.

## Přátelé přírody, z. s. / Friends of Nature Czechia

**A:** Senovážné náměstí 24, 110 00 Praha, Czechia

**E:** info@pratele-

prirody.cz      **F:** www.facebook.com/pratelepriodycr

**W:** www.pratele-prirody.cz



**Přátelé přírody**

www.pratele-prirody.cz