

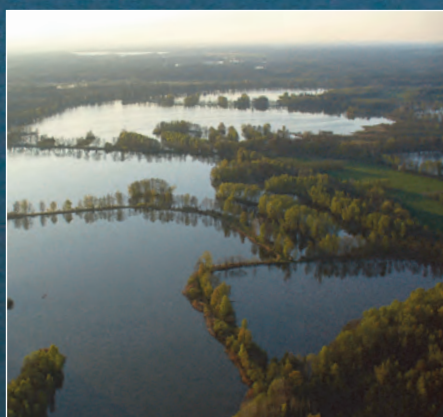
THERE ARE OVER 500 LARGER AND SMALLER PONDS FORMING 16 POND-SYSTEMS IN THE REGION OF TŘEBOŇ, THE BEST KNOWN OF WHICH ARE THOSE OF NADĚJE AND CHLUM.

The Naděje fishpond system



Jakub Krčín laid the foundations of the system near the village of Frahelž (the fishponds Naděje and Skutek) and the entire work was completed by Josef Šusta in the late 19th century. The system includes the fishponds Naděje, Láska, Víra, Měkký, Strakatý, Skutek, Dobrá vůle, Blaník, Rod, Horák, Fišmistr, Baštýř and Pěšák. The fishpond Rod was declared a nature reserve in 1990.

The Chlum fishpond system



A mosaic of fishponds between the villages of Lutová and Chlum u Třeboně, which were connected to one another to form a sophisticated system by Mikuláš Ruthard. Some fishponds were founded before Mikuláš Ruthard's arrival; Ruthard himself contributed with the construction of Kanclíř, Nový Hospodář, Nové jezero, Kukla and Vizír. Vizír has had the status of a national nature reserve since 1987.



The area of ponds around Třeboň has been nominated as "Pond heritage of Třeboň" in the index of World Heritage of UNESCO. "Pond system of Rožmberk" (ponds Rožmberk and Svět, Old and New river, Golden canal) was declared a National cultural monument in 2002.



watercourses
water surfaces
human settlements

TIPS FOR TRIPS...

The Fishpond Building Heritage Centre in Štěpánek Netolický House

Štěpánek Netolický House can be found in the historic centre of town. There is a visitor centre and a permanent interactive educational exhibition dedicated to the Třeboň fishpond building heritage and to the personality of the fishpond builder and architect Štěpánek Netolický. Besides the permanent exhibition, Štěpánek Netolický House also offers gallery spaces suitable for short-term exhibitions, lectures, workshops and other cultural events.

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The House of Nature of the Třeboňsko region

The permanent exhibition in the castle grounds informs visitors about the history and development of the Třeboň landscape, typical natural habitats, pond building, fish farming, the Schwarzenberg economic system and Třeboň spa. In the videoroom there is the opportunity to see interesting films about the nature and history of the region. The area of ponds around Třeboň has been nominated as "Pond heritage of Třeboň" in the index of World Heritage of UNESCO. "Pond system of Rožmberk" (ponds Rožmberk and Svět, Old and New river, Golden canal) was declared a National cultural monument in 2002.

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Fishpond Building Heritage in the Region of Třeboň



Time strode through the countryside around Třeboň leaving behind wet footprints...

They survive in local names like Na blatech (On the Marshlands), Za rybníčkem (Behind the Pond), V Mokřínách (In the Wetlands), Široké blato (Broad Marsh), V stokách (In the Canals), or Na Močidle (In the Rettery). These places made the countryside glisten with mirrors of countless ponds and pools. Let Rožmberk be called the king among the fishponds of Třeboň, and may the giants of the fishponds Horusický, Velký Tisý, Záblatý, Staňkovský, Velká Holná or Svět take a proud place by its side.

What a picturesque impression the pond names make on the ears, such as Naděje (Hope), Láska (Love), Víra (Faith) and Dobrá vůle (Good Will); how pleasing names like Slaviček (Nightingale), Kvíčadlo (Fieldfare), Sýkorka (Tit mouse), Okřínek (Little Trencher), or Sedmilhář (Big Liar) are. On the other hand, names like Skopaný (Thrown Off), Panenský (Virginal) Závistivý (Envious), Podřezaný (Cut Down), Strakatý (Speckled), Nesvorný (Disunited) or Křtěný (Christened), provide inspiration for a story. There are ponds bearing uncanny names, like Vulsí, Sax, Xerr, Verfle or Kypa. And we would certainly look for the island of Naxos somewhere else other than in the fishpond Velká Holná.

Krčín's pond Svět was originally called Nevděk, (Ingratitude), owing to the great troubles accompanying its construction. The fishpond Ruda (ruda = ore) was founded in the place where iron ore had been processed, while its neighbour Jamský (jáma = pit) flooded the pits after mining iron ore. Water from the fishpond Stupský (stoupa = pulp mill) drove the pulp mill in which bark was crushed to produce the tanning agent used in the tannery in Třeboň. The fishpond Potěšil (potěšil = he pleased) reflects the contentment of the citizens of Lužnice with their newly awarded right, allowing them to mow grass on its floodplain.

The Golden Canal



This unique technical water work was designed and largely realised by Štěpánek Netolický. However, a stretch of the Golden Canal already existed in the 14th century, when water was led from the Lužnice River to drive the wheels of the Opatovický Mill and to float timber. In 1506 Štěpánek Netolický presented to the governor a plan for establishing an artificial canal that would feed the fishponds with "living", i.e. oxygenated water from the Lužnice River. The construction started in 1508 and took 10 years to complete. Štěpánek's plan was completed by his successor Jakub Krčín.

The canal brought the Rožmberks great wealth. It increased yields from fishpond management, served for driving sawmills, mills and tanneries, and floating firewood. It rightfully received its name "Golden", which has been used until today.

The 45-kilometre-long stream has a height difference of 30 metres, i.e. 0.7 metre for 1 km. The Golden Canal diverts water from the Lužnice River by the weir Pilař near the village of Majdalena, and joins it again below Veselí nad Lužnicí.

Rožmberk Fishpond

"... and already tomorrow I shall be founding a new Rožmberk fishpond, merrily and without fear," wrote the Rožmberk regent Jakub Krčín on the 12th May 1584. He did not expect that the construction of the largest Czech fishpond, covering an area of nearly 500 hectares, would not proceed merrily and



without troubles. Before the pond was filled with water in 1590, Jakub Krčín had earned so much hatred for the cruel way he treated people on the construction site that this hatred flowed over, like water overflowing from the fishponds, into a number of legends. The best-known of which depicts Jakub Krčín dressed in a black cloak, with glowing eyes, driving a span of cats on the dam of Rožmberk on stormy nights, longing to find peace after his death.

Along with the construction of the fishpond, a 13-kilometre-long artificial canal, the Nová řeka (New River) canal was simultaneously being built. Its current drains flood water from the Lužnice River into Nežárka, thus protecting the dam of Rožmberk from bursting at times of flood.

The floodplain of Rožmberk has been a nature reserve since 1994.

Krčín's construction of Rožmberk and the

Nová řeka canal in 1590 completed the magnificent fishpond system, the heritage of which we draw on even nowadays. Krčín's leaving for the Sedlčany domain and the Rožmberk family's dying out brought about the twilight of fish-farming in Třeboň, and was only brought to life again thanks to Josef Šusta, director of the estate of the Schwarzenbergs and the founder of modern fish-farming.

Traditional pond management practices did not result in destroying the natural values but to a linking of human activities to the nature of the region of Třeboň in a harmonic unit. The fishponds have a number of functions in the countryside – they serve for fish breeding, they retain a considerable volume of water and have a favourable influence on the climate of the area as well as on the course of floods. However, their importance to a large number of plant and animal species is invaluable because they are their irreplaceable habitat. The best-known and oldest reserve (since 1957) protecting the typical ecosystem of the region of Třeboň is the NNR Velký and Malý Tisý.

Fishponds, pond-building and fish farming have been inseparable from the region of Třeboň for several centuries. The first fishponds were founded in the 2nd half of the 14th century, the oldest recorded being Dvořiště and Bošilec. The golden era of pond-building arrived in the 16th century along with the names of Štěpánek Netolický, Jakub Krčín of Jelčany and Sedlčany and Mikuláš Rutard of Malešov.

Štěpánek Netolický (about 1460-1539)

Originally a forest adjunct in the service of the Rožmberks, he later became a builder and a prominent pond-builder in the domain of Třeboň. His name is connected with the ponds Opatovický, Kaňov and Horusický. However, he became renowned for the construction of the Zlatá stoka (Golden Canal). His ponds did not dazzle by their size or massive dams but by their quality. Štěpánek is commemorated by a permanent exposition about his life and work in house No. 89 in the square of Třeboň.

Jakub Krčín of Jelčany and Sedlčany (1535-1604)

"Whatever you do, do wisely and with a view of its completion," said perhaps the best-known pond-builder and regent of the domain of Třeboň, whose coat-of-arms bore a carp, pike and, surprisingly, a parrot. His name is connected with the construction of the fishponds Svět, Spolský, Potěšil, Naděje, Skutek and Bohemia's largest fishpond – Rožmberk. His fishponds astound by their size even nowadays, though in his time they earned him the suspicion of being in league with the devil. Krčín is commemorated by a plaque on house No. 114 in Krčínova Street in Třeboň, and his statue looks down from a stone pedestal standing on the dam of the fishpond Svět.

Mikuláš Rutard of Malešov (? – po 1576)

He was introduced to the mysteries of the pond building trade by Štěpánek Netolický and driven out of the Rožmberk services by the regent Jakub Krčín. He built his fishponds mainly in the area of Chlum and around the village of Lutová, in the services of the family of Krajíř of Krajek. Rutard's first fishpond was Kanclíř and a record holder among his ponds is Staňkovský as it is the ČR's deepest fishpond and contains a bigger volume of water than Krčín's Rožmberk. By establishing the fishpond Hejtman he completed his life's work.



Štěpánek
Netolický



Jakub
Krčín



Mikuláš
Rutard