

## THE BATYK FEN

The protected area of the fen located in the bend of the Zala River was endangered by drying-up in the last decades. The former marshy area was supplied with water from small springs and from the Berek Creek. The rich vegetation was used as meadows and pastures by the animal husbandry population settled here in the Middle Ages.

Later, by the regulation of the river and by the drainage ditches it was attempted to be drained, but it was successful only partly. The primary vegetation transformed. Valuable species drove back while invasive species, like Goldenrod (*Solidago*) started to expand. Scrubs grew on abandoned, formerly mowed meadows, mainly Alder Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*) (40) gained ground.



The Balaton Uplands National Park Directorate started nature conservation rehabilitation interventions with the help of an EU tender in 2013. Sluices and dams were built into the old ditches (41). The dammed water flooded the low-lying parts. Other parts were managed by cutting out of scrubs and later by systematic mowing. The result can be seen on the diverse vegetation. Snake's Head Fritillary (*Fritillaria meleagris*) (cover), the rare Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) (39), Great Burnet (*Sanguisorba officinalis*) and Blue Moor Grass (*Sesleria uliginosa*) (42) grows steadily. The number of butterflies increased, too. 3 panels of the education trail on the fen inform visitors all about these.

