

Field visits LUD - Atalanta

Environmental Center Jardim das Florestas and Apremavi's facility for Seedling Production

Apremavi is a non-profit organization, established in 1987, that focuses on environmental preservation. Their work includes environmental education, biodiversity conservation, landscape and property planning, fighting climate change, creating conservation units, encouraging organic agriculture and the protection, restoration and sustainable use of the Atlantic Rainforest.

The Environmental Center Jardim das Florestas, created in 2013, hosts courses, seminars and different events organized by Apremavi and partner institutions. This center also supports Apremavi's internship program.

It has a native species seedling production facility that can produce one million seedlings per year. These seedlings are used in the restoration of degraded areas, especially in springs and riparian forests. The seedling production facility has already produced over eight million seedlings, planted by Apremavi and partners.

Restoration of the Atlantic Rainforest is one of Apremavi's key activities. Over thirty years, Apremavi has supported the restoration of thousands of hectares of degraded areas. During the visit we will see some of these restored areas with different methodologies and recovery stages, including plantations of native species for economic gain.

Natural Municipal Park of the Atlantic Rainforest

This is a conservation unit of the municipality of Atalanta, created in 2000. Its area covers fifty-four hectares, preserving an important fragment of the Atlantic Rainforest, which houses different species of fauna and flora threatened with extinction. Until the 1960s, there was a sawmill and a manioc flower industry in part of the park's area. Such constructions were renovated becoming a museum and a visitor center, which also houses the Municipal Environmental and Tourism Secretary. Apremavi manages the park in partnership with the municipal government.

Following the Lontra Trail we arrive at the Perau do Gropp waterfall, which constitutes one of the main park attractions, with forty-one meters of free waterfall in the middle of beautiful surrounding vegetation. This trail also goes behind the Córrego Caçador Waterfall, which has approximately eighteen meters. The park is one of the main ecotourism features in the region, receiving around four thousand visits annually.

Scheller Madeiras

Established in 1983 by Miguel Scheller Filho, the Scheller Ind. e Com. de Madeiras Ltda, manufactures reels for wires and cables, using exclusively pine wood in its production process. They sell their products for the internal and external markets in different countries: United States, Germany, France, Spain and Italy.

For these activities, they cultivate and maintain five hundred and fifty hectares of reforested areas. Moreover, they own two hundred and seventy eight hectares of native forests.

Rural Properties

The municipality of Atalanta is formed by approximately seven hundred and ninety small rural properties. Ninety eight percent of the properties have less than fifty hectares and only two percent has between fifty and one hundred hectares. During the dialogue we will visit four rural properties next to Ribeirão Matilde and Chapada do Ribeirão (the numbers presented were rounded to make the description easier).

Property of Antonio Carlos e Zenita Koerich

This property has twenty-two hectares, twelve hectares used for agricultural purposes. Five hectares are covered by native vegetation. Their main activities are: corn, soy, bean, and onion plantations, and pig, fish and sheep farming.

Property of Antonio e Osnilda Pezenti

This property covers twenty six hectares, sixteen hectares used for agricultural purposes, three hectares of reforested areas, and four hectares covered by native vegetation. Their main activities are: wheat, soy and onion plantations. Additionally, they have corn, sweet potato, manioc, milk production and pig and chicken farming. They have restored Permanent Protection Areas.

Property of Osni e Lurdes Barbosa

This property covers twenty-eight hectares, seven of which are planted with soy and wheat, and the rest with corn, bean, sweet potatoes, and manioc for livelihoods. They planted thousands of native species seedlings for restoration of degraded areas and for the plantation of native fruits for the integrated production of chicken.

Property of Ademir e Nilva de Moraes

This property covers seventeen hectares, six of which are used for agricultural purposes, two hectares are reforested, four hectares with pasture, and four hectares covered by native vegetation. Their main activities are: livestock farming, calves and heifers, and corn plantation for the production of beans and silage. They have restored Permanent Protected Areas.