



snppatagoniasur

F O U N D A T I O N

Newsletter Volume 3, April 2010

The **Patagonia Sur Foundation** works to encourage conservation and promote social and economic development in Chile's Patagonia. The three principal objectives of the organization are to:

- Encourage the protection and conservation of unique ecology and wildlife in Chilean Patagonia;
- Promote social development and educational opportunities in the region; and
- Support local economic development and regional planning that is environmentally friendly and sustainable.

PROJECTS IN CONSERVATION

Environmental Education

Patagonia Sur Foundation believes that change is rooted in education. We believe that one of the best ways to promote our mission is through the implementation of educational programs.

In 2010, the Foundation's English Education teachers, Melanie Kurtz and Brendon O'Connell, are leading environmental education initiatives in their schools and communities to promote awareness of local and global environmental issues. Melanie and Brendon began teaching in March and are integrating activities in their schools related to composting, recycling, and protecting the natural environment. They are forming an Environmental Committee in each town that is dedicated to formally integrating environmental education in the schools and to overseeing the school's environmental certification with the National Environmental Commission's Certification Program.

In addition to the teachers' continuous efforts in the school, the Foundation has organized two environmental education activities to benefit local communities. In January 2010, **Patagonia Sur Foundation** held Palena's first-ever Eco-Camp, a seven-day workshop offered to local youth. Three Scouts from Santiago along with Foundation teacher Brendon O'Connell led creative and entertaining sessions in which twenty children learned about the natural environment. The Eco-Camp focused activities on energy use and conservation, biodiversity, and waste management. Participating children built a compost container for the local school and collected 80 kilograms of aluminum cans whose profits from recycling were donated to a hospital in Osorno.

Children participating in the Foundation's Eco-Camp in January





Participants learning about the environment during an educational three-day workshop.



In mid-November 2009, the Foundation hosted an adult environmental education workshop in Palena with the objective of creating and training a network of environmental educators in the area. The didactic workshop, based on a methodology known as EEPE: Enseñanza de la Ecología en el Patio de la Escuela (Teaching Ecology in the School Yard), succeeded in motivating fourteen adult participants in environmental education and in developing a network that still meets today. The three-day workshop was organized with support from the Chilean Forestry Agency (CONAF), Chilean Environmental Commission (CONAMA), and the Ministry of Education.

Native Species Nursery and Organic Garden

Patagonia Sur Foundation is promoting conservation by cultivating native tree and plant species to be used for reforestation in the areas where we work. The Foundation began work on the native species nursery in Palena in August 2009. The nursery, located less than a kilometer from town, cultivates plants from seeds collected in the region and also from saplings transplanted from nearby forests. Currently in its pilot phase, the nursery has planted a variety of Coihue, Ñirre, Lenga, and Mountain Cypress seeds and saplings. The project was developed and is overseen by forester Fernando Grandon and is administered by two local agricultural technicians.

The nursery will provide a supply of tree and plant species endemic to the Lake and Aysén regions that today is scarce. It is our hope that reforestation with native species will increase in coming years in southern Chile and that recent Chilean forestry legislation will spur native species reforestation. The nursery also complements the Foundation's Environmental Education Program and serves as an educational site where local students learn about native forests and plant cultivation.



The Foundation is using best practices in the implementation of its native species nursery and organic garden.



In mid-December 2009, **Patagonia Sur Foundation** began an innovative project in sustainable agriculture by developing an organic garden near the town of Palena. Located on the same Patagonia Sur property as the native species nursery, the garden has advanced tremendously in three short months. The aesthetically pleasing garden utilizes greenhouse tunnels, natural pesticides, and worm composting to enhance production. The agricultural consulting company, "Palena Pura," led by Hector Correa of Palena and Melissa Alarcon of Santiago, is designing and implementing the garden. They are developing the project so that it may serve as a model for sustainable agriculture to be shared with and copied by local community members. The organic garden also aims to complement the Foundation's Environmental Education Program and to produce fresh, high-quality products for local consumption in nearby Valle California.



Development and Implementation of Management Plans with Chilean National Forestry Agency (CONAF)

Patagonia Sur Foundation worked with the Chilean National Forestry Agency (CONAF) in 2008 and 2009 to facilitate the development of management plans for the Lake Palena National Reserve and Futaleufú National Reserve. In 2010, the Foundation is supporting CONAF in implementing these recently completed management plans that play a significant role in enhancing tourism while heightening environmental protection regulations within the parks.

The management plans were developed by the environmental consulting firm, SurAmbiente, in collaboration with community members and Patagonia Sur Foundation and are based on scientific information yielded from baseline studies supported by the Foundation in 2008. Completed and submitted in November 2009, the management plans define ways to effectively protect identified flora and fauna and enhance conservation practices in the parks.

Also in November 2009, CONAF organized an Advisory Council for the National System of Protected Wild Areas (SNAPSE) in the Palena Province and invited **Patagonia Sur Foundation** to participate. The purpose of the Advisory Council is to involve public and private sectors in decision-making that affects the province's public protected areas. The Advisory Council is expected to meet at least twice a year to discuss the management of the Province's four protected areas, including Lake Palena National Reserve and Futaleufú National Reserve.



Palena Lake



fundacion snppatagonia sur

PROJECTS IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

English Education Program

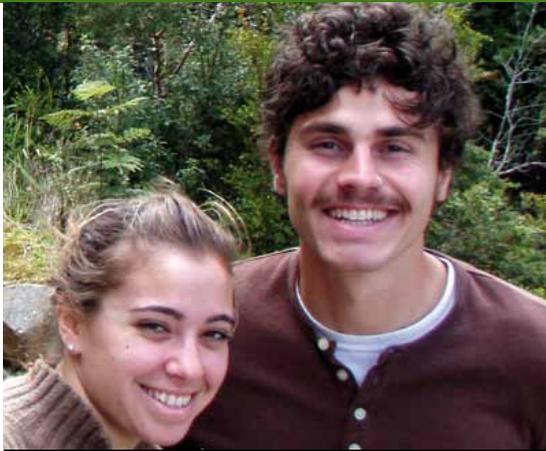
The **Patagonia Sur Foundation** began an English Education Program in Futaleufú in 2007 with the objective of improving the quality of education in isolated areas of Chilean Patagonia. Now in its fourth year, the program has succeeded in having a tremendous positive impact in the schools of Futaleufú and Palena and continues to evolve and improve each year.

Futaleufú superintendent Rubén Jaramillo expressed his pleasure with the program during a meeting in early March. "I am very impressed with the effect the program has produced in our schools," he said. "Students are excited about learning, and that in itself is a big accomplishment."

The English Education program is based on collaboration with the local municipalities and WorldTeach Inc., a non-profit educational organization that helps the Foundation to identify, train, and supervise English teachers for the program. In addition to offering English classes to rural and urban elementary school students in Palena and Futaleufú, this year the program also incorporates environmental education initiatives in the schools.



Students awaiting the results of the English Olympics.



Brendon and Melanie, Foundation teachers for 2010.

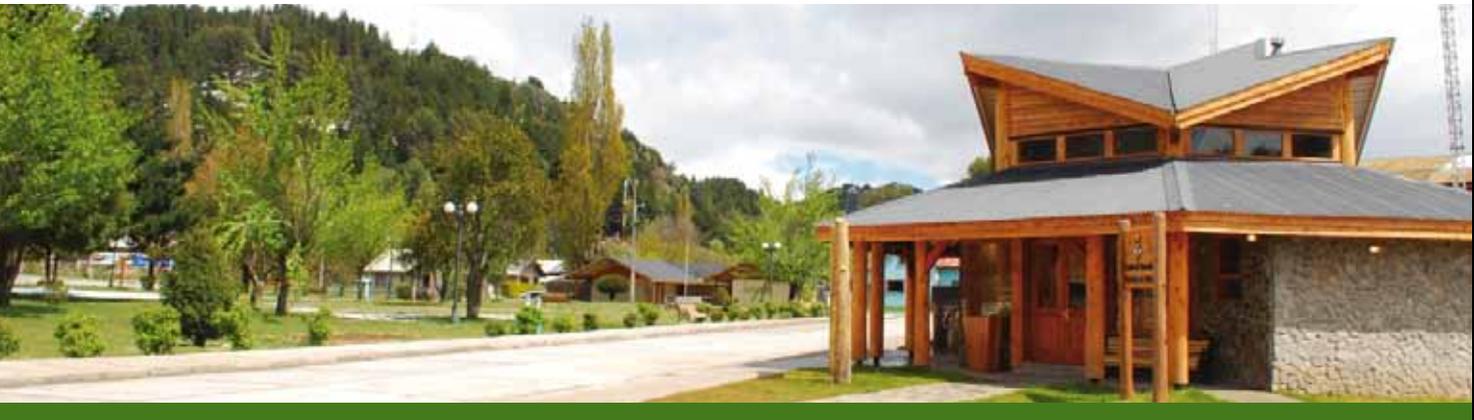
Patagonia Sur Foundation has hired teachers Brendon O'Connell and Melanie Kurtz for the 2010 English Education program. Brendon, a graduate of the University of Colorado in Ecology and Biology, spent 2009 teaching English with WorldTeach in Santiago. He is living and working in Palena during the 2010 school year from March to December. Melanie also graduated from the University of Colorado and has a degree in Environmental Studies. In 2009 she taught with WorldTeach in Colombia and this year she has joined the Patagonia Sur Foundation program in Futaleufú. Together, Brendon and Melanie are teaching over 400 students from kindergarten to eighth grade as well as organizing extracurricular activities and academic competitions to motivate students to learn.

Sustainable Development Support

Patagonia Sur Foundation believes that the growth of Chilean Patagonia's towns and economy should be developed in a way that is sustainable and based on the area's strong potential for tourism. As a result, we are supporting the planning process of the Palena Province by facilitating dialogues among local actors and government officials and by sharing and suggesting models for sustainable development.

Over the past year, the Foundation has been in dialogue with the Palena Municipality regarding the sustainable development of the area. We have focused conversations on waste management planning, city landscaping, and promoting the area as a tourist destination. The Foundation has also facilitated relations between the Palena Municipality and the Catholic University School of Architecture and Planning and is actively supporting their collaboration in developing urban planning documents that would orient and prepare the city for sustainable growth in the future.

In 2010, the Foundation continues to be in close contact with local municipalities regarding future development plans. We are also exploring possibilities for collaboration with local organizations that could benefit from professional guidance to help them accomplish goals that parallel the Foundation's mission.



Help Make a Difference

To learn more about Fundacion SNP Patagonia Sur, please visit our website:

www.fundacionpatagoniasur.cl

If you are interested in further supporting any of our projects, you may do so by making a gift or money donation. Fundacion SNP Patagonia Sur is a registered non-profit organization in Chile. The Chilean foundation is supported by a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization in the United States, the Patagonia Sur Foundation.

All donations to either foundation are tax-deductible.

Please contact us for more information about how to get involved

info@fundacionpatagoniasur.cl

fundacion SNP patagoniasur