



September '15

SAIF to recognise professional foresters

By Andrew McEwan, SAIF President

This might appear to be a strange heading to you, as the SAIF is a professional institute and should therefore have professional members. However, there is a difference between a person with a forestry or related qualification and a person who has built on that qualification to become a professional. A professional is someone who practices in their field of expertise and continues to grow and add value to themselves.

Industries across the globe are increasingly asking professional bodies such as ours to self-regulate the quality of practitioners. Having a qualification now is not enough, employers want independent verification of certain attributes and members of professional institutes want their self-improvement and professionalism recognised in the job-market.

The SAIF has therefore set about developing a system that recognises the professional development of SAIF members. This system will need to recognise, encourage and regulate the continued professional development of all members. A system of points is being developed for the attendance of SAIF endorsed training, conferences, field days etc.



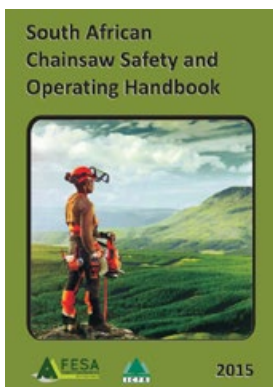
Of course, for this to be successful, a few critical aspects must be considered. Firstly, there must be buy-in from employers. Employers should give professional SAIF members the recognition that they deserve in the workplace. Secondly, the process for becoming a professional member and maintaining your

professional status must be simple. Thirdly, service providers who wish to register with the SAIF to have their events recognised must also be able to follow a simple process and receive feedback quickly, with the procedures easily understood.

As indicated, the SAIF has recognised the demand from both industry and members for recognising professional foresters.

The SAIF calls upon anyone who would like to provide input into the process, or has specific ideas, to please make contact with me or your local branch chair by the end of September. These comments will be added to the initial draft document, which council has compiled and then distributed for all members for detailed comment before implementation.

ICFR Forest Engineering handbooks



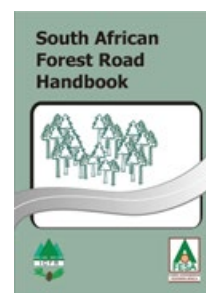
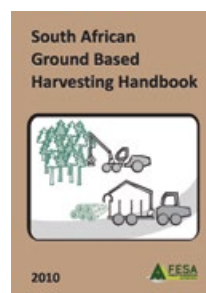
The Institute for Commercial Forestry Research (ICFR) is happy to announce the latest in our list of Forest Engineering Handbooks has been published; the 2015 updated edition of the South African Chainsaw Safety and Operating Handbook.

The latest version of the handbook has updated safety and operating information that is applicable to the newest standards for the South African forestry industry.

The handbook is printed in full colour and robustly bound for use as additional training material.

For the production of this handbook we have to thank our main sponsors, Stihl and Husqvarna, as well as acknowledging the expert contributions of a number of members of the industry.

We have printed a limited number of full colour copies of the handbook and these are for sale at a cost of R171 each incl VAT.



Two other popular Forest Engineering Handbooks; the Roads handbook and the Ground based harvesting handbook are for sale at R285 per bundle including vat.

If you wish to buy these separately, the prices are:

- Ground based harvesting handbook: R228 each incl VAT.
- Roads Handbook: R114 each incl VAT.

To purchase any of our Forest Engineering handbooks, contact Chane Nel at the ICFR, email: chane.nel@icfr.ukzn.ac.za.

You can also download an electronic order form at <https://goo.gl/gacAmv> (Shortened url) to be returned to the same email address.

For more information please contact Simon Ackerman, email simon.ackerman@icfr.ukzn.ac.za or Sally Upfold, sally.upfold@icfr.ukzn.ac.za.



SAIF 2015 photo competition winners announced

By Lee Raath-Brownie

The winners of the 2015 SAIF photo competition have been announced. This year's competition was again proudly sponsored by Andreas Stihl South Africa and we thank the management and staff for their generous support.

The final 13 photographs will be published in our annual calendar for 2016, which will also be on sale on the SAIF stand at the 14th World Forestry Congress.

Judging was quite problematic as the photographs were of a high standard. Council made use of a professional photographer, Simon du Plessis of Action Image, to assist with judging so as to obtain an unbiased decision.

All photographs were numbered with no reference to the photographer, branch or area and judged on merit ie technical aspects of photography such as focus, exposure, lighting, subject, composition, etc within a forestry context.

The photographs visually portray the South African forestry industry.

And the winners are:

	Name	Photo description	Branch
First	Chris Chapman	Late afternoon in a pine plantation, Piet Retief	SAIF KwaZulu-Natal
Second	Marnie Light	Fungi in pine plantation	SAIF KwaZulu-Natal
Third	Robin Hull	Misty morning at Wolsley, Ixopo, KwaZulu-Natal	SAIF KwaZulu-Natal



Chris Chapman



Marnie Light



Robin Hull



The prizes sponsored by Andreas Stihl South Africa are:

- First prize: Stihl RE 98 high pressure washer value R2 715
- Second prize: Stihl SE 62 vacuum cleaner value R2 155
- Third prize: Stihl bypass pruning shears value R1 274

These amazing prizes will be sent to the relevant branch for hand over at its next event.



Congratulations to the winners and good luck to this year's competitors!



SAIF membership fees 2015/16

By Lee Raath-Brownie

After a recent Council meeting, it was decided to that the membership fees for 2015/16 will be as follows:

	Annual	Journal
Full members	R690	Journal included
Associate members	R690	Journal included
Retired members:	R150	Journal excluded
Student members	R470	Journal included
Friends of the Institute	R290	Journal excluded
International members	R850	Electronic journal included
Africa members	R740	Electronic journal included

The SAIF has six membership categories:

Full members

These members need to hold a recognised forestry qualification from either a University or a Technikon and have been engaged in forestry for a period of at least three years.

Science members

These members need to be registered with SACNASP (eg full members that hold a science degree or technologists who are registered as certificated natural scientists).

Retired members

This category is open to all people who have retired from the forestry industry.

Student members

Registered students studying towards a forestry degree or diploma

Change of membership: from student to full member one year after obtaining a recognised qualification

Associate members

These members are working in the forestry profession without the required formal qualification but with at least three years of managerial experience in forestry.

Friends of the Institute

These members have a distinct and active interest in forestry and the working of the SAIF (not necessary on a professional level). The Institute offers a wealth of benefits to its members that include a monthly newsletter, regular networking events and seminars, field days and conferences at a reduced fee. The Institute also has a photo competition with the winning 13 photographs being featured on the annual SAIF calendar.

Help us grow our Institute and get a colleague to join!

A warm welcome to our new members who joined the SAIF between April and August 2015.

N Khonyashe	Southern Cape	Full member	SO Amiandamhen	Western Cape	Student member
F Make	Mpumulanga	Full member	Dr KY Peerbhay	KwaZulu-Natal	Full member
NM Zimbobza(Chihumbiri)	KwaZulu-Natal	Full member	MJ Cele	KwaZulu-Natal	Full member
JW Potgieter	Southern Cape	Student member	T Mapeto	Southern Cape	Student member
S Plaatjie	Southern Cape	Student member	SN Njamela	KwaZulu-Natal	Full member
I Opperman	Southern Cape	Student member	G Harrison	Southern Cape	Full member
GJ Jones	Southern Cape	Student member	FS Mabaso	Western Cape	Student member
DE Keyser	Southern Cape	Student member	J van der Merwe	Mpumulanga	Full member
R Mattheus	Southern Cape	Student member	PJ Truter	Mpumulanga	Full member
N Sekanwagi	Southern Cape	Student member	DL Prigge	KwaZulu-Natal	Full member
U Hechter	Southern Cape	Student member	E Rukovo	KwaZulu-Natal	Full member
H Hechter	Southern Cape	Student member	I Horrell	KwaZulu-Natal	Full member
TM Paqula	Southern Cape	Full member			



SAIF Gauteng Branch AGM

By Lee Raath-Brownie, SAIF Gauteng branch

On 29 July 2015, the Gauteng Branch of the Southern African Institute of Forestry (SAIF) held its annual general meeting (AGM) at FABI's Auditorium situated at the University of Pretoria.

Lee Raath-Brownie, acting chairperson, provided a brief overview of the benefits of being an SAIF member, reminded all about the new SAIF branded clothing range and highlighted the upcoming ICFR Research Symposium and the 14th World Forestry Congress to be held in September in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal. Gauteng SAIF members elected a new chairperson, Dr Steve Verryn and a new committee.

The new committee is:



The newly elected Gauteng committee and chairman

- Dr Steve Verryn - Chairman
- Prof Bernard Slippers
- Lee Raath-Brownie
- Waldo Hinze
- Wolfgang Lück
- Dr Brett Hurley
- Rob Pallet
- Izette Greyling

In honouring long service to the Institute, thirteen SAIF awards were presented to Gauteng Branch members who had served the Institute for 25 years and more. Recipients included Dr Stuart Christie, Nico Erasmus, Neels Esterhuyse, Dr Coert Geldenhuys, Waldo Hinze, Paul Marwick, Pieter Odendaal,

Meyer Pretorius, Eddie Schroeder, Art van der Dussen, Theunis van Rensburg, Fritz von Krosigk and Prof Mike Wingfield.

The SAIF's Continuous Service Excellence Award was awarded to Dr Philip Frost and his team at the Earth Observation Group of the Meraka Institute at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) for their pioneering effort in developing the Advanced Fire Information System (AFIS). The Earth Observation Group, led by Dr Philip Frost, has contributed significantly to fire management in afforested areas through the development of the Advanced Fire Information System and related products. They have, furthermore, performed research that directly influenced a change in the veld and forest fire legislation. In his presentation, Dr Frost provided insight into the workings of AFIS and the remarkable research that led to its success.

The lead speaker was Prof Derick de Jongh, Director of the Albert Luthuli Centre for Responsible Leadership in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences at the University of Pretoria, who's presentation, 'Responsible leadership: The bigger picture', proved very popular, providing much food for thought.

Prof De Jongh quoted Abraham Lincoln in saying, "You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today." He played a video clip, 'The Shift' and said the way we see the world is a forward looking conversation. He added that responsible leadership in forestry meant finding interdisciplinary solutions with long-term effects that would also benefit future generations. Continued →



Prof Derick de Jongh



The Earth Observation Group receiving their award



Long service awards handed over to Gauteng members



Art van der Dussen and his wife



Corine Viljoen, Rob Pallet and Galt Hooghiemstra



Drs Steve Verryn, Stuart Christie and Philip Frost



➔ As an example, he pointed out climate change as a challenge to forestry and scientists that could not be addressed without considering population growth as the “elephant in the room” and its effects on food security.

Prof De Jongh made the point that the conversation about leadership is framed in views of the past, who is to blame and motivated why it should rather be framed in terms of the future; what is the future we want and what do we need to do to get there. He also emphasised that this is a collective

responsibility and not the work of a ‘lone hero leader’ that we would hope to come along.



Farai Bepete and Piet Odendaal

Vicki Jacob, PA to Lee Raath-Brownie, Corine Viljoen, national secretary, Prof Bernard Slippers and Marc Raath, photographer and barman were thanked for the contributions in making the event successful.

The event was sponsored by FABI, Fire and Rescue International, New Century Sawmill Solutions and Hooghiemstra Logistical Services.

Contribution: Mornè Booijliewes, FABI



Dr Bernard Slippers and Waldo Hinze



Rob Pallett and Dr Brett Hurley



Izette Greyling and Vicki Jacob

CMO presents first international forest engineering course

23 November to 11 December 2015



The first-ever, fully international forest engineering course being offered at Saasveld in George, South Africa from 23 November to 11 December 2015 has

already drawn delegate registrations from USA, Australia, Uganda and South Africa.

This is an ideal opportunity for your staff to interact with peers from all over the world in this course that covers the full scope of harvesting, roads and transport activities.

The course targets practitioners (forest managers/experts and contractors), researchers, academics and staff employed by equipment manufacturers from all over the world.

Participants will leave the course enriched and competent in understanding and being able to apply the principles of successfully managing the full forest engineering work cycle.

The course not only teaches all aspects of the forest engineering value chain, but also leaves the participant with a set of tools to apply in his/her work environment.

Visit www.cmo.co.za for more information or contact Michal Brink cell: 082 447 9477 or email: michal@cmo.co.za.

Forest Finance and Valuation short course 18 to 19 November 2015

Cori Ham, lecturer in forest management at Department of Forest and Wood Science, Stellenbosch University, will be presenting a ‘Forest Finance and Valuation: What every forester should know’ short course on 18 and 19 November 2015 at the Ascot Conference Centre in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal.



Professionals involved in the financial aspects of forestry and land management operations should attend this course. On completion of the course, participants will be able to analyse and understand financial decisions related to forestry operations.

Contents

The course will run over a two day period to allow enough time for interaction and discussion of practical examples related to forest finance. It will cover the following forest finance aspects:

- Interest and the time value of money
- Discounting cash flow analysis and implications for forestry
- Correctly adjusting for inflation in discounting cash flow analysis
- Financial criteria for evaluating alternative investments
- Forests as capital
- Optimal economic rotation age
- Valuation of forestry land and plantations

The course fee is R 3 900 per person excluding VAT and includes a Stellenbosch University short course certificate, class notes and refreshments. For more information please contact Cori Ham at Tel: 021 808 3297 or email cori@sun.ac.za.



Image of a forester

By Rob Thompson, SAIF KZN Branch

A forestry colleague and I were chatting the other day about our respective offspring and their career choices. His son is an aspiring engineer and my daughter a budding scientist. Both appear to be well on their way towards exciting professional opportunities. I jokingly pondered as to the response that they would likely offer should someone ask them what their respective fathers did for a living.

Can you imagine the discussion?

"So, What does your Old Man do?"

"Do you mean apart from claiming that I'm responsible for his financial ruin?"

"Yeah. Mine too. So what work does he do?"

"He's a forester."

"Huh?"

"Ja, a forester."

"What's that Bru?"

"He works with trees."

"Awesome. So he's not very busy?"

"No. He seems busy. Always telling me about his rotations."

"So its shift work?"

"No way. He's in an office."

"Amazing. Close to the trees?"

"Nah. In the city."

"No way....how does that work?"

"Ja, he's in an office block with other foresters. They do all sorts of stuff like establishment and regeneration plans."

"Cool. I'm interested in building restoration as well."

"Well...ok. They also do mensuration."

"Hey Bru...we talking about your Dad right?"

"I'm not sure you're following this. Have you heard of site species matching?"

"Nooit! But I'd like to come and watch a match if you can organise tickets."

"Sheesh! So I'd better not tell you about their breeding programme?"

"Unbelievable! Are there any vacancies there? I'd like to join that programme!"

"Stay focused. Foresters are applying LIDAR technology to assess stands more frequently now."

"I can believe it. Corruption is

everywhere. A lie here...a lie there!"

"They even use models to test volume returns."

"Dude!!! What does your Mom say?"

"My Dad sometimes has to decide on a thinning regime."

"I understand. Many companies are retrenching now. Shame!"

"At the moment they're felling young inter-rows to waste."

"Brill! Just like those first years who got wasted at my digs last night! Only your Dad gets paid to do it!"

"Oh Dear. Well nice chatting. Have to run"

"Cool. But don't you first want to know what my Dad does?"

"Not really! Cheers!!"



2016 SAIF calendar released

The 2016 SAIF Calendar has been printed and showcases the 2015 SAIF photo competition winners and finalists.

The top 13 photographs proudly portray the South African forestry industry.

The calendar is in A4 format and will be posted in September. So look out for yours in your snail mail box!

Extra copies may be purchased from the SAIF stand at the 14th World Forestry Congress in Durban.





September '15

Forestry in Liberia

By Dr Michal Brink

After an absence of more than a year due to Ebola, I am back on assignment in Liberia to implement forest legality systems here.

Liberia is a country in West Africa bordered by Sierra Leone to its west, Guinea to its north and Ivory Coast to its east. It covers an area of 111 369 km² and is home to about 3,7 million people. English is the official language but over thirty indigenous languages are also spoken within the country.

A few interesting facts about Liberia:

- Liberia is Africa's oldest independent republic.
- Monrovia, the capital city, has a higher annual rainfall than any other capital city in the world at over 5 000 mm per year.
- In 1926, the then Firestone Tire & Rubber Company leased 4 100 km² of forest land in Liberia, with the goal of producing its own rubber. Selected then for its location, soil and climatic conditions, Liberia is now home to the world's largest single natural rubber operation.

History of the country

Many of the indigenous people of Liberia migrated there from the north and east between the 12th and 16th centuries AD. Portuguese explorers established contacts with people of the land later known as "Liberia" as early as 1461. They named the area Costa da Pimenta (Pepper Coast) because of the abundance of melegueta pepper.

In 1602 the Dutch established a trading post at Grand Cape Mount but destroyed it a year later. In 1663, the British installed trading posts on the Pepper Coast. No further known settlements by non-African colonists occurred until the arrival in 1821 of free black people from the United States. People began to oppose slavery in the United States from around 1800 and this led to the idea of setting up a colony in Africa for freed African-American slaves. The first ship, Mayflower of Liberia, departed from New York on 6 February 1820, for West Africa.

Between 1821 and 1838, the American Colonisation Society developed the first settlement, which would be known as

Liberia. On 26 July 1847, it declared its independence.

Between 1847 and 1980, the state of Liberia was governed by the small minority of African-American colonists and their offspring, together called Americo-Liberians, suppressing the large indigenous majority of 95 percent of the Liberian population.

Forestry

Liberia's coastline is composed mostly of mangroves, while it's more sparsely populated inland consists of forests opening onto a plateau of drier grasslands.

The climate is hot and equatorial. The country possesses about forty percent of the remaining Upper Guinean rainforest, which extends from Guinea and Sierra Leone in the west through Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana to Togo in the east and a few hundred kilometres inland from the Atlantic coast.

Liberia has been plagued by two long civil wars from the early 1990s to 2003 that have effectively destroyed the economy and the country has been in a rebuilding phase since the end of the last civil war in 2003. Sadly, illegal logging was rampant during Liberia's prolonged civil war and timber revenues were used to sustain the conflict.

The World Bank estimated that corruption linked to the industry may have cost Liberia as much as half the entire country's budget, evading payments of an estimated \$200 million.

Continued →



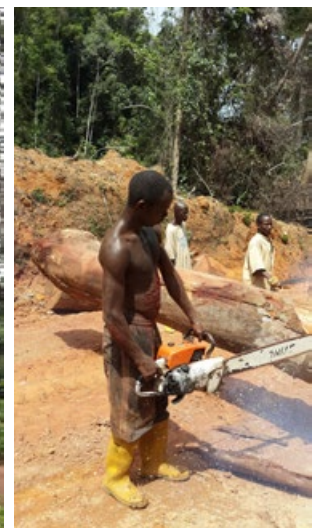
Michal Brink on his recent visit to Liberia



Welcome billboard upon arrival at the main international airport outside Monrovia



Over-aged rubber tree still being tapped. Note the height in the tree from where rubber is being tapped



Chainsaw operator in natural forest harvesting operation - PPE is a bit short



September '15

➔ This led to the UN Security Council to impose sanctions on all timber exports from Liberia in 2003. Since then, Liberia has made significant efforts to reform the sector.

In recognition of the progress made, the UN lifted sanctions in 2006, opening the way for Liberia to rebuild its forest sector.

The EU and illegal timber

Globally, between 20 and 40 percent of industrial wood production, valued at an estimated \$10 billion a year is derived from illegal sources and up to 20 percent finds its way into the EU.

To this end, the European Union developed its Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan to curb the influx of illegal wood into its member states. FLEGT identifies a range of measures to address the problem of illegal logging and related trade. The Action Plan places particular emphasis on governance reforms and capacity building in timber-producing countries.

This is supported by actions aimed at reducing the trade and use of illegally-harvested timber and promoting the use of legally-harvested timber in the EU. The EU does this through Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) between the EU and timber-producing countries where illegal logging is a problem.

Liberia and VPAs

Today, 26 countries from Africa, South America and Asia have indicated various levels of commitment to signing/ implementing a VPA with the EU. Liberia is one of them.

Timber exports once accounted for more than 20 percent of Liberia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and EU countries were a major destination for Liberia's timber accounting for more than half of exports in 2003.

The FLEGT VPA provides a way by which Liberia can simultaneously address illegal logging, improve management and strengthen market opportunities for its timber products. Negotiations of the agreement between Liberia and the EU started in 2009 and have actively engaged civil society, communities and private sector representatives.

Within the next 18 months it can be expected that all shipments of wood products to the European Union from Liberia will be required to carry a FLEGT license certifying their legal origin.

Although no FLEGT licences have been issued in the world to date, the new regularity framework that has been created will have a profound effect on all countries involved in wood trade in the future.



Log trucks waiting to be off loaded



Log yard where logs from natural forest harvesting is stored



Fuel station in Monrovia, Note petrol is being sold from the containers - no fuel pumps

There is Honey in the Forest

There is Honey in the Forest is a book compiled by Willem Olivier and published by the Southern African Institute of Forestry.

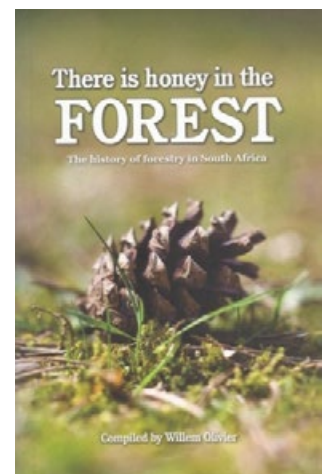
It is an overview of the history of South African forestry. "It covers more than 300 years of indigenous and plantation forestry in various forms. It is a masterful compilation of stories of our indigenous forests and plantations and highlights the dynamic and diverse forestry environment that is truly South African", says Tammy Swain, past-president of the SAIF.

Price: Members R180; non-members R 280 excluding postage

Contact Corine Viljoen: email saif@mweb.co.za or Cell 082 523 8733.

International orders must contact the Secretariat for a quote due to currency fluctuations.

Order your copy now! Order form attached.





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DAFF representative	Vacant		

October 2015 Birthdays

Happy birthday to the following members:

JHL Joubert	1 October	PC Marwick	10 October	T Mzimela	20 October
S Biggs	2 October	T Sass	10 October	RH Andrag	23 October
VR Davidson	3 October	LI Tshangisa	10 October	Prof C Kätsch	23 October
A Jooste	3 October	K Snyman	12 October	SJ van Zyl (Hannes)	24 October
N Gwende	5 October	DJR Gous	13 October	D Ballantyne	26 October
JP Conradie	8 October	DS Bethell	13 October	Dr HW Kassier	28 October
PH Muller	9 October	Dr SD Verryin	14 October	B du Preez	28 October
FPJ Favard	9 October	DFR Smit	17 October	Dr M du Plessis	30 October
L Raath-Brownie	9 October	AG Crickmay	17 October		
GD Rusk	10 October	LA Hill	19 October		



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It's a great network opportunity!

Support your Newsletter!

Submit events and news to me at xyberlee@iafrica.com or Cell 082 371 0190

Lee Raath-Brownie, Editor