



NEWS FROM KZN

Development of biological control products to be used for managing Forestry insect pests

In November 2009, the annual joint NCT/SAIF field day was held at Baynesfield Estate and structured to explore the feasibility of organic and or biological forestry processes. It was a tremendously successful and well attended field day and this event has pleasingly sparked an industry wide interest in biological pest control proving that SAIF initiatives do have tremendous influence on and contribute greatly towards the general forestry industry mindset. Herewith a synopsis of the unintended, albeit positive consequences of the day, given prevailing industry circumstances:-

- The chemicals Cypermethrin, Deltamethrin and alpha-Cypermethrin have been placed on the FSC list of prohibited chemicals. These chemicals are the only registered products to 'control' soil insect pests, defoliators and sap sucking insects, in Forestry. The South African Timber Industry has been granted temporary derogation and can continue to use these chemicals for a further 2 years. However, strict conditions have been attached to this temporary derogation, including a requirement to research alternative control methods. Considering that more than 80% of commercial plantations in South Africa are certified under the FSC system there is an urgent need to initiate this work immediately.
- AT the 2009 NCT / SAIF 'organic forestry' themed field day, Dr Mike Morris presented a talk on the use of 'Bio-control agents' as alternatives to synthetic chemicals. This stimulated immense interest in the industry to test some of these products.
- In January 2010 Mondi and NCT initiated a series of trials to test a number of biological remedies to combat damage caused to seedlings at establishment.
- Concurrently, Dr Keith Little is developing a proposal to establish an integrated pest management programme at the ICFR. The idea would be that industry would fund this applied research and it would focus on developing management strategies to reduce the impact of damage caused by insect pests.
- The two 'biological' trials established by NCT are currently being monitored and preliminary results will soon be available.

We look forward to tangible and positive results from these activities and who knows perhaps into the future we can present such in a follow up SAIF field day?

Compiled by Rob Thompson (SAIF KZN Branch Chair) and Craig Norris (NCT Technology Department Manager)

What's On?

4th Forest Science Symposium

presented by:

Institute for Commercial Forestry Research
& Department of Agriculture, Forestry and
Fisheries

3 – 4 August 2010, Hilton, KZN
A call for papers is now open – see
attachment

18th Commonwealth Forestry Conference

28 June – 2 July

Edinburgh, Scotland.

Fire System Design and Engineering Conference

21 – 22 April

Sandton, Johannesburg

SAIF Southern Cape Branch News

Norbert Schalkx of Ponsse gave a talk to the SAIF Southern Cape branch on the 18th of March. All Saasveld 3rd year, full-time BTech and MTech students, as well as industry representatives attended. He is based in Finland and is responsible for all Ponsse operations in the Asia Pacific and Africa region. He gave an overview of what Ponsse is and their origins. He then went into more detail regarding wheeled cut-to-length harvesting technology. An overview was given of the impact of the global financial slowdown on machine manufactures and what the future holds. After the presentation, Norbert was taken to some of the local forestry areas.

Southern Forests: a journal of Forest Science

The SAIF is very proud that its flagship forest science journal will appear in Thomson/Reuter ISI Journal Citation Reports from late 2009 onwards. Southern Forests is going from strength to strength and South African researchers/scientists in particular, are encouraged to publish in this, our very own, high quality journal. There is an urgent need for articles in the next issue of Southern Forests (Number 72(2)). Come on fellow Southern African Researchers! Show us what you've got!

"There is Honey in the Forest – Zinoju Ethlathini"

Please note the attached order forms. Please also note that SAIF members & pensioners may order an unlimited number of books, but only **one** copy per member/pensioner will be supplied at the special price.

Pensioners who are not SAIF members, please submit positive ID with your order form.

Contact Corine Viljoen satif@mweb.ac.za

Fire Handbook

The SAIF is very proud to announce that the following book is currently in press: The Fire Manager's Handbook on Veld and Forest Fires: strategy, tactics and safety (2nd South African Edition), by W. Teie and Tiaan Pool (Editor). The SAIF would like to express their gratitude to FIETA for Sponsorship. The book is now available from the Secretary satif@mweb.co.za or Tel/Fax: 012 348 1745

Price: R600 non-members

R500 for SAIF members (one copy per member)

R500 for orders of 30+ books

SAIF Forestry Handbook

The Forestry Handbook has been revised and updated and will go to print shortly. Editor in Chief, Brian Bredenkamp, has indicated that the 2010 Edition will be available during the second half of 2010.



At the most recent Council meeting held in March 2010, the following office bearers for 2010/2011 were appointed:

President – Ben du Toit
Past president – Tammy Swain
Vice President – Rob Thompson
National Secretary – Corine Viljoen
Liaison Officer – Vacant
Branch Representatives:
Western Cape: Cori Ham
Southern Cape: Andrew McEwan
KZN: To be elected following Rob Thompson's appointment to Vice President.
Mpumalanga: Riaan Webb
DAFF representative: Mmakwena Maleka
Editor–Dennis Owen (temporary extension)

Our Journal Editor - Dennis Owen - had informed Council that he did not wish to renew his contract, which expired on 31 March 2010. Council are still considering candidates for the post, but as an interim measure have asked Dennis to stay at his post until 30 June 2010. Dennis has undertaken to do this and you will be kept informed on developments.

Revised SAIF member categories

Having reconciled the very informative member responses to the recent SAIF questionnaire sent out, the SAIF Council is considering the formalization of the following broad SAIF member categories:-

- 1) **Full member:** Persons who have formal qualifications and experience in forestry. These people are not necessarily forestry graduates or diploma holders but can also have other formal qualifications and experience in forestry and are currently active in the profession.
- 2) **Student member:** Persons currently studying to enter the forestry profession but with no working experience.
- 3) **Associate member:** Persons working in the forestry profession (for at least three years) with no formal qualification.
- 4) **Friend of the Institute:** Persons with a distinct and active interest in forestry and the working of the SAIF (not necessarily on a professional level).

It is felt that the proposed categories are all inclusive and best represent the current diaspora of forestry practitioners in an industry beset with manifold entry portals. The intent is to formally propose the categories for member approval at the 2010 SAIF Annual General Meeting. Should you have any comments and or suggestions to make in advance of the AGM please contact Corine at satif@mweb.co.za.