

SAIF Newsletter



And the winner is.....

The Southern African Institute of Forestry introduced a photographic competition in 2011. The competition was open to members and non-members alike. The main aim was to gather a collection of photographs that depicts the southern African forestry industry in images.

Numerous photographs were received and the final decision was by no means an easy one. But as they say in the classics, there has to be a winner.

The prizes, sponsored by Andreas Stihl (Pty) Ltd, are:

First place:

Stihl high pressure washer valued at R4 180

Second place:

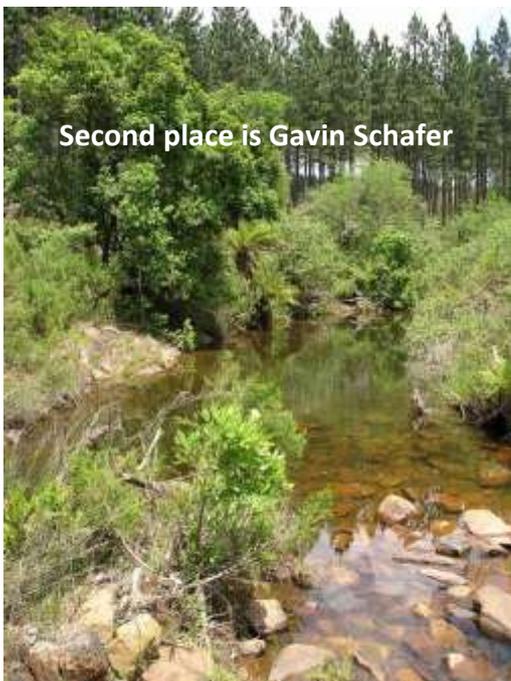
Stihl set-of-three pruning secateurs

Third place:

Stihl Timbersports knife in a leather case

The winner of the first prize in the annual SAIF photographic competition is:

Jacqui Shuttleworth, submitted through the KZN Branch. Second place winner is Gavin



Second place is Gavin Schafer



Winner of the photo competition is: Jacqui Shuttleworth

Congratulations to our winners!
A very big thank you to all who took the time to submit their photographs and to our sponsor Stihl!



Third place is Chris Chapman

STIHL®



SAIF/William C Teie forestry bursary for 2012

Compiled by Andrew McEwan on behalf of the SAIF Council.

The Southern African Institute of Forestry (SAIF) and the William C Teie bursary fund will be awarding a R20 000 bursary to a first year student studying a dedicated forestry course (National Diploma Forestry or BSc Forest Science).

Mr Teie is the author of the popular "Fire Manager's Handbook on Veld and Forest Fires" which is edited by Tiaan Pool of NMMU. He has kindly donated all South African royalties from the handbook to a bursary fund for South African forestry students.

The first bursary was awarded to a first year student studying for a National Diploma in Forestry in 2011. The 2012 bursary will be awarded to a first year student studying a BSc in Forestry.

Two equal payments of R10 000 will be made into the student's study account at the beginning of the first and second semesters. If student academic progress is unsatisfactory after the first semester (more than one subject failed), the second payment will be forfeited.

For further information, please contact Corine on 082 5238733 or Andrew McEwan at 083 676 5668

The requirements for the 2012 bursary are as follows:

1. Applicants must be South African citizens (and provide proof).
2. Applicants must prove that they have registered at one of the South African academic institutions offering a BSc in Forestry.
3. Grade 12 results must accompany the application. The main consideration for awarding the bursary will be previous academic performance. However, in the instance of similar academic performance, previously disadvantaged candidates will take preference.
4. A short motivation (maximum one page) must be submitted as to why the student is deserving of the bursary.
5. Students who have existing bursaries may not apply. The bursary is meant for students who hold no other bursaries.

The final date for acceptance of applications is 28 February 2012. Applications must be addressed to Corine Viljoen at saif@mweb.co.za.

Gauteng Branch gets back on its legs

By Dr Ronald Heath

Although there might not be many forests or plantations in and around Gauteng, the SAIF has always enjoyed strong and continuous support from the Gauteng region. Currently the membership within Gauteng is 42 which makes the Gauteng Branch the third biggest within SAIF. Although the Gauteng Branch is constituted of a slightly different member profile than other regions, the passion shared between members is still focussed on forests, plantations and sustainability of the sector. This was once again seen when the Gauteng Branch met in Pretoria on 25 November 2011.

Regrettably, the Gauteng Branch of the SAIF became fragmented and lost its formal structures over the last few years. However, the region has recently experienced renewed interests and enthusiasm from its members and decided to start the process of rejuvenating the Gauteng Branch through the hosting of an informal get together. The event, held at the Forestry and Agriculture Biotechnology Institute (FABI) at the University of Pretoria was attended by approximately 33 members. It was positive to have some 20 non-members attend the event with numerous joining the institute after the meeting.

The attendees were treated to a presentation by Professor Colin Dyer from the Institute for Commercial Forest Research (ICFR) entitled "Adapting to a changing forestry climate". The talk focussed on the current challenges the industry is facing and highlighted possible solutions industry could consider in its quest for aptness.

After the excellent presentation by Prof Dyer, the Institute presented a long overdue award to one of its members. Due to the fact that the Gauteng Branch has not had any formal events in recent times, no appropriate occasion offered itself to present the Scientific Writing Award for 2009. ➡



Dr Ronald Heath



Prof Colin Dyer

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The award was presented to Prof Mary Scholes in her absence for the paper entitled "Effect of phosphorus and potassium fertiliser on tree growth and dry timber production of *Pinus patula* on gabbro-derived soils in Swaziland" published in Volume 71 (3) of Southern Forests.

The Institute would like to take this opportunity to once again offer sincere belated congratulations to Prof Scholes for this achievement.

The event was concluded with a light finger lunch and some refreshments which offered members the opportunity to catch-up, reminisce on the old times and enjoy some good forestry conversations. SAIF would like to thank Prof Colin Dyer for taking the time to address the members with a wonderful stimulating and thought provoking talk.

We would also like to thank the FABI for making the venue available. Finally we would like to extend a great thank you to Corine Viljoen and Lee Raath-Brownie for all their hard work in making the event possible.



Prof Mike Wingfield, Dr Ronald Heath, Prof Colin Dyer and Dennis Owen



FABI students also attended the SAIF Gauteng Branch launch



Students at FABI at the launch



Galt Hooghiemstra, Louis du Plessis and Corine Viljoen



Friends catching up on the latest news



Attendees were treated to a scrumptious lunch



Obituary: Danie Ackerman

11 December 1914 – 18 January 2012

When foresters come together and the name of Danie Ackerman is mentioned, two words will certainly be heard: "gentleman" and "hiking".

Danie rose to the highest level in the civil service but remained chivalrous, friendly and sincere. He was down to earth with no airs of superiority despite his high office and all who knew him were very fond of him.

Danie loved hiking and was at his happiest when hiking in the mountains. He was so passionate about hiking that he can be considered to be the father of the National Hiking Way; his dream was an uninterrupted footpath stretching from the Cedarberg to the Soutpansberg. When politicians became too much for him, he would summon one of his senior officials and set off for a beacon "inspection" on top of a mountain in the Boland.

Daniel Petrus Ackerman was born in Pretoria and attended Pretoria Boys' High School, matriculating in 1930. He received the first BSc (forestry) degree ever awarded in South Africa at the end of 1934.

His first posting was that of assistant to the Conservator of Forestry in Cape Town, followed by assistant research officer in Pretoria and Pietermaritzburg. In 1938 he earned a MS degree at Yale and became exposed to the Appalachian Trail, the hiking way that stretches across the length of the United States.

Once back in South Africa, Danie moved through the ranks from forest utilisation officer to Chief Director, Forestry, a post he held until 1978. For the last two years of his career, 1979 to 1980, Danie was Secretary for Forestry in Pretoria, the chief executive of the state Department of Forestry.

Danie was largely responsible for the design of most of the state sawmills in the country but he will be remembered for his role in opening state forest land to the public, establishing the National Hiking Way and having the Forest Act amended to permit the reservation of wilderness areas. He was also a member of the Mountain Club of South Africa.

He was a founder member, and second president, of the Southern African Institute of Forestry. Until his death, he was the oldest member of the Institute and remained interested concerning the activities thereof.

Danie married Babs le Roux in 1948 and they had two sons, Johan, an architect in New Zealand and Philip (deceased aged four). Babs died in 1974. Danie married Anna van der Merwe in 1979, who survived him.

Written by Prof Bian Bredenkamp



Sirex awareness field day in Limpopo

The South African Sirex Control Programme will be holding a Sirex awareness field day in the Limpopo region on Wednesday, 7 March 2012, at KLF's Hanglip conference centre.

The programme will include presentations on a number of aspects of the Sirex Operational Programme including aspects of monitoring and biological control. The field component will include a visit to look at Sirex infested trees and a demonstration on inoculation procedures.

Please remember to bring along your safety hard hat. All are welcome to attend.

For more information or to RSVP for catering purposes, please contact Philip Croft at philip.croft@icfr.ukzn.ac.za or on Tel 033 386 2314 ASAP.





Forest Day 5: A first for Africa

By Dr Ronald Heath, DAFF

The fifth Forest Day took place in Durban on 4 December 2011 in as one of the side events of the 17th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP17).

The day was attended by 1064 participants from 87 countries, including country delegations, scientists, researchers, activists and representatives from non-governmental and the private sectors. The event, co-hosted by the Government of South Africa, the Centre for International Forest Research (CIFOR), and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), was convened under the theme 'From policy to practice', with a special focus on the role of African forests in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Participants were welcomed by the Director General of CIFOR, Frances Seymour. In her welcoming address, she expressed how it was positive to see just how the event had evolved since its inception. The first Forest Day was attended primarily by high-level policy makers. It has since evolved to include a much broader participation embracing greater numbers of grassroots practitioners. The welcoming address by Frances Seymour was followed by an address by

Ms Tina Joemat-Pettersson, the South African Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), on behalf of the South African government. She emphasised that forests embodied the need to balance environmental sustainability with economic development. She furthermore noted that her country's energy intensive and fossil-fuel powered economy makes it particularly vulnerable to climate change. Stressing that the science behind carbon sinks "is well understood," she urged participants to deliver a comprehensive adaptation programme as a contribution to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (also known as Rio+20 or UNCSO).

In the first of two keynote addresses, Helen Gichohi, President of the African Wildlife Foundation, paid tribute to Wangari Maathai, "a fallen icon who saw the links between sustainable development and peace, and inspired people to take action and

care." Helen Gichohi furthermore highlighted on-going projects that have adopted a landscape approach to balance growing human demands with environmental sustainability. Key lessons presented by the speaker included involving local communities in defining land-use agreements; establishing institutional partnerships to create the right policy incentives for climate-smart agriculture and private sector participation; and ploughing back revenues from carbon projects to support community-based conservation. She concluded by saying that while REDD+ offers a tool for bringing the value of forests into national planning, there is need to lower the transaction costs of carbon markets and to share the responsibility for longer-term compliance.

In his keynote address, Bob Scholes from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research highlighted the scientific case for sustainable forest management. Citing a recent study (Yude et al, "A large and persistent carbon sink in the world's forests" Science, August 2011), he noted that forests could potentially absorb nearly one-quarter of total carbon emissions from human activity, currently estimated at nine petagrams per year,

exceeding the targets of the Kyoto Protocol. He stressed that contrary to conventional wisdom, deforestation in Africa predominantly takes place in the dryland forest zones and is characterised by three main phases: the selective removal of high-value timber; charcoal-burning to meet urban fuel demands; and finally, low-input and low-output subsistence agriculture, which completes the cycle of land degradation.

Judy Kimamo from the Green Belt Movement, introduced a short film paying tribute to the late Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Wangari Maathai, and announced the launch of the "I am the Hummingbird Campaign" in her memory. "We have a final challenge from Wangari: to keep the trail blazing, to keep our energy up, to keep up negotiations, but most importantly, to make sure that everything that is happening here, is getting translated, in Africa and the developing and developed worlds," said Judy Komamo. Wangari Maathai, Nobel Peace Laureate, conservationist and politician who led an international



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movement for women's rights and environmental preservation died at the age of 71, in Nairobi in September 2011, while undergoing treatment for cancer. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for Environmental Efforts and was the founder of the Green Belt Movement in 1977 which has led to the planting of more than 30 million trees.

The event included numerous discussion platforms providing opportunities for delegates to provide their inputs into the discussion through discussion forums. The themes of these forums included: how is REDD+ unfolding on the ground?; an exploration of the social, political and biophysical issues; biodiversity safeguards in REDD+; financing opportunities and issues for mitigation and adaptation with a focus on the private sector; addressing gender considerations in climate change adaptation and REDD+ efforts; and lastly, global updates on forests and climate change.

An exciting session moderated by Richard Black, BBC environmental correspondent, included speakers such as Caroline Spelman, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, UK and Rachel Kyte, Vice President of Sustainable Development, World Bank. Caroline Spelman highlighted the contribution of forests to biodiversity protection, greenhouse gas emissions and livelihoods, saying that they are both a source of and sink for greenhouse gases. She called for climate-smart agricultural practices to ensure a transition to a green, low-carbon economy that addresses food security simultaneously, but emphasised that climate-smart agriculture is not a panacea for all the problems to be addressed. Calling for clarification of land tenure rights, she highlighted the need to make progress on methodological guidance for the implementation of REDD+ and emphasised that COP17 will follow up on the REDD+ issues addressed in the Cancún Agreements.

During the closing plenary it was highlighted how Forest Day 5 had addressed the specific opportunities and challenges of forest management in Africa, successfully launched the first informal market place, and showcased the innovative use of instant voting by participants to identify priority areas for future action. Christiana Figueres, UNFCCC Executive Secretary, thanked Forest Day participants for their "patience with the COP" and noted achievements so far at COP17 as: the conclusion of an adaptation package on African soil; agreement

on a second commitment period with no policy gap following the end of the Kyoto Protocol; and broad recognition that the current level of ambition on climate change is insufficient. She noted that COP17 is a mammoth undertaking, with close to 200 governments "attempting to write a global business plan for the planet for the next 50 years." and added that this needs to be

done with a "triple bottom line" in mind: climate mitigation, adaptation and the reduction of poverty.

In all, Forest Day 5, similar to previous years, was hailed as a success by the international forestry community in attendance with all being positive about the contributions it will make to the broader COP17 and related negotiations.

In a final word to the Forest Day 5 delegates, Frances Seymour announced that she will be stepping down as CIFOR Director-General in 2012.

This was followed by comments by Eduardo Rojas-Briales, Assistant Director General and Head of the Forestry Department at the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, which lauded Frances Seymour as the "mother" of the Forest Days for her inspiring leadership in bridging the science-policy gap and building broad consensus on REDD.

The forestry community would like to add to Eduardo Rojas-Briales comments and thank Frances Seymour for her dedication and hard work over the past few years and wish her well with her future endeavours.



Wangari Maathai (1 April 1940 – 25 September 2011)
"In a few decades, the relationship between the environment, resources and conflict may seem almost as obvious as the connection we see today between human rights, democracy and peace."

New appointments at the FP&M SETA

The Board of the Fibre Processing and Manufacturing SETA has announced several new appointments.

Bheki Zulu is the Board's recommended candidate for the position as chief executive officer (CEO) of the FP&M SETA. This appointment will be confirmed once the Minister's approval has been received. In the interim he will be acting CEO.

Reporting to him will be Simangaliso Mkhwanazi, who was appointed as head: strategy and corporate affairs, Mr PK Naicker as head of operations, Gina Layzell as chief financial officer (CFO).



Bank enters sustainable forestry collaboration

South African banking firm Nedbank Capital and public engagement project Face the Future have signed a pioneering memorandum of understanding (MoU) designed to facilitate collaboration between the two, with the intention of enabling them to jointly develop sustainable forestry projects in Africa.

The companies believe this agreement will allow them to harness the practical project and carbon development skills acquired by Face the Future, with the access to finance and carbon market networks developed by Nedbank.

The collaboration aims to jointly build a project portfolio that highlights the importance of targeting climate change, biodiversity and community benefits. The cooperation will focus on Africa specifically.

Nedbank Capital senior administrator for carbon finance Paul Griffin says one such project, the Kibale National Park reforestation project, in Uganda, managed by Face the Future and the Uganda Wildlife Authority, has now attained registration and carbon issuance under the Verified Carbon Standard, resulting in the issuance of almost 370 000 carbon credits in September 2011. "Nedbank Capital first became aware of the project a year ago and, after reviewing the project's participants and their activities, and completing on-the-ground due diligence, we purchased 50 000 verified carbon units for the Nedbank group's carbon-neutral programme. "We regard this as the first act in promoting close environmental



collaboration between Face the Future and Nedbank," he adds.

Griffin believes Kibale is a pilot project and that it will pave the way between the two organisations for a number of projects in countries such as Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

Face the Future is a worldwide forest carbon project developer. Founded in 1990, it has been responsible for re-establishing more than 50 000 ha of forest and for rehabilitating in excess of 100 000 ha of existing forests. Face the Future director Denis Sliker says the company combines extensive knowledge of carbon certification, forestry and carbon markets with tangible projects, which are developed in close cooperation with local organisations. "In all projects that we are involved in, we strive to combine climate change mitigation, biodiversity enhancement

and community benefits.

We believe only such projects will be successful in the long term.

"Face the Future has successfully registered two forestry projects under the Verified Carbon Standard – projects that resulted in the issuance of a significant number of carbon credits. This shows that sustainable forestry projects can start creating a financial business case," he notes. Face the Future, with offices in the Netherlands and Ecuador, has marketed more than 2,5-million

carbon credits to date. "Our joint expectations are for future collaboration encompassing both existing and new African forestry-orientated projects."

Source: Engineering News

Precision Forestry in Advance Symposium, South Australia

27 to 28 March 2012

This symposium will be held in Mount Gambier, South Australia in association with Austimber 2012 and is an 'in-between' to the very successful four-yearly symposiums run at Stellenbosch, South Africa.

It's a chance for everyone from researchers to practitioners to present their work and papers are still being received. This IUFRO linked symposium is being run alongside the Austimber events to maximise the benefit for people wishing to attend.

More information is available on www.austimber2012.com.au or contact Dr Jim O'Hehir, general manager of planning and development, Forestry South Australia at email: o'hehir.jim@forestrysa.com.au.



UP researcher meets the queen of England

There are not many people who can say that they have had the privilege of meeting Queen Elizabeth of England in person.

There are even fewer who can say that they were able to visit Buckingham Palace to do so and to spend ten minutes in private conversation with Her Royal Highness. But this was exactly what Professor Jolanda Roux of the University of Pretoria's Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI) did during the December holiday!

On 13 December 2011, Prof Roux and Jim Ball, chairperson of the Commonwealth Forestry Association (CFA), reported at the right hand gate of Buckingham Palace, in response to an invitation by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the II.

The honour emerged from the fact that Jolanda received the "Queens Award for Forestry" from the CFA. Queen Elizabeth is the patron of the CFA and in 1987 approved the "Queen's Award for Forestry".

This award aims to recognise outstanding international contributions to forestry and recognises the achievements of outstanding mid-career foresters, based on a combination of exceptional contributions to forestry and an innovative approach to his or her work. Since its inception, the award it has been made only nine times and Prof. Roux is the first woman to receive this honour.

Jolanda's colleagues at FABI have pestered her for a detailed account of the experience of meeting the Queen. She has described the meeting as "an incredible experience that in hindsight feels slightly unreal. It is not something that I ever imagined would happen to me and I was completely bowled over, firstly by receipt of this prestigious award, and then when I received a phone call to let me know that Queen Elizabeth had invited me to the palace for an audience with her!"

She further described the trip to the palace as "passing in a blur". "When Mr Ball and I arrived at the palace, it was the time

of the changing of the guard and there were hundreds of people crowding around the front gates to get photographs of this event. We had to report to a specific gate at the palace where our names were checked on a list and we were then escorted into the palace grounds, past the changing guards and into the inner courtyard of the palace."

"From there, we were taken to the reception area where we were met by a smart young soldier, the only one in the palace allowed to wear a kilt because he was from a Scottish regiment. He escorted us into the Palace where we waited together with

others, including a British General and the High Commissioners of Thailand and Mozambique who also had their private audiences with the Queen."

"They all arrived in carriages drawn by beautiful horses, with footmen and women. When our turn approached, we were introduced to one of Her Majesty's aids who took us to a second waiting room, where he explained the exact protocol to us. Shortly afterwards, I was called up to wait in front of two very big, closed doors. These were opened by palace staff at which point we entered and I was announced to the Queen, who was standing in the middle of this

beautiful room. After being announced, I was able to walk forward and shake Her hand. After our greeting, Mr Ball was announced and he also had an opportunity to greet Her Majesty and then we posed for photographs. Her Majesty then invited us further into the room, where we sat down and had ten minutes of discussion with Her."

When asked what she spoke to Her Majesty about, Jolanda laughs and says she spoke about what I do, tree health in general, the Queen's interest in trees, the CFA and we even shared a joke or two" Jolanda added, "she was graceful, charming, amazingly well informed and sincerely interested in our work on trees and especially tree health".

Source: FABI



Prof Roux meeting Her Royal Highness, Queen Elizabeth the II

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Nigeria's forestry research wins a UNESCO prize

The Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN) was awarded the Sultan Quaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation 2011, administered through UNESCO, at the World Science Forum in Budapest that was held from 17 to 20 November 2011.

The award recognises contribution to the preservation of the environment, especially through scientific research, education, training and awareness-raising; as well as through establishing and managing protected nature areas.

The prize jury recommended the institute for its contributions to forest and environmental management, biodiversity conservation, sustainable food production for food security and provision of industrial raw materials and employment opportunities.

The institute, headquartered in Ibadan, is the only forestry research institute in the country. It has ten stations and four training colleges. Through its research it has helped with the

adoption of various indigenous and exotic tree species planting them, for a variety of purposes, throughout the country, and it has helped discover how to regenerate exploited forests. Its research also helped develop processes for turning wood waste into useful products; jatropha seeds for biofuels; and technologies against desertification and soil erosion.



Clerodendrum globuliflorum: plenty to conserve in Nigerian forests

Irina Bokova, director general of UNESCO, who awarded the prize, said that "our relationship with forests is essential and primordial". She reminded the participants of the forum that the UN designated 2011 'year of the forests'.

The prize is given at major scientific meetings every two years to individuals or institutes. Previous winners included the Ecology Institute AC of Mexico, the Centre

for Ecology in Venezuela, and the Institute of Biodiversity Conservation in Ethiopia.

Source: www.SciDev.Net

February birthdays

Happy birthday to the following members:

FP Zhangazha	2 February	DI Boden	11 February	CW Smith	21 February
C Dyer	3 February	TC Rorich	11 February	TI Ross	21 February
AE Daugherty	3 February	PJ Keyworth	12 February	SK Charlton	22 February
WP Hollestein	3 February	S Crafford	13 February	PBB Day	22 February
P Ackerman	3 February	H de Jongh	13 February	PH Hardy	23 February
S MacGregor	4 February	AM McEwan	13 February	K Maxwell	24 February
NB Jones	4 February	J Roux	14 February	CJ Schutz	24 February
DC Reeves	4 February	EE Eggers	16 February	JCM Carr	25 February
BT Pierce	5 February	WR Jones	16 February	PRH Nixon	28 February
S Higgs	6 February	GN Schafer	17 February	DP Metelkamp	28 February
CP Pienaar	7 February	G Galloway	20 February		
AK Louw	8 February	NA Payne	21 February		

What's happening?

The SAIF Newsletter keeps members updated about the latest events in the industry. We can only achieve this by your input. Send us your news, views and reviews to xyberlee@iafrica.com or contact: Cell 082 371 0190

Lee Raath-Brownie, Editor