

Southern African Institute of Forestry



Delivering a professional service to forestry

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SAIF Calendar Jan 2022 : Photographer: Izette Greyling : "Marvellous Mushroom"

From the President's Desk "Valleys and Mountain Tops"

A prosperous 2022 to all our faithful members and readers of the SAIF Newsletter.

I trust that all of you had a chance to rest and spend some quality time with your loved ones over the festive season. Most of us had an opportunity to reflect on the past year and think about and plan for the coming year.

Some of us had a **Valley** experience while others had a **Mountain Top** Experience and most of us though had our fair share of both valleys and mountain tops.

Did you have a **mountain top** year? Standing on the top of a mountain or canyon is a most exhilarating experience – feeling on top of the world and being able to gaze into the far distance! On the heights, we easily feel closer to God, overflowing in praise and worship from a joyful heart. Beware never to let down your guard during mountain top seasons.

Those finding themselves in a valley or canyon, have a completely different view from those on the mountain top. Their view is mostly obstructed by bends in the river valley, with a high mountain or hill restricting free movement. Shadows are cast by the surrounding mountains and rockfaces, which bring darkness and coldness more suddenly. Fog also tends to linger for longer in valleys, obstructing visibility. Then, during the rainy season, mudslides and rivers of water running down the mountain-slopes can easily become a torrent of potential disaster for those down below.



Valleys are normally associated with suffering and tough times and mountain tops with happiness and prosperity. There is another side to that though namely that a valley experience can be an opportunity for growing and character building.

Another perspective comes from the well-known Evangelist Billy Graham “Mountain **tops are for views and inspiration, but fruit is grown in the valleys.**”

Whether you will face a “Mountain Top” year or a “Valley” Year in 2022, don’t despair and use the opportunity to grow and support each other and tackle the year ahead in faith.

It is hard to believe that it has been almost two years since the Corona Virus (Covid-19) has started to affect our lives directly in one way or another. The various levels of lockdown and effect on our daily lives has been unpleasant and challenging to say the least. The wearing of masks when in public, maintaining a so-called “social distancing” from colleagues, others and even friends and constantly having to sanitise your hands and virtually anything you touch, have become the norm. This is so unlike our human need and desire to connect and socialise with others.

Friendships are built and sustained by spending time together- something which the pandemic made very difficult for most people. Consider how long it takes to develop a new friendship. In 2018, researchers at the University of Kansas found that it takes at least 200 hours of time spent together for people to form a close friendship. Then maintaining the friendship, takes more time spent together sharing our experiences, exposing ourselves as vulnerable to people whom we learn to trust and learn to trust us.

Some governments have even recognized the challenges of loneliness and have attempted to address the needs of their citizens. In Japan, their government even appointed a “Minister of Loneliness” Some people who were so badly depressed by the constant state of anxiety and fear and loneliness that they have taken their own lives. This situation is so tragic and the impact of the pandemic is actually well explained and summarised in one single word heard from a friend who refers to the whole Covid- 19

experience as “Dehumanising”.

How do we escape this trap and current condition of loneliness and even bordering on hopelessness?

One solution would certainly be to reach out and to connect with other people who share the same interests like yourself. There are obviously more lonely people on the planet who also needs somebody else to connect with. We were not designed to live all on our own on an island. Make time for each other and make time to listen! This unfortunately does not come naturally for some of us like “yours truly” who is a bad listener. Perhaps we can go back to some of the old traditions and make a phone call instead of just sending rather impersonal messages by *WhatsApp* or *Telegram* and talk to each other for 20-30 minutes to find out what is happening in the other person’s life. We have all been told in our youth that we have two ears and one mouth and should therefore spend a lot more time listening than talking. By connecting and listening to others you invariably also realise that there are people who are worse off than you and you start counting your own blessings. Let us use the opportunities to reach out to other people and encourage each other during 2022.

Sources:

- Jericho Walls International Prayer network <https://iwipn.com/was-it-a-mountain-top-or-valley-year/>;
- Tomorrow’s World Oct/Nov. 2021



Recording: SU-FOR First Thursdays – Interview with Dwayne Marx - CEO of SAFCA

Please refer to the recordings of the latest presentation as well as the previous ones listed here –

<https://youtu.be/g-qzK743hLU> - Interview with Dwayne Marx - CEO of SAFCA [2/12/2021]

<https://youtu.be/d0cc1CEf8jY> - 'Effective small-scale harvesting and forwarding in industrial plantation first thinning operations' – [Simon Ackerman – Stellenbosch University] (05/11/2021)

<https://youtu.be/ojCJ4pCx8Xs> - 'Pine thinning methods: operational productivity and residual stand damage' – [Munyaradzi Makoto - Stellenbosch University] (07/10/2021)

<https://youtu.be/LkrMi6-Gqo> - 'Post-thinning control of harvester operator consistency and adaptability using UAV derived imagery' – [Hugo Zandberg – Stellenbosch University] (02/09/2021)

<https://youtu.be/gnUATHCTro8Modelling> - 'The effect of stand density management and environmental variables on Pinus patula wood properties' – [Justin Erasmus - Stellenbosch University] (05/08/2021)

<https://youtu.be/KbEUwXNijFI> - Concept and application of Depth-to-Water maps in forestry - [Marian Schönauer – University of Göttingen] (03/06/2021)

<https://youtu.be/uhnPoPehJl0> - SU FOR First Thursdays The POPI Act and the Benefits of a Common National Harvesting Data Portal [Rasmus Astrup - NIBIO] (6/5/2021)

<https://youtu.be/l3DtCOhbG3M> - Journey into using harvesting machine data in forestry [Dannyboy Seboa – Mondi] (1/4/2021)

<https://youtu.be/0KfeDS8geuQUnlocking> - The potential of harvester OBC data in the South African forestry value chain [Marius Terblanche – SU/Sappi] (4/3/2021)

<https://youtu.be/D0Z2lnu62CI> - Validating Harvesting Head Data with Terrestrial Laser Scanning [Anton Kunneke] (4/02/2021)

<https://youtu.be/FowiQn0vZLI> - The effect of harvester size on productivity and cost – [Simon Ackerman - SU] (3/12/2020)

<https://youtu.be/9wNbQQ07Br8A> - Ergonomics Risk Assessment of manual and motor manual pruning operations [Zimbili Sibiya - SU] (5/11/2020)

<https://youtu.be/2AMjHyW0ksE> - Residue management by mulching - first results Zululand KZN [Leeshan Mahadeo – SU] (1/10/2020)

Enjoy and feel free to reply with comments or questions

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Tree of the month: *Tarconanthus camphoratus* – Camphor bush – Vaalbos – Mofahlana

Known as the Camphor bush because of its scent, *Tarconanthus camphoratus* is a semi-deciduous to evergreen tree with a dense crown and drooping branches. All parts of this tree smell strongly of camphor when crushed. This tree grows in a variety of habitats, from Kalahari veld, woodland, woodland, wooded grassland to montane thicket. This small tree is particularly suited to tough conditions, such as areas battered by wind and coastal sea spray to dry inland gardens. The leaves are palatable to domestic livestock and wildlife as well. It makes a beautiful tree for small gardens.



SOUTHERN FORESTS A JOURNAL OF FOREST SCIENCE



Southern Forests: Editor-in-Chief Vacancy

Dr Hannél Ham who has served the SAIF as Editor of Southern Forests, with distinction, over the past three years, has indicated that she would like to step down as the Editor-in-Chief of Southern Forests (a Journal of Forest Science). The SAIF Council would like to thank Hannél for her contribution in growing the journal during the past two years and taking it to the next phase namely the digital version. The upward trend in the journal impact factor reflects her hard work. Until Council appoints a successor, Dr Ham will be acting Editor-in-Chief.

The SAIF is now looking for a new Editor-in-Chief. Herewith council invites interested parties to submit a brief CV (maximum of two pages) to Corine Viljoen (saif@mweb.co.za) by 11th of February 2022.

Responsibilities will include, but not be limited to:

- Maintaining an international Editorial Advisory Board (EAB).
- Able to handle the wide range of topics that are encompassed by Forest and Wood Science.
- A good working relationship with the SAIF Council and publishers (NISC and Taylor & Francis). This will include regular updates, communications and quarterly reports.

Successful candidates should ideally have the following qualifications and skills:

- A PhD in Forestry or related field with sound knowledge of the South African Forestry sector
- An internationally recognised scientist with a reasonable publication track record who understands the process and significance of peer reviewed publication.
- Previous experience in peer-reviewed journal publication as part of an EAB.

- Knowledge of online submission system as author and reviewer.
- Personal skills: good communication skills (verbal and written), can adhere to deadlines in a timely manner, good ambassador for South African Forestry industry and can work under pressure.

Remuneration will be negotiable depending on the qualifications of the applicant.

For any enquiries, please contact Corine Viljoen (saif@mweb.co.za).



XV WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS

Building a Green, Healthy and Resilient Future with Forests
2-6 May 2022 | Coex, Seoul, Republic of Korea
Vol. 8 / December 2021

The World Forestry Congress originally scheduled for 2021 but postponed due to Covid-19 travel restrictions, will now take place from 2-6 May 2022 in Seoul, Republic of Korea

The theme of the XV WFC is *Building a Green, Healthy and Resilient Future with Forests*. Under this overarching theme, there are six sub-themes which will address the most important current issues concerning forests and the products and services they provide

Website: <http://wfc2021korea.org>

The XV World Forestry Congress Secretariat will provide financial support to enable active participation by all regions, countries, and stakeholders in the Congress. Recipients will be selected with priority given to those from low- and middle-income countries and the selection process will aim to achieve geographic balance, giving due consideration to women and youth. To apply for financial support, fill out the application form and submit it via email to fswfc2021@gmail.com by **31 January 2022**

wfc2021korea.org



Korea Forest Service



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Holiday drugs and mayhem!

By Rob Thompson

As a forester I find it hugely refreshing to spend some time of the year in the arid reaches of SA, well away from trees, greenery, and the various challenges presented by the timber growing environment. Change is always good!

This year, my breakaway to the Karoo, comprised of some interesting highlights including serotonin overdoses, touchy feely stimuli, gluttony, substance abuse, weird fashion and general mayhem. Same old...same old...

For the squeamish reader...please proceed. This article is not as bad as its first impression!

The most unusual highlight of our breakaway, was that of a thoroughly wet Karoo, with full dams, gushing rivers and green lush vegetation. In all our years we have never seen the area so lush. Initially we gave no thought as to what this transformed environment would lead to, but we were soon made very aware...

Some 30 km shy of Colesberg, my wife who was driving at the time, suddenly witnessed the windscreen transform from clear, to opaque, to murky, to absolutely "yukky".

The clue as to the cause of this sudden and unexpected transformation was most likely the 1 235 698 swarming locusts which we engaged at high speed and proceeded to collect (albeit not in the original physical condition) on the vehicle exterior, within the engine compartment, against the radiator, on the grille and over all of the lights.

You've all heard the old joke of what goes through a grasshopper's mind when it hits your windscreen...well there was a lot of that passing through in that instant!

The roar of millions of 10 cm long winged creatures expiring on impact against our moving metal cubicle, was an experience that neither of us had encountered

Once through the swarm, we joined the queue of blunt force locust-annihilation devices at the Colesberg One Stop as attendants did their best to rid us of the cadavers of our victims and restore visibility through crusty windscreens. Whilst the pile of recently deceased on the concrete slab was impressive, a glance back towards the massive swarms of survivors negotiating the post-rain Karoo air currents, brought back a similar emotion as that experienced by foresters when watching an uncontrolled wild fire advance on a prime forestry plantation. Hier kom groot ...!

From that time on, the news and social media was abuzz with swarm observations and reports of the devastation being wreaked on newly emerged crops and natural vegetation following the out of season rains. When we reached Bloemfontein for a stop-over with my ecologist daughter, she scraped a specimen off of the grille and casually drew our attention to the fascinating intricacies of the insect's physiology, the beauty of its markings and the mind boggling process that this late creature had been through to progress from egg to grille-mash.

Swarming locusts start off as rather solitary grasshoppers, but grasshoppers need not necessarily end up as locusts. It's all to do with various stimuli.

Grasshoppers or locusts lay eggs in wet soil where they can lie dormant for years. In the Karoo, this dormancy most often comprises dry season after dry season. When eventually the rains arrive again, the eggs hatch, sometimes a number of generations of eggs at once, as is the current case in the Karoo. Hoppers emerge and begin to consume the rain-induced vegetation.

Interestingly, hoppers are fairly shy and insular, often consciously avoiding their colleagues if at all they are able. These hoppers are fairly particular as to what they eat, avoiding toxic plants encountered. Hoppers go through various instars and eventually graduate as fully qualified grasshoppers. Given that they are prolific eaters, areas inhabited by multitudes of hoppers are often exhausted of food sources before too long.



It's eventually time to venture further afield, but given that these creatures lack access to social media (Facebook refused them an account) or a means to speak to each other for that matter, nature provides them with a substance called serotonin (the same happy drug that causes a sense of well-being in humans).

The now-high hoppers become less solitary and more amenable to close contact, despite current COVID regulations. They gather closer together and use the little remaining food, without argument, because they are all happy. Again, with no ability to call for a collective air-trip given the lack of communication ability and a very debilitating lack of wings, nature again provides an alternative. The close quarter contact of the concentrated high and hungry hoppers, results in repeated incidental touching of the back legs and a hormonal stimulus to grow wings and build muscle mass. This does of course explain the behaviour of some of the buff gym-goers that I have encountered before.

Wing and muscle development occurs rapidly, and still under hormonal influence, the hoppers (now equipped with avionics and a new call sign "Locust") fly off, en-masse, in search of better pastures i.e. your new crops! Given their state of chemical dependence, they are oblivious to previous eating decorum and will in fact seek out toxic plants as a component of their diet in order to enhance their toxicity to anything contemplating a locust snack. They develop a liking for carbohydrate-rich grains to fuel their advancing forays, despite all of the dietary warnings of Prof. Noakes. Protein is not big in these creatures lives. These steroid missiles even change colour to a more vibrant hue, thereby providing visible warning of their potential toxicity and unappealing taste. A milkweed infused, drug-ridden, yellow-hued, flying, wide-eyed, alien look-alike bug, is after all not likely to attract many culinary patrons from either animal or human persuasion.

Massive swarms of locusts are able to inflict massive damage to crop lands. It is said that a square kilometer size swarm can consume as much food as 35 000 humans. Imagine that lot landing on your veggie patch?

Just as foresters fighting a wild fire, the best means of controlling a locust outbreak is in the flightless hopper stage and via the flanks of the congregation. Once swarms take flight, control become difficult as the advancing "front" is just so vast and mobile. Care must also be taken of nuking them with chemicals given the risk of collateral damage along the food chain. Whilst foresters and farmers are wary of climate warming, it is concerning that locusts seemingly thrive thereon. Scientists see increased occurrence of swarms in years to come if we are not able to rapidly mitigate our wayward environmental ways.

Another key observation, is that locusts are clearly very poor at Physics 101 (if the state of our vehicle was anything to go by). They fail consistently to understand the law of Conservation of Momentum, which generally presents unfavourable outcomes to those individuals attempting to stop oncoming vehicles with their heads, whilst in flight. That said, the particular failed individual whose mortal remains we studied so carefully that day in Bloemfontein, did provide a fascinating insight into a creature that we know so well, but know so little about.

How many other creatures are there out there that significantly influence our lives but to which we pay scant attention, unless they "rise" to the occasion!

Cover Page of SAIF 2022 Calendar



Forestry Recreation : Photographer : Jolanda Roux : Kwazulu-Natal Branch



STIHL Executive visits its South African subsidiary, congratulates staff on swift comeback



Despite losing its head office, warehouse and entire stock holding in the unrest that rocked KwaZulu Natal in mid-July, STIHL South Africa has managed to resume operations and distribution to its dealer network throughout Southern Africa.

Just 7 weeks after the STIHL head office in Pietermaritzburg was ransacked and its warehouse burnt to the ground the company has settled into new offices and continued distribution to its dealer network using a third party logistics solution based in Johannesburg. More than R90 million worth of stock has been received via air- and sea freight, with more arriving continuously in order to replenish both the dealers' and STIHL's own stock.

"At the moment we are entirely focused on recovery – fulfilling backorders and retaining normal stock levels in order to fully support our loyal customers and dealer network," says Hayden Hutton, MD of STIHL South Africa. "We resumed distribution in early August. Though we experienced some (expected) teething problems during the integration of our IT system to that of our logistics partner, distribution has ramped up significantly and we look forward to soon re-attaining the exemplary service that STIHL is known for".

Only the unwavering support of the global STIHL Group ensured a swift recovery. After the looting and fire the STIHL headquarters in Germany immediately set up a crisis team to assist the local team to put in place measures ensuring the wellbeing of its employees and focused on getting the company back up and running as soon as possible. Arrangements were made to have stock airfreighted to South Africa from STIHL factories around the world in order for the company to swiftly resume distribution to its dealers.

During a visit to STIHL South Africa on 3rd September executive member of the global STIHL Group,

Norbert Pick commended the company on its swift recovery and thanked employees for their contribution.

"In order to overcome times of danger and uncertainty a great amount of resilience and commitment is needed. The staff of STIHL South Africa showed an outstanding team effort without which this quick recovery would never have been possible. I am here on behalf of the Stihl family and the executive board to thank every team member for their relentless commitment. STIHL is more than just a company. Helping each other and being there for one another is what defines STIHL as a family company. And we are proud of that".

Pick visited STIHL South Africa to assess the company's current situation and to discuss the way forward to continue meeting the sustained high demand for STIHL products in Southern Africa. He emphasized that STIHL will maintain full operations in South Africa. "South Africa is an important growth market for the STIHL Group. We will therefore take all measures and make any necessary investments to rebuild STIHL South Africa." He did however stress that it is imperative for the country to ensure the safety of its people and business investments if it hopes to secure further direct foreign investment in the future.

*The SAIF would like to congratulate STIHL South Africa on this wonderful achievement and their commitment and loyalty to the Country and also in particular for their long-standing relationship with and support to the Institute. It is really appreciated and treasured!
Long live STIHL!*



<https://www.stihl.co.za/>

The polyphagous shot hole borer beetle:

List of Trees resistant to PSHB which can be planted in the Garden Route and elsewhere in S.A.

The list of Indigenous Tree Species which are susceptible for PSHB Attacks is growing by the day and several people residing in the Southern Cape ask which species they can plant to replace dead or dying trees. One of our stalwart members and a man with a vast knowledge of the native trees of the Garden Route compiled a useful list of trees suitable to be planted in gardens, parks and along avenues. Refer to the list of tree species with the Latin name, and English & Afrikaans names next to it:

Apodytes dimidiata (White pear): Evergreen, slow growing, easy to grow as a solitaire.

Buddleja saligna (False olive, Witolienhout): Drought resistant, easy to grow, white flowers, very suitable.

Burchelia bubalina (Wild pomegranate): Pretty small flowering bush. Very slow growing. Needs good soil and watering.

Celtis africana (White stinkwood): Deciduous, slow growing.

Cunonia capensis (Red alder, Rooi-els): Requires good soil and watering.

Curtisia dentata (Assegai): Slow growing, demands good soil and regular watering.

Ekebergia capensis (Cape ash, Essenhout): Fast growing when young, demands good soil and regular watering, does not like wind.

Ficus sur (Cape fig, Besemtrosvy): Fast growing if watered well. Roots may become invasive if planted too close to structures, sewerage, water pipes and man-holes.

Halleria lucida (Tree fuchsia): Slow growing, pretty small bush, very suitable.

Kiggelaria africana (Wild peach, wildeperske): Reasonably fast growing in good soils with regular watering. Suitable as a hedge plant.

Nuxia floribunda (Forest elder, Vlier): Fast growing if established in good soil and regular watering, bushy growth with white flowers, also suitable as a hedge plant. Very suitable.

Olea capensis subsp. *capensis* (Ironwood, Ysterhout): Slow growth even in good soil and regular watering.

Olea europea subsp. *africana* (Wild olive, Olienhout)
Olivia ventosa (Hard pear): Fast growing. Requires good soil and regular watering. Inclined to grow multi – stem.

Pittosporum viridiflorum (Cheesewood): Slow growing, drought resistant, Very suitable.

Poligala myrtifolia (September bush): Slow growing. Small bush. Very pretty mauve to purple flowers.

Podocarpus falcatus (Outeniqua Yellowwood): Fast growing in good soil with regular watering. Also suitable as a hedge plant.

Psoralea affinis (Fountainbush): Requires good soil and watering. Very pretty bush with blue flowers. Very suitable.

Rapanea melanophloeos (Cape beech, Boekenhout) Slow growing. Needs good soil and watering.

Tarchonanthus camphoratus (*littoralis*) (Wild camphor): Fast growing. Drought resistant. Bush – like appearance. Very suitable.

Vepris lanceolata (White ironwood): Slow growing, reasonably drought resistant. Pretty tree. Very suitable.

Virgilia divaricata (Keurboom): Fast growing in good soil. Dark pink flowers. Bush – like appearance. Ideal pioneer tree. Short-lived (20 years). Very suitable for quick growth (NB: Potential Reproductive host for PSHB)

“Indigenous trees are like babies. They require good care and maintenance in order not only to survive but also to flourish”

If you have any further questions

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| JANUARY 2022 | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| PHILIP CRAFTORD | LEE CUNNINGHAM |
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| JOHN MORTIMER | DIRK LÄNGIN |
| ED HAYTER | ELIZE ADE |
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The Southern African Institute of Forestry

Handbook order form

The Southern African Institute of Forestry publishes three industry specific handbooks.

I would like to order:

South African Forestry Handbook

Price: SAIF members: R400

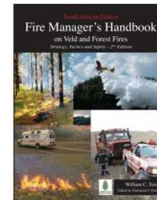
Non members: R500



Fire Manager's Handbook on Veld and Forest Fires

Price: SAIF members: R300

Non members: R400



There's Honey in the Forest

Price: SAIF members: R100

Non members: R150



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

A bulk discount of 10% applies on orders of 10 or more copies.

Price includes VAT and postage **(within SA)**

I am a member non-member of the SAIF.

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