HUSQVARNA CELEBRATES MILESTONES

With over 325 years of history behind our name, Husqvarna takes great pleasure in congratulating the South African Institute of Forestry on its 50 year anniversary.
The Southern African Institute of Forestry (SAIF) turned 50 on 17 May!

Traditionally 50 is considered to be middle aged, but what does this mean? According to British healthcare provider Benenden Health, you are middle aged if you enjoy afternoon naps, moan when you bend over, frustrated by modern technology, choose comfort over style when it comes to clothing, or prefer a night in rather than a night out. However, I feel that being old or middle aged, appears to be a state of mind rather than a specific age.

The SAIF is like a good wine that matures as it gets older. The ability of wine to mature in casks and bottled wine to age is influenced by many factors including grape variety, vintage, viticulture practices, wine region, winemaking style and the condition that the wine is kept in after bottling. The quality of an aged or evolving wine varies significantly between bottles, depending on the conditions under which it was stored, and the condition of the bottle and cork. Aging simply changes, evolves or develops the wine, particularly fortified wine, and makes it more palatable and enjoyable.

I see the SAIF Council as the bottle and cork. Although the Council rotates bi-annually, it keeps the wine fresh, tasty, colourful and marketable. The members are the factors that influence the quality of the wine, such as grape variety, vintage, viticulture practices, wine region, winemaking style etc. In the end the two entities complement one another to deliver a well-aged product that can “stand the test of time”.

The SAIF was established as an Institute to promote the Forestry Profession 50 years ago. The aim was to organise regular networking events, field days and to support Foresters with information dissemination.

Although much has changed, and technology has improved immeasurably over the past 50 years, the SAIF is still promoting the Forestry Profession as the founder members envisioned.

May you enjoy this short trip down memory lane with a brief glance at an exciting future.

---

Message from the 2018 President of the SAIF

The President of the SAIF, Hannéf Ham with the Vice-President Wayne Jones
In May 1968 the commitment and dedication to professionalism of forestry graduates was realised when they founded the South African Institute of Forestry (SAIF) with the mission to assist members to achieve excellence in the practice of forestry, promote growth and sustainability in the industry and to be responsible custodians of a sensitive environment.

Fifty years later and these founders were invited by the new generation of members to a gathering that commemorated their vision and foresight to create an Institute for forestry professionals within Southern Africa.

Half a century of promoting Forestry as a Profession

In the beginning
The need to promote and strengthen the concept of forestry as a profession was driven by new innovations in the industry, such as improved species selection and better silvicultural techniques, which allowed private and public foresters from the 1940s to 1960s to expand large plantations of pines, eucalypt and wattle. The size of afforested areas in South Africa nearly doubled, from about 0.6-million ha in the mid-1940s to 1-million in 1968. There was rapid afforestation and shifts in the composition of plantation resources that led to considerable concern amongst both public and private water resource managers.

South African forestry graduates contributed greatly to the growing international body of knowledge on plantation forestry and its impacts on the ecosystems, particularly in catchment areas. They participated in all committees and research groups. An example is the Ministerial Interdepartmental Committee on Afforestation and Water Supplies, which reported in 1968 and informed South African forestry policies for the next 30 years. The report served to advance thinking about water resources and recommended...
multidisciplinary teams and linkages with universities and gave a clear mandate for research collaboration and the availability of financial and professional capacity, from about 1965 to 1995.

This flow of ideas and expertise through a larger network of relationships, in South Africa and at international conferences and universities, particularly in the late 1960s to the 1980s, generated a commitment to long term research and scientific development and the need for a professional home for foresters.

The inaugural meeting of the SAIF was held in Pietermaritzburg on 17 May 1968 and was attended by 49 forestry graduates from the University of Stellenbosch and what was then fondly known as the Saasveld College of Foresters, and which today is the Nelson Mandela University George Campus. The meeting adopted and approved the name South African Institute of Forestry (SAIF) / Suid Afrikaanse Instituut van Boswese (SAIB).

The first members of the SAIF were described as Founder Members and honoured in a list published in the South African Forestry Journal in September 1970 (page 28). The total number of Founder Members was 104 and 11 are still active members.

The main objectives of the Institute were as relevant then as they are now. These are to:
- Represent the profession of forestry
- Promote all aspects of forestry
- Improve the standards of practice in the professional and technical aspects of forestry
- Enhance the status of members and safeguard their interests.

Initially, the SAIF was created for forestry graduates from Stellenbosch University and Saasveld only. The membership increased to 120 by the first Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 19 May 1969 and it remained the domain of forestry graduates until 1972 when forestry consultants could join. Six years later non-forestry technical specialists were admitted. This resulted in the doubling of membership numbers from 120 to 240 by the end of 1978. Consultants were regularly graded and had to adhere to strict standards to remain a member. The amalgamation with the SA Foresters Association in 1996 further augmented the number of members.

Improving forestry as a profession

The organisation’s Council was tasked to continuously strengthen the professional status of foresters and they explored and initiated various affiliations with other councils and societies, including:
- The Habitat council
- Associated scientific and technical societies
- International Union of Forestry societies
- The Environmental Planning Professions Interdisciplinary Committee
- International Society of Tropical Foresters

The SAIF was actively involved in 1976 with the Malherbe reports on Forestry Education (one on universities and one on technical training), the report to the Forestry Council on Advanced Training in Forest Technology in 1982, and
Half a century of promoting Forestry...

Initiatives to promote forestry as a career choice. Members from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries were also invited and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) sponsored 10 members per country for a period of two years. This extended the Southern African membership base and the name was changed to the Southern Africa Institute of Forestry (SAIF).

Registration as a Scientific Society

Another example of the SAIF’s service to the South African forestry industry and the community at large was the publication of papers delivered at the technology transfer sessions of the 1988 Forestry Research Symposium. This was followed in 1991 when the SAIF organised the International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO) symposium on “Intensive Forestry: The role of Eucalyptus” in Durban. The SAIF was also a co-host of the 2007 International Certification Symposium and 2017 International Precision Forestry Symposium.

One of the original aims in creating the SAIF was statutory registration on a par with the engineering and medical professions. After a lengthy process, assisted by the Joint Council of Scientific Societies in 1976, registration for SAIF members, as natural scientists became a reality in 1982. Dr Diek van der Zel was the first to register as a natural scientist shortly after the South African National Council for Natural Scientists Professionals (SACNASP) came into being.

From the outset the SAIF was recognised by SACNASP and mentioned in the government regulations as a scientific society. Members could register as Natural Scientists (Forestry Scientists) and/or Forestry Technologists.

However, during 2008 Forestry Science was incorporated under Agricultural Science. The SAIF applied for re-registration of Forest Science as a separate discipline, which was finally approved in 2017.

In February 2018 the process of registering Forestry and Wood Sciences as a separate discipline was successful and published in the Government Gazette.

This means foresters can now register with SACNASP in the field of Forest and Wood Sciences, and the SAIF Council is engaging in negotiations for better privileges for SAIF members who are SACNASP registered.

Rewarding Excellence in Forestry

This extremely brief history of the SAIF describes how its many members have made invaluable personal contributions to the industry. Every year the Institute assesses and identifies remarkable contributions and awards individuals for their contributions.

The SAIF Awards and their 2018 recipients are:

- Forester of the Year floating trophy: Lunga Tshanisa of NCT
- Distinguished Forestry Award: Prof Michael Wingfield, Prof Klaus von Gadow and Roger Godsmark
- Dedicated Service Award: Robert Thompson
- Continuous Service Excellence Award: Dr Horst Kassier, Michael Howard and Prof Bernard Slippers
- Merit Award: Darryl Herron.

The SAIF is committed to rewarding excellence in forestry through its annual Awards programme. These awards acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding contributions of individuals in the field of forestry. This year’s recipients were announced at the SAIF AGM and Awards Night, and their achievements are highlighted in this supplement.

Congratulations to the South African Institute of Forestry on developing strong roots, cultivating lasting relationships and reaching 50 years! We are proud of our association and wish you well on your journey to the next milestone.
THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME TO GO GREEN!
DO IT NOW WITH BURSARIES IN WOOD PRODUCTS SCIENCE AND FORESTRY!

- **WOOD PRODUCTS SCIENCE**
  All you need is minimum 70% in Grade 12 Mathematics and 60% in Physical Science

- **FOREST SCIENCE AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**
  All you need is 60% in Grade 12 Mathematics and 50% in Physical Science

To join the green movement and for further information on applying, please contact: Mrs P. Gordon on tel: 021 808 3303 or email: mgor@sun.ac.za
For more information please visit: www.sun.ac.za/forestry
Membership is rewarding professionally and socially

On reflection it is difficult to believe that 50 years ago as a young graduate from Stellenbosch I was privileged to attend the founding meeting of the SAIF at the Pietermaritzburg Golf Club.

It was the start of a journey with the SAIF and my fellow compatriots that has been most rewarding. It is daunting to look at the names of those present at the inaugural meeting, seeing how many giants of our profession were there.

Over the years I have been honoured to serve the Institute in various capacities at both the Branch and National level. The countless activities of the Institute were rewarding from both a professional and social perspective.

At times the Institute was faced with challenges that tested us. One of the major changes that I was able to assist in bringing about was the decision to broaden membership and to allow non-forestry and non-university graduates to become full members. The SAIF has benefitted greatly from this.

There are many of our colleagues who have devoted a great deal of time and energy to the Institute. I think particularly of two of my class mates Doc Diek van der Zel and Willem Olivier. Amongst all involved we would not be where we are without our rock, Corine Viljoen. What a treasure she is.

Best wishes for the next 50 years and more.

Peter Keyworth

The Institute is my professional home

Fifty years ago, I arrived in South Africa as a young German speaking forester. The experiences in the indigenous forests, plantations, sawmills, catchments and conservation areas of this wonderful country, South Africa, as well as all the people involved in forestry made my life richer and fulfilled.

My first role model (only in forestry matters) Dr Fried von Breitenbach, introduced me to the “Forestry Institute” and since then I have been able to get an enormous amount of scientific and practical enrichment from the Institute itself and the colleagues and leaders of the industry.

Many colleagues and supervisors gave me tremendous guidance during my early years in forestry. I must mention particularly the late Wilson van der Merwe and Angus Wilson and later the most efficient Regional Director I ever had the pleasure to work for, At van der Dussen. Without their encouragement and help I would never have been able to enjoy the forestry challenges during my career.

The institute has been and is still my professional home and I hope and wish that it will be for many colleagues and forestry friends for many years to come, at least for the next 50 years.

Georg von dem Bussche
May the Institute of Forestry succeed in its many tasks, but, above all, in its tasks firstly of bringing forestry to the notice of the general public who in many cases is grossly misinformed and often completely ignorant of what this industry actually comprises. Secondly of inspiring our youth, both male and female, to take up forestry as a career and to assist in establishing an industry which will be the envy of all others.”

Prof GLF Hartwig (SAIF president 1970)

The Institute gives me status, gives me purpose, gives me enjoyment in my profession and contributes to making me a better forestry scientist.

There are so many existing and potential benefits associated with being a member of the Institute and I urge new foresters to join the organisation. I am proud to continue to contribute as a “silent mentor” by, for example, proofreading Willem Olivier’s There is honey in the Forest, and many more tiny contributions cementing us all together in One Happy Family.

Enjoy your membership to the full!

DokDiek van der Zel
Recognition of SAIF members is done on an annual basis in terms of various awards:

**Forester of the Year Floating Trophy**
The purpose of the award is to annually recognise individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to forestry practices or have improved the reputation of forestry in South Africa through their individual operational actions. The award aims to recognise a forester for a specific forestry practice or action, as opposed to cumulative achievements. The Award will be made for application of an economic, social or environmentally positive innovation or practice (plantation or natural forests) in general forestry in Southern Africa.

**Distinguished Forestry Award**
The purpose of the award is to give recognition to those contributions to or the application of forestry in southern Africa, which have been individual and outstanding. This is the highest award given by the Institute. The award will be made for pioneering and consistently outstanding achievement in a forestry-related field in southern Africa and the person must meet the criteria of measuring up to international standards, innovative thinking, be of benefit to the forestry community and enhance the status of the forestry profession.

**Dedicated Service Award**
The purpose of this award is to give recognition to members of the Institute for continuous and dedicated service to the SAIF over many years. Award will be made for excellent and dedicated service in one or more of the office-bearing positions within the Institute over a period of not less than five years. Nominations will be considered once a year and must be put forward.
and motivated via branches of the Institute. Nominations must be accompanied by a proper written motivation and submitted to the Council.

**Continuous Service Excellence Award**
The purpose of the award is to give recognition to individuals at all levels through the forestry industry in southern Africa for excellence in their field of expertise and to reward efforts towards continuous improvement. To be judged as outstanding, the achievement should include high economic impact, application of sound principles, sustainability of the improvement, innovation and application possibilities and dedication to implementation.

**Merit Award**
The purpose of the award is to give recognition to the work of young and deserving students within or outside the field of forestry in order to promote the forestry profession in southern Africa and its visibility and interests to a wider and important target audience. Awards will be made for outstanding final-year graduate projects, post-graduate projects or theses somehow related to the field of forestry.

**Scientific Writing Award**
The purpose of the award is to give recognition to the work of young and deserving students within or outside the field of forestry that promotes the forestry profession in southern Africa and its visibility and interests to a wider and important target audience. Awards will be made to any SAIF student member with up to date membership fees, who has achieved in the past five years or who is currently studying towards, an MSc, M, PhD or D degree, with post-graduate projects or theses related to the field of forestry. •
Inside the Institute

The Council
The SAIF Council consists of ten elected members who serve a two-year term. This includes the President, Vice-President and the Chairpersons for the branches who are elected by their branch members. The Past-President is also a member of the Council for an additional term.

The Institute is a non-government organisation (NGO) as well as a not-for-profit (NPO). Council members and Branch Committee members are all hardworking volunteers who serve pro bono whilst simultaneously holding down professional posts within the industry.

The Council appoints the Editor of the Southern Forests Journal, who reports to Council regarding journal related issues, and the National Secretary. Both the National Secretary and Journal Editor receive an annual stipend for services rendered. The branches are operated by an elected Chairperson, and international members are kept informed by the National Secretary.

The Branches
There are five Branches, six when the non-South African members are included:
- Gauteng
- KwaZulu-Natal
- Mpumalanga
- Western Cape
- Southern Cape and Eastern Cape

The KwaZulu-Natal Branch currently has the most members followed by the Western Cape. Despite branches being geographically widely distributed, membership numbers have been relatively constant over the years, indicating the loyalty of members.

Membership Categories
There are six membership categories:
- Full Members
  Hold a recognised forestry qualification and have at least three years’ experience in practicing forestry
- Scientific Members
  Full members who are also registered with SACNASP
- Associate Members
  Members working in the forestry profession for at least three years without a forestry qualification.
- Student Members
  Registered students studying towards a forestry degree or diploma
- Retired Members
  Members who have retired from the forestry industry

Together we achieve more
STIHL has a history dating back to the 1920s. One man’s vision of an engine driven two-man chainaw has expanded so that STIHL has become a global power tool leader that constantly invests in research and development and strives to continually enhance our technology. We understand the energy and commitment that it takes to bring about change. This is why STIHL is today a proud partner of the Southern African Institute of Forestry in its mission to improve and promote the industry where we have our roots. Congratulations SAIF on your 50th anniversary. We are with you all the way.

www.stihl.co.za
Friends of the institute:
Members with a distinct and active interest in forestry and the SAIF

Benefits of membership
Information is key and papers that are presented at international symposia, meetings or seminars, are available to members, as well as:
• SAIF monthly Newsletter
• Forestry sector monthly publication, Wood Southern Africa & Timber Times
• The scientific journal Southern Forests: A Journal of Forest Science
• Increased practical publications in various formats, such as the Fire Handbook and other new Handbooks
• Annual calendar
• Annual photographic competition
• SACNASP facilitation
• National and Branch events
• Social media platforms
• Bursaries
• Representation at various organisations including: SACNASP, Habitat Council, Commonwealth Forestry Association, NSTF, NMU and SU Advisory Boards, ISTF, S2A3, and the Dendrology Society of South Africa.

SAIF Branches offer field trips, quiz nights, conferences, open discussions and are perfect for networking and building lasting friendships.
Currently we are seeing a change in the forest landscape and profile of foresters,” says Hannéél Ham, the President of the SAIF. “Forestry is not practiced only by qualified foresters but also by engineers, economists, small growers, and others because increasingly, land planted to forestry is also used for other purposes.”

Throughout the history of the SAIF, relations with the larger forestry companies have been very good. The Council is committed to maintaining and strengthening these relationships through regular contact and collaboration. However, the forestry professional of the future might not be a traditionally trained forester who delivers a standard pulp or timber product by following a defined recipe from a textbook. It may be someone who will grow a specialist product on land belonging to a variety of owners, guided by high levels of technology.

“Change is our biggest challenge and emphasises the question we look at during every Council meeting: How can we align ourselves with the changing landscape and achieve our short and long-term goals?”

The main aim of the SAIF remains “To assist members in achieving excellence in the practice of forestry, to promote growth, to sustain stability in the industry and to be responsible as custodians of a sensitive environment”. The Council is mindful of all the new challenges and regularly reviews the value proposition of the institute so that we can identify, understand and align our service with the members’ needs and thereby remain relevant and excellent.

“Recent short-term goals include improving communication with our members by means of the monthly electronic newsletter, and publications like the Southern Forest Journal. In addition, we have appointed a Social Media Champion to drive the utilisation of social media channels such as Twitter, Instagram and Facebook,” says Hannéél.

Long-term goals include developing a collaborative agreement between the SAIF and the International Network of Forestry Associations. This will supplement benefits members with exchange programmes, bursaries, and interactive events. The SAIF was nominated and invited to join in August 2017 and the details of this collaboration are currently being discussed.

The SAIF is committed to assist its forestry members, the forest industries value chain, and the public at large, to broaden their knowledge and to improve the profile of the SAIF. “We invite and welcome your support and encourage you to attend events, represent the SAIF on various forums, participate in branch events and serve on the Council,” comments Hannéél.
Many SAIF members have become ambassadors for the organisation. This map of the world is an indication of where some of the current members are working. Members are encouraged to keep in touch with the Institute so that their membership details are up to date and also to assist with networking and technology transfer.

The staff of Wood SA & Timber Times congratulate SAIF on their 50th anniversary and look forward to the next 50 years.

This Supplement is brought to you by:

Editor:
Joy Crane
joy@woodsaa.co.za
082 330 0777

Advertising manager:
Mickey Petersen
mickey@woodsaa.co.za
082 321 0371

Production:
Johan Malherbe

Graphic Designer:
Antoinette J.v Rensburg

Published and Distributed by the proprietor:
Malnor (Pty) Limited
10 Judges Ave, Cresta
Johannesburg

Private Bag X20,
Auckland Park
2006

Tel: 011 726 3081

Website:
www.woodsaa.co.za
CONSISTENT INNOVATION
AND QUALITY
plus
PREMIER PERFORMANCE
AND DURABILITY

The professionals’ choice

STIHL cutting-edge chainsaws and professional grade power tools are based on a legacy dating back to 1926, and today we are proud to be the world’s largest-selling chainsaw brand. Our success is based on consistent innovation and quality plus premier performance and durability. Follow the lead of professionals and choose STIHL.

Like any superior item, STIHL products are only available at specialist dealers nationwide, for expert advice and mismatchless after sales service.

HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY
SAIF

www.stihl.co.za