

*Best wishes for you and your loved ones during the Christmas  
and festive season*



*Seënwense vir u en u geliefdes tydens die Kerstyd en fees  
seisoen*



Geagte lede

## SEËNWENSE EN KANTOOR SLUITING

Ons het weereens aan die einde van nog 'n jaar gekom wat soos 'n oogwink verby gesnel het. 'n Jaar wat menige uitdagings en probleme gebring het waarvan sommige vir 'n geruime tyd nog met ons mag wees. Ons weet dat die lede wat in die kreosoot bedryf is weens die heersende tekorte, presies sal weet waarna ons verwys. Op die oog-af was dit ook nie net alles negatief nie en ek glo baie sal saamstem dat die jaar ook 'n positiewe sy gehad het. Die houtverduursamingsbedryf kan terugkyk op 'n jaar wat daarop dui dat die totale volumes wat behandel is, positiewe groei teenoor 2010 getoon het. Ons mik om die 2011 statistieke so teen die middel van die eerste kwartaal te publiseer and is hoopvol dat dit wel positief sal wees.

Ons wil graag van die geleentheid gebruik maak om al ons lede 'n gelukkige feesseisoen, geseënde Kersfees en 'n hartlike nuwe jaar toe te wens. Die wat tydens hierdie tye op die paaie gaan wees, moet asseblief versigtig en veilig reis.

Neem asseblief kennis dat SAWPA se kantore reeds die 15<sup>de</sup> Desember sluit en eers weer op die 9<sup>de</sup> Januarie 2012 sal oopmaak.

## SAWPA 2012 KALENDER

Die tema vir die 2012 muurkalender is buitemuurse dekke. Ons het die kalenders uitgestuur en ons vertrou dat lede reeds hulle eksemplare ontvang het. Laat weet ons indien u nie een ontvang het nie. As deel van die jaarlikse promosieveldtog van SAWPA en sy lede het ons soos gewoonlik ook kalenders reg oor Suid Afrika aan argitekte, grasdakkontrakteurs, koöperasies, ens., gestuur.

## VOORGESTELDE WYSIGINGS T.O.V SANS STANDAARDE

Die konsep wysigings van SANS 1288, SANS 754 en SANS 457-3 is reeds opgestel is of reeds gesirkuleer of sal binnekort gesirkuleer word aan die tegniese komitee. Dit sal dan ook aan alle SAWPA lede gestuur word wat by die behandeling van die produkte betrokke is wat binne die bestek van die standaard val. Lede word versoek om op die uitkyk te wees vir die e-pos kennisgewings en indien u kommentaar het dit aan SAWPA

te stuur met meegaande motiverings binne die tyd aangedui. Na gelang van die kommentaar ontvang sal SAWPA dan 'n amptelike stem met kommentaar aan die SABS TC218 sekretariaat stuur. Neem asseblief kennis dat die sluitingsdatum vir SANS 1288 reeds die 15de Desember is en dat indien u enige kommentaar daarop het dit teen die 9de Desember aan SAWPA moet stuur. Die sluitingsdatums vir die ander twee standaarde sal tussen middel en einde Januarie wees en sal in die e-pos kennisgewings aangedui wees wat ons sal uitstuur.

## NUUSBROKKIES

- Nuuswaardige gebeurtenisse/aktiwiteite/berigte: SAWPA doen 'n beroep op lede om ons in kennis te stel van enige nuuswaardige gebeurtenis, aktiwiteit waarby lede betrokke is bv., nuwe interessante projekte waarvan u bewus of betrokke is as verskaffer, kontrakteur, bydraer ens. Ons beoog om die inligting as nuusberigte in die SAWPA nuusbriewe te gebruik om lede in te lig oor interessantheite in die bedryf. Die berigte kan dan self ook in die Wood Foundation nuusbriewe gebruik word om ander geassosieerde bedrywe se lede in te lig oor dit waarby ons lede in die plaaslike verduursamingsbedryf betrokke is.
- Aangeheg is 'n uitstekende berig uit die Oktober SA Forestry Magazine getiteld ***“How Long is a piece of string? (or how much water does a gum tree use?)”***. Ek glo die onderwerp sal baie lede interesseer aangesien baie van ons voortdurend gekonfronteer word met die vraag waarvoor ons nie altyd 'n eenvoudige maar duidelike antwoord het nie. Hierdie berig sal u van die nodige antwoorde voorsien.
- Lede wat toegang tot die internet het kan na die volgende kort filmuittreksel ***“Wood – Nature's stroke of genius”*** kyk by die skakel hierna gegee. Dit stel die feite reg oor sekere verkeerde en negatiewe persepsies oor bosbou en die gebruik van hout. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRwA291NAuM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRwA291NAuM)
- Besoeke aan SAWPA se webtuiste was gedurende Oktober en November onderskeidelik 17 285 en 22 497 gewees.

### BRUCE BREEDT

SAWPA aanvaar geen verantwoordelikheid vir enige stellings wat in die nuusbriewe gemaak is nie.



## How long is a piece of string? (or how much water does a gum tree use?)



by Dave Dobson

It's early in the morning and I am serving my penance for trying to come up with a glib answer to a question from the editor of this fine magazine!

Roger Godsmark of Forestry South Africa got very excited recently when he came across an article in the Business Day stating that "unlike bamboo's 2 litres/day, eucalyptus trees use up to 200 litres/day". When editor Chris Chapman asked me how much water a gum tree actually uses, my facetious reply was 'how long is a piece of string'? Not a very clever answer, as he then asked me to explain myself in writing! Still, it got me thinking. More specifically, if I drove from Pietermaritzburg to Cape Town and told you I used 125 litres of fuel it wouldn't tell you how well I drove, but if I told you my fuel consumption was 8 litres per 100 kms it immedi-



ately gives an indication. The public debate around water use by gum trees is rather similar. Does the 200 litres/day that gum trees allegedly use refer to use by a single tree or by one hectare of trees? Can the water use by gum trees be compared with water used to produce other crops? How long is this piece of string?

There are plenty of academic articles written on water use by trees, but if you are like me, I start getting nervous when the authors start using terms like 'standard deviations' and 'coefficients' of variance.' In this day of tweeting and sound bites we need something short and pithy to make an impression. (That is why 200 litres/day sticks.)

My starting point in figuring out just how much water a gum tree uses, was a comment years ago made by Dolf Schonau, that the limiting factor in plantation growth in this country was moisture. The question then arises whether gum trees growing in the super drained soils at Eston producing a yield of 100 tons of fibre per hectare use the same amount of moisture as say gum trees growing at Boscombe and producing 220 tons of fibre per hectare. Obviously the answer is no, it is not possible. The amount of moisture available to the trees on each of these two sites is very different and this is reflected in their growth. So how does one come up with a comparison?

I then recalled a conversation with Peter Roberts, a past Director of the ICFR and a forest industry water guru. I had seen an article which listed some interesting figures providing global average water use requirements to produce some of the staples we eat, for example rice, wheat, potatoes and sugar. He kindly offered to extend the list for me but then being a true scientist started talking of 'blue water'

and 'green water'. My brain went into academic freeze! Still, Peter is a patient man and he quietly talked me through my panic! Blue water, by the way, refers to runoff and green water to evapo-transpiration. He then produced the following table for me, which I duly scribbled down. It is this table which produced the eureka moment and enabled me to come up with a comparable and sensible water use for the gum tree.

The numbers are based on 'blue water' i.e. runoff reduction, which is the yardstick used for water consumption for commercial forests.

So maybe this is the figure (36 litres/1 kg fibre) we should be using in our comparisons. It makes sense and puts the water use debate into some perspective.

Now, as I mentioned at the beginning of this exercise, I started early, so it's time for some breakfast. How about that bacon and eggs with toast and a little butter. Perhaps add a glass of fruit juice. Hmm... and the water required to produce such a meal? You can do the sums yourself! ■

### Comparative water uses

Water requirement (litres)	To produce
22	1 serving of lettuce
36	1 kg eucalypt fibre
53	1 orange
200	1 kg rice
250	1 pint milk
450	1 egg
500	1 kg potatoes
550	1 loaf bread
780	1 litre of fruit juice
18 000	1 kg butter

## Constraints, challenges and opportunities

**"We've got the money – we need the right projects to fund" – IDC's Manoj Seonath**

An IDC-hosted meeting between stakeholders of the forestry and wood product sectors identified a number of constraints and challenges, but also a host of exciting opportunities for those prepared to view the glass as 'half-full' rather than 'half-empty'.

The South African forestry and wood products value chain is faced with a number of constraints and challenges, but these simply have to be overcome in order to take advantage of the opportunities that are there for the taking.

This was the gist of the discussion at a workshop hosted by the Industrial Development Corporation's KwaZulu-Natal office, attended by representatives from the forestry, sawmilling, furniture and paper manufacturing sectors.

Roger Godsmark of Forestry SA identified land reform as the biggest challenge facing the forestry sector. He said that government would not be funding any new projects, and that any available funds would be used to recapitalise failed land reform projects.

He said that currently, there was more land lost to forestry than was being replaced by new afforestation, which was hampered by lengthy and costly licencing applications and other policy impediments.

Meanwhile, he said MTO was battling to get permits to plant those areas that were supposed to be taken out of forestry as part of Safcol's excision policy.

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