

Dear Members,

## “Wish-List”

It was agreed at the recent Executive Committee meeting, that SAWPA ask members to suggest ideas for various projects which our members would like to see SAWPA contribute to, including research needs, promotional opportunities and social responsibility projects. One such proposal already received, was for SAWPA to contribute towards the supply of energy-efficient wood burning stoves which will be distributed among the informal catering industry. You will recall that we reported in earlier newsletters of the study done by UCT in certain urban and peri-urban areas in the Western Cape that showed the occurrence and exposure of wood preservative chemicals from the burning of wood off-cuts and waste scavenged of the landfill and building sites. This proposal along with the warning brochures currently being developed by SAWPA and specifically aimed at the informal caterers would hopefully contribute towards eliminating the burning of waste wood off-cuts. Send your suggestions for the “wish-list” to SAWPA so that we could draw up the list and get the process of identifying the priority projects started.

## Latest Substantive Wage Agreement

The latest wage agreement for the Sawmilling Chamber (to which preservative treatment plants also belong following a CCMA ruling in 2009), was signed on the 17<sup>th</sup> of August 2012. The agreement is effective backdating from the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2012 to the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2013. In summary, it has been agreed that wages shall be increased by 7% across the board, with the new minimum wage now set at R 1 910.00 per month. The substantive agreement also gives the specifics on other conditions of employment agreed to, such as shift allowances, leave, annual bonuses etc. A complete version of the substantive agreement can be obtained from SAWPA and is available on the SAWPA website by following the following route, “Information”>“Topical and Safety Issues”, and then under information on the Bargaining Council for the Wood and Paper Sector click on “Substantive Agreement .....”.

## Creosote imports – Caution

Members will be aware of various offers of imported creosote being made in the industry by foreign companies interested in supplying creosote to the industry to make up for the severe shortages experienced. Even though some of these interested parties have been in contact with SAWPA and possibly various other stakeholders whom have consulted them on the regulatory requirements pertaining to approving their products for the local market, i.e. certification compliance to SANS 616, and registration with the Registrar of Act 36 of 1947, we would caution members to ensure that any “new” creosote product offered to you fully complies and has the necessary verification documentation to prove it. We are aware that various single samples have already been offered to the certification bodies for initial sample approval and that overwhelming majority of the samples failed to comply with the requirements of SANS 616 types 2 or 3 as required. Also note that should any sample offered for initial type testing comply with the requirements, then the test report on that sample only relates to that specific sample/specimen tested and not any other part or volume of product/s, unless it clearly states so, i.e. that the sample is representative of a specific consignment and was sampled by an independent and neutral reputable third party. Test reports relating to single small samples only does not allow the holder to supply creosote unless it has gone through the full process of approval, i.e. DAFF registration and third party testing and certification.

## Dolphin Bay Chemicals joins SAWPA



It is with great pleasure that SAWPA announces that, on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012, Dolphin Bay joined SAWPA as a chemical manufacturer member. SAWPA now has 100% (5/5) of the wood preservative chemical suppliers in South Africa as members. SAWPA also represents 72% (85/118) of certified treatment plants in South Africa.

## Transnet eyes bigger slice of agriculture market

State-owned transport group, Transnet, has launched a new business unit to focus on the agriculture sector, CEO Transnet CEO Brian Molefe said at an Agribusiness Indaba recently. The new business unit, which would start operations soon, would consolidate less-than-trainload products through hubs along its rail network. It also aimed to improve hub-to-hub service offerings. Transnet currently carried about three-million tons of agricultural goods on rail – down from the nine-million tons a year in 1994. It aimed to position itself to move 130-million tons of the future agricultural demand by 2041.

Molefe told delegates at the gathering, in Sandton, that the overall transportation of agricultural products, such as sugarcane, in South Africa was expected to jump from the current 86-million tons a year, to 110,5 million tons a year by 2021 and 182,4-million tons a year by 2041. He said Transnet would increase the capacity of its general freight business division, under which agricultural transportation falls, to 170-million tons from 80-million tons, through the acquisition of relevant rolling stock and the upgrading of its rail infrastructure over the next seven years. This formed part of Transnet's R300-million infrastructure investment programme over the next seven years. Molefe pointed out that most freight was moved by road owing to the parastatal's lack of capacity and decline in agricultural-adapted rolling stock.

(Ref: "June/July Newsletter" of the SA Institute of Forestry)

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## Talking Rot

- SAWPA recently gave presentations on wood preservation at a seminar in Zimbabwe, a lecture at Tshwane University of Technology and a workshop of the Master Builders Association KZN. We will continue to seek opportunities where we can take part and promote and educate a wider audience on wood preservation. Please let us know if you have knowledge of any such opportunities.
- WoodEX for Africa exhibition will again be held in 2013 and is being planned from the 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2013. SAWPA will again be there to represent and promote our members and wood preservation. Should you wish to be an exhibitor as well, contact [stephan@woodexforafrica.com](mailto:stephan@woodexforafrica.com) or [philip@woodexforafrica.com](mailto:philip@woodexforafrica.com).
- The auction enclosure in Beeld newspaper of Friday 7 Sept ran an advertorial of an auction to be held on 20 Sept of a plantation farm outside Nelspruit situated on the R37 Sudwala Road, of 2 012 hectares. The farm includes 1 244 hectares of eucalyptus plantations ranging from 2 to 7 years old, a CCA treatment plant, etc. For more information contact Van's Auctioneers at 086 111 8267 or go to [www.vansauctions.co.za](http://www.vansauctions.co.za)
- SAWPA wishes to establish a data base of environmental consultants/specialists. Members are requested to forward the contact details of such consultants, which they have used in their areas, to [sawpa@global.co.za](mailto:sawpa@global.co.za).
- Please find attached an article on "Nanotechnology new frontier in US wood preservation research" which makes for interesting reading.
- The long awaited 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the South African Forestry Handbook has been published and was officially launched at the SAIF AGM on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July. For more information on the handbook visit the SAIF website [www.saif.co.za](http://www.saif.co.za)
- Hits to the SAWPA website during the month of May, June and July were 45880, 32370 and 35705 respectively.

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SAWPA accepts no responsibility for any claim made in this newsletter.