

# Newsletter 189

28 May 2014

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Dear Members,

## WOODEX 2014



WoodEX for Africa is just around the corner and will be held this year from the 5 to 7 June at the Gallagher Exhibition Centre in Midrand. SAWPA will for the third year be hosting a stand to promote our industry and the use of preservative treated timber. Please visit us at our stand. For those intending to visit, please find attached an electronic invitation. Click on the footer of this invitation to register free of charge for the event.

## 2014 IRGWP 45 CONFERENCE

I had the privilege to attend the 45<sup>th</sup> annual International Research Group on Wood Protection Conference hosted in St George, Utah from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of May. The IRG membership is a structured group of likeminded scientists and technologists focused on generating knowledge of the science of protecting wood and wood based materials. This year's conference was attended by 215 delegates from 31 different Nations and a total number of 109 papers were submitted and presented. The conference starts off with a plenary session and then proceeds in two parallel sessions consisting of various working parties dealing with:

*Microbial test methodology*

*Chemical/Physical analysis*

*Insect biology and testing*

*Performance – Lab &Field tests*

*Prediction of service life*

*Organic Preservatives*

*Wood composites, WPC's and engineered wood products*

*Coatings, hydrophobic treatments and surface aspects*

*Soft rot and bacteria/bluestain and moulds*

*Treating processes and treatability of timber*

*Environment and sustainability*

*Inorganic Preservatives*

*Thermal wood modification*

*Chemical wood modification*

*Natural durability*

*New wood protecting chemicals*

*Advances in molecular techniques*

*Bacidiomycetes*

Since the use of timber in the railroad and bridge construction industry is rather substantive a special seminar session on "Protecting railway sleepers and bridge timbers" was also held.

The following are just some of the many interesting papers that were delivered over the four days:

- IRG/WP 14-20556 Cost effective extension of service life of bridges (sleepers) – Effectively applying borate during Boulton conditioning and treatment with copper naphthenate*
- IRG/WP 14-30647 Copper naphthenate treatment of wood crossties and timbers*
- IRG/WP 14-40686 Borate treatment of green ties: and initial report on mechanical properties*
- IRG/WP 14-30644 Creo-sub New Protection technology to substitute creosote in railway sleepers, timber bridges and utility poles*
- IRG/WP 14-20549 On-site remediation treatments for framing timber in leaky buildings*
- IRG/WP 14-40658 The resistance of Accoya® and Tricoya® to attack by wood-destroying fungi and termites*
- IRG/WP 14-40668 Performance of some wood modification treatments against marine borers*
- IRG/WP 14- 50305 Practical extraction of metals from CCA-treated wood*
- IRG/WP 14-50307 Laboratory study of relative leachability of CCA preservative from buried treated woods among soil types of Sarawak*
- IRG/WP 14-50301 Potential for migration from fused boron rods used as internal remedial treatments of utility poles*
- IRG/WP 14-40670 Encapsulation system combined with DOT Borate treatments – The future of treated crossties*

Members interested in obtaining any of the above papers or a full list of all the papers delivered can contact SAWPA. The IRGWP 46 will be hosted in Viña del Mar, Chile from 10 to 14 May 2015.

## 2013 INDUSTRY STATISTICS

Our sincerest apologies to the wood preservation industry in total for not meeting the end of March target deadline of publishing the 2013 South African wood preservation industry statistics. Unfortunately the reason for the delay was out of SAWPA's control and mainly because of difficulty obtaining the data of processing plants from mostly one specific geographical region. We however remain positive and hope to have the final 2013 stats available before the end of June.

## SENIOR LEGAL OPINION SEEKED ON LIABILITY

Following a request raised at one of the regional meetings held in March, the SAWPA Executive Committee has agreed that SAWPA obtain a senior legal opinion on whom and to what level different parties can be held liable for substantive failures of preservative treated timber. The reason for obtaining the legal opinion is purely based on the absence of a test case which has seen out the legal battle in a court of law. The legal opinion must include various scenarios to cater for different reasons or possible causes that may have led to the treated timber failing. The Executive Committee recommended that I seek the opinion of a specialist legal practitioner that has assisted SAWPA in the past in national workshops regarding the "new" Consumer Protection Act. I have met with him for a briefing on what we seek and he has agreed to assist with the legal opinion. The next step will be to supply him with a detailed briefing of all the various possible scenarios.

## TALKING ROT

- Hits to the SAWPA website during February, March and April 2014 were 60345, 61060 and 56554 respectively.
- Remember to re-order your safety warning labels from Sue, free of charge. It is recommended that at least 10% of all treated timber dispatched from your plant must be labelled prior to despatch.
- In 2006, Rosemary Rudd published a book entitled "South African Timber Buildings". Should any of you wish to obtain a copy of this book, please do not hesitate to contact her on [rosemaryrudd@iafrica.com](mailto:rosemaryrudd@iafrica.com).
- Due to a number of complaints received through the ITFB and SAWLFA regarding strong odours in LOSP treated wooden flooring in homes in the Western Cape, SAWPA has published an LOSP Information Sheet. It is available on our website for download, under "Safety".
- Please find attached an article published in the SA Forestry magazines April 2014 edition, entitled "Cape Timber suppliers on a short fuse."

### BRUCE BREEDT

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



#### Widest Trunk

El Árbol del Tule  
Oaxaca, Mexico

Diameter: 11.62 m (38.1 ft)

#### Oldest (single-clonal)

Old Tjikko  
Dalarna, Sweden

9,550 years old

#### Oldest (non-clonal)

Methuselah  
Inyo County, California

4,845 years old

#### Biggest

General Sherman  
Tulare County, California

1,385 tons

#### Tallest

Hyperion  
California

115.6 m  
379' 4"

ILTWMT  [iliketowastemytime.com/2012/10/01/oldest-tallest-and-biggest-trees-in-world](http://iliketowastemytime.com/2012/10/01/oldest-tallest-and-biggest-trees-in-world)

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