



Palmetto Woodturner



April 2006

Message from the President

CHAIN SAW SAFETY (Part 1)

Now that we are interested in [woodturning](#), we need to harvest wood for our turnings. So, this is a good time to talk about chain saw safety.

Do you know approximately what percentage of all woods accidents in a year are typically the result of a chain saw cut? 30%

Do you know how fast a chain saw blade can move at full throttle?

45MPH

Do you know which age group of operators is at the greatest risk of injury? **Younger Operators**

Do you know how many of all chain saw accidents could be prevented? **Almost all of them**

As the saw operator, YOU are the most important factor of your own safety.

Know your saw and how to operate it before you use it. Read and follow all the instructions that come with your owner's manual.

Take the time to prepare for the job. (Sharpen and tension your chain) Practice! Begin with logs on which you can make trial cuts to get the feel of your saw and the way it handles.

Never work alone. Be at least within yelling distance of help.

Clothing

Proper personal protective equipment is as important in reducing the risk of injury as knowing the operating limitations of your saw. Your clothing should be well fitted and free of dangling or ragged edges that could become entangled in either the saw or brush. Specialized protective clothing is available and includes protective chaps. These chaps are made from synthetic fabrics that are designed to prevent the moving saw chain from coming in contact with your legs.

A hard hat with a non-fogging vented face screen along with safety glasses will help prevent injury from flying chips or a chain that may break off and fly toward your face.

Heavy-duty gloves will protect your hands from abrasions, cuts and splinters.

Ear muffs or ear plugs and sturdy boots complete your safety apparel.

Dates to Remember

April 1 - Palmetto Woodturners Meeting with demonstration by Leon Thomas. Board meets offsite following the meeting.

April 1 - Jury of Exhibition Pieces for Lexington County Library Exhibit.

April 1 - "A Day At The Lathe" presented by The Southern Piedmont Woodturners in Concord, NC. Woodturning featuring Nick Cook, Bobby Clemmons, and Chris Ramsey.

April 28-30 - Southern States VI Symposium in Gainesville, GA.

May 1 -31 - Palmetto Woodturners Exhibition at Lexington County Library Main Branch.

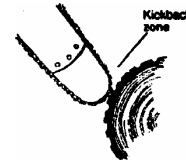
Kickback

What is kickback? Kickback is one of the greatest chain saw hazards. It occurs when a force throws the saw rapidly and sometimes uncontrollably back towards you. It is a very violent and sudden motion, which can severely or fatally injure you. Kickback usually occurs when the upper tip of the guide bar touches an object or when the wood closes in and pinches the saw chain. Safety chain may minimize the hazard, but will not eliminate the possibility of kickback.

Avoid situations like these that may cause kickback



Blade nose strikes another object



Improper starting of bore



Top or blade nose touches bottom or side of kerf during reinsertion

The chain saw is an essential tool for the woodturner, and one that can be used safely. I will address other chain saw issues in future issues of the *Palmetto Woodturner*. Follow the rules for safe use, and you'll happily cut bowl blanks for many years to come.

Thank you to the Virginia Cooperative Extension and the University Extension of the University of Missouri-Columbia for providing information and statistics for this article.

This excerpt from the Palmetto Woodturner is reproduced courtesy of the Palmetto Woodturners Club in Columbia, SC and thanks to Jim Duxbury who spoke to them recently and brought a copy back.