

## **William (Woody) Johnson, Jr**

Woody grew up on a tobacco farm in eastern North Carolina and was always involved in some form of woodwork, repair, or assisting in the construction of new projects around the farm, even occasionally working on a few of his own designs. His first encounter with wood turning was in the local high school workshop as a freshman at the age of 13. His second encounter with woodturning was three years later in the high school. From that point forward it was a hit and miss opportunity to engage in wood turning as life in the fast lane took over. However, that never really stopped him from the desire to return to wood turning on a more serious note.

Woody finally saw his chance to return to wood turning about two years before “formal” retirement in 2016. After moving back to Virginia and settling into his home, he began to explore the local area and joined several wood turning clubs and the American Association of Woodturners.

Woody began to rapidly began to participate in numerous wood turning classes and workshops with both internationally and nationally known professional turners including the likes of Jimmy Clewes, Mike Sorge, Al Stirt, Stuart Batty, Donna Banfield, Mark Sfirri and others.

Like other wood turners before him, Woody has worked to improve his skills by mentoring with Don Maloney of Bluemont, VA; well know turners in the Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C. area. Additionally, this camaraderie of wood turning has included Dave Swiger and fellow wood turners as we often meet on each Tuesday to turn and discuss various turning efforts, processes and projects that may be on the horizon.

Woody regards his time spent both at the lathe and in the planning/execution phase (turning and finishing) of different projects as well spent. He leans on what has been done and learned before him, what the current trend might be, and the thoughts and ideas of colleagues as he starts new projects. Everyday items around us present us a plethora of turning ideas, some to be explored and used, some to be stored for future efforts, and some to be tossed. Woody enjoys the creative processes and free thinking associated with wood turning where turners freely share their experiences and ideas. He is currently ma member of the Mid-Maryland Woodturning Club and t



he Catoctin Area Turners.