W. Custer Smith

In 1952 High school, I was introduced to the lathe although the instructor knew little of wood turning I knew I enjoyed making the desk lamp. I attended Berry College at Rome GA for over two years majoring in industrial arts. I joined the Marine reserve and attended drills on weekends. I left school got married, and obtained a position with General electric as a draftsman designing electrical transformers. After five years I secured a position with Martin Marietta in Orlando as a draftsman. I also became a father. I also received my honorable discharge from the marines that same year. After thirty four years I retired from Lockheed Martin as a department head in microelectronic and held a top secret security clearance. I also received my master's degree while working and going to night school. During that time I helped design the guidance system for Apollo moon landing. I also designed equipment to fabricate parts and made parts that required accuracy of less than ten times smaller than human hair. It was about twenty years after I first touched a lathe before I had access to a shop smith and a few basic turning tools. I made a floor lamp. And several small items.

After retirement in 1995 I joined the Central Florida Wood Turners club where I learned how turning tools should be used. I have had my turned wood art shown at the Orlando Museum of Art. The University of Central Florida. The Alachua Library system, and I have shown and demonstrated wood turning at the Orlando Central Florida Fair. I have written articles for an international as well as national wood turning magazines.