

Greg Stehle Woodturning Bio

I just retired from a career as an Engineer and Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt in the Aerospace, Automotive and Medical industries. I have been doing some form of woodworking since starting in my late teens in my parent's basement. Today I am blessed to have a good sized, well equipped shop thanks to the support of my wife Kathy.

Kathy actually got me started in woodturning in a serendipitous way. She had gone to Woodcraft to sign up for a scroll saw class and saw a flyer for WNT that said members received a 10% discount there. We were spending enough at Woodcraft to have a net benefit from the membership so she sent in the membership form. In the meantime, she signed up for a bowl turning class at Woodcraft, and shortly after we bought our first lathe, a Jet 16-42. Kathy started receiving the club newsletter, and come December 2014 we decided to attend the club Christmas party.

We were amazed at the pieces that were auctioned at the Christmas party, and we really enjoyed the fellowship, so we decided to start attending the meetings, with me as the spouse in tow. In July 2015 I joined the club, and haven't looked back. Since that time, I have taken in-person turning instruction at the Homestead in Elm Mott, from John Horn, Jimmy Clewes, Stuart Batty and Nick Cook. I have also attended numerous demos at SWAT, the annual AAW symposium, and online.

The demos and in-person instruction taught me something about technique, but viewing the galleries at SWAT and the AAW, and art shows and art galleries taught me about form and alternative materials. I saw my first segmented piece at SWAT and was so fascinated that I launched into creating segmented pieces with the help of Malcolm Tibbetts's book and videos. I happened to see a turned OSB piece at the Cottonwood Arts festival a few years ago, and although it was interesting, I thought I could do better. I bought a 4'x8' sheet of OSB from Lowes for around \$20 and started making bowls and hollow forms. Perhaps because of the Engineer in me I liked the idea of planning and building a piece up, as opposed to searching for the almighty big, monolithic, perfect piece of beautifully figured wood that would make my work look great!

Since starting segmenting and OSB projects, I have added urethane casting, and alabaster turning to my project materials. I still enjoy simple bowl turning, and recently have been working on expanding my knowledge and abilities with finishes.

I believe that if you really love doing something it is not a hobby, so when people ask me if I have any hobbies, I prefer to say I really love woodturning!

