

Harriet Maloney - Woodturning



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Harriet, who helped her husband, Don, in his architectural woodturning business for many years was taught by her husband and has now been doing artistic woodturning for about 10 years. She is a retired licensed land surveyor and worked for the Virginia Outdoors Foundation for 12 years. Harriet also sells her work at the Aldie Mill Art Show, Burwell Morgan Mill Art Show, and Franklin Park Center for the Performing Arts. Her pieces are for sale at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley in Winchester, VA, Bluemont Vineyard and the Firehouse Gallery and Shop in Berryville, VA. Harriet is one of the founding members of the soon to be opened Gateway Gallery and Gift

Shop which will be located west of the town of Round Hill at one of the best known tourist stops Hill High Orchards which dates back to a favorite stop for D.C. residents out for a weekend in the country. Harriet always accompanies her husband to the national and some local woodturning symposiums where she finds much to learn from watching demonstrations by national and internationally recognized woodturners. This has also given them both the opportunity to build a small collection of works by some of these recognized artists and to buy exotic woods to use in their turnings along with our beautiful native woods. Harriet is also active in the Capital Area Woodturners, Apple Valley Woodturners and the Catoclin Area Turners. Harriet finds it rewarding to provide turnings to be auctioned off for charitable purposes. Harriet's work was recently recognized in a hard cover book titled Reflections of Clarke County Virginia featuring over 100 area artists.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

After my husband began his architectural woodturning business I decided to try my hand at turning wooden bowls. I always loved wood but never had the opportunity to work with it other than having built several houses. Don felt I had a talent so when I had time I would turn a few pieces which we began taking to fairs. Because I was working full time it was not until a few years ago that I began to expand my woodturning. When I work with wood I prefer it to be as natural as possible. I do not color my wood. I love the natural color and grain. These characteristics help shape the outcome and purpose of the piece. I have had no formal training in either woodturning or art. I was raised and lived most of my life in Round Hill, VA. None of this was available when I was in school and working and raising 4 children left no room or money to pursue this. However, with a good teacher (my self-trained husband) I began to produce pieces which were admired and purchased.



What determines the outcome of the piece you are turning? Much is determined by the size of the piece, its hardness (or softness), density, flaws (which can add to its artistic quality) as well as what happens



during the turning. A mistake which sends a chunk flying can not only completely change your original design idea but often results in a more desirable piece. It is the wood itself which may have a great influence on the finished piece. Although I hope to learn to do a little carving to enhance some pieces, especially wood which is very bland, I still prefer to keep it as natural as possible. My pieces can be enhanced by keeping and working with flaws (including large holes) and especially using the natural edge (outside edge of the tree including bark). This kind of work is my favorite. I prefer variety. I turn anything from pens (seldom) and wine

bottle stoppers to large (2 feet in diameter) platters and wall hangings.