

Frederick Williamson, Woodturner

Frederick Williamson has been a full time woodworker since college. He has been self-employed since 1973 and mostly self-taught, with the added education of four workshops taken at the Cedar Lakes Conference Center in West Virginia, three on furniture 1979-1983 and, significantly, one on bowl turning with David Ellsworth in 1985. He has shown custom furniture and fine bowls at select local craft shows and a few galleries, focusing solely on bowls since 1997. He finds turning bowls straight from the log the most satisfying of all, allowing him to work with the wide range of our excellent local hardwoods. No two are exactly alike, and he is able to exercise spontaneity and judgment in shaping each piece. He works on a heavy homemade lathe designed solely for bowl turning, and uses many homemade tools and accessories.

He was a member of the Crozet Park Association for a number of years, helping improve the Crozet Craft Fair grounds and facilities, and he has been an enthusiastic member of the Central Virginia Woodturners since 2004, serving as president for two years as well as various other chairs, and gives occasional demos for the CVW as well as local woodturning clubs. He has also been active in the organization of the Artisans Studio Tour since 2009. He was awarded Master Artisan-Woodturning by the Artisans Center of Virginia in 2015.

Entrusted with turning bowls from the giant tulip poplars taken down beside the Monticello mansion, he has been instrumental in the development of a vibrant handcrafted portion of the Monticello Museum Shop featuring numerous local turners. His home and studio are nestled up against the mountains of Sugar Hollow in White Hall, still living some of the homesteaders' dream.

Currently he sells directly either on line from his website www.fredwilliamson.com, or by appointment at his studio, as well as at the Museum Shop of Monticello. His most recent show was March 25 – June 3 2017 at Gay Street Gallery in Little Washington, VA, where he will be showing again September 1 – October 26, 2018.