



## Central Virginia Woodturners



### Member: Jim Higgins

**Jim Higgins was born in Harlan, KY, in 1923 and grew up in the coal towns near Beckley, W.Va. He is a graduate machinist from the Newport News Shipbuilding Apprentice School, has an engineering degree from Virginia Tech, and a masters degree in Naval Architecture from MIT. After school, he worked for the US Navy, doing research on ships and submarines at sea. In 1957 he went to the Federal Maritime Administration as the Naval Architect on a project to build the nuclear ship, NS Savannah. Jim stayed with the agency and became its first Director of Research. After retiring in 1980, he and two friends founded a successful R&D company in Alexandria, Va. and he worked there until about 1998. He spent three years in the Navy during WWII - two aboard the USS Oberon in the Pacific.**

**Jim moved to Charlottesville nearly five years ago to be near his daughter and seven grandchildren after his wife passed.**

**Jim has done all sorts of woodworking over the years—furniture, boats and additions to his house, and began turning after joining CVW, and has become sort of the club's prime 'split turner', enjoying the challenge of turning the outside, and then reversing the turned portion to the inside of a turned spindle.**

**For his most recent exercise, he tried some segmented turning. He built an elaborate jig and had some very nice results. However, his comment after showing his pieces at the September meeting was, "Well, I think I've got that out of my system, its very tedious work." (I guess segmented turning is not as enticing to Jim as split turning.)**

**He feels that joining CVW has been a great opportunity to learn some of the fine art of woodturning and to meet some great people.**