

## Artist of the Month—Bill Beck



As a teenager, living in a three-room apartment, I built cabinets at the kitchen table and was forced to clear it for breakfast, lunch and dinner. My first serious woodwork was at a U.S. Army craft shop in the 1960's. Marriage and long working hours keep woodworking time to a minimum. Turning a pen for my wife in 2007 started me on lathe turning. Now you might say that I am living the dream...doing what I want, when I want, for however long I want.

All materials (with the exception of paint) are recycled. Landfills, tree surgeons, and landscapers have been the source of materials since 2008.

I have been told that my work is "surrealistic." Being self taught I do not know if that is true or not. Viewers will frequently ask, "What is it?" The only answer is whatever you see in it.

My turnings were displayed publicly for the first time at the Jacksonville, Florida, Public library in the winter of 2010. Since then I have been selected as the turner-of-the-month by Woodturnersresources for November 2010 and awarded the month of September 2011 and February 2012 for their calendars. I was juried into the Amelia

Island Arts Assoc. in January of 2011. Selected as "artist of the month," April 2011 by the Amelia Island Arts Assoc., and September 2017 by the Villages Art League. The Jacksonville MOCA (Museum of contemporary art) displayed several examples of my work from 2012 through 2015. As an adjunct to my artistic endeavors, I volunteer at the Villages Woodshop creating crematory urns for indigent veterans

I hope you have as much pleasure viewing my work as I have had in creating it.

