How lucky we both are to have a partner who is a self-employed woodturner! Actually, it isn’t luck. It is a conscious choice, and it’s not for everyone. On one hand, we have a sympathetic ear and knowledgeable critique. On the other hand, there is no avoiding the reality of the decisions we make; neither having a “real” job to guarantee paying the bills every month means compromises abound. One great thing about having another woodturner for a partner is that there is never an argument about spending money on tools and wood. And, tracking chips throughout our living space is never a problem.

Collaborating on a piece of artwork is a real challenge. For the piece to be successful, we both need to be willing to relinquish control of part of the process and design decisions. We are fortunate that our strong points are different. David’s signature is surface treatment. My signature is a style of turning. David’s decoration on my turning is a natural synergy.

A partner to bounce ideas off is very valuable. We encourage each other to stretch our limits, and together we explore the fine points of business decisions, ethics, and techniques. Often one brings the other back to reality.