

The Newsletter of the Loose Bead Society of Greater Milwaukee
The Loose Bead Society of Greater Milwaukee began in 1999 as a fellowship of kindred spirits with the purpose of sharing and promoting the creation of beautiful beadwork.

Inspiration Explained

Where do designers get their ideas? Do they instinctively know what colors go well together or what shapes of beads to use? Our own **Maggie Roschyk** takes some of the mystery out of the process with her brand new (and first!) book, Artistic Seed Bead Jewelry.

This book is a blend of inspiration and technique. Thirteen projects are covered in the book, plus variations and options. Each one is beautiful and explained in great detail with charts, photographs, and text descriptions. The colors used are rich, and it's easy to see how she turns her inspiration into a stitched piece of jewelry.



Maggie Roschyk displayed some of the pieces of jewelry from her new book at a book-signing held at Eclectica this winter.

Maggie's inspirations range from Ashanti brass beads from Ghana to dichroic glass cabochons to a vintage dagger pin to a Chinese silk textile her husband brought home from a business trip. All along the way she discusses how you can not only stitch the piece as is but also how to play around with colors and sizes of beads to come up with your own designs.

There's a section on choosing bead colors and finishes, one on her reactive/subtractive process for deciding what materials go well together, and even one on orange based on a fabric swatch and a color wheel.

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LB Strung Together

Volume 11 Issue 1 Spring 2012

Share the Vision

The Loose Bead Society is an active and growing organization because it reflects the needs of the members. You participate in our group for many reasons: to socialize with others who share your interests, to have fun, to learn, to share knowledge, to find business opportunities, to serve the community. The goal of the board of directors is to make sure we respond to your needs; therefore, we periodically assess those needs and how well they are being served by our programs and activities.

The board has embarked on a strategic planning process. In February we conducted a survey to determine which of our activities you most value. This month we asked you to take time during the program to brainstorm about several topics. In the next stages of the process, the board will identify priorities and

Helping Bring Bling to the Prom

Thanks to all of our members who donated their time and talent to create the beautiful beaded jewelry items for the Cinderella Project! It was great that you even took time out at the Bead In to make some bright and blingy jewelry!

We had more than 300 pieces of jewelry for the girls to choose from, so each prom-going girl was able to select two items. About 105 underprivileged girls attended the event, receiving a prom dress in addition to the jewelry the Loose Bead Society supplied.

And many thanks to the LBS members who came on March 10 to help the young ladies select their jewelry; some even traveled back from the Spring Retreat in Racine to help.

Our next Community Service project will be in April. Susan Beal and Judy Menting will lead a Wire Wrapped Bracelet (similar to what we did at our hands-on meeting last year) class at Vision Forward (formerly the Badger Association for the Blind) on Monday, April, 23rd from 6-8pm. We need more volunteers, so we'd love to have you!

If you have any questions, please contact me at 414-588-8573 or spiritangelofpeace@yahoo.com.

— Michelle De'Brabant

the resources needed to implement the vision that you communicated. You will hear more from us as we craft a framework to guide us for the next few years.

I believe the results of the survey, brainstorming session and planning will be the emergence of common themes. I know the board and committees will work hard to translate your input into goals and action plans. I imagine we will have the opportunity to think big about the future. I hope you will be energized to continue participating and volunteering. Together we can make our vision for the society a reality.

As always, contact any board member at any time with your ideas. Our contact information appears in each issue of the newsletter and on the website, and we're available to talk to you at our events.

— Julie Miller, President

Beading in England

Neala Swiecichowski recently visited family members in England and discovered that British bead shops are much the same as our beloved American ones.

She did find some beautiful new magazines, though. And Neala may have an aspiring beader in her little granddaughter, who studied the beads and said, "I like the sparkly ones!"



Shop Night Review

In January, Loose Bead Society members were treated to a private shopping night at Knot Just Beads. Owner Kim opened the store just for us during the off hours.

The seed bead room and the Czech glass area were well stocked with beautiful beads, beads, and more beads. Lots of specials on many items throughout the store made all shoppers very happy.

We were even treated to a free gift with purchase — our choice of a lovely strand of leaf-shaped beads. We certainly appreciate the great shopping opportunity from Knot Just Beads!

Royal Wedding Winners

The Special Events Committee is pleased to announce the winners of our 2011 Design Challenge, "Royal Wedding." Participants were invited to design a piece they would either wear or carry to the wedding of the decade: His Royal Highness Prince William of Wales, K.G., to Miss Catherine Middleton. And the winners are:

1st Place Advanced and Member Choice Award -- **Bonnie DeSautelle**, "A Bracelet or Hatband"

1st Place Intermediate-- **Judy Markworth**, Untitled

2nd Place Intermediate -- **Sue Grimyer**, Untitled

3rd Place Intermediate -- **Betty Biese**, "Serendipity II"

1st Place Beginner -- **Nancie Chmielewski**, "Across the Ocean Blue"

2nd Place Beginner -- **Melissa Marry**, "A Rose by Any Other Name"

3rd Place Beginner -- **Neala Swiecichowski**, Untitled

Each participant designed a piece of jewelry or an accessory that she might wear to the event. The entries were judged by Carol Golembiewski, a local high school art teacher; Petra Dekan, former owner of Nottingham Beads; and Jane Cruz, associate editor of *Bead&Button*.

Entries were judged on skill in execution, creativity, visual appeal, and relevance to the challenge theme as described in the entrant's diary. (Entrants included a "diary entry" of April 29, 2011, about their imagined experience at the royal affair. Alas, none were able to actually attend.)

Following presentation of awards to the winners, Loose Beaders admired the entries. We then enjoyed a tea party with a variety of teas and cookies.

-- *Kat Feldman*

Inspiration Explained

(Continued from page 1)

The projects include earrings, bracelets, necklaces, and a pin. Techniques include right angle weave, peyote, bead embroidery, brick stitch, loomwork, square stitch, and tubular herringbone.

Once you learn the techniques described in this book, you can easily take what you've learned and modify it to come up with your own inspirational pieces.

— *Traci Otte*



Welcome New Members!

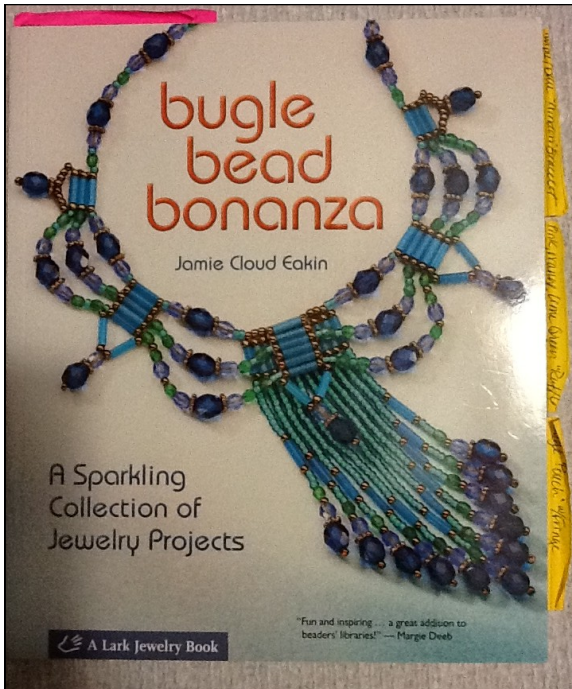
The Loose Bead Society continues to grow and add new members; as of February we are up to 168 individual members. Several new members found us on the web, several learned about us from the Bead&Button Show or friends, and one met a member — who had an LBS business card handy — in the magazine aisle at Barnes & Noble!

Just in case you haven't met them yet, our newest members are **Brenda Brandt, Kathy Brier, Judy Jazdzewski, Linda Larson, Vicki Little, Chris Mrioued, Kam Mullen, Rita Privette, Karen Raabe, Dawn Schroeder, Deborah Schultz, Rhonda Schumacher, Cathy Steffke, and Dianne Wheeler.**

We have SEVEN corporate members now. The newest members are Bead Bin in Madison, which is offering a 10% discount for LBSers, and Craft Optics. Brenda Schweder has a pair of Craft Optics magnifiers and invited owner Jeff Caplan to join us.

Jeff is offering us a generous discount of a free prescription with an order, which is a \$50 value for single prescription glasses and \$75 value for bifocals. Brenda herself has transitioned from a personal to a business membership.

— *Judy Menting*



Bugle Bead Bonanza

As I am always looking to challenge myself, I bought Bugle Bead Bonanza to work with bugle beads. I was never a fan of bugles in the past, but with the help of this book by Jamie Cloud Eakin, I am now a convert!

I made several projects: the Bugle Pouch (below), Ruffle Bracelet (below), and Window Bracelet. I was very excited at the 2011 Bead&Button show to have the author autograph this book!

I would definitely recommend Bugle Bead Bonanza.

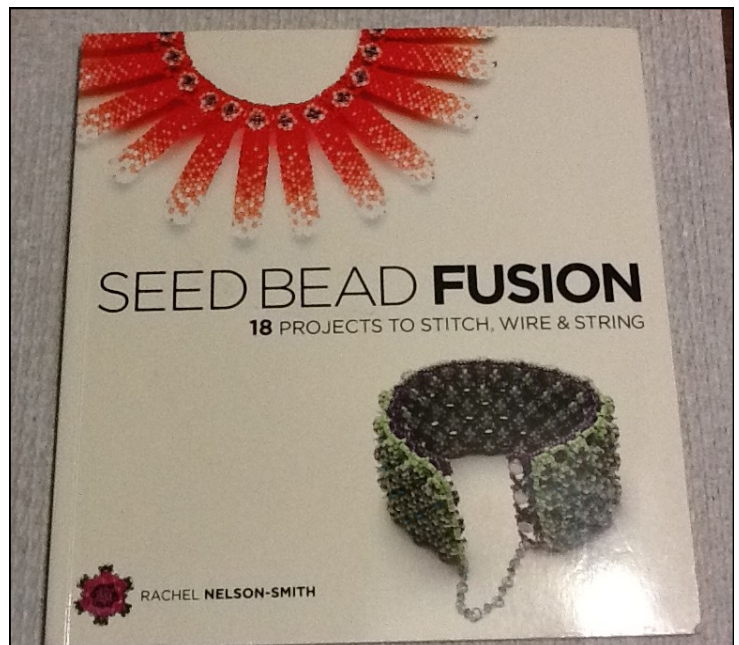
— book reviews by Susan Beal



Seed Bead Fusion

When I saw this book by Rachel Nelson-Smith I loved the spiky Sea Star Bangle Bracelet (below) on the cover and had to get the book! While a beginning bead stitcher could do some of the 18 projects, most are geared for a stitcher with some experience.

I am a patient stitcher but found some projects tedious enough that I put them aside. It took me about a year and a half to complete the Sea Star Bangle (it was my "take along" project), but I am very pleased with it. It is definitely a conversation starter! Seed Bead Fusion is a book every beader should have in their library.



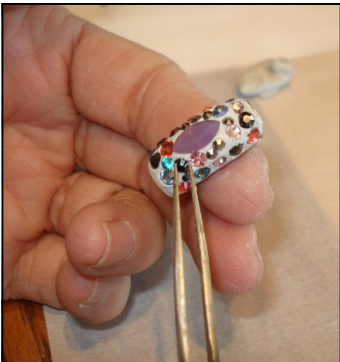
Another Great Bead In

The Spring Bead In was once again a great success: good conversation, nibblies, and of course lots of beading. Some 31 beaders enjoyed the day.

Debbi Simon offered two classes in crystal clay: Pave Pendant and Ring Around the Posy, and her students created some wonderfully blingy projects.

Some of us worked on pieces for the Cinderella project using the selection of beads provided or our own stash. Some of us learned new techniques from our fellow beaders. As always, it was interesting and inspirational to see the various projects everyone was working on.

— Karen Weinburg



LBS Photo Policy

We try to take pictures of our members at all of our Loose Bead Society meetings and events. These pictures might be published on our website, in this newsletter, on Facebook, or in promotional material. If you do not want to appear in a photo, please let the photographer know. If you notice a photo of yourself that slipped through, please let us know and we'll do what we can to remove it.

Pippintooth, an almost-new column

— Brenda Schweder and Friends

Chicks use a “pipping tooth” to break out of their eggs. Brenda is adapting that to mean coming out of our shells.

I met Michigan metalsmith Julie Sanford, who’s been a jewelry artist for more than 20 years, during the workshop she taught at the 2011 LBS Retreat. Later in talking with Kat Feldman I realized that LBS members could learn from Julie’s experience participating in challenges like those our Society presents.

Julie’s necklace, Fireflies and Moon Shadows, won the grand prize in a competition sponsored by Lark Books after publication of their book *Jewelry Design Challenge*.



For the book, 30 metalsmiths and jewelry artists from around the country were given a package of identical materials and asked to create an original jewelry piece in their own studios. Each produced a very different piece. When the book was published, it invited readers to take the same challenge.

Julie thought the book concept was brilliant from the moment she heard about it, and was very excited to order a materials kit, which included sterling sheet, metal mesh, copper washers, sterling tubing, leather cord, and several pearls.

B: What were some of the positive outcomes from your participation?

J: The contest challenged me in surprising ways! I really had fun with the whole process — designing using very specific materials is different from the way I usually work and I had to change the way I approached this piece. It took a while to get a cohesive piece with the random parts.

After a frustrating couple of days, I decided to start over with a well-developed concept. The firefly idea came from the Lite Brite pegs on my bench. They helped put me into the nostalgic, playfully imaginative state I needed for this task. Then, the concept and the piece finally came together.

Through this contest, I discovered the best way to approach difficult design challenges. There aren’t any downsides to challenging yourself as an artist.

B: Do you often use challenges to stretch yourself creatively?

J: Yes, challenges, contests, juried exhibitions, gallery shows and competitions all stimulate growth and should be an important part of every artist’s work.

Some of my best conceptual pieces were designed for a special show or competition.



I love competing! I don’t like direct competition with other artists, but I do enjoy personally challenging myself.

B: What advice would you give to designers/artists regarding challenges?

J: When you submit, follow the guidelines carefully, allow time for great photographs, and get the piece done and submitted by the deadline. Most importantly, don’t be afraid or too busy to submit. It is surprising how few people actually do submit.

Of course, it would be amazing to win or even be a finalist, but there are many reasons to participate beyond winning. Here are a few benefits I’ve realized:

- You could create a show-stopping, well-designed new piece which might translate to a fresh body of work or a new direction.
- You could gain great new inventory to add to your portfolio, galleries, or website.
- You could reap the opportunity to display the work in future exhibitions or shows.
- You could acquire professional photographs that you will use for years to come for marketing, websites, Facebook and blogs.

Julie adds that she’d like to give “a big thank you to the Loose Bead Society for the opportunity to share my Jewelry Design Challenge experience. I hope readers are encouraged to get their work out there. There is really nothing to lose!”

Julie can be found online at juliesanford@charter.net, www.juliesanforddesigns.com, and www.studiojdsd.com.

Tucson Treats & Tidbits

Have you been to Tucson? Not just the city, but the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show, which Maggie Roschyk describes as “actually many shows strung out over two to three weeks, held everywhere from huge tents to hotels.

“There are African shows, mineral shows, fossilized shows, Native American shows. You’ll find everything from diamonds to seed beads. Seed beads and other beads we use now play a much bigger role.”

Maggie traveled there in February to “see the new stuff, buy wholesale, and network with people I hadn’t seen in years.” She also had a book-signing organized by Out on a Whim at the Best Bead Show.

Among the new things that Maggie admired were “Chinese crystals in new gorgeous colors; they’ve really stepped up their quality. I also saw lots of raw crystals fumed with minerals for an AB effect.”

In addition, she discovered tilapia fish skin leather in wonderful colors. The couple showing the leather will be at the Bead&Button Show this summer. Maggie admired cabochons made from pottery, and dug through heaps of old African bracelets.

“There’s quite an energy about the shows,” Maggie says. “There are people from all around the world – a real gamut. The reps from Dior in France come looking for gemstones. The diamond dealers from Amsterdam and New York arrive with a bodyguard and their briefcases handcuffed to their wrists.”

— Carol Haiar

Promoting Yourself

If you want to promote yourself — you are teaching a class, presenting a seminar, are a vendor at an art/craft sale, are publishing a book, etc. — you have two ways to do so.

- You can post a note on our Facebook page
- You can place flyers, business cards, pictures, or other printed material on the “Shameless Self-Promotion Table” at our monthly meetings. This table is next to the membership tables.

We encourage you to take advantage of this member benefit, and are looking forward to learning about your accomplishments.

Beady Tips and Tricks from Our Members

This issue our tips come from **Judy Menting**, who gives us her favorite “tools” for dealing with seed beads.

KO thread: I LOVE IT!!! I always choose KO thread first for needle-and-thread projects because of the way this thread handles. It already has a coating on it, so I do not need to add Thread Heaven or beeswax, it does not shred during threading the needle, and it does not tangle easily. If I do get tangled, the tangles come out readily; the trick here is to pay attention and stop pulling before the knot gets tight!

I personally like KO thread much better than Fireline because it has more drape to it. However, thread and crystals do not mix well, so if your project is crystal-centered, you are better off with Fireline.

Tulip brand needles: These are fairly new needles on the market and I ADORE them! The eye of the needle is big, the shaft is stiffer, and the length is slightly shorter than the James John brand that I used before. Tulip needles just work better for me, though they do cost more.

Super sharp fine tip scissors: I have one pair of tiny scissors that I use ONLY for cutting thread. They are about three inches in total length and super sharp. Because they are so short and sharp, I have more control of where I cut the thread.

Fuzzy beading mat: I have tried the little grey or blue sticky pads that are supposed to keep the beads from rolling around, but they are too sticky for me. I like to be able to push the beads into little piles on my cut-up square of vellux blanket. Sometimes I put the sticky pad under the fuzzy mat to keep that from sliding around.

Cheater glasses and a bead light: I need both of these things to make seed beading relaxing. If I have to bend over the mat I end up with sore eyes and a sore neck and sore hands, and then I am crabby, not rejuvenated!

A decorated extension cord: I bought an extension cord and put pink duct tape on it so that my “Dear Hubbin” would quit taking MY extension cord.

Loose Beaders, we’d love to hear from more of you, so please send your tips and tricks to the Newsletter Coordinator.

BEADSHOW

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Bead Shop Beat: Shipwreck Beads

What would it be like to visit a store with the world's largest selection of beads? That would be Shipwreck Beads in Lacey, Washington, and **Amy Smith** knows.

"Be prepared for shock and awe," says Amy, "and take a big credit card."



"I got wrecked at Shipwreck," Amy laughingly says. "It's huge, it's humongous, it's their industrial park warehouse." When a customer wants something specific, they have to look it up at a computer kiosk at the store, and the computer will advise them which of the 30 aisles holds the bead, tool, finding or book.

Shipwreck's website advertises that they have "literally billions of beads stretched from floor to ceiling" with 53,000 styles and colors of beads. The 22,000 square foot showroom is part of their 80,000 square foot warehouse.

Amy, along with her mother and aunt, visited Shipwreck on a road trip to West Coast relatives last fall. "I warned them we'd be bead shopping," says Amy. And were they ever!

Amy had visited Shipwreck Beads once before but got there just at closing. This time she actively shopped for an hour or so. "You have to know what you want," she advises. Her purchases included football beads, pliers, metal punches and rings. Her aunt bought magnetic beads, and her mother emerged with gifts.


The women also shopped at Dava Beads & Trade in Portland, Oregon. Dava was having a trunk show of Czech glass with the "most amazing" beads in gorgeous colors.

Amy also discovered that the Oregon coast has an abundance of glass blowers, and there are many little shops where you can find handmade beads. As a bonus, she learned that Oregon has no sales tax.

This fall Amy will be traveling out east, and The Beadin Path in Maine is already on her list.

Amy has a word of advice for LBS members: "If you go on a trip, don't forget to ask for a bead society discount. Remember your membership card." You won't always get a discount, but you often will.

— Carol Haiar



Cindy Collins

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...putting it all together

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