

**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.*

## **Did You Sell at the Rummage Sale?**

### **Did you come to buy at the Rummage Sale?**

From a seller's point of view, my experience was fantastic. I'm not talking about the money I made. I did make money, enough to cover my table, lunch, the purchases from my fellow vendors (!), and still have some cash to take home. The true value of the rummage sale experience was the bead sort it forced me to do. With some gloomy, rainy weather in the week leading up to the sale, I was able to discipline myself to go through my stash . . . stash in the closets, stash in the basement, stash in the attic . . . almost the whole enchilada!

The end result of this sort was good for the soul. I fell in love (again) with many cherished purchases that had been almost forgotten. I found those UFOs in something similar to an archeological dig



through my beading history. I felt rich surrounded by beads, stones, crystals, etc. etc. etc. I could even admit to a few misguided purchases and add them to the rummage bin.

Meeting others at the sale, both buyers and sellers, was also worth its weight in beads. It's always fun spending time with fellow bead aficionados, but it's even more gratifying when you hear from them after the sale is over! That was the case when LBS received this wonderful note from shopper Darlene Clausen.

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# **LBS** **Rummage Together**

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"I went to the Milwaukee Bead and Button Show and picked up your card advertising your bead rummage sale. I want to let you know how glad I was that I went. We had just come home from vacation the night before, so getting up in the morning was not an exciting thought for me. I had no idea what to expect. I was there for two hours!!!! Just shopping!!!! I had a great time, got some wonderful bargains and would like to do it again next year. It was 120 miles round trip for me and I would do it again. I played show and tell with two different sets of crafters and they all want to come with me next year!!!! They could not believe the beautiful things I came home with."

I may not have to do a bead sort again next summer, but I certainly will be looking forward to the Rummage Sale. It's a great way to spend a day with lots of bead bargains plus members and friends from near and far.

— Helen Dahms

## Opportunities to Enjoy Our Beading

Ah beading! I just love beading, don't you? Well of course you do, or you wouldn't be in this wonderful Society. We sure have had some great opportunities recently for enjoying our beading.

In June we had the Bead&Button Show. Beads, classes, beads, demos, beads, product information, beads, chatting with friends, beads, tools, beads, beads, beads! It doesn't get any better than that!

Many of us took a class with one of the fabulous teachers who came to Milwaukee to share their knowledge, experience, and enjoyment of the beading arts. I find it very rewarding to learn something new from someone else. You get to see their way of doing this or that and benefit from their experience in the art of beading.

In July we had our Bead Rummage Sale. Time to purge our stash a little bit. However there is always something else to acquire! I picked up some large red coral rounds, and managed to find something else – already in my stash – to complement them. I had some metal disks that remind me of potato chips, only the disks are perfectly shaped (and not greasy). So I justified the purchase in my mind as necessary for using up something that I already owned. But, really, do we ever need to "justify" our bead purchases?



**Merchandise displays and sellers were ready for the eager shoppers at this year's LBS Rummage Sale.**

In August we enjoyed a trip to the National Button Convention. I was a button saver since childhood. Just the standard buttons that anyone might come across – buttons from shirts, blouses, jackets and pants – nothing vintage or particularly special. I have been working hard the past few years to divest myself of these accumulated buttons.

I thought I really didn't need to get any buttons at all! I was mistaken, as several buttons just jumped into my hands practically shouting, "Buy me! Buy me!" Fortunately, some of my newly purchased buttons have already been turned into clasps for kumihimo bracelets. (Again, I'm trying to justify – I really need to get over that.)

We also enjoyed a class and presentation with the fabulous Phyllis Dintenfass. Ooohh! Ooohh! Beaded beads! One of my favorite beady things to make! Making those beaded beads was just plain fun.

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Later, at that evening's meeting, Phyllis entertained all of us with stories of her beading life. I bet most of us were nodding to ourselves as we listened to Phyllis describe her work area and her beading project piles, thinking we're just like her with our bead accumulations.

I hope all of you have been having some beady fun. I love it when people show me their latest creation – a new bracelet or pair of earrings, maybe a medalion or a beaded bead. The joy and pride that everyone has in their creations is just wonderful to see.

We are so fortunate to have beading in our lives. Happy beading, everyone!

– *Kathy Willmering, President*



### We're So Happy to Have You!

Once again, the Loose Bead Society has a number of new members. We are excited and happy to welcome each and every one of you!

In June, Michele Haffner and Hermine Weatherpoon joined our ranks.

July saw these new members: Patricia Brust, Yve'tte Calhoun, Marge Giralte, Jolie Hersh, Colleen Hosking, Deborah Mayfield, Shawn Niessen, Kim Ogle, Sarah Ogle, Gailyn Plumb, Lucy Reasoner, Anita Sheats, Suzanne Stimac, Dian Radebaugh, Maethell Webb, and Troy Yancey.

And in August, LBS welcomed Cindy Brinkman, Cheryl Cultice, Mary Gleason, Cathy Jakicic, Cari Olson, Kathy Merrill, and Floran Metz.



In August, noted beader Phyllis Dintenfass taught an afternoon class on making her new Remillie beaded beads.

That evening, she delighted meeting attendees with slides of her extensive, varied beadwork and its history.



Shown above are a few of the beautiful epoxy clay pendants made by LBS members at the July meeting.

## Visiting a World of Buttons — in Appleton

Two dozen members of the Loose Bead Society traveled to Appleton on August 17 to attend the National Button Society Convention. It was this year's President's Trip, and our delightful bus driver, Ron, delivered us straight to the Paper Valley Radisson, where the convention was taking place. Most (all?) of us didn't really know what to expect. I'll tell you – those button fanatics are even crazier than we bead fanatics!

We started with an overview of the convention floor from Janice Stutts, a member of the button society from Oregon. The convention featured a contest in which collectors submitted their best buttons in a total of 186 different categories. The categories ranged from fairly broad (black glass) to very narrow (rabbits and turtles).

Within each category there are specific rules. For instance, a category for star buttons might have a rule that all stars have straight — not rounded — sides. The collectors submit their labeled buttons on stiff paper “trays” placed inside a protective plastic sheath. When a button violates a rule, the judges place a small sticker dot on the plastic over the offending button and note the reason. These dots are called “measles.”

I was amused to find that the judges use the word “measle” as a verb — “Sorry to measle your button, however it violates rule number 14 ....” Any tray with a measle is disqualified from winning a ribbon. After judging, all the trays are displayed on racks on the convention floor. These trays contain the best buttons you could ever hope to see — unusual, beautiful, interesting, rare or antique.



In addition to the racks of contest entries, there were many vendors selling their button wares. Most vendors had a combination of buttons on large paper cards and loose buttons. The price of carded buttons is noted next to each button; prices can range into hundreds of dollars or more. One card of buttons is typically all the same subject or type, such as “cats” or “red glass.”

The loose buttons are just tossed in a box — called a “poke” box — with a label stating the price — all the buttons in this poke box are \$1 apiece, all the buttons in that poke box are \$2 apiece, etc. Most of us ended up sorting through a poke box or two.

What impressed me the most is that button aficionados collect their buttons for the sole purpose of collecting.



Generally, nothing else is done with the buttons, although one vendor had beautiful, beaded button jewelry. And the buttons were just gorgeous! Unique, different, special, made of an incredible variety of materials - not the sort of buttons you see at your local fabric shop.

We all had to tear ourselves away from the buttons to get a bite to eat. We enjoyed our visit to Pullman's at Trolley Square for lunch. Some of us then returned to the convention while others visited the Glass Onion Bead Company.

The Glass Onion is a great bead store, jam packed with our favorite thing — beads! Owner Debbie Austin-Johnson has decorated the store whimsically with fun things everywhere you look. There is a display of old spinning tops hanging from the ceiling. There are strings of novelty lights shaped like fish, flamingos, cats, birds, palm trees, flowers, etc. all over the store. There are contest entries, class projects, and even stained glass on display.

We enjoyed the rest of the afternoon — the weather was perfect — strolling through the shops in downtown Appleton. (Some of us even found a great sale on shoes.) Finally, we all trooped onto the bus for a relaxing ride back to Milwaukee. As newspapers used to say, a fun time was had by all!

*-- Kathy Willmering, President*





The trip to the National Button Convention wasn't August's only festive event for Loose Bead Society members. Kalmbach Publishing, our corporate sponsor, also hosted a dinner in thanks for our participation in the Bead&Button Show. The menu was Mexican (and delicious), the camaraderie was abundant, and the door prizes were generous. Thank you, Kalmbach!



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### Participating in This Year's Bead&Button Show



Every June sees dozens — and dozens — of Loose Bead Society members active in the annual Bead&Button Show. We staff a package check and information booth, and raffle off beady items as a fund-raiser for the Society.

We also provide vendor relief, help staff the Silent Auction area, and write up descriptions of the items for the live auction the evening of the Bead Social. And of course we help out at the Social itself.

This year LBS members also worked at assembling the beaded squares donated for breast cancer research into quilts, shadow boxes and ornaments.

Of course, most of us also manage to reserve some time to be active as diligent shoppers as well! We love demos, hands-on projects, and researching all that is new and wonderful.



Whenever we can, LBS invites a vendor from the Bead&Button show to speak at our June meeting. This year we were privileged to hear from A Grain of Sand, which shared details — and lots of photos — of their fabulous bead hoard. Several very lucky members even got to take home boxes of hoard goodies.

**Loose Bead Society Of Greater Milwaukee**  
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**www.loosebeadsociety.org**

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