

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.



Unveiling of the Challenge entries — What Says Milwaukee to Me — took place at the October LBS meeting. At top, Traci Otte shows off her bracelet (Advanced category winner), and Susan Grimyser displays her Best of Show winning lariat. Diana Hershaw won in the Beginner category. Open beading was also a hit; above, President-Elect Kathy Merrill admires Colleen Hosking's bracelet.

LBS Strung Together

Volume 12 Issue 4 Winter 2013

I'll Bid on That!

I'm not much of one to raise the bidding number at an auction, but when Siever's School of Fiber Arts donated a gift certificate to the Bead&Button Bead Social Auction for breast cancer research, my hand shot up. I've always loved fiber arts and Siever's has a great reputation. It's located on beautiful Washington Island, so I considered going there would be a marvelous summer vacation.

Not exactly! I ended up with neither a fiber class, nor a traditional island-type vacation! After "winning" the generous gift certificate, I studied the class catalog carefully. I didn't really want or need a new hobby, so there went spinning, weaving and basket making. Knitting classes and nuno felting taught skills similar to what I already knew. What? Beading! Diane Fitzgerald! Four days! Shaped Beadwork!

New Kid on the Block

I decided to take the plunge, dive in, and test the waters! Even though I worried my beading skills weren't up to this level; I worried about fitting in; and I even worried about putting my car on the ferry to get to Washington Island, I pushed myself out of my comfort zone!

Was it worth it! I was the new kid on the block, the only person in the class of 13 new to Siever's. It would be an understatement to say I was made to feel welcome. From the moment I arrived and was greeted with "You must be Helen" to the last day of farewell hugs, the staff, my fellow students, and Diane were awesome: friendly, helpful, kind and encouraging.

All About the Beading

We spent four days beading gorgeous pieces of shaped beadwork . . . days that were 12 hours long! We started at nine and beaded until nine. Yes, we took some time for lunch and dinner, but mostly it was all about the beading. Diane was with us every step of the way, also returning after dinner to help and encourage us.

By the end of the class, I could see why my fellow students are devoted to Siever's and to Diane.

On the last day, as I thanked the staff, I mentioned that part of me wanted to share this wonderful experience with my friends while part of me wanted to

keep it a secret just for myself. They answered that they hear that a lot!

I chose to pass it forward and share my fantastic week at Siever's. I'll be returning to Siever's next summer and would hope to have some of my Loose Bead Society friends join me. If I don't see you at Siever's, I hope I'll see you at the Bead&Button Auction. There's no telling when you make that bid, where it will take you!

— by Helen Dahms



The Fall Bead-In gave LBS members a chance to work on projects old and new in the company of their fellow beadaholics; the event was held this time at a different venue, the Menomonee Falls library. The Bead-in also offered classes in bead crochet and making a beaded bead.

That's Linda Larsen, above, happily making progress in her beading, while Suzanne Stimac (left) and Julia Gerlach consult on a particularly sticky step below.



Looking Back on a Fun & Busy 2013

What a fun Fall it has been! First the fabulous Jill Wiseman visited us for classes and a presentation about her creative journey. I think people are still singing the praises of Jill's cubic right angle weave technique. I saw one person's finished bracelet and it is just beautiful! We staffed a table at the Milwaukee Bead Show to further increase our presence in the beading world. We enjoyed a Bead-In together. Weren't those rolling, flip-top tables nice!

We oohed and aahed over all the Challenge entries – such creativity, such imagination! We elected board members. Welcome new board members Allyn Steffen and Kathy Merrill and continuing in a different role Carol Haiar. We sponsored a selling event, Jewelry at the Domes, which went well, despite the torrential downpours and tornado warnings. I even recognized some repeat customers, which means we're starting to get the word out far and wide. And last month we all had a great time making a snazzy leather wrap bracelet.

As part of the year-end look-back, I was reviewing all the things we have done and enjoyed this past year. First, I was keeping the list in my head, but I finally had to write it all down because the list of our activities is HUGE!

We have had 12 wonderful monthly program meetings, including four visiting artists (Betsy Youngquist, Julie Picarello, Phyllis Dintenfass, & Jill

Welcome, New Members!

More eager jewelry makers joined the Loose Bead Society in both September and November. We are very pleased to have them among the ranks of our fun and exciting Society!

In September, new members included **Janet Hubbard, Carrie Neuman, Cari Olson, Marsha Pinter, and Kathy Woitekaitis.**

And in November, LBS welcomed **Christine Curtiss, Diane Detampel, Kelly Droysen, Pat Harvey, Lisa McCabe, and Ellen Sullivan.**

More than 50 "seasoned" members have already renewed their memberships for 2014. Be sure to renew your membership promptly to enjoy another great year of Loose Bead Society programming and activities.

Change to February Meeting Date

Our February 2014 membership meeting will be one week earlier than usual, on Monday, February 10, rather than our usual third Monday of the 17th. (The meeting "bookmark" that came out earlier is incorrect.) The meeting will begin at 6:45 p.m.

The speaker will be Wisconsin glass bead maker Frank Scott. You've probably seen some of Frank's stunning work, since he made the Grand Canyon commemorative bead for the 2013 Bead&Button Show.

Wiseman), three hands-on (kumihimo, epoxy clay, leather wrap), a "Storage Wars" panel discussion, visits from our friends at Kalmbach (Marlene) and A Grain of Sand (Suzanne), our Challenge (What Says Milwaukee to Me) and a party, our Retreat in Racine, two ab-fab Bead-Ins, we started our Lending Library (more resources for more beading projects), the Dairyland Seed project (kits, kits, and more kits!), private shopping events at our wonderful local bead stores, and our ongoing participation in the Cinderella Project. Then we had activities with the vets at the VA Center, assisting with the Bead Quilt squares to benefit breast cancer research, the Rings & Things demo for interested shoppers, the ever-wonderful Bead&Button Show including bag check, raffle, vendor support, and support at the silent auction and live auction events, the rummage sale (buy more beads!), the President's Trip to the National Button Convention, the Milwaukee Bead Show, and Jewelry at the Domes. That's a whole lotta beading going on!

Thank you to all our volunteers on all the various activities. If you helped organize a program meeting, or worked as a table captain or on kit assembly, or helped organize the Retreat or a Bead-In or a Community Service event or the Challenge or any other event, or staffed our table at the Bead&Button Show, the Milwaukee Bead Show or Jewelry at the Domes, or helped with the library or communications or the newsletter or the website or the treasury or all the little things that we have to do to keep this fabulous organization running, Thank you!

Here we are at the end of the year and I know you're all wondering "Well, did she ever get to that bag of stuff she said she was going to use?" Alas, no. The bag will just have to wait a while longer. Because in the meantime, I've turned my attention to bead crochet. I'm fairly awkward at it, but I have been assured that I will improve with practice. We'll see.

– *Kathy Willmering, President*

Lights, Camera, Action . . . Redo!

My Humbling Video Shooting Experience at Rio Grande!

In a three-day period in late August, I discovered what I don't want to be when I grow up—any form of in-front-of-the-camera talent!

Why? Because it takes every hair on your head to be in place (and Lord know I have many, many red hairs up top), every muscle of your bod to behave (no twitching, no itching, no making of faces), and every syllable leaving your mouth to make sense. All in a five-minute period. Or less. With all eyes upon you; one camera in front and one over your head (I hope that tiny bald spot I normally cover up with my curly-cues stayed hidden); and a clacker-thingy a little too close to your pointy-and-freckled nose!



And that's not talking about the content! That's not including the 50 million things you want to remember to tell the world about your fabulous new product! <CLACK> Time. To. Talk. About. All. That. NOW! Augh! <CLACK: Take one billion, six hundred and eighty-five!>

Now I know why so many actors say they can't watch themselves in theatres. Because, when you do, you count the "um's" ; and realize you do a funny thing with your face that you're pretty sure isn't really possible); and, well, you have to admit that you sniff a LOT (it's not something I'm proud of, but I do need my nose, so I have to forgive it). It's humbling.

But I do have my village to thank Oscar-style — everyone from my husband and sons, to my assistants, to the wonderful crew at Rio!

Would I star in more videos? Absolutely! Will I rant and rave and whine and cavort about it? Undoubtedly! Will more practice, or lead time, or organization help? I'm sure, but that would mean that someone else would have to be at the helm. And that's just not the way this goof rolls (camera)!

Click on <http://www.riogrande.com/Content/NTAJ-Introduction-to-Jig-VID-psd> to view Brenda's Hard-to-Watch videos for yourself!

WANTED!!!

One person who likes to know what's happening and loves to talk about it — to serve as
Newsletter Coordinator!

DUTIES: Report on and write articles about past, present and future Loose Bead Society events. Encourage members to contribute news and edit their stories. Select photos from LBS events.

Organize these into a quarterly print newsletter that is also published on the LBS website. Current coordinator uses Office Publisher for layout; new coordinator can use whatever is preferred and available. Have newsletter printed, label for those who have requested print copies, distribute at meetings and mail remainder.

TIME COMMITMENT: Newsletter coordinator attends monthly membership meetings and Board meetings. Actual production of newsletter takes 30 to 40 hours per quarter.

Bonnie Discovers Beads — Not Blarney

My 24-year-old granddaughter and I had the pleasure of traveling to Ireland this summer. While riding through Dublin on a tour bus, crossing the Liffey River, what did I see out the window — A BEAD STORE! There it was, a hot pink store front with the name "Beads and Bling"!

For those of you who know me, there could not be a more seductive name. I quickly elbowed my granddaughter and said, "WE HAVE TO FIND THAT PLACE." And we did. We got lost, but we found it. It was a small little shop with all the basics: glass beads, crystals, fire polish, semiprecious stone, *Bead&Button* magazines, etc. I was looking for something Ireland related; I found a few pieces of Connemara marble and felt satisfied. I asked the clerk if she had heard of the Bead&Button Show and she replied, "Of course." I asked if she'd been to the show and she said "No."

Another interesting point about this shop was that they had millinery supplies at the back where a number of women were buying materials to make fascinators. We saw many wonderful things in Ireland, and I did not have to go a week without a bead store.

— by Bonnie DeSautelle



These Loose Bead Society members were elected to positions on the Board of Directors for 2014. From left to right are Kathy Willmering, re-elected President; Carol Haiar, Vice President—Special Events; Allyn Steffen, Treasurer, and Kathy Merrill, President-Elect.



During 2013, the Community Service Committee has introduced veterans at the Milwaukee VA Center to beading. Here, one veteran proudly displays her new bracelet.



At the November meeting, members learned to make one of the popular leather-wrapped bracelets. Eager members selected their kit colors, and then set to work.

IN MEMORIAM

Rhonda Marie Kutz

Rhonda Kutz, a previous President of the Loose Bead Society, passed away on October 20, 2013. Rhonda was a founding member of our Society; her enthusiasm and hard work were one of the driving forces in starting LBS. Rhonda became our third president and served in that position for many years.

Under Rhonda's leadership, our spring Bead Retreat, bag check and raffle at the Bead&Button Show, and the President's Trip were started. Rhonda initiated a program with Children's Hospital where patients could bead while recuperating, which eventually led to our Community Service Committee. She will be missed by her husband Randall, children Gregory and Katharine, and many other relatives and friends.



**Loose Bead Society
2013 Board Members**

- Kathy Willmering**, President
- Kathy Merrill**, President Elect
- Maggie Roschyk**, VP-Programming
- Kat Feldman**, VP-Special Events
- Judy Markworth**, Secretary
- Marilyn Johnson**, Treasurer
- Julia Miller**, Past President
- Sue Stachelski**, Community Service Coordinator
- Kathy VanDemark**, Membership Coordinator
- Carol Haiar**, Newsletter Coordinator
- Traci Otte**, Website Coordinator

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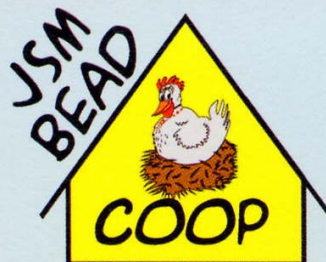
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Jewelry at the Domes ... Redux



This year's Jewelry at the Domes show in November once again drew good attendance and sales, although Sunday's bad weather left its mark. Rumor has it that some exhibitors are already planning for 2014!

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