



## Heart of Illinois Bead Society

P. O. Box 13 Congerville IL 61729-0013  
[hoibs@beadartistry.com](mailto:hoibs@beadartistry.com) <http://beadartistry.com/hoibs>

*Our Purpose is to encourage and promote interest and enjoyment in beads and beadwork*

### Editor's Note

Well, as promised, there's a ton of news this month! Most exciting is the opportunity we've been offered to have a free booth at the International Bead Show being held in Chicago in May. See page 2 for more details! The opportunity for glass beadmakers to submit slides for inclusion in a new Lark Book is still available, so that information is repeated here. And for the review this month, I've decided to do some teacher reviews, since Embellishments and Bead & Button are right around the corner!

### March Program

**Beaded Beads.** This month, Cindy Gotham is going to teach us a technique for making beaded beads.

Materials needed:

- ❖ One color of size 11/0 seed beads
- ❖ 3mm crystals (rounded, not bicone) or size 6/0 beads
- ❖ the usual thread, needles, scissors, etc.

### What's New

- ❖ **New potential member needs help!** We have a lady from Peoria who is interested in becoming a member, but she doesn't have a car and would need a ride to the meetings. If there are any members from Peoria who would be interested in giving her a ride, please contact Cindy Gotham so she can get you in touch with her.
- ❖ **New member.** Please join us in welcoming Karen to the Society. Thanks for joining us Karen!
- ❖ **Group Purchase** For those who showed interest, Karen DeSousa's books, (*Beaded Ornament Covers* and *Celestial Series*) have been ordered and should be here by next week's meeting. Both of these contain patterns for making beaded covers for glass ball ornaments. There is still one copy of each unclaimed. These will be available for purchase at 35% off the standard retail price.

Karen's books and pictures of the projects can be seen at: <http://www.accentbead.com/>.

- ❖ **Bead & Button show, June 4-8.** Information for this show is now available on the Bead & Button show website: <http://www.beadandbuttonshow.com/>
- ❖ **Bead Dreams contest.** Also on the Bead & Button show website is information on entering the Bead Dreams contest. Deadline for mailing your entry is April 7<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ **Embellishments show, April 10-13.** Information for this show is now available on the Embellishments website: <http://www.embellishment-show.com/main.htm>. This year the show is in Chicago! Again, hotels and classes fill fast, so start planning now!

### Book Appearance Opportunity

*For those who make glass beads, the following information comes to us from Valerie Shrader:*

"Greetings,

I am the editor of a new Lark Book titled *500 Glass Beads*. This gallery-style book will feature the best in contemporary glass bead making, with beads in singles, multiples, beads in context, and sculptural pieces. I am interested in placing a call for submissions with your organization. A jury will select the slides for inclusion in the book.

Here is the information:

*500 Glass Beads*, a new Lark Book publication, will feature a juried selection of breathtaking beads in singles, multiples, or sculptural pieces. This gallery book will include both lampworked and furnace worked beads. Glass artists are invited to submit color slides or transparencies (no digital images, please) of original work in this medium. Featured artists will receive full credit and a complimentary copy of the book.



**Entries must be postmarked on or before June 1, 2003.** No fee is required.

For guidelines, send SASE to: 500 Glass Beads - GIL1, Lark Books, 67 Broadway, Asheville, NC 28801 USA. To download the entry forms, visit [www.larkbooks.com](http://www.larkbooks.com). For questions, email editor Valerie Shrader: [valerie@larkbooks.com](mailto:valerie@larkbooks.com).

Thanks so much. Please contact me with any questions, or if additional information is needed.

--

Valerie Shrader

Editor, Lark Books  
67 Broadway, Asheville, NC 28801  
828/253-0467 x735  
<[valerie@larkbooks.com](mailto:valerie@larkbooks.com)>  
<http://www.larkbooks.com>"

### International Bead Show Opportunity

The International Gem & Jewelry Show Inc. has decided to hold a new series of shows starting in 2003, the *International Bead Show*. (I think this proves just how popular beads have become!) Lois received a phone call from the show coordinator inviting the Society to have a booth at the show to be held in Chicago from May 23-25.

We are being offered either a 10'x10' or 20'x20' space at the show with an additional equivalent space for demonstrations. Most important – they are giving us the space for free! The space includes electricity, lights, tables, and skirts, so all we would need to do is bring what we want to sell, demonstrate and display.

For the booth and demonstrations, they are interested in anything and everything the Society is doing that has to do with beads – Fimo, wire, lampwork, beadweaving, stringing, jewelry, art pieces, embroidery, etc. Whatever we want to display in the booth and whatever we want to demonstrate is fine with them, as long as it is bead-related.

As Lois told me when she first received this information, this is a tremendous opportunity for HOIBS as well as for each of us as individual artisans to show (and sell!) our work, gather new members, and spend time seeing everything else the show has to offer. If we agree to do this, we

not only can generate potential new members at the show itself, but also can offer a means for artisans in the area to be in the show. All they need to do is join the Society and agree to help with the booth, and they can show their work at a large Chicago show!

In order for this to work, however, we would need to have enough members to man the booth *and* demonstrate, a total of 21 hours over the three days, plus setup and takedown. Show hours are:

- *Setup* Thursday 10AM – 6PM, Friday 8AM – 12 NOON
- Friday 12NOON – 7PM
- Saturday 10AM – 6PM
- Sunday 11AM – 5PM.
- *Takedown* Sunday 5PM to 8PM

I wouldn't think that we would be expected to demonstrate the entire time, but we need to ask and find out for sure. I think we would need a minimum of 3 people at any one time, two to man the booth and one to demonstrate. Absolute minimum number of people to make this work would be six in rotating shifts, but of course, the more that agree, the less stressful for all of us. We also need to let them know soon if we are interested and what size space we will need, so they can plan for it. So, if you are interested in participating in this, please let Cindy or me know **as soon as possible**.

We will definitely be discussing this more at the meeting next week, so if you have any questions, please bring them so we can compile a list to ask the show coordinator. We also need to work out the logistics of selling at the show. I think it is essential to have a central "cash register" rather than trying to have each individual selling on their own, both to cut down on confusion and to provide a unified front for the Society, so we will need to determine the details of how that will work.

One more thing, we also have a few additional contracts if anyone is interested in getting her own table. The cost for an artisan is \$200 for a 6' table and \$240 for an 8' table. However, these are juried entries, and require 3 slides of your work and 1 slide of your booth. I will have the contracts and other information for people to look at during next week's meeting. So everyone mark May 23-25 on your calendars! **Let's do this!**



## Our Sponsor

**The Bead Parlor** at 1007 S. Fell, Normal IL 61761 (309-452-2421) is open on Mondays from 6:00 – 8:00 pm, Wednesdays from 3:00 - 8:00 p.m. and by appointment.

***Bead Society members receive a 10% discount on purchases.***

## Teacher Reviews

With the Embellishments and Bead & Button shows looming on the horizon, and with my latest bead workshop still fresh in my mind, I thought that it might be interesting to do some teacher reviews rather than a book review, to give you an idea what to expect if you take classes.

In general, don't expect your class handouts to be complete enough that you could learn the techniques without taking the class. You will come across an occasional class that has perfect instructions, but in general the class handouts are more of a general reminder of what you learned in the class. They usually have the details for creating that particular project – number and type of beads, numbers for how many beads for a row, and so forth. They may also have some basic diagrams for the technique or project, but the majority of the teaching will be straight to you from the teacher in class.

Be aware that some classes are very project specific, while others are more geared toward learning a technique. The class description will sometimes give you information to know which way the class leans, but not always. If you have a question about a particular class, ask! With the fairly high prices charged at these shows, you shouldn't sign up for a class without finding out for sure that you want to take it!

The following reviews are based on my own experiences with these teachers in the Florida workshops that I have attended. These were full day classes, so the teaching may be different if you are taking a half-day or shorter class. In general, the projects are also different, which can also affect the teaching. But with those caveats, here are my impressions.

### ***Embellishments and Bead & Button: Nancy Eha***

In my class with Nancy 4 years ago, we created a self-supported basket using brick stitch and a somewhat free form pattern. This was not one of my favorite classes, simply because I can't stand freeform. However, Nancy was a good teacher, able to get across the principles and techniques being taught. If you enjoy freeform work, I think you would enjoy her classes. All of her classes focus on embellishment rather than self-supporting bead techniques. I seem to recall that Nancy came to beading through quilting, so this focus is understandable.

### ***Bead & Button – Diane Fitzgerald***

All of Diane's classes are already sold out, but if you ever have a chance to take a class with her, I'd highly recommend it. I took her Ginko Leaf necklace class, which uses brick stitch, and learned a ton of stuff, including color blending techniques and how to vary tension in my piece. (I'm tension-challenged. If I don't think about it, my tension is incredibly tight.) Everyone I've ever met who's taken a class with Diane only had good things to say about her. She's been beading for a very long time, and has lots of tips and tricks to share with her students.

### ***Bead & Button – NanC Meinhardt***

The class I took from NanC was a spiral rope class, and she taught a large number of ways to embellish the main rope. This was a great class, and NanC is an excellent instructor. In addition to teaching the techniques, she also taught us how to do color shading for spiral rope, which I love to do. Her teaching style is very relaxed, and during the quiet times while we were all busily beading, she read to us from a book about being an artist. NanC really encourages her students to find their own inner artist, something I've tried to emulate when I teach a class.

### ***Bead & Button – Stephanie Eddy***

One of my classes at this year's workshop was with Stephanie. I can't really say much about her teaching skills, because this was a beginner's class, and I didn't really need her help with anything. I can tell you that her instructions are excellent. She does color handouts with actual



pictures of the project in the various stages. This is one teacher that I would say you would be able to learn the technique/project simply by following the instructions. The other students in the class seemed to think she was a pretty good teacher.

#### ***Bead & Button – Dona Anderson-Swiderek***

My class with Dona was very fun. It was a class for making beaded faces – beading around a cabachon-style ceramic face. The techniques I learned in this class were a bit more free-form than the cabochon class I taught at the Society, using lots of multiple sizes and shapes of beads and adding little embellishments once the face was framed. She shared several embellishment techniques with us, so that we could have a good selection to choose from.

#### ***Bead & Button – Marla Gassner***

Marla's class was a good class for a first time ever beader. It was a quick project, and allowed the students to create their own bracelet with simple bead embroidery techniques. I would recommend her class for a beginner, but not for anyone who has a couple beadweaving techniques under her belt, unless she really liked the class project. Given the cost of taking her class at Bead & Button, I would have to recommend passing on this class because I don't think you would get your money's worth.

#### ***Bead & Button – Stephanie Sersich***

I can't say enough good things about Stephanie. This was another of my classes this year, and Stephanie also gave the slide presentation at the workshop dinner. She's my age, which is a bit unusual to see in a teacher, but it was a pleasant change. Stephanie just bubbles with enthusiasm, and you can see that she loves what she does. In addition to teaching her own unique macramé bracelet project, Stephanie makes and sells her lampwork beads. I can guarantee that if you take a class with her, you'll have lots of fun. Her class focuses on using larger beads, however, so don't expect to learn and beadweaving techniques in the class. (I'll probably be wearing my bracelet from her class on Saturday, so you can all see what it looks like.)

#### ***Bead & Button – Bethanie Barry***

Bethany taught a freeform bracelet class at the workshop 3 years ago. Again, this was not a favorite of mine because I don't enjoy freeform, but Bethanie is a pretty good teacher. The only thing that really *really really* bugged me was that she insisted that everyone wax their thread. I hate waxing my thread, but she insisted that we had to, and even went around the room waxing threads for anyone who didn't have wax handy. I don't mind a teacher recommending that we do something, but I don't really like a teacher that insists that her way is the only way. The rest of the class went well, however, and those who enjoy freeform seemed to like the class.

#### **Conclusion**

In general, remember that every teacher has his or her own distinct personality that they bring to the class, and in addition the project will have an effect on how much you enjoy the class. In the 7 years that I've been attending workshops, there always seems to be one project each year that just doesn't "click" with me and ends up languishing on my bead shelves. But the techniques and tricks that I've learned in those classes have generally made up for the "dead" project.

Just because you never finish a project doesn't mean that you didn't learn something from that class. It may be as simple as finding out that you don't enjoy that technique and would never use it again, or as complex as taking the project in your own direction resulting in a completely different piece. All of the knowledge that we learn in classes gets stored, and may just be the one added spark needed to inspire a future project.

