

NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON BEAD SOCIETY

MARCH 2024

MBS Moving Forward

February Recap

A thank you to the 5 members who came to the February meeting. The program was a simple one and I was impressed with what members created – much better than my examples. I brought materials from the MBS stash to share for personal projects or for use at future meetings. With the feedback I got, I selected projects for March, April, and May. (More on that below.)

Going Forward

A reminder that MBS is not charging dues, not holding officer elections, and we have given up our nonprofit status (501c3). Renewal for the website is due in May; cost is either \$155 or \$199, depending on the plan. OR we could switch to an Instagram account (or some other social media platform) to get information out. Still, someone will need to monitor the account. Yes, we have a Facebook page, but it's set up as a person, not an organization, and I don't know how to delete it and start over.

Another factor to consider going forward is the sustainability of a bead society without a bead store in the area. Tropic Jewel off State St. is still open, but it doesn't stock Superduos, Delicas, and other specialty beads. The closest stores, that I know of, are in Stoughton (Diakonos Designs), Portage (Praire Flower Beads), and Eclectica (New Berlin).

Meeting attendance is also in decline. We need more people coming to the planning portion of the meeting and stepping up to help. I am at the limit of what I can do. Without more help, this will be the last year for the Madison Bead Society.

Superduo Beaded Bead: **Tuesday, March 26, 2024**

Location: Meant to Bead, 201 East Main St., Sun Prairie

Time: 6:30 to 8:30, p.m. (Planning meeting 6:00-6:30, all are welcome to attend)

Not a typo. The March meeting is Tuesday March 26th. With Meant to Bead closing, I wanted to meet there one more time. I know that means some people will not be able to attend, but we will return to the fourth Monday in April.

I found a beaded bead pattern using Superduos but it's a YouTube video. I've written up some directions (I prefer written instructions). They can be made into earrings or strung on a cord as a necklace. It doesn't take long to make one either, making it a perfect project for a meeting.

**Supplies** (for one bead):

12 Superduos;
6 Firepolish beads (4mm);
size 11 seed beads
size 15 seed beads
beading thread
size 10 beading needle
beading mat

Proposed Projects for 2024

April 22nd project: Wire and jig earrings. Mary Jo will lead us in using a jig to create some earrings.

May 20th project: Recycling jewelry. MBS received a donation of old costume jewelry and we'll do a workshop on how to rework an old piece into something new. Looking for members with experience to offer tips and help lead the workshop.

Also, the fourth Monday in May is Memorial Day so we'll meet a week earlier, on May 20. More details in future newsletters.

University of Wisconsin Hospital Display – May 2024

We have the UW Hospital display for May. Members will get an email with all the details, but until then, here's the basic information:

Pieces need to be dropped off at the Hospital on May 2nd and we need at least a week to prep all of the paperwork. Deadline to drop off pieces is the April 22nd meeting. Don't know if we can use Meant to Bead as a drop off point as we have in the past so we're arranging alternative drop off sites. Those details will be in the email.

A 20 pieces per person limit will help us reach our goal. There are so few members and we need about 90 pieces for a good display. Cards and forms will be available at the March and April meetings.

Until the next meeting,

Happy beading!

Pat Reichert, editor