

Madison Bead Society Newsletter

Vol. 22 No. 6

www.madisonbeadsociety.org

April 2012

April mtg: Making an Impression

Date: April 23, 2012

When: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Where: Oakwood Village West

Presenter: Chris Mode from Creative Mode

Cost of kit: \$33.00

[OR bring one 6 inch 2mm x 5mm dead soft sterling silver rectangle wire and 3M polishing papers for a mirror finish]

Tools: If you have a utility hammer, bench block, wide file, and metal stamps please bring them to share (a few will be available)

NOTE: We need a head count for this meeting. Please R.S.V.P. by emailing houseofpat@charter.net or calling 608-345-3166 before April 16th.

We'll create a sterling silver cuff bracelet that will include your own sentiment. Chris will show us a technique for quickly and successfully stamping your letters into the silver, antiquing the bracelet, and polishing it to your desired shine.

2012 Bead Challenge

Entry forms are due by the July meeting on July 23rd. Entries will be judged at the August meeting (Aug. 27th). Please see the MBS Web site or the March newsletter for challenge categories and rules.

http://www.madisonbeadsociety.org/Bead_Challenge_2007_2008.php

Bead of the Month: Chain Maille

I thought I would share a little information on chain maille before the June meeting with Sue Ripsch. First, acceptable spellings: chainmail, chain mail, chain maille, chainmaille. Or simply mail or maille, which is derived from the French word *maille* (mesh), and in turn is derived from the Latin word *macula* (mesh of a net). (There are those who insist adding "chain" is a misnomer and totally unnecessary.)

The oldest accurately dated piece of chain maille armor is more than 2,700 years old and was found in Celtic graves. It is believed the Celts invented chain maille but evidence has been found in graves from the 5th century BC in Sythia (between Europe and Asia). Maille jewelry techniques were used by Vikings and ancient Egyptians.

We, of course, want the jewelry. I saw a lot of pieces walk by when I was at the Art Glass and Bead Show and there are *a lot* of Web sites for patterns, kits, and finished pieces. Sue's books, *Classic Chain Mail Jewelry: A Treasury of Weaves*, is in its 3rd printing!

Working chain maille is easier with the correct tools -- a broad nose pliers and a bent nose pliers. A jump ring ring (a broad ring with slots that hold a jump ring), can be used in place of one of the pliers but it's a personal preference. Chain maille rings are not the same as jump rings. Most are made from silver, gold-filled silver, or stainless steel (which can be hard to work with).

From protection to ornamentation, chain maille has been around for centuries and I don't think the fascination, obsession, love for it is going away anytime soon.

Pat Reichert, Newsletter Editor



2012 Schedule

April 23 (\$) @ Oakwood Village West* -- Chris Mode

May 21 (\$) @Diakonos Designs Studio, Stoughton (\$12 to \$20, depending)

June 25 (\$) @ Oakwood Village West* -- Sue Ripsch, Chain Maille Ring (\$25)

July 23 @ TBD – Ingrid Stark, ear wire and S hooks

August 27 @ Oakwood Village West* -- Annual meeting, elections, bead challenge judging, and dessert to share

September 24

October 22

November 17 & 18 MBS show at Alliant Energy Center Exhibition Hall

November 26

December (no meeting)

(\$) – There is a fee for this workshop

****Pinney Branch Library**
204 Cottage Grove Rd.
Madison, WI 53716
<http://www.madisonpubliclibrary.org/pinney>

***Oak Wood Village West**
6201-6225 Mineral Point Rd.
Madison, WI 53705
Heritage Oaks Building

Head Bead Column

By Gail Piper, Head Bead

Did you attend the Art Glass and Bead Show at the Alliant Energy Center in March? If so, I hope you enjoyed it! I know I did. We are fortunate to have Chris Mode hold that show every year right here in Madison; it certainly does give MBS a great venue for letting bead enthusiasts know about us. It also works well for networking with vendors for future programming ideas. I want to thank everyone who took a tour of duty at our informational table that weekend, and special thanks go out to Pat Reichert who did so much work in getting everything we needed there and all set up.

We have some hands-on workshops coming up in April and May. I won't see you in April in that I'll be on a trip to the East Coast to visit relatives, but I will be at the May meeting and look forward to it. Thanks in advance to Carla to run the April meeting in my absence.

Then in June (in addition to our own program) we can look forward to the Bead and Button Show in Milwaukee. That is something I attend about every two years due to the inevitable drain it tends to put on my personal cash flow. The plethora of beads and bead-related supplies at that show is dumbfounding. Once again I would say that we are fortunate to have that show so close to us. I remember back when it was held all over the United States, then Kalbach Publishing decided to just hold it close to home in Milwaukee. The classes offered at that show are tempting as you read through their booklet and the instructors in many cases are world-class bead artists. The classes do tend to be pricey – but, they are still tempting, none the less. Did you know MBS had a booth at that show some years ago? (It was a long weekend... fun, but long.)

Enjoy your spring while you keep your bead mats covered with projects! And, please continue to support our local bead stores!!

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