



Introducing Christine Wilson!

When did you start beading—and beadweaving—and why?

I admired my friend's Bali silver bracelet and she offered to teach me how to make one. We went to Seasonal Expressions in South Lyon to buy supplies and set down to string while our daughters played. I was immediately hooked. There was something about the immediate gratification and being able to wear what I made that grabbed me and wouldn't let go.

How much time do you spend beading a day?

At least an hour when Heidi was younger; now I work as much as I can to the detriment of clearing out the mess created by the last project.



What is your favorite stitch to work with and why?

This has changed over time but I still love the embellished spiral stitch. For me it's the most relaxing to work while yielding the biggest return for the effort involved.

What is your favorite kind of bead (metal, glass, czech, delica, etc) and why?

I can't say that I have a favorite bead. For fringes I love unusual shapes and

daggers and I gravitate towards finishes that are multi-dimensional like Picasso. I like the subtle shading these finishes give a project.

Do you have a favorite beading book? What is it and why?

The Art and Elegance of Beadweaving is my go to book when learning a stitch or when I don't understand and instructions directions. I love all of Laura McCabe's books for fringe ideas and her projects, her instructions are some of the best. I often reference Mary Hettmansperger's, Kim St. Jean's and Sharilyn Miller's books when working with metal.

What does your beading space look like?

Like a tornado hit it! I tend to work all over the house, but I do have a dedicated space in the basement that is actually large and quite nice. I just cannot seem to keep it organized and really need to purge and develop better organizational habits.



How and when did you discover the GLBG?

My friend Loretta, who lives in North Carolina, actually told me about it first. She had read about it somewhere and kept encouraging me to join. It was about 5 years ago? I started by taking as many classes as I could. My first class was with Janice Berkebille during Bead Daze and I'm really looking forward to coming full circle and taking her classes in 2012.

How do you participate in the guild?

I attend as many classes as possible and as many meetings as I can. I also edit the Beader Reader and volunteer for at least one Bead Bonanza each year.

What's your goal when you teach?

I've only taught informally so far, but my main goal is to transfer my enthusiasm to my students without overwhelming them. I tend to be a problem solver in my projects and that's hard to translate into project oriented instructions. When I'm doing the surrounds around my bottle cap cabochons, variations occur when problems arise like not getting a tight fit. I want to encourage my students to look for a solution rather than starting over.



Describe your excitement when you find that one of your pieces is going to be published.

Simply unbelievable! It's hard to describe the feeling as your work is seen as both worthy enough that others will want to see it and learn how to do it on their own.

What's your best advice for a beginning beader?

Don't be afraid to "color outside the lines". I have a very dear friend who wouldn't finish a cross stitch pattern if she didn't have the exact skein of floss specified even though she had another shade of that color. Beaders can get into the same rut, not varying at all from the pattern and not learning how to alter a design to fit their needs (or to compensate for tension and other issues). Learn how to read a pattern and take as many classes as you can and don't be afraid to experiment.