

## A Bracelet for Constance

We've all done it. As soon as we'd made our first beautiful beaded jewelry, we launched into making jewelry for friends and family. Many of them never asked us to do this. They didn't have to. All they had to do was hold our precious handiwork, ooh and aah enthusiastically, and they had us. We couldn't wait to wrap them in a made-just-by-me-for-you necklace or bracelet or dangle our bet-you've-never-seen-this-design earrings from their lobes.

A few months ago, I made a birthday bracelet for my best friend, Constance. I thought long and hard about what would suit her, what I could make that would tempt her to wear it as often as possible. The bracelet's centerpiece was a beautiful, whimsical lampworked "ant" bead from Barbara Becker Simon. In addition to the elegant ants that danced on the bead were the words "Ants in your pants." How perfect for my ever-in-motion friend!

In this issue, we're shamelessly promoting the making and giving of beaded keepsakes. Whether you're called upon to bead a beautiful necklace for a bride (as were Leslee Frumin, Maggie Meister, and Marcia DeCoster) or you decide to honor the

important women in your life (as Jean Campbell did in her Sassy Sisters Bracelet), you'll find a host of projects that help you say something special with your beadwork. To save and protect your own treasures or to give a beaded gift in style, the editors of *Beadwork* have designed a group of beaded and bead-embellished bags and containers. We hope you'll enjoy our Keepsake Keepers and the many possibilities for filling them!

Happy beading,



PHOTO BY TODD MAKASHIMA

## What's Cookin' in the *Beadwork* Office?

- **Bead Boy takes a break:** It's always a party when you join our Bead Boy, Dustin Wedekind, in beading something that tells a story, makes a statement, or dazzles us all! (Check out Dustin's "Bead a Prize" challenge on page 120.) Our April/May 2007 issue will feature the last Bead Boy column. Don't worry. Dustin will continue to offer up some of the artiest, wildest, most wonderfully crafted beadwork projects ever in many issues to come.
- **First quarterly issue of *Stringing*:** Subscribers can expect their first issue of this now-quarterly magazine in mid-February; nonsubscribers can buy it on the newsstands starting February 27. Packed with stylish, beautiful projects and brand-new departments, this issue of *Stringing* is shaping up to be our best ever!
- **Hello new website, goodbye passwords!** *Beadwork* magazine is part of an exciting new website relaunch taking place in Spring 2007! Our new focus is building an online community of bead lovers. And unlike the current website that includes a password-protected subscriber-only area, the new website offers everyone an e-newsletter, free projects, blogs, a project store, and much more (see page 6 for more details).
- **Join us at Bead Expo in Oakland!** Don't miss the chance to shop for fabulous beads, take workshops from the country's hottest bead instructors, and see the Beadwork V: The Beaded Bag exhibit at Bead Expo in Oakland, April 11-15, 2007. All of us here at *Beadwork* look forward to seeing you at the show, so please stop by our booth to say hello and share your latest bead stories.

# BEADWORK

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