

Our favorite picks

Debbie Burnside from Hartland, Wis., made this silver picture-frame bracelet. The original copper version appeared in *BeadStyle's* May 2009 issue. Debbie got hooked on making jewelry when she started reading *BeadStyle*. "*BeadStyle's* instructions are clear, and the photos are always beautiful. I love having the supply lists and added source information." Recently, Debbie made 14 necklaces for a Quinceañera.



To help cut your pictures to size, download a template at tierracast.com/newprods/keepsakecollection.php.



Congratulations Bead Jungle!



From left to right, back row: Cheree, Susan, Karen, Frank, Lupe, Jenna, Michele
Front row: Cathryn, Sandy (owner of Bead Jungle), and Acey

"Great selection, wonderful people, super classes, many, many specials, and the best store owner in the galaxy!"

That's how Regina DeMatteo, of Henderson, Nev., describes Bead Jungle. Regina was one of the happy customers who nominated the Henderson, Nev. store in *BeadStyle's* first "Favorite Bead Store" competition.

Winners were chosen by the number of votes received. The Bead Jungle won with 129 votes.

Below is part of our conversation with owner Sandy Murphy. Read more about Sandy and Bead Jungle in the editor's blog at BeadStyleMag.com.

When did you open Bead Jungle?

S.M.: We originally opened in Las Vegas in November 2001 at an indoor weekend swap meet. We grew so fast that in April of 2003 we opened our current store, and it has been the best experience of my life.

What kinds of classes do you offer?

S.M.: We offer almost everything that has to do with beads, including silversmithing, wire working, chain maille, bead weaving, stringing, French flowers, and soldering. We also invite guest instructors from all over the United States.

What are you most proud of?

S.M.: The fact that I have the best employees in the industry.

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What is your customer service philosophy?

S.M.: Our customers truly make us happy. All of us have put customer service at the forefront. That's our most important product and it makes us stand out.

How are you handling challenging economic times?

S.M.: By listening to our customers and trying to meet their needs. At the end of 2008, we sponsored our first annual Bead Jungle Craft Fair (called Crafting Safari) and plan to keep it going. We also are planning on working with charity organizations for women to teach them the art of beading. We are committed to giving back to the community.