



## A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

Having grown up in the Midwest, I was able to experience all the seasons at their stereotypical best—snowy winters (sledding, cozy fireplaces, hot cocoa), steamy summers (swimming at the lake, tank tops, sunlight until 8:00 P.M.) . . . you get my drift. Consequently, I've always had a hard time naming my favorite season. Last April, however, when my friend Julie and I met after work for our first road-bike ride of the season, I remember breathing in the fresh spring air while taking in the budding mountain scenery as it buzzed by and thinking to myself, *There's nothing better than this!*

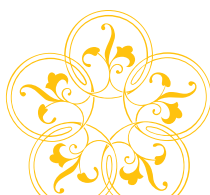
Looking through the jewelry in this issue, the same thought comes to mind. Perhaps it's because I'm a sucker for pale blues and greens (my Pisces water-sign influence?)—colors that pervade this pretty, soft-hued issue. More likely it's because every necklace, bracelet, and pair of earrings featured in this magazine is fresh, new, and exciting. Take one of the cover projects, for instance: Jess Italia-Lincoln's Dragonfly Transformation necklace. I am usually (gasp!) not a fan of donut beads; however, the way Jess wrapped a brass dragonfly pendant around a transparent aqua donut makes for an unforgettable focal piece—simple, yet fetching!

If you haven't heard the buzz, bee beads and findings are more popular than ever, and in our Beads to Buy department, we bring you a shiny swarm of them to choose from. And, as usual, we have over fifty bracelets and pairs of earrings for you to drool over (really—they are that cool!).

Whether spring is your favorite season or not, I hope you agree that the projects we showcase in this issue are some of the best yet. I think this is going to be a great year! (To help make it so, see the box below.)

Happy stringing,

stringing@interweave.com



## Send in Your Designs!

I invite you to submit your favorite necklace, bracelet, and earring designs to *Stringing*. We're always looking for new designers. For contributor guidelines, please visit [stringingmagazine.com](http://stringingmagazine.com). Here's a list of upcoming deadlines and notes about my vision for these issues:

### Fall 2008: due May 5, 2008

Make a statement! Think jewelry that is chic, crisp, polished, and fashion-forward. *I'm imagining a multi-strand topaz pearl necklace that would look great with a stylish, fitted suit jacket.*

### Winter 2008: due August 4, 2008

Celebrate! Think jewelry that is glamorous and sparkly, party-perfect or gift-ready. *I'm visualizing a jet black crystal choker tied with a black silk ribbon.*

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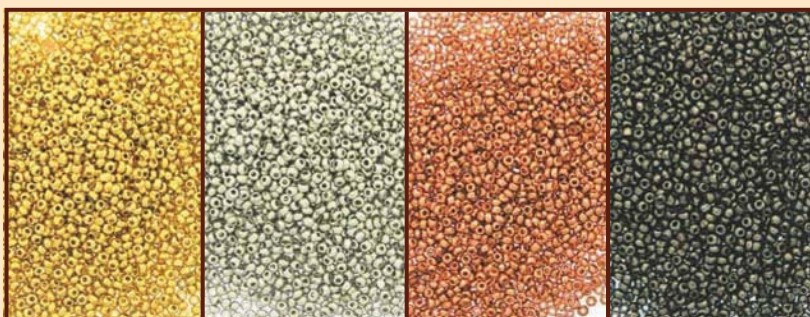
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