

NEWS

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Send news to Bill Fonda, 165 Enterprise Drive, Marshfield, MA 02050. scituate@wickedlocal.com, or fax to 781-837-4543.

QUESTIONS? Contact Editor Bill Fonda at 781-837-4562 or bfonda@wickedlocal.com

MEET THE ARTIST

By Kelly Anne Clinton | Staff Writer

EXTRA IN YOUR MARINER

Susan Wilson

Susan Wilson, owner of Liliana Designs in Scituate, uses sea glass, sea stones, precious and semi-precious metals; sterling silver, brass, copper and occasionally 14-karat gold as accents. Her designs can be found on lilianadesigns.com, tinyurl.com/lilianadesigns and lilianadesigns.etsy.com.

What different kinds of jewelry do you make with sea glass?

I love to create sea glass and sea stone jewelry that is classic and contemporary in design. What design emerges depends on the color, shape and size of the sea glass I am

working with. My jewelry showcases these genuine sea glass gems set in fine silver and sterling silver. I sometimes like to use sea glass, along with copper and brass, as accents to give the piece a more rustic feel. I've recently started working with tiny sea stones as well. These stones evoke the lovely grays of New England that those of us who live here are drawn to somehow. They have a beautiful nautical feel when combined with silver and brass. My settings are designed to complement the shape, size and color of each natural piece of sea glass and sea stone. I also enjoy creating with my

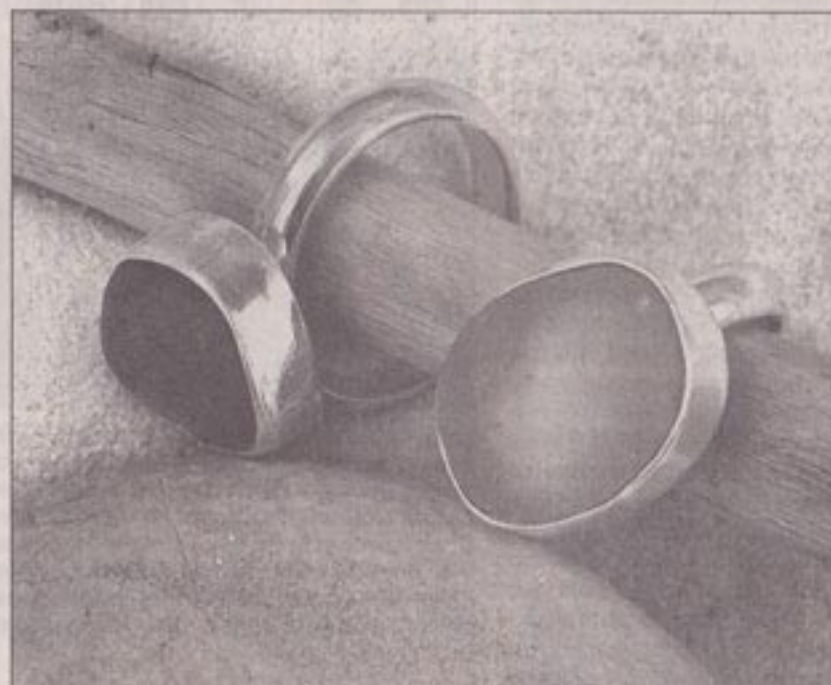
customer's pieces and working with them to design jewelry that allows the memories and history associated with that sea glass or sea stone to be carried with the owner for a lifetime.

What inspired you to start working with sea glass? What is it about sea glass that you love so much?

Collecting sea glass has been a passion of mine as far back as I can remember. Walking the Cape Cod shores looking for that coveted blue piece was exciting and rewarding as a child. It still is! I spent many of those Cape Cod summers learning to silversmith at the Artist's Guild in Falmouth then continued on to California College of Arts. After leaving my job of 12 years in Boston and taking time to build up my studio, I was asked to make jewelry for friends and family. I decided to make it a full-time thing and Liliana Designs was established. I like to think that if I focus on the work that incorporates the things I love and I pursue that work with passion then things fall into place. Liliana Designs was born out of a love for creating sea glass jewelry. It's my way of sharing an appreciation of nature's magical ability to take something man made and discarded and turning it into a beautiful gem!

How did you come up with your business name?

It's no surprise that many people ask me that! Liliana Designs was born of two grounding and inspirational influences in my life, my children Lily and Anna. They also happen to be my "eagle eyes" when it comes to sea glass hunting, often finding the best pieces of the day. I comb the beaches with family and friends for sea glass and sea stones and out of the pieces we find, Lily and Anna seem to find the small fraction of quality sea glass/stone that I like to work with.



Two rings made from sea glass at Liliana Designs in Scituate.

Where do you get your sea glass?

I have been collecting New England sea glass since I was a child and have built a substantial collection of my own rare, frosty, historic sea glass pieces in all different shapes, sizes and colors. My husband and kids hunt with me along local beaches, occasionally with exciting and surprising finds — truly a family affair. Family and friends send along their finds from trips to local and Caribbean beaches and beyond, so my supply is continually replenished with pieces from all over. I've been lucky enough to find an English sea glass collector who has agreed to part with some of the small rounded rare colored gems that he finds along the northeastern coast of England. He finds these pieces near an 1800s glass factory where "end of the day" glass was thrown off the cliffside to be tumbled into these lovely nuggets of multi-colored sea glass. On days when the weather cooperates, you can find me kayaking around the South Shore of Boston and the Islands near Cape Cod to collect some of the beautiful, historic sea glass gems you will see in much of my jewelry. I'm captivated with stories of the sea and love to research

the origins of my sea glass and can share some of the history I've discovered about each of my unique finds.

What's the most difficult part of making jewelry designs with sea glass?

Each piece of sea glass has its own unique qualities. No two pieces of genuine sea glass are ever exactly alike in color, shape or size. That is both the beauty and challenge of creating sea glass jewelry with pieces found on the beach. Finding two pieces of sea glass alike enough to make earrings is tricky. I sort through hundreds of pieces to find good matches. There is faux or manufactured sea glass out there that has its own beauty and appeal but has a different appearance from genuine sea glass that had years of tumbling in the surf and sand to create the telltale rounded and frosted pieces we find on the beach. Sea glass is becoming more and more rare now that recycling and plastics have taken root in our lives. It is not often that you can find pieces today out on Minot, Peggotty and Egypt beaches! But keep hunting! Maybe you will be one of the lucky ones that finds a piece!



Susan Wilson is owner of Liliana Designs in Scituate. COURTESY PHOTOS