

Sometimes I learn something new in html and have to redesign my site just so I can utilize what I learned! Web design has become a hobby so I really enjoy redesigning the site.

Imagine you could add one function. What would it be? Members trade Beanies daily on the site; a good system that tied their feedback to their usernames on the forum would be very useful for site users — as well as myself. **What motivates you?** My love (addiction) for Beanies, so being able to express that online through another hobby, Web design, works perfect for me. I never dreamed it would become so active and bring so many new friendships to my life.

Bean Watcher

BeanWatcher.com

Webmaster: The Bean Watcher, Virginia

When did you start your site?

Around August 2000, the Webmaster of the U.K.-based site, Beanie

Wonderland (later called Bean-e Wonderland), invited me to write articles for his Web site. A few months before Bean-e Wonderland was sold, the Webmaster encouraged me to host my own site. I did so, around January 2002.

When is your biggest news time?

Usually around the end of a month and the first week of a new month, there is a flurry of activity. Retirements, rumors of new introductions, news-flashes, etc., generally surface during this time.

How long does it take to update the site? Depending on the time of the month and my personal workload, it can take from two to five hours per day to update the site.

How have collectors responded? I am very proud that I have an inter-

national audience. Interest in Ty's products is certainly universal! **How many times have you redesigned the site?** As a minimum, I place a new background on the site at the beginning of each month with a theme related to an event during the month — a holiday, special occasion, etc.

What is your archive like? Time, money and technological constraints prevent me from maintaining one. However, if any reader wants to read about an article that I posted in the past, he/she simply has to write to me and ask for a copy of the article.

Do you have any plans to change the site in the next year? I am uncertain about the future of the Bean Watcher site. There have been times when maintaining the site has been difficult because of the demands of my full-time job. However, as long as updating the site is fun, I'll continue to keep it running.

Does something inspire you to keep updating the site? I update it because of my love for the hobby, the opportunity to interface with wonderful people throughout the world and the knowledge that I am making a difference in the lives of others.

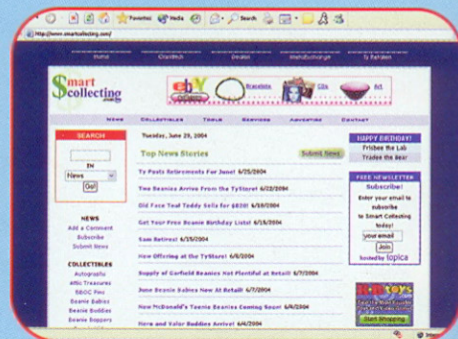
Smart Collecting

SmartCollecting.com

Webmaster: Jacqueline Greenwood, Connecticut

When did you launch your site?

In November 1998, when the Beanie Babies Official Club (BBOC) Collector's Cards hit the market, I quickly posted information on recent eBay sales along with pictures of the cards and a checklist. The site was called BeanieCardClub.com. I changed the name and domain to



SmartCollecting.com in May 1999.

How has it changed since?

SmartCollecting.com was just about the BBOC cards until the cards were retired at the end of 1999. [At that point] I began to post information on rare and limited Beanie Baby sales. Gradually, information on other Ty plush lines and additional features were added.

When do you start looking for news every day? I usually begin looking for news after I get my four children off to school in the morning.

How long do updates take?

SmartCollecting.com is database driven so it only takes minutes to keep the site up-to-date on a daily basis.

How do you manage to get breaking news? Thousands of members around the world submit news, questions and rumors. I also utilize Yahoo's News Tracker service.

How do you cover news during the day as it unfolds? I have a wireless Internet connection in my home so I can easily check for news at any time. Recently, I purchased a PDA so I can scan the news from anywhere in my home.

What kind of a response have you gotten? More than 10,000 collectors subscribe to our e-mail newsletter.

How do you operate your archive? A link to the 10 most recent articles appears on the homepage. All articles dating back to September 2000 can be found in a searchable database.

Do you have any plans to change the site in the next year?

SmartCollecting.com will continue to respond to the changing needs of collectors. I love to spread the news about these wonderful collectibles!*

