



seminar ONTARIO HANDSPINNING SEMINAR
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Fall 2011 Newsletter

It's that time again! With the arrival of this newsletter, you can start planning for the 2012 Seminar.

The Committee wants to thank everyone who filled out the evaluation forms at the Seminar last June. We read through them thoroughly and welcomed your suggestions, your kind words and even your criticisms.

At the 2012 Seminar, we are going to continue with our study of Silk. As requested, there will be longer workshops and more spinning! We'll be including fibre blending, colour blending, dyeing, creating novelty yarns with silk and we will also bring back some very popular workshops from last year. There will be lots of choices for everyone to consider.

Enduring Silk - A Timeless Classic

Friday, June 15 – Sunday, June 17, 2012
Burlington Hotel and Conference Centre (Holiday Inn)
Burlington, Ontario

We have listened to the comments about holding the Seminar on University Campuses and have decided to move the Seminar to a hotel which can accommodate everything under one roof. The Burlington Hotel and Conference Centre (Holiday Inn) is located near the intersection of Guelph Line and the QEW in Burlington and is easily accessible by car. There is a GO Transit Station and a VIA Rail Station located a short taxi ride away. Parking is free at the hotel – no parking passes required!

Our Keynote Speaker will be announced in the Spring Newsletter.

The Sales Room and Display areas are similar in size to the spaces we had at the University of Guelph but are at street level with two sets of access doors for moving in and out. No stairs, elevators or hallways to manoeuvre! The workshop rooms are spacious and easy to find on the ground floor.

Accommodations

Again, like last year, a block of hotel rooms has been set aside for our use. The hotel rooms are \$99.00 plus taxes per hotel room – no matter what size the room is. There are a number of single rooms (1 double bed) and a number of double rooms (2 queen-sized beds) reserved for us. There are no surcharges for extra people in the hotel room so if you have 4 friends who are willing to share a double room, you can split the cost 4 ways. Breakfast is **not** included in the room cost.

Please book your accommodations early! Reservations can be made at any time, Monday to Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., by contacting:

Tijana Bucalo, Reservations Coordinator
Tel: 905-639-4443, ext 4676 or at 1-888-987-4888

It is essential that you quote our group number when you make your reservation: #908184

The block of rooms will be held until May 16th so be sure to book your room well before that date in order to stay at the Seminar location!

Sales Room Contact

Anyone wishing to have Sales Room space should contact:

Registrar: Barb Ross, tel: 905-876-4005

email: ohseminar@start.ca

website: www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca

Vendors from last year's Seminar will automatically receive an application.

2011-2012 Board of Directors

President: Hazel Alexander

Vice President: Linda Needles

Secretary: Dianne Lamb

Treasurer: Brenda Pedden Boyce

Members at Large: Esther Grav, Elizabeth McConaghy, Liz van Wyck

2011-12 Committee

Chair: Beth Showalter

Board Representative: Hazel Alexander

Registrar: Barb Ross

Secretary: Barb Ross

Workshop Convenors: Catherina Forbes, Hazel Alexander

Salesroom Convenors: Barb Ross, Sheila Clark and Edy Marlatt

Display Convenors and Competitions: Jennifer Earle, Sharon Gowland

Fashion Show Convenor: Elona McCubbin

Facility and Financials: Barb Ross, Hazel Alexander

2011 Competition and Award Winners

Skein Competition Winners

Simple 2-ply

Novice

1st: Susan Sprecker

Advanced

1st: Hanna Fulton

2nd: Pat Jarvis

3rd: Jessie McGregor

Special Project Winners

Wearables

Advanced

1st: Pat Hardy – Spindle-Spun Grey Scarf

2nd: Hanna Fulton – Ruby Shawl

3rd: Jessie McGregor – Kilt Hose

Elaine Horemans – Vest

Non-Wearables

Advanced

1st: Beth Showalter – Beaded Handbag

Award Winners

Founders Award: Liz Van Wyck (Baby Alpaca Shawl for Baby) This award honours the founders of the Ontario Handspinning Seminar: Edna Blackburn, Ted Carson and Dorothy Kirk. The award of \$100 is presented to the person with the best article on display, made of 100% handspun yarn. It is judged by the Seminar attendees, who cast ballots for their favourite.

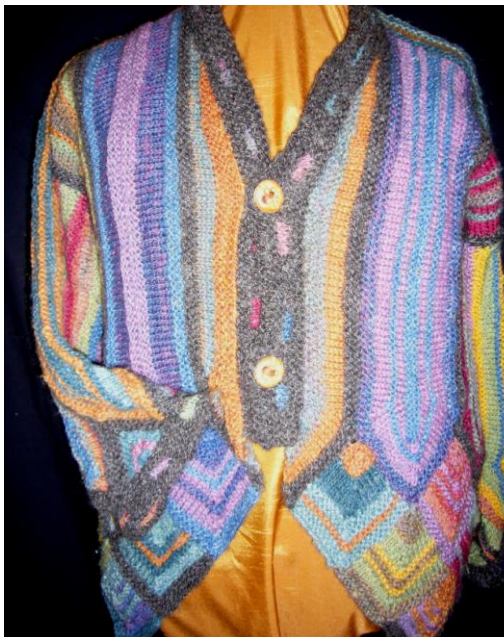
Barb Patterson Award: Susan Sprecker This award of \$25 honours Barb Patterson, one of the founding members of The Grand River Spinners and Weavers Guild. It is presented for the “Best Skein by a Novice Spinner”.

Ontario Handweavers and Spinners Award: Barbara Scott (Woven Scarf) This award of \$100 is presented by the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners. The award is given in recognition of the article on display that demonstrates “the best use of handspun yarn in a handwoven article”. Judges are provided by the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners.

Handweavers’ Guild of America Award: Kitt Fisher (Natural Wonder Sweater) This award of a gift certificate and handwoven ribbon is presented by the Handweavers’ Guild of America in recognition of “a work of handweaving, spinning, dyeing or basket-making which embodies a unique interpretation, demonstrates a fresh, individual approach and expresses personal creativity”, as judged by an appointee of the Ontario Handspinning Seminar Board of Directors.

WOW!! Award: Kitt Fisher (Natural Wonder Sweater) This award is judged by the Ontario Handspinning Seminar Display Coordinators. It is in recognition of an article that inspires the viewer to say “WOW”!! **All articles submitted for display are eligible.**

Enjoy these photos of two of the 2011 Award Winners. More photos will follow in the Spring Newsletter.



Above: Ontario Handweavers & Spinners Award – Barbara Scott
Left: Handweavers’ Guild of America Award and
WOW!! Award – Kitt Fisher

2012 Competition and Award Categories

In an effort to encourage more entries, we have rewritten the criteria for some of the categories, hoping to persuade you to enter your projects. If you find it confusing to complete some of the forms, please ask for help. If you don't want to be judged on your project, then enter the "Just for Fun" category. You may not think that you are good enough to enter, but don't be shy! You may have come up with a colour combination that surprises, a fibre blend that entices or a design that everyone wants to try. We all love to see what others are doing, no matter how simple or complex. Plan now on entering your projects in the 2012 Displays. It's all about participating!

- Seminar participants are limited to one entry per category.
- Entries in the Special Projects Competition are eligible for the Founders Award if they meet the criteria that the item is made totally of handspun yarn.
- Entries in all categories must have been completed within the past year.
- Seminar participants who act as judges may not submit entries in the competition.

Baggie Challenge

Remember the bag of luxurious fibres that you received at last year's "**Wild about Silk**" Seminar? It contained 10g each of Eri and Muga wild silks along with the colourful throwsters waste, cocoons and carrier rods.

This year's fibre challenge is to create a small luxury or decorative item that is made of 100% silk. Please consider the following guidelines:

- Use all 20g of the fibre provided in this bag.
- You may add other silk to create your item.
- Emphasize the beautiful natural colours of the wild silk.
- Embellish your item with beads, charms, buttons or shells as needed....

Have fun creating a small luxury item just for you as you enjoy exploring wild silks! Be sure to bring your item to be displayed at the 2012 Seminar in Burlington.

Skeins Competition

Skeins Competition Criteria

You are encouraged to submit handspun skeins in any or all of the three categories.

- If you have been spinning for fewer than two years, enter as "novice".
 - If you have been spinning for more than 2 years, enter as "advanced".
1. **Simple 2-ply skein:** Your goal should be to produce a consistent, balanced yarn that is appropriate for the end use suggested in your documentation.
 2. **3 or more ply skein:** Your goal should be to produce a consistent, balanced yarn that is appropriate for the end use suggested in your documentation.
 3. **Novelty skein:** Your goal is to construct a yarn which boasts a decorative element. This may be a spinning technique (crepe or bouclé, for example) or it may consist of additions to your spun yarn (beads, feathers, etc). The choice is yours...so have fun with it. However, remember that the yarn must be stable and suited to the end use you have stated on your entry.
 4. **Spindle-spun skein:** This 2-ply skein must be spun on a hand spindle. It will be critiqued on the same basis as the wheel spun 2-ply skein...grist, twist, balance and appropriateness for end use.

Guidelines for Submitting a Skein and to be Eligible for Judging

1. All skeins must be a minimum of 20 meters and a maximum of 25 meters in length.

2. Skeins must be correctly tied in four places with figure eight ties made from fine cotton. Skeins must not be twisted. The beginning of the skein should be tied to the end of the skein.
3. All entries must be handspun (including binder threads) and include the following in order to qualify for judging:
 - a. sample(s) of the fibre(s) used, before and after preparation. If using commercially prepared fibre, include a sample of the unspun fibre.
 - b. percentage of each fibre (if using more than one) in the skein
 - c. an explanation of how the fibre was prepared, including blending
 - d. full explanation of yarn construction techniques
 - e. a description of the intended end use for the yarn AND a description of why the yarn suits the end use.
 - f. 2"x2" swatch worked in the technique specified for the end product.

The entry form will be sent out with your registration information in the Spring Newsletter.

Special Projects Competition

Special Projects Competition Criteria

You are encouraged to submit an item based on techniques taught at last year's Seminar.

- If you have been spinning for fewer than two years, enter as "novice".
- If you have been spinning for more than 2 years, enter as "advanced".

Techniques and subjects from last year's Seminar include: Beginning Silk Spinning, Dyeing with Indigo – Shibori, Exploring the Subtleties of Silk, Fine Silk for All Reasons, Making Silk Paper, Spinning Silk for Weaving and Spinning Silk on a Spindle

The categories are:

1. **100% Silk**
 - a. **Wearable Items**
Projects for this category may include, but are not limited to: Items for the head, neck, hands or feet; items that are worn over the shoulder or that lie on your lap; items for your pet.
 - b. **Non-Wearable Items**
Projects for this category may include, but are not limited to: Items for carrying or for use around the house.
2. **Open – Any Percentage of Any Fibre**
 - a. **Wearable Items**
Projects for this category may include, but are not limited to: Items for the head, neck, hands or feet; items that are worn over the shoulder or that lie on your lap; items for your pet.
 - b. **Non-Wearable Items**
Projects for this category may include, but are not limited to: Items for carrying or for use around the house.

Guidelines for Special Projects and to be Eligible for Judging

All entries must be 100% handspun, although felted items and items made with silk paper are included this year. You may use any appropriate construction technique. Please include the following in order to qualify for judging:

1. Sample of the fibre(s) used, before and after preparation. If using commercially prepared fibre, include a sample of the unspun fibre.
2. An explanation of how the fibre was prepared, including blending
3. A brief description of the spinning technique used
4. Sample skein (about 5 metres in length) of the final yarn used in the project.
5. Felted items and silk paper items will be judged on creativity and construction technique.

The entry form will be sent out with your registration information in the Spring Newsletter.

“Just for Fun” Submissions

These creations will not be formally evaluated but are eligible for the Founders Award, WOW Award, the OHS Award and the HGA Award.

If competitions are not for you but you wish to share your achievements with your peers, bring your skeins or projects along to display. There is only one criterion in this category - all “Just for Fun” submissions must be created since the last Seminar (Wild about Silk in 2011) and may be made from any fibre.

Awards

Any article submitted may be eligible if the appropriate guidelines are followed.

Founders Award

This award honours the founders of the Ontario Handspinning Seminar: Edna Blackburn, Ted Carson and Dorothy Kirk. The award of \$100 is presented to the person with the best article on display, made of 100% handspun yarn. It is judged by the Seminar attendees, who cast ballots for their favourite.

Ontario Handweavers and Spinners Award

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Handweavers’ Guild of America

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WOW!! Award

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Barb Patterson Award

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The Handspinner’s Research Scholarship

The Ontario Handspinning Seminar Inc. has money available for an annual Scholarship that is to be used in the exploration and development of new techniques, equipment and/or related research of interest to handspinners and dyers. A specific plan of study must be included with the application. Recipients are required to share the results of the experience with the participants of an Ontario Handspinning Seminar within 3 years of receipt of the scholarship. **Everyone is encouraged to apply – there is still lot of time to meet the January 31st deadline.**

For more information on the requirements and submitting an application, visit our website at www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca.

Fashion Show

The Fashion Show will be held after the Banquet on Saturday night. If you would like to model your creation, have someone else model for you or be a model in the Fashion Show, a form will be available to fill out with the Registration Form accompanying the Spring Newsletter.

Spring Newsletter and Registration Form

This Newsletter, as well as the Spring Newsletter and registration forms will be available on-line at the Ontario Handspinning Seminar website. Please pass this information along to your friends and tell them to visit www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca. If you received this Newsletter, please be assured that your registration form will be mailed by regular Canada Post with the Spring Newsletter.

Be sure to follow our new blog "The Yarn Spinner" at <http://.ontariohandspinningseminar.blogspot.com> for regular updates or join the conversation at www.ravelry.com/groups/ontario-handspinning-seminar-fans.

Lost and Found

At the 2011 Seminar in Guelph, an orifice hook was found and a skein went missing from one of the display entries. If you are either missing your hook (and can identify the spinning wheel model) please contact the Registrar at the email address or phone number at the top of page 1. If you are that spinner who hasn't quite unpacked your purchases from last year and suddenly finds yourself with a display card of sample skeins that you didn't spin, please let us know, again, at the contact information on the top of page 1.

A Note about Liability

The Ontario Handspinning Seminar Inc. is not responsible for damage to or loss of personal property. We do take every precaution to protect your equipment and materials on display. Workshop and display rooms will be secured at all times when seminar participants are not in attendance.