



**ONTARIO HANDSPINNING SEMINAR**  
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## Fall Newsletter 2009

Well, it's that time again. The Seminar Newsletter is in your hands and you can start planning for, anticipating and most exciting of all, creating your competition entries and Baggie Challenge wool afghan squares ready for the next Seminar.

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

As a direct result of the comments on the evaluations and of conversations heard and overheard during the Seminar, we have decided that the theme for the 2010 Ontario Handspinning Seminar will be:

### **MORE ON WOOL**

Mark your calendars **NOW** for **Friday June 11<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

And get ready to delve

**Back into the World of**

**Warm, Winsome, Wacky, Wilful, Wearable, Wonderful WOOL.**

We listened to you and your enthusiasm for the workshops that were presented at the last Seminar. We are planning to repeat some of the more popular workshops and maybe even expand some that were half-day sessions to a full Saturday workshop.

This does not mean that the entire Seminar will be boring repetition !!!!! NO! NO! NO!

The workshops in 2010 will explore more sheep breeds, more on how to use wool in blends, more wool spinning techniques such as spindling, and more basic preparation techniques. There will be a fascinating workshop (or two or three or more) for everyone, from novice to experienced spinners.

Please use the inspiration you acquired at the 2009 Seminar, at your workshops and from your fellow creative spirits, to produce some wonderful squares from the baggies handed out for the 2009 Challenge. We will be creating an afghan (or two – depending on the number of squares received), raffling it (them) off and giving the proceeds to a women's shelter in Kingston. We hope to have a representative of the charity at the Saturday banquet to receive the donation.

### **The Venue for the Seminar will be the same as 2009!**

The 2010 Ontario Handspinning Seminar will take place on the campus of Queen's University in Kingston. The residence, Victoria Hall will be the same. We were very aware of some of the mobility issues that arose regarding ground level entrance accessibility and together with Queen's University staff, we will address those issues.

Again, Ban Righ Hall will be the site of the Dining Room, the Sales Room and the Display Room. They are all adjoining, so you will be able to move from one to the other to the third and back again while they are open. We have also considered a more convenient location for the classrooms, where the morning keynote address and all of the workshops can be in one building.

Anyone wishing to have Sales Room space should contact:

Kay James - 4356 Appleton Sideroad, RR # 3, Almonte ON K0A 1A0 613-257-8539

or e-mail [amispin@ca.inter.net](mailto:amispin@ca.inter.net) Vendors from last year's seminar will automatically receive an application.

#### **2009-2010 Committee**

Chair: Esther Grav  
Board Liaison: Bridget Lewis  
Registrar: Mara Lusia  
Acting Secretary and Volunteer Co-ordinator: Kim Bushby  
Display and Fashion Show: Susan Alain, Jane Schuell, Colleen Thomson,  
Special Projects and Skeins: Susan Alain, Jane Schuell, Colleen Thomson  
Baggie Challenge Co-ordinator: Shirley MacGregor  
Sales Room: Kay James  
Workshops: Jackie Sylvester  
Member-at-large and 2011/2012 Seminar Committee Liaison: Elona McCubbin

#### **2009-2010 Board of Directors**

Past President: Harriet Boon,  
President: Hazel Alexander  
Vice President: Liz Van Wyck  
Secretary: Dianne Lamb  
Treasurer: Marta Spencer  
Members at Large: Brenda Pedden Boyce, Esther Grav, Bridget Lewis, Elisabeth McConaghy

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 along to your friends and tell them to visit [www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca](http://www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca)

Registration itself will be by regular Canada Post "snail mail."

#### **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.

## **Competitions and Awards**

We all experienced the wonders of WOOL at last year's Seminar in Kingston. Now it will be your chance to display your skills in working with this versatile fibre.

Actually, that should read "these versatile fibres" because there are so many breeds of sheep that provide us with such diversity in their fleeces, that we have many choices.

**SO – No waffling allowed! Don't be woolly headed! Just get in and get at it!**

**Spin those skeins! Design those projects that will wow us all!**

Let your imagination run free on the "Just for Fun" creations!

Please read through the competition and display criteria below. We have changed things from previous years to encourage more of you to show off your fabulous creative talents.

### **Here are the categories for submission to the 2010 Seminar Display**

**Enter one !!      Enter all !!**

#### **Only # 1 and # 2 will be judged !!**

**1. Skein competitions:**

- a) 2 ply – novice or advanced
- b) 3 or more ply – novice or advanced
- c) Spindle spun – novice or advanced

**2. Special projects:**

- a) Wearables for the human body - 100 gms and under  
- over 100 gms
- b) Not wearable on the human body - 100 gms and under  
- over 100 gms

**3. Just for Fun**

## **Fashion Show**

We listened to your comments – the Fashion Show process will be tightened up. If you will want to model your creation or have it modelled in the Fashion Show, a special form will be available at registration for you to fill out.

## **2010 Skein Competition Criteria**

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

If you have been spinning for less than two years, enter as “novice”; 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. **Creative 3-ply or more:** Construct a yarn which has at least 3 plies and which boasts a decorative element. This may be a spinning technique (crepe or boucle, for example) or it may consist of additions to your spun yarn (beads, feathers, etc). The choice is yours...so have fun with it. Remember, however, that the yarn must be stable and suited to the end use recorded in your documentation.
3. **Spindle-spun skein:** This skein must be spun on a spindle, not a wheel, and consist of 2 plies. It will be critiqued on the same basis as the wheel spun 2-ply skein...grist, twist balance and appropriateness of end use.

### **Guidelines for submitting a skein and to be eligible for judging**

1. All skeins must be a minimum of 10 meters and a maximum of 15 meters in length.
2. Skeins must be correctly tied in four places with figure eight ties made from thin cotton and must not be twisted. The beginning of the skein should be tied to the end of the skein.
3. All entries must be handspun 100% wool fibre and include the following in order to qualify for judging:
  - a. sample(s) of the wool fibre(s) used, before and after preparation. If using commercially prepared fibre, include a sample of the unspun fibre
  - b. an explanation of how the fibre was prepared, including blending
  - c. full explanation of yarn construction techniques
  - d. describe the purpose for which the spinner intends the yarn to be used and why that technique was chosen
  - e. prepare a 2"x2" sample swatch

Entries for the 2010 skein competition will require 2 sheets of documentation: a form for the judges and one for display. Forms will be sent out with your registration information in the spring.

## **2010 Special Projects Criteria**

We are challenging you to create a finished article in any of the following categories:

1. Wearables for the human body
  - a. 100 gms and under
  - b. over 100 gms
2. Not wearable on the human body
  - a. 100 gms and under
  - b. over 100 gms

All projects will be weighed at the submissions desk to determine their weight category.

All entries must be 100% handspun wool. You may use any appropriate construction technique and include the following in order to qualify for judging:

- a. Sample of the fibre(s) used, before and after preparation. If using commercially prepared fibre, include a sample of the unspun fibre.
- b. An explanation of how the fibre was prepared
- c. Description of the spinning technique used
- d. Sample skein (minimum 1 metre) of the final yarn used in the project must be included.

Entries for the 2010 skein competition will require 2 sheets of documentation: a form for the judges and one for display. Forms will be sent out with your registration information in the spring.

## **2010 “Just for Fun” Submissions**

These creations will not be judged.

If competitions are not for you but you wish to share your achievements with your peers, bring your skeins or projects along for Display Only. There is only one criterion in this category;

all “Just for Fun” submissions must at least 51% wool.

Think outside the box !!!! Stretch your imagination !!!! Challenge yourself !!!!

These submissions will require only a form for display. Forms will be sent out with your registration information in the spring.

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT COMPETITIONS AND AWARDS**

Due to technical difficulties and a glitch beyond our control, we are unable to announce the 2009 Seminar Award winners in this Newsletter. We hope to have this information in the Spring Newsletter.

If you were a winner in any of the skein and project categories, or of any the Competition Awards, please let the Committee know by sending an email to the acting secretary, Kim Bushby - kbushby2@hotmail.com

### **2010 Competition Awards**

**(Any article submitted for Competition is eligible if 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**

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**

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 basketmaking 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.

#### **2009 WOW!! Award**

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.**

#### **Barb Patterson Award**

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"

**2009 Scholarship Award:** No applicants - Please see below

### **2010 Scholarship Award**

**Please take note !!!....** The Ontario Handspinning Seminar Inc. has money available for an annual Scholarship that provides the applicant with a chance to go on that extra course to learn more about a special technique in spinning or dyeing. If you would like to explore new fibres, study old or new techniques, we would like to give you some help. A specific plan of study must be included with the application, and it is the intention that you share your experience within 3 years of receipt of the scholarship with the participants of an Ontario Handspinning Seminar. **Everyone is encouraged to apply – there is still lots of time to meet the January 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.** For more information on the requirements and to make an application, contact Dianne Lamb, 265 Knox Rd. East, Wasaga Beach ON L9Z 2T6 or email [aanddlamb@sympatico.ca](mailto:aanddlamb@sympatico.ca) or visit our website at [www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca](http://www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca)

#### **Some final notes about Special Projects and Awards:**

- Seminar participants are limited to one entry per category
- Entries in the 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
- Novice = less than 2 years spinning experience; Advanced = 2 or more years spinning experience