



ONTARIO HANDSPINNING SEMINAR

Spring Newsletter March 2005

Registrar: Lee Donely, Box 69, Delaware, ON N0L 1E0 (519) 652-6906 donelyl@start.ca

Mohair

KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON, ONTARIO

JUNE 3-5, 2005

Welcome to the 2005 Ontario Handspinning Seminar. The Committee has prepared a set of workshops to inspire spinners of all levels to spin mohair. We will also be featuring workshops specifically geared to beginning spinners.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Come and join us on Saturday morning for an information-filled talk on mohair. Donna Hancock will be our keynote speaker. Donna comes to us with a great amount of knowledge of Mohair. She not only raises angora goats, but she also runs a fabulous fibre business where many of us have had the pleasure of finding beautiful hand dyed mohair. She will be giving an overview, complete with slides, of the history of mohair, characteristics of angora goats, fleece characteristics, classification of animals, grading of fleeces, industrial/commercial processing and the uses of mohair.

SUNDAY MORNING SPIN-IN AND FASHION SHOW

This year, in response to requests for more time to socialize, we are pleased to offer our Sunday morning session which combines a relaxed and sociable spin-in with the ever-amazing fashion show. Please think about the items you have spun which display the wonderful and varied ideas you have had this year. Fashion show items may be made using any technique and fibre type. This event is a wonderful way to have your handspinning seen by your peers and to gain inspiration from others.

SALES ROOM

The Sales Room will be in the new Bessie Labatt Building.

Hours will be: Friday 6:00 pm – 10 pm and Saturday 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm.

Anyone wishing to have sales room space, please contact Judy Miller, 159 Sterling St., London, ON, N5Y 1Y9, (519) 453-4916, jpmiller@gti.on.ca for availability and an application form. All vendor applications must be received by April 15, 2005.

Vendors not participating in the Seminar are not required to pay the registration fee, but must complete the appropriate area of the registration form if accommodation or meals are required. The form must be forwarded with payment for these to The Registrar.

COMPETITIONS FOR 2005 HANDSPINNING SEMINAR

Important

Please take a minute to re-read the requirements and be sure you have fulfilled them. A blank entry form will be included in your registration confirmation package. Each entry must be accompanied by an entry form (photocopy form if needed). In order to ensure impartiality, do not write your name on the entry form. Each entry will be identified by a number, which will be attached to your item. We are assembling a panel of knowledgeable and enthusiastic judges who will provide written comments on your entries. Entries may be handed in from 5 pm – 9 pm Fri June 3 in the display room.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Seminar participants are limited to one entry per category.
2. 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.
3. Entries in all categories must have been completed within the past year.
4. Seminar participants who act as judges may not submit entries in the competition.
5. Novice = less than 2 years spinning experience; Advanced = 2 or more years spinning experience

PROJECTS

This year we are challenging you to create a finished article in the following categories:

1. Garments: e.g. Sweaters, vests, jackets
2. Accessories: e.g. hats, scarves, socks, mittens
3. Other: e.g. dolls/teddy bears, tea cosy, placemats or other household article, whimsical ideas

Finished articles in categories 1-3 must contain at least 50% cotton, flax, hemp, ramie, soy silk, ingeo, lyocell or bamboo, which were featured at the 2004 Ontario Handspinning Seminar.

All entries must be handspun, may use any appropriate construction technique and 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. Percentage of each fibre in the project
3. An explanation of how the fibre was prepared, including blending
4. Description of the spinning technique used
5. Sample of the final yarn used in the project

SKEINS

This year we are challenging you to create a skein in the following novice or advanced categories:

1. Simple 2 ply skein, 100% vegetable fibre
2. Novelty skein, at least 50% vegetable fibre
3. Blend, at least 50% vegetable fibre

All skeins must be a minimum of 20 meters and a maximum of 25 meters in length. Skeins must be correctly tied in four places with figure eight ties made from thin cotton and must not be twisted. All entries must be handspun and 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. Percentage of each fibre in the skein
3. An explanation of how the fibre was prepared, including blending
4. Full explanation of yarn construction techniques
5. Describe the purpose for which the spinner intends the yarn to be used and why that technique was chosen.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

To avoid disappointment, send one registration form per person attending the Seminar or requiring accommodation. Please print clearly. You may photocopy forms for anyone not on our mailing list or for other members of your household who wish to attend. If you are receiving the form by email, please ensure that all the form prints as it appears on the screen. (You may need to download the Adobe Acrobat reader from the internet) If problems arise with printing the form, please email the registrar. Note that the name you put on the registration form will be the name printed on your nametag. A confirmation of registration, travel directions, a map of King's College and lists of class equipment will be sent prior to the seminar.

Accommodation will be available in the King's College residences. All buildings have elevators and there are some single rooms available. Please indicate in the appropriate area on the registration form with whom you wish to share a room. Bathroom facilities will be shared. Towels and bedding will be provided. Some rooms are air-conditioned and these will be allocated on a first registered basis, to those who request them. The residence buildings are a few minutes walk from the workshop and sales room locations. A wheel lock-up will be provided for Saturday morning, in the workshop location for anyone wishing to use it. For attendees who do not wish to stay at the University residences, a limited number of rooms have been reserved at the Spencer Conference Centre nearby. Please contact the Spencer Conference Centre directly at (519) 679-4546 and mention that you are attending the Ontario Handspinning Seminar. Rooms must be reserved before May 3, 2005. The room rate is \$115/night, including breakfast.

Attendance space is limited and we wish to provide everyone with an equal chance to have their first preferences. **Registration forms must be postmarked no earlier than April 13 and no later than April 29. Note that registration is limited and will be accepted in order of receipt. Forms and payment must be sent to Lee Donely, Ontario Handspinning Seminar Registrar, Box 69, Delaware, ON N0L 1E0. No e-mail returns will be accepted.**

Payment by cheque or money order in Canadian Funds payable to the Ontario Handspinning Seminar Committee must accompany registration forms. Post-dated cheques and travelers cheques will not be accepted. Some restrictions may apply to requests for refunds. An administration fee of \$10 will be applied to all refunds. Due to contractual obligations with the University, no refunds for meals or rooms will be made after May 13, 2005. After this date, contact the registrar for availability and rates.



ONTARIO HANDSPINNING SEMINAR

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.

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING ALL YEAR?

Everyone is encouraged to bring an item to put into the Display. Items do not have to be entered into competition, just shown. This is an opportunity for us to exchange ideas and to indulge in a bit of "Show-and-Tell" – a chance to see what others have been working on since the last Seminar. No matter what your level of experience, it is nice to be inspired by each other. This also is an opportunity to have a close look at items that might be in the Fashion Show on Sunday morning. The items from the 2004 "Paint Box Baggie Challenge" will also be on display. We look forward to displaying the whimsical or useful items you have produced using only the colours of fibre in the bag and the non fibre embellishments that you may have added.

Items may be dropped off from 5-9pm Fri June 3 in the display room.

WORKSHOPS

The Workshops will be held on Saturday. During the morning all instructors will cover the same material. The morning session will be an introduction to mohair, with samples of fleece and roving for you to spin. In the afternoon, each instructor will present their individual workshops. You will remain in the same classroom, with the same instructor for the entire day.

Almost Indestructible Socks and Rugs

Barbara-Anne Ramer

Tired of heels and toes wearing out so quickly on your favourite socks? Want an almost indestructible rug? Join the group making the MOST of MOHAIR! This class will provide special attention for beginners, plus great tips for the experienced to broaden their parameters.

Barbara-Anne is a Master Spinner who teaches in the OHS Spinning Certificate program, workshops, seminars and daily in her own studio. She has a passion for Spinning, Weaving, Sewing, Knitting and sharing with others. Together with her husband Alvin they operate a small Spinning Equipment business where they manufacture all the products except Spinning Wheels, which they sell new and restored. They have a Spinning Wheel Museum open to the public.

Blending on the Drum Carder

Tracy Asselstine

Learn about the types of drum carders, their care and use. Blend exotics and wool, using white fibres, and white and naturally coloured wools, angora, merino, silk, cotton and mohair. Explore colour blending. Using an inspirational piece, try and copy colours and texture in handspun yarn using the drum carder to blend colours and fibres.

Tracy has been raising angora goats and mohair for seventeen years. She has been an accredited and active Canadian judge of both angora and mohair fleeces. Tracy has won many first place ribbons for her goats, mohair fleeces, spinning abilities and handmade garments. Tracy is a spinner, dyer, weaver, knitter and lover of mohair.

Creative Yarns with Mohair

Beth Abbott

Try out some new techniques and learn to spin mohair. Forget the fuzzy mohair sweaters of the 60's and learn to create some beautiful yarns, with the basics and some blends with wool and silk. Mohair lends itself to some interesting novelty techniques to create unique yarns for knitting and weaving. Have a look at the variety of ways that you can include mohair in your fibre creations.

Beth, a Master Spinner since 1990, teaches workshops in Canada and the US as well as in the OHS Spinning Certificate program, after spending 33 years as a professional teacher. She has won many awards for her work and has published many articles in Fibre Focus and other magazines. She is the author of "The Icelandic Fleece, A Fibre for All Reasons", published in 2001.

Dyeing Mohair

Harriet Boon

Class discussion and class activities will work toward answering the questions - when to dye, which dyes are suitable for demonstration and/or end use, how to proceed and how to evaluate the dyes. Use Kool-Aid, acid, and natural dyes with alum mordant to dye kid and adult mohair, plus wool/mohair blends.

Harriet is a sheep producer, spinner, dyer, weaver and retailer of fibres and dyes. She earned her Master Spinners Certificate from Georgian College in 1976. She has taught in the Master Spinner programs for Georgian and OHS since graduating, as well as workshops in Ontario and U.S.

I Bought It - Now What Do I Do With It?

Hazel Alexander

3 Have you ever bought some fibre and then wondered what to do with it when you got it home? Using commercially available mohair blends, we will learn how to analyze the blends, decide how to spin them and what to use them for. We will experiment by spinning several different blends and decide which are the good, better and best yarns for various end uses.

Hazel is a graduate of the OHS Spinning Certificate Course. Hazel has taught beginning spinning, natural dyeing, given programs on silk reeling and cotton spinning as well as demonstrating spinning to the public. She enjoys spinning a wide variety of fibres and exploring new techniques to showcase them.

Kiddin' Around

Marion Satchwill

2 Participants will learn to prepare and spin fine kid mohair to make a lace weight yarn of delectable softness, suitable for the shawl or scarf you may have been dreaming about making. Preparation will include use of combs and a diz. You will have a choice of natural or dyed fiber to play with.

Marion graduated as a Master Spinner and operates Bo-Peep's Spinning Wheel Shop since her retirement from school teaching. She has taught spinning and dyeing at Ontario Handspinning Seminars and at various sites in the U.S. including the John C. Campbell Folk School. Marion has been the recipient of a number of awards for her lace spinning and last year was awarded the Canadian Finalist at the International Spinning Challenge, sponsored by Majacraft of New Zealand.

Mohair Blending for Beginners

Maxine Westdorp

Work with a wool fibre and blend with mohair, from 100% wool to 75/25, 50/50, 25/75 and 100% mohair. The yarns produced will be knit into a swatch so the spinner can see, feel and understand the difference set amounts mixed with wool create in the spinning process and finished product. (This makes it easier to spin, gradually working up to pure mohair, and allows one to see the change in shrinkage, hand and appearance). The participants will have to weigh, prepare (card) and spin the yarns (2 ply) in class, and knit either in class or finish later. This shows best in a contrasting colour, with a good quality of mohair.

Maxine is a graduate of the OHS Spinning Certificate Program in Haliburton and occasionally teaches at the Burlington Art Centre, as well as the OHS Spinning Certificate program. Teaching others keeps spinning fresh and fun.

Novelty Yarn

Barbara Scott

4 Explore the use of novelty yarn techniques that work well using mohair. Spend time exploring loop, core spun, snarl and other constructions, playing with the use of colour, combining fibres, and hybridizing techniques.

Barbara has been spinning for thirty years. She has taught at conferences, guilds and colleges, and has written for Ontario textile publications as well as for Spin-Off. To spinning, she brings curiosity, a need for technical mastery, and delight in playful exploration.

Other Goat Fibres

Ann Welch

A hands-on workshop exploring the possibilities of cashgora and cashmere. This workshop will include blending and multiple plying.

Ann began spinning in 1979 with the purchase of three angora rabbits and an Ashord spinning wheel. She received her OHS Master Spinners Certificate, with Distinction, in 1986 with her study on Angora. Ann has won many awards for her spinning, including the Founders award for her handpainted silk "Peacock Shawl". Ann's area of interest is in spinning exotic fibres and the control of diameter and twist.

Weaving with Mohair

Donna Hancock

We will be considering the factors we must keep in mind when spinning mohair for warp and weft. Evaluation of different approaches to using mohair yarn in the designing of weaving will be discussed.

Donna and her husband own 60 Angora goats and Wellington Fibres yarn business. She hand dyes the yarn that Wellington Fibres produces. After graduating from the OHS Spinning Certificate course in Haliburton in 2001, she has started her Master's thesis.

VOLUNTEERS

The assistance of volunteers is key to the success of the Ontario Handspinning Seminar each year. The Committee would like to thank all of the volunteers from previous seminars. If you would like to volunteer to assist us this year, please mark the appropriate box at the bottom of the registration form.

BAGGIE CHALLENGE

We have chosen for you two analogous colours plus black and white. The white and black are to make tints and shades. You choose which will be the dominant colour. Your mixtures will be clean and bright. Differences in tone (the grey scale – white to black) will give you contrast. After blending, some mixtures will be warmer and some cooler. Your end product can be of your choice. Bring your creation to the 2006 Ontario Handspinning Seminar, where we will put them on display. HAVE FUN.