



ONTARIO HANDSPINNING SEMINAR

Spring Newsletter
March 2006

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Colour Your Whorl

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO, LONDON, ONTARIO
JUNE 2-4, 2006

Welcome to the 2006 Ontario Handspinning Seminar. The Committee has prepared a set of workshops to inspire spinners of all levels to spin in colour. We will also be featuring workshops specifically geared to beginning spinners.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Come and join us on Saturday morning when Sally Melville will be giving our keynote address on creativity as it relates to colour. Sally Melville is a Canadian knitter. She teaches knitting skills in workshops around North America, writes about knitting for major magazines and is the author of several books, the most recent of which is *THE KNITTING EXPERIENCE: COLOUR*. Her knitting interests are in designing with colour and texture, in simple techniques that finish garments well, in the creativity that comes from problem solving, in pattern drafting and in producing beautiful fabrics from a variety of yarns, fibers and colours.

SPECIAL PRE-SEMINAR WORKSHOP

This year we'll be offering a special pre-seminar event. Sally Melville will be teaching a workshop entitled **STRIPES AND STRIPES THAT AREN'T**. The workshop will be presented twice on Friday June 2, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. The cost of the workshop is \$20.00. Space is very limited, so get your registration in early.

STRIPES AND STRIPES THAT AREN'T

Stripes... oh so easy to knit! But who can wear them? The truth is that everyone can both knit and wear them. This workshop explores ways to build strips, knit strips, and play with simple stitch patterns so you can work easily with colour and produce some of your favourite knitting and most flattering garments.

SUNDAY MORNING SPIN-IN AND FASHION SHOW

Once again, 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

Hours will be: Friday 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm and Saturday 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm. Anyone wishing to have sales room space at this year's Seminar, please contact Joany Russell, 3017 Carriage Rd., Delaware, ON, N0L 1E0, (519) 471-6148, jrussell@execulink.com. All vendor applications must be received by April 15, 2006.

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 2006 HANDSPINNING SEMINAR

Important

Please take a minute to re-read the requirements and be sure you have fulfilled them. A blank entry form and a demonstration 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 2 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% mohair, which was featured at the 2005 Ontario Handspinning Seminar.

All entries must be handspun, may use any appropriate construction technique and must 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% mohair
2. Novelty skein, at least 50% mohair
3. Blend, at least 50% mohair

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 must 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 or type. You may photocopy forms for anyone not on our mailing list or for other members of your household who wish to attend. 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 the University of Western Ontario and lists of class equipment will be sent prior to the seminar.

Accommodation will be available in the Elgin Hall residence. All rooms are single rooms in 4 room suites. Each suite contains 4 single rooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen and a common area. A full breakfast is included in the price of accommodation. Please indicate in the appropriate area on the registration form with whom you wish to share a suite. Towels and bedding will be provided. All rooms are air conditioned and there is an elevator in the building. The sales room and some of the workshops will be held in the same building as the accommodations. The dining room and the remaining workshops will be across the road. Please note the dining room and workshop rooms across the road, are not wheelchair accessible. There are 8 steps to get into the dining room and one flight of stairs to reach the workshop rooms. 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 12 and no later than April 28** (or as space permits). 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.**

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 2, 2006. The rate is \$115/night, for a queen room, including breakfast



ONTARIO HANDSPINNING SEMINAR

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 on meals or rooms will be made after May 2, 2006. After this date, contact the registrar for availability and rates.

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

WORKSHOPS

The workshops will be held on Saturday and they are all full day workshops.

A Carder Full of Colour

Bridget Lewis

Colour blending on hand and drum carders. This workshop will be divided into two sections. In the morning the students will use precise measurements so that results can be reproduced. During the afternoon session the students will apply what they learned in the morning to produce unique and colourful bats.

Bridget Lewis completed her Master Spinner in-depth study on colour blending, using the three primary colours and white and black to produce an extensive array of tints, tones and hues.

Coats of Many Colours

Chris English

In this workshop you will explore different ways to utilize the natural colours found in the coats of our animal friends. While hands are busy spinning a variety of rovings, participants and the presenter can share ideas about producing, breeding for, and using natural coloured animal fibres.

Chris has been raising sheep of many colours for more than fifteen years and is a supplier of natural coloured and white fleece and roving. She is a graduate of and a teacher in the OHS Spinning Certificate Program.

Colour Blending

Susan Alain

In the morning you will investigate what colours are, what they do, which colour combination creates which effect, and if there is time, start to experiment. The afternoon will be completely hands-on, creating specific colours with confidence, putting colours and textures together to create the effect you want.

Susan's spinning career started about 20 years ago when a friend gave her a brown fleece. Wini Czerny taught her to spin and gave her two good pieces of advice: "any fool can spin- it's a matter of road miles." and "never buy a cute old spinning wheel unless you are prepared and capable of making new parts for it". She has been happily spinning ever since.

Colour in Novelty Yarns

Ann Welch

A hands-on workshop working with different fibres, colours, twists and plies to create novelty effects in yarns for knitting and weaving.

~~Ann began spinning in 1979 with the purchase of three angora rabbits and an Ashford spinning wheel. She received her OHS Master Spinners Certificate, with Distinction, in 1986 with her study on Angora. Ann's area of interest is in spinning exotic fibres and the control of diameter and twist.~~

Colour Seen Through the Eyes of a Dyer

Donna Hancock

How do we create those colours we love using the three primary colours? This workshop will look at creating colour using the principles of using weak acid dyes but using food colouring and Kool-aid.

Donna Hancock has been dyeing yarn and fibre since she went to her first handspinning seminar at York University in the early 90's. Donna and her husband own 60 Angora goats and Wellington Fibres yarn business. Donna hand dyes the yarn that Wellington Fibres produces. She will be sharing her experiences and love for colour with the class in a dyeing workshop.

Exploring Nature's Palette: New Natural Dyes for Handspinners **Margaret Stalker**

For centuries, natural dyes coloured the clothing of princes and paupers, and trade in natural dyestuffs altered the course of human history. All but forgotten by the modern world, natural dyes are today celebrating a renaissance. Join us for a workshop exploring dyeing techniques using new natural dye extracts, and discover the beauty and serendipity of nature's pigments on natural fibres.

Margaret Stalker is a graduate of the OHS Spinning Certificate Program, and she continues to share her love of spinning and dyeing through teaching. Her interest in the historic use of natural dyes has taken her to the Isle of Harris in the Outer Hebrides to study traditional Scottish dyes with Margaret Mackay, and to the International Colour Congress in Iowa, where participants from over 20 countries shared their knowledge and passion for colour from natural sources.

Naturally Coloured Cotton

Hazel Alexander

Not all colours come from a bottle! In this workshop, you will explore the colours of cotton that nature has provided (some might surprise you!). We will look at different spinning and plying techniques to showcase these colours and explore ways of using them in final products.

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 demonstrated spinning to the public. She enjoys spinning a wide variety of fibres and exploring new techniques to showcase them.

Plying for Colour Effect

Tricia Weatherspoon

During this workshop, you will experiment with two colour plying exercises. In the first, you will use 3-ply yarns to create shade harmony throughout a project. In the second, you will experiment with Navajo plying and learn how you can best use this technique for effective results in knitting.

Tricia has been an enthusiastic spinner and knitter for over 20 years, and she has successfully integrated these two activities in her work. Currently, she enjoys working with the many space-dyed fibres available and using the handspun created from these in domino knitting. Tricia has taught both in Canada and the U.S. and many times at the Ontario Handspinning Seminar. She teaches knitting and has been busy writing down her own designs for publication at a local wool store.

Understanding Undertones

Barbara Scott

In this class, you will explore the two sets of primaries (red, blue, yellow and magenta, cyan, yellow) to gain an understanding of the different colours we can derive from each. We will experiment with combinations from these two colour wheels and use a variety of carding and combing techniques to modify end results in spinning.

~~Barbara is a Master Spinner who has taught at conferences, guilds and colleges. She has written for Ontario textile publications as well as for *Spin. Off.* For the past few years, she has been playing with knitting techniques, which use painted handspun yarns or reduce the stash of leftovers!~~

What, Spin a Yarn Like That!

Harriet Boon

This is a workshop geared towards beginning spinners. You will work your way through basic wheel control and fibres both long & short, all in a colourful way.

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 the U.S.

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

The theme of this year's Baggie Challenge will be "Let's Keep Our Feet Warm". You will be provided with enough roving of various colours to make a pair of socks. Bring your socks to the 2007 Ontario Handspinning Seminar, where we will put them on display. HAVE FUN.

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.