



The Ontario Handspinning Seminar has been sharing, promoting and educating handspinners since 1964.

www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca

Anna Warren, 322 – 125 Raymond St, Guelph ON N1H 3S6 – 519-827-5727 ontariohandspinningseminar1964@gmail.com

Spring Newsletter 2020

Sustainable Fibres

Supportable, Renewable Choices: The Options are Endless

June 12 - 14, 2020

Holiday Inn, Burlington Hotel and Conference Centre

This year, the Ontario Handspinning Seminar will explore Sustainable Fibres in our spinning. From inspiring speakers to engaging workshops and more, there will be plenty of ideas to make supportable, renewable choices. You will see that the options are endless! Join us in June as we see how local choices can make major impacts in Ontario's fibre community.

Keynote Speakers

Helen Knibb

Canadian Studies Program, Trent University

From wool as waste to 'wonder wool' the challenges and opportunities facing artisanal-scale wool growers and processors in Ontario today are similar to those of other places. Using stories and images from the hills, pastures and flocks of Canada, Europe and the United States this presentation explores how those passionate about sheep and wool growing, and the fibre artists and communities that support them, are shaping the artisanal wool industry and wool value chain. Ten to fifteen years behind the local food movement and craft beer, what's happening with wool is regionally distinct, values-based, localized and references past histories. With wool being reassessed as an essential fibre that can be sustainably produced, it is not surprising that there are new mills, flocks and markets as well as new ways of doing business and approaches to flock husbandry. The presentation and discussion will reflect on where Ontario fits in this emergent, global wooscape, the prospects for growing sustainable industry here, and the important role of fibre artists in supporting it.



Helen Knibb is a doctoral candidate in the Canadian Studies program at Trent University, Peterborough. Her thesis explores the history of wool growing in Ontario and prospects for re-generating a regional wool industry. Her research has taken her to south-west Wales, England, Northern California, Oregon and across Ontario, as well as delving into archival material on wool growing in eastern Canada. She has a farm just outside Lang Village where she runs a small flock of fibre sheep (from Grace Clare of Shepherd's Hill), works and trials her border collies, and raises Ojibway and Newfoundland ponies.

Deborah Livingston-Lowe

Upper Canada Fibre Shed

As an extra treat The Seminar will have a second presentation on Sunday morning. This presentation examines 19th century menswear in Canada using evidence from period garments, technology used in textile production and farming practices that produced these garments. The 19th century model of textile production provides parallels with today's fibreshed movement which uses local resources to produce cloth.

Deborah will discuss current projects she is developing which blend 21st century fibreshed and 19th century textile production principles: Ontario sourced and produced tweed suit fabric and flannel shirt fabric. Deborah will examine the challenges and benefits of sourcing from a fibreshed. What can we learn about sustainable and ethical production from our own textile history? This talk will be illustrated with images of garments and textile equipment.



Deborah Livingston-Lowe has been involved in many aspects of textiles, both practical and academic, for about 30 years. Her early interest in handloom weaving and spinning grew into historic weaving, historical research, textile conservation and restoration. Her work in textiles continues to be multidisciplinary as she works with designers to create textiles for fashion and interiors, with museums to reproduce textiles and provide consultation for their collection and research into the production and consumption of handwoven cloth in 19th century Ontario.

www.uppercanadaweaving.com

Saturday Workshops

Full Day

Spinning Heritage Wool – A Sustainable Ontario Product Julia Lee

By definition, the sheep breeds that have thrived in Ontario for hundreds of years—selected and adapted to do well in our climate and produce marketable products—are sustainable. In many cases, their fleeces are also delightful for hand spinning. Julia will introduce you to several well-established locally available sheep breeds, such as Lincoln, Dorset, Shropshire, Border Cheviot, and Rideau Arcott. She will provide samples of their wool, sharing tips on purchasing and preparing it, and give hands-on guidance for spinning and plying it. She will also discuss suitable end uses for characteristic wool from each breed.

Equipment

- Spinning wheel in good working order, with at least one empty bobbin fitted with a lead cord, OR suspended spindle
- Clean hand carders for wool (preferable but not essential)
- Hand combs (preferable but not essential)
- Pen for note-taking



Julia Lee is a graduate of the 1994-2000 OHS Spinning Certificate Program offered at the Haliburton School of Art + Design and is coordinating the 2014-2020 and 2017-2023 OHS Spinning Certificate courses. She teaches spinning and runs a custom spinning business in Toronto: Provenance Yarns and Textiles, through which she promotes the use of Ontario-grown fibres. When designing her textiles, Julia interprets a visual image or a sentiment and uses natural fibres to create colourful or naturally coloured garments and knitted tapestries. She likes her pieces to be noticed, while still being practical, durable, and ethical. Julia is currently OHS Spinning Education Chair, President of the Toronto Guild of Spinners and Weavers, and a member of the Upper Canada Fibreshed.

Stash Diving For Colour

Have you been tempted and purchased different dyed braids of wool only to have them sitting in a storage bin because you're not sure what to do with them? This workshop will explore how a spinner can pair 2 (or more) different dyed braids so that they can be combined and used in a project with pleasing color results instead of getting mud. You will leave this workshop inspired and excited to look at your stash in a whole new way!

Equipment

Yarn making tool: (working spinning wheel, electric spinner, or drop spindle)

Spinning wheel oil (for spinning wheels and electric spinners)

Lazy kate (tensioned is preferred)

3-4 empty bobbins with leader

Alana Wilcox



Alanna Wilcox is an art teacher by day and a fiber artist by night. She loves sharing her passion with others and is constantly making things, especially projects that have to do with color and fiber to express her creativity. She earned the OHS Spinning Certificate with distinction in 2015 and the Master Spinner

Certificate in 2017. She is the author of the spinning book "A New Spin on Color" and developed dye formulas to match Pantone® and digital colors. Working with fiber is something that she lives and breathes, sometimes literally.

Heritage Ontario Longwools:

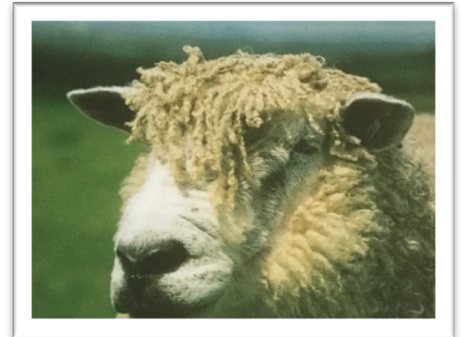
The Border Leicester and the Cotswold

Join me in the study of the history, characteristics and the fibre of these two fabulous long wool breeds. We will play with their lustrous locks, practice techniques to enhance their lustre and strength, and explore spinning different types of yarn and blends.

Equipment

A spinning kit, including a flick carder, small combs and empty bobbins would be useful.

Grace Clare



Grace lives on a century farm in the hills of Northumberland, with her husband, two border collies and too many sheep. Her flock started with a ewe and two lambs, as a birthday present for one of her children. The flock has grown to include mostly longwool breeds, Border Leicester, BFL and Romney. Grace attempts to produce clean, consistent, easy to spin, fleeces in an ethical and sustainable manner. Her efforts have been recognized both locally and at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

Half Day

In the Loop: Spinning With Tencel™

Looking to meet or revisit a sustainable fibre friend? Tencel is excited to make your acquaintance! In this workshop we will learn how this regenerated fibre is produced using sustainably sourced wood manufactured in an environmentally responsible closed loop process that creates fibre which is biodegradable. Tencel fiber has a lovely sheen, soft hand, drapes beautifully and blends well with other fibres. We will explore different fibre preparations, blends, spinning approaches and finishing methods to create a variety of beautiful handspun yarns. Get in the loop as you meet a new fibre who will play nicely with the reliable favourites hanging out in your stash!

Equipment

Wheel in good, working order with repair kit

At least 3 to 4 empty bobbins + a Lazy Kate

Hand Carders + Niddy Noddy

Optional: Knitting Needle(s) and/or Crochet Hook(s), Ball Winder, Wool Combs

Beth Showalter



Beth has always found inspiration in colour, textiles, fibres and history. She began her spinning journey 20 years ago at *the Seminar* and completed the OHS Spinning Certificate Program in 2014, with distinction, and is now an instructor in the program. She looks for ways to learn new techniques, share ideas and experiment with fibre whenever possible!

Let it Flow, Having Fun Painting with Natural dyes

Kitt Fischer

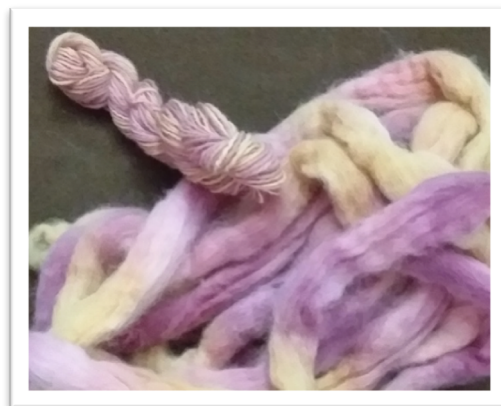
We will be discovering how to use natural dyes to make our own painted natural dyed painted roving. The tips and tricks.

Equipment

Protective clothing

Something to carry wet roving home

Kitt's life has spun around textiles and fibre arts since she was young. Now decades later, her enthusiasm for learning about and playing with all varieties of fibre, dyes and textiles has not diminished. She continues to be fascinated with the infinite ways in which she can transform raw materials into unique textiles art creations. Kitt's fibre journey has rewarded her with opportunities in which to share her artistry through the facilitation of workshops and lectures ranging from spinning to natural dyeing to designing her own signature knit and woven pieces. Her ideas and efforts have been acknowledged with awards, scholarships and exhibitions.



Responsible Dyeing

Donna Hancock

Interested in doing some dyeing but feel intimidated as to how to start. We will discuss the basics and some interesting approaches as well as some ways of being sustainable. We will try a small demo so everyone will have something to take home and get inspired to try some on your own.

Equipment

Bring an apron, a plastic bag and pen and paper.

Donna has been spinning for an eternity or at least it feels like it. She has a herd of Angora goats and has a spinning mill where she adds value to her fibre and many other producers' fibre. Her life spins around fibre most days.



Blending with Bast Fibres

Daf Summers

Did you know that blending fibres is prohibited in the bible not once, but twice?

Leviticus 19:19 You shall not sow your field with two kinds of seed, nor shall you wear a garment of cloth made of two kinds of material.

Deuteronomy 22:11 You shall not wear cloth of wool and linen mixed together.

So, is blending with bast fibres tricky? We will discuss a modern look at the best practices to blend bast fibres with other fibres.

Students should already know how to spin and have their own equipment.

Equipment

Tools for carding and spinning

Twist ties and tags to mark each sample

Any specific fibres you would like to blend with



Daf caught the crafting bug early, learning to sew by hand from her grandmother and learning to knit and crochet from her aunt. At age 18 she discovered the Society for Creative Anachronism (a medieval recreation group) and learned to card fibres into yarns and weave them into beautiful pieces of trim. Rebellious teen that she was, she hated that medieval hand carding! Fast forward to 2012 and she rediscovered knitting, spinning and weaving all over again, this time with the guilds and internet.

She enjoys introducing people to spinning & weaving. There is such a rich history to this seemingly simple act that we perform, taking fibre and making it strong enough to be made into the clothing we wear and the fabrics we use every day. Then linen takes things to the next level. The same fibres that make excellent cloth, is also prized for paper making. The plant itself can be manipulated into figures and wreaths.

Spinning Gone Wild!

Spinning has ancient origins - and those folks didn't get to go to a store and purchase ready to spin roving!! So - what did they spin?? And how was it spun? Join Joan for a trip back to the past and learn spinning with your fingers, make cordage, find out what plant materials can be used and experiment with wild plant fibres that have been foraged. Make a small twined basket or coaster to take home.

Equipment

Scissors with a Sharp End

Spray Bottle or Mister (for water)

Old Towels (one or two)

Large-Eyed Darning Needle

Joan McKenzie



Joan McKenzie is a member of the Etobicoke Handweavers and Spinners, and practices a number of techniques – spinning, weaving, dyeing, felting, knitting, rug hooking, crocheting, tatting and various forms of needlework. She's been spinning since 2007 and in 2017 finished a spinning education program and was awarded a Certificate of Excellence in Spinning, from the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners (OHS). Joan has taken many spinning, weaving and dyeing workshops with her guild, OHS, in Ireland, and in Vancouver, BC with the Maiwa Textile Symposium. Of particular interest to her is the use of natural plant material for dyeing – and more recently for cordage. She has participated in a number of shows, with items in the NPCC's Annual Hall Show of the Etobicoke Handweavers and Spinners, as well as at the Ontario Handweavers & Spinners Conference Guild Displays.

Displays

Please take this opportunity to share (show off!) what you've made during this last year with your handspun yarn, or even that skein you still can't decide what to do with. The Display Room will be open on Saturday from 12:00 Noon to 2:00 pm and from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm before the Banquet. These items will also be featured in the Fashion Show after our Sunday morning Keynote Speaker.

Items to be included in the various competitions (outlined below) that are brought in before 8:00 pm on Friday will be reviewed by expert spinners. Awards will be presented after the Fashion Show. All levels of handspinning experience, including novice handspinnners, are encouraged to enter an item for judging.

2020 Categories

For all categories the following guidelines apply:

- Seminar participants are limited to one entry per category
- Only entries made entirely of handspun yarn are eligible for the Founders Award
- Entries in all the categories must have been completed in the last year.

Simple 2-ply skein: Your goal is to produce a consistent, balanced yarn.

3 or more ply skein: Your goal is to produce a consistent, balanced yarn.

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.

Spindle-spun skein: The 2 or more ply yarn must be spun and plied on a hand spindle.

Baggie Challenge: At the 2019 Seminar participants received a bag lovely bag with silk hankies and cocoons. The challenge was to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. Entries must include the contents of the bag but may also use other fibres.

Garments: Projects may include sweaters, vests, jackets, shawls, etc.

Accessories: Projects may include hats, scarves, socks, mittens, etc.

Other: Projects may include dolls, tea cozies, placemats, household items, etc

The Competition and Display Item form can be found on the Seminar site at the following link:

<https://www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca/displays-competitions.html>

Please print and complete one form per item that you bring to be included in the Display Room.



2020 Awards

New to the Seminar Award: This award will go to the first person to register who are attending the Seminar for the first time. The award will be the reimbursement of their registration fee, along with an additional \$50.00.

Founders' Award: This award honours the Founders of the Ontario Handspinning Seminar. Edna Blackburn, Ted Carson and Dorothy Kirk established the first Handspinning Seminar gathering in 1964. The \$100 award is presented to the person with the best article on display made from 100% handspun. Chosen by ballots cast by the Seminar attendees.

WOW Award: This \$50 award recognizes an article that inspires the viewer to say... "WOW!" **All articles submitted for display are eligible.** The WOW award is decided by the 2020 Seminar display convenors.

Baggie Challenge: The \$50 award recognizes an item created from fibre received in the Baggie Challenge at the 2019 Seminar. Chosen by ballots cast by the Seminar attendees.

Ontario Handweavers and Spinners Award: This award for \$100.00 is presented by the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners. The award is given in recognition of an article on display that demonstrates the best use of handspun yarn in a **handwoven article**. Judges are provided by the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners.

President's Award of Excellence: This award of \$100 is given in recognition of an item of 100% handspun yarn using a textile construction method which embodies a unique interpretation, demonstrates a fresh, individual approach and expresses personal creativity as judged by the President (current or former), or an appointee, of the Ontario Handspinning Seminar Board of Directors.

Barb Patterson Award: This award of \$50 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"

Door Prizes

Door prizes, generously donated by our vendors, will be awarded throughout Sunday morning. You must be in attendance when your name is drawn to be eligible for a prize.

Sales Room

Friday 4pm to 9pm

Saturday 11:30am to 2pm

Free Admission for Seminar Participants

\$5 General Admission at the Door



Mugs!



This year, the Seminar is happy to partner with Hamilton-area potter Greg Voisin. Greg has designed three special, limited-edition mugs specifically for the Seminar - a spindle, a spinning wheel and a ball of yarn that all feature 'the Seminar' printed on the inside. Each mug is made entirely by hand; from throwing the clay on a potter's wheel to applying the designs and glaze; each will have its own unique, handmade characteristics. The roomy mugs will easily fit 14oz./415ml of your favourite coffee, tea or beverage of choice! The mugs are dishwasher and microwave safe. Pre-order your mug(s) during the registration window - March 28 to April 25 - and they will be ready for pick-up when you arrive at the Seminar, June.

From Greg about his pottery: 'Each piece is hand thrown and glazed in my home studio. The hand drawn images are meant to warm your heart as much as they are meant to warm your leftovers.'

View Greg's pottery on Instagram and Facebook @gregvoisinpottery

Registration

Sunday, March 29 – Saturday, April 25

www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca

The Seminar registration fee (\$150.00) includes access to the speakers, workshops, fashion show, awards presentation and after-hours activities. It also includes all supplies and handouts for the attendee's selected workshop and access to the Sales and Display rooms.

Online registration ([here](#)) begins on Sunday, March 29 at 8am and ends on Saturday, April 25 at midnight. By registering online, you will know immediately if there is space available in your chosen workshop.

On the first day of registration live technical support will be available by emailing handspinningseminar@gmail.com. During the remainder of the registration window, emails will be replied to as promptly as possible.

If you prefer to register by mail, fill in the registration form from the website, print it off and add a cheque payable to Ontario Handspinning Seminar Committee. Mail your registration to:

Ontario Handspinning Seminar
Anna Warren, Registrar
322 – 125 Raymond St
Guelph ON, N1H 3S6

Note: Any mailed registrations received prior to March 29, will not be processed until online registration begins on March 28.

Post-dated cheques will not be accepted. NSF cheques will be charged \$25.00. For our American participants, please register online or contact the registrar at ontariohandspinningseminar1964@gmail.com. We do not accept personal cheques or Travellers Cheques, and money orders must be specifically meant for International use. Domestic U.S. money orders cannot be cashed in Canada.

A waiting list will be created if your favourite workshop is filled. If there is a cancellation, the spot will go to the first person on the waiting list.

Decisions to provide refunds will be made on a case-by-case basis. An administration fee of \$15.00 will be applied to all refunds. Due to contractual obligations no refunds will be made after May 23, 2020.

Accommodations

Holiday Inn
Burlington Hotel & Conference Centre
1-877-660-8550

www.hiburlington.ca

3063 South Service Rd, Burlington ON, L7N 3E9

As we are back at a hotel this year you will be responsible for booking your own room. We do have a set of rooms set aside for us at \$135+HST per night for 2 people, more people allowed for an additional \$10 per night. A group of four pays less than \$40 each per night!

Please mention that you are part of the Ontario Handspinning Seminar when booking to be eligible for our group rate. Our block of rooms will be reserved until May 13th. Check in time begins at 3:00pm Friday and check out is at 12 Noon on Sunday. All rooms have two queen-sized beds, free wi-fi, coffee makers, microwaves, and mini-fridges.

Meals

Seminar meals from Saturday breakfast through Sunday breakfast will be available to order with your registration. This is a wonderful time to meet new people and socialize with old friends. There will also be a cash bar available at the banquet.

Please indicate any food allergies or dietary restrictions on your registration form.

To help the environment, please bring your own water bottle so we can cut down on plastic glasses and bottles.

Menu

When registering you are welcome to order specific meals or for a slight price break order the full meal package at \$115. Please note these prices include 15% gratuities and 13% HST.

Breakfast - Rise N Shine - \$25

Country Fresh Scrambled Eggs
Redskin Potato Home Fries
Crispy Bacon and Pork Breakfast Sausage
Texas Style Bread (Toaster Provided)
Fruit Preserves & Butter
Chilled Apple, Orange and Cranberry Juice
Freshly Brewed Coffee and a Selection of Teas

Lunch - Niagara Picnic Basket - \$30

Chef's Daily Soup Selection
Fresh Vegetable Crudit  with Ranch Dip
Quinoa Salad in a Coriander Lime Dressing
Baby Green Salad with Chef's Choice of Dressing
Selection of Wraps and Sandwiches with Bakery Breads
Dessert Squares
Soft Drinks
Freshly Brewed Coffee and a Selection of Teas

Banquet – Evening Occasions - \$45

Roasted Garlic and Tomato Soup
Seasonal Vegetables
Roasted Potatoes
Stuffed Chicken Breast with Goat Cheese, Peppers, Spinach with Tomatoes Coulis
Vanilla Ice Cream Crepes with Chocolate

Volunteers

Volunteers help with many tasks during The Seminar: from collecting meal tickets to hosting in the Display Room to modelling for the Fashion Show and more. If you would like to volunteer, please check off the appropriate box on the registration form.

Legal Stuff

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.

If you do not want to have your photo taken, please mention it to our photographer when she aims her camera in your direction.

Code of Behaviour

The Ontario Handspinning Seminar strives to promote and establish a safe, respectful and positive atmosphere:

For shared knowledge,
For respect of ideas, cultures, and values and
In a common space for learning.

We also respect the policies of the facilities where we hold The Handspinning Seminar and the support services that make this annual event a success.

Organizing Committee

Co-Chairs: Beth Showalter & Joan McKenzie
Registrar: Anna Warren
Secretary: Leslie Falzone
Sales Room Convenors: Edy Marlatt & Kelley Stanczak
Workshop Convenors: Leslie Falzone & Joan McKenzie
Fashion Show Co-ordinator: Kitt Fischer
Display Convenors: Angela Whyte & Lis Baston
Baggie Challenge Convenor: Angela Whyte
Facilities: Barb Ross
Board Liaison: Beth Showalter

Board of Directors

President: Catharina Forbes
Vice President: Anna Warren
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Treasurer: Colleen Thomson
Directors at Large: Susan Alain, Mara Lusi, Elona McCubbin, Edy Marlatt & Beth Showalter

Bookmark our website: www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca



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www.ravelry.com/groups/ontario-handspinning-seminar-fans



on Instagram @thespinningseminar