



seminar

## ONTARIO HANDSPINNING SEMINAR

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### Fall Newsletter 2008

It's starting to get cold and snowy outside. Now is the time to snuggle in and start anticipating next June. Then we'll all be able to bask not only in the warmth of the June sun, but also in the camaraderie, friendship and learning and sharing opportunities that the Seminar has always promised and delivered.

#### **Lots of exciting changes coming up!!**

There's a new a new location, a new theme, and a new Seminar Committee. There are, as well, some changes in the Board.

Mark your calendars **NOW** for **Friday June 12<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

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

Now that you've had the opportunity to explore the spinning world "Beyond Wool", we would like to bring you

#### **Back to Wool – Lace to Lopi!**

This is the theme of the 2009 Ontario Handspinning Seminar

The Committee is already hard at work developing workshops that will encourage and inspire novice spinners and also add to the spinning knowledge of those more experienced among us. We are hoping to be able to offer you both full and half-day workshops on Saturday. On Sunday, mini workshops will build on the spinning techniques you have learned or "re-explored", by offering ideas on how to use that fabulous handspun. All this using WOOL !

The Baggie Challenge will involve the theme of WOOL. We are currently working on plans for both a stimulating experience for you and also one that will perhaps benefit a wider community.

Please keep using your creative spirits to think about, plan and produce something from the baggies handed out for the 2008 Challenge – "An item that can be worn around the neck." We'll all want to see them next June. Maybe in the Fashion Show?

## The Seminar is moving East !

The 2009 Ontario Handspinning Seminar will take place on the campus of Queen's University in Kingston. The residence will offer comfortable rooms at a bargain price. 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. The classrooms in Kingston Hall and Stirling Hall are just a short walk away.

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.

### 2008-2009 Committee

Chair: Elisabeth McConaghy

Board Liaison: Bridget Lewis

Registrar: Mara Lusic

Display and Fashion Show: Susan Alain, Shirley McGregor, Colleen Thomson,

Special Projects and Skeins: Susan Alain, Shirley McGregor, Colleen Thomson

Sales Room: Kay James

Workshops: Esther Grav

### 2008-2009 Board of Directors

President: Harriet Boon,

Vice President: Hazel Alexander

Secretary: Bridget Lewis

Treasurer: Marta Spencer

Members at Large: Brenda Pedden Boyce

Jane Van Arnhem, Liz Van Wyck, Diane Lamb, Esther Grav

## Competitions and Awards

We hope that last year's theme, Beyond Wool, has provided you with much creative inspiration and that you are working on items to submit for competition and/or display at the 2009 Seminar. Please remember that all skeins and projects must be based on the 2008 Beyond Wool theme, therefore making use of camelid fibres, chiengora, flax, seacell, seawool, seasilk, soy, luxury fibres, paper or tussah silk. **Be bold** and enter something...anything...into our displays! We can't wait to see what you've done. If you're feeling a bit more focused (and maybe just slightly competitive) enter one of our competitions. If you're just a bit less confident or just don't care to compete, submit your work in the "Just for Fun" category to receive our judges' critique of your work. But please....**do create** and do bring it with you!

### 2009 Skein Competition

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 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 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 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. describe the purpose for which the spinner intends the yarn to be used and why that technique was chosen
  - f. prepare a 2"x2" swatch

### **2009 Special Projects**

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

1. Wearables for the human body
  - a. 50 grams or less
  - b. 51 - 250 grams
  - c. 251 grams or more
2. Not wearable on the human body
  - a. 50 grams or less
  - b. 51 - 250 grams
  - c. 251 grams or more

All projects will be weighed at the submissions desk to determine their weight category. All finished articles in both categories must show the techniques you learned from last year's seminar.

All entries must be 100% handspun, and at least 20% of the fibre must be from among the 2008 workshop topics. 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. The fibres used, as well as the percentage of each fibre in the project must be identified.
- c. An explanation of how the fibre was prepared
- d. Description of the spinning technique used
- e. Sample skein (5 metres) of the final yarn used in the project must be included.

### **2009 "Just for Fun" Submissions**

If you're busy creating but competitions aren't your thing, bring your skeins and projects with you anyway!! In addition to our regular Seminar Display, we invite you to submit either skeins or projects to our "Just for Fun" category. These items will need to meet the same criteria as skeins and projects submitted for competition, but the purpose of our judges' critique will be solely to give you the constructive criticism that you've been "wanting but were afraid to ask for" in order to help you move forward.

## **2009 Competition Awards**

**( Any article submitted for Display 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.**

### **NEW FOR 2009!!**

#### **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"

#### **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

## **2009 Scholarship Award**

**Don't be shy !!!....** 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 Bridget Lewis, 103 Hill Street, Kingston ON K7L 2M8 or email [lewisb@kos.net](mailto:lewisb@kos.net) or visit our website at [www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca](http://www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca)

**Here are the competition winners at the 2008 Seminar.**

**BE INSPIRED BY THEM! Start planning your own winning entry!**

**2008 Skein Competition Winners:**

Simple 2-ply: - Novice: unfortunately, no entries  
- Advanced: **1<sup>st</sup>**: not awarded **2<sup>nd</sup>**: Virginia Poff  
**Honourable Mention**: Linda Helms

Novelty skein - Novice: unfortunately, no entries  
- Advanced: not awarded

Blended skein- Novice: unfortunately, no entries  
Advanced: **1<sup>st</sup>**: Virginia Poff **3<sup>rd</sup>**: Linda Helms

**2008 Project Competition Winners:**

Garment: - Novice: **1<sup>st</sup>**: Diane Jordan  
- Advanced: not awarded

Accessory: - Novice: **Honourable Mention**: Diane Jordan  
- Advanced: **1<sup>st</sup>**: Virginia Poff **2<sup>nd</sup>**: Anne Barnes-Finlayson

Other: - Novice: **1<sup>st</sup>**: Diane Jordan  
- Advanced: **1<sup>st</sup>**: Pat Hood

**2008 Founders Award Winner:** Catherine Forbes

**2008 Ontario Handweavers and Spinners Award Winner:** Dorothy Hinchcliffe

**2008 Handweavers' Guild of America Winner:** Catherine Forbes

**2008 WOW! Award Winner:** Catherine Forbes

**2008 Scholarship Award Winner:** no applicants

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.