



ONTARIO HANDSPINNING SEMINAR

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Spring Newsletter 2008

Beyond Wool....there are other fibres!

Friday, June 6th – Sunday, June 8th, 2008
Georgian College, Barrie

It's less than three months until Seminar and the plan is for a full, fun, fibre getaway. The following roster is going to make you want to pack your bags, wheel and stash and come for the whole weekend.

Registration, at 5:00pm on Friday, will take place in the Summer Suites foyer. We will stay open for your convenience until 10:00 pm. Here, you can drop off items you have been working on during the past year either for display or challenge. Sharing by showing is a great way to display a prized piece of work and inspire and encourage your peers - no matter what your level. Competition and display items will be accepted at the Registration area until 9 pm Friday; display items will also be accepted until 8:30 am Saturday outside the Georgian Dining Room, E Building. (Saturday registration will take place here as well).

The Sales Room, once again will be located in the Gymnasium, K Building and will be open from 6:00 pm until 10:00 pm Friday night and from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm Saturday. Anyone wishing to have Sales Room space should contact Dianne Lamb at 256 Knox Rd. E, Wasaga Beach L9Z 2T6 or call 705-429-2146 or email aanddlamb@sympatico.ca. Vendors from last year's seminar will automatically receive an application.

Hospitality Suite doors, (first floor Summer Suites lounge), will open at 7pm – time to unwind after your first shop of the weekend, meet, renew, spin and chat.

The Baggie Challenge will follow the theme, Beyond Wool... and we are looking forward to seeing what you produced from the 2007 challenge – please remember to bring your creations along for display.

The key presentation Saturday morning will be the showing of the video "**Basho to Spun Steel: Contemporary Japanese Textile Design**" (*Basho is a fibre extracted from the stems of banana plants and was used much as flax was in Europe*). The video will tell us that the poetry of thread is the beginning and the end of all textile making. 'Basho to Spun Steel' gives a glimpse of contemporary Japanese textile design – the essence of Japanese spirit and culture is a woven dialogue between the past and the future. A 'Question and Answer' segment hosted by our own Wendy Bateman will follow. You'll want to have a notepad and pencil for this session! And yes, we have scheduled morning and afternoon coffee breaks!! Workshops will commence at 10:30 am.

This year we've booked a bartender for anyone who wishes to take part in a "cash bar" Happy Hour before Saturday dinner in the Georgian Dining Room. The Fashion Show will be held after dinner as well as a draw for a Wee Peggy spinning wheel. (You will need to be a fully registered attendee and in attendance to have a chance to win). And.... If you have the strength, the hospitality suite will be open late for your spinning pleasure.

After breakfast Sunday, everyone will once again converge in the Rowntree Theatre where your tour guides will whisk you away on a colourful, breathtaking, scenic travelogue of Thailand- the "Land of Smiles". View the beauty of the countryside with its natural wonders and magnificent ancient temples; journey to the small country villages with pictures and stories of the Thai people and their local crafts. Then, just before lunch we'll bring you back to the exciting reality of The Awards Ceremony. Just a reminder, check out from Summer Suites is 11am.

Competitions, Awards and Projects

Important Details Worth Noting...

1. Please take a minute to re-read the requirements and be sure you have fulfilled them.
2. A blank entry form and a demonstration form will be included in your registration confirmation package. Each entry must be accompanied by an entry for (photocopy if needed).
3. 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.
4. We are assembling a panel of knowledgeable and enthusiastic judges who will provide written comments on your entries.
5. Entries may be handed in from 5pm – 9 pm Friday, June 6th at the Registration area.

2008 Skein Competition

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

1. Simple 2-ply skein
2. Novelty skein
3. Blended skein

Skeins produced should be a double knitting weight (DK) size yarn.

If you have been spinning less than two years, enter as novice, more than 2 years, enter as advanced.

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 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

2008 Special Projects

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

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

All finished articles in categories 1-3 must show the techniques you learned from last year's seminar.

All entries must be handspun, 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. Percentage of each fibre in the project
- c. An explanation of how the fibre was prepared
- d. Description of the spinning technique used
- e. Sample swatch of the final yarn used in the project

WORKSHOPS (The workshops will be held on Saturday and they are full day)

Blends that Work (or Not?)

Harriet Boon

Will It or Won't It

How and Why blends work and What shall we do with it. Home blends and commercial blends -all present possibilities, some grand, some good and others, well they are open to discussion.

Equipment: wheel and carders, knitting needles & crochet hooks, "Weavette" or other tiny loom.

Harriet Boon earned a Master Spinner certificate in 1976 and is still learning. Textile travel and workshops lead to numerous lessons to be shared.

Camelid Fibre

Hazel Alexander

Relax and explore the basics of spinning alpaca, llama and camel without pressure. This workshop has lots of time for participants to try various methods of fibre preparation and spinning from raw fleece to prepared roving and blending with other fibres. Open a window on a traditional fibre beyond wool, for your spinning pleasure.

Hazel Alexander is a graduate of the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners Spinning Certificate Course. Hazel has taught beginning spinning, natural dyeing, mohair and mohair blends, cotton spinning and given programs on silk reeling. She enjoys spinning a wide variety of fibres and exploring new techniques to showcase them.

Chiengora: From Dog to Designer

Diane E. Stewart

Many dog fibres can be successfully blended and spun into beautiful, practical yarns for specific end uses. Participants will examine samples, spin blended roving, hand card and spin their own blends, and knit small samples – please bring knitting needles, in a range of sizes from 4mm to 10 mm., optional: a large zip lock bag full of dog undercoat fibre.

Diane E. Stewart is a textile artist, completing year six of the OHS Certificate in handspinning. Her Design Challenge features dog hair blends. She also works on private commissions spinning "chiengora". Occasionally, she has had articles published in *Fibre Focus*. Diane is currently one of four judges evaluating and spinning samples for the Alpaca Ontario Fibre Arts Competition.

Flax and Friends

Dorothy MacDonald

This group will get up close and personal with flax and other bast fibres – no intimidation here, the spinners are in charge. Learn more about these versatile natural fibres and easy ways to control and spin them, including the best-kept secret in handspinning. Bring a spinning wheel that you feel comfortable working with, a terry-towel about the size of a tea towel, a small dish for water (enough to wet fingertips).

Dorothy MacDonald has been weaving since childhood and started spinning 35 years ago as a means of learning where the weaving threads come from. She is a long-time member of the Toronto Guild of Spinners and Weavers, and lives in a home that is extremely well insulated with many fibres.

Seacell, Seawool and Seasilk

Donna Lonergan

Participants will learn the characteristics of these fibres, why seacell has come to be, and how to spin all three. Please bring a spinning wheel that works well for you, and if you have mini hand combs, please bring them (not a must).

Donna Lonergan is a retired registered nurse who has had a passion for spinning for over 30 years. She has taken many courses to better herself and has given workshops on nature dyeing, rainbow dyeing, kumihimo, drop spindle, and wet felting. She also does demonstrations at pioneer villages and the Grade 3 programs in many area schools. Articles of hers have been published in *The Spinning Wheel Sleuth*.

Soy Protein Fibre – cooking up great blends

Donna Hancock

By itself, soy protein fibre is interesting. In blends with other fibres it adds another dimension. Experience blending soy protein fibre with other fibres and evaluate these blends for different purposes. **Donna Hancock** grows her own – mohair, that is. She has been teaching about mohair and blends for some time and is a real whiz at it! Donna completed the OHS spinning certificate course in 2000. She and her husband have recently opened a spinning mill for processing both their own mohair and fibre of other producers.

Spinning for Luxury Socks

Julia Lee

Imagine socks made with cashmere or some other luxury fibre! But would they actually wear well? We will examine the blending of soft, durable synthetics with fine natural fibres to produce suitable yarns. **Julia Lee** took her first spinning lessons at Romni Wools in Toronto in the late 1980s. In 1994 she accidentally enrolled in the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners Spinning Certificate course, thinking it was just a one-week session. Seven years and hundreds of hours' homework later she graduated from the course. Since then, Julia has taught several "starting to spin" workshops and private lessons in Toronto, and was co-coordinator of the recently completed Spinning Certificate program at Haliburton.

Spinning Paper

Beth Showalter

This workshop is inspired from the historic Japanese art of Shifu where 16th century peasants spun paper to weave clothing out of necessity. Participants will learn to spin several different types of papers – from beautiful rice paper to newspaper. We will also experiment with painting paper to achieve various colour effects. Your spun paper can be used to knit and weave decorative items. Please Bring: A spinning wheel, self-healing cutting matt, x-acto knife and extra blades, pencil, bath towel, washcloth, spray bottle, metal ruler, scissors.

Beth Showalter has always found inspiration in textiles, fibres and history. She graduated from the University of Western Ontario in 1999 with a Honours degree in Fine Arts Studio and the following year with a Bachelor of Education. Beth learned to knit as a child and ten years ago began spinning – a perfect combination. She currently finds spinning more of a challenge as her 13 month old son desperately wants to "help" with the process. Beth divides her time between her family, teaching and experimenting with fibres.

Tantalizing Tussah!

Barbara Scott

Spend time spinning yarns from tussah silk on its own and in a variety of blends. There will be time to explore the effects of changes in diameter and twist as well as play with blends combining silk with a potpourri of fibres.

Barbara Scott is a Master Spinner who completed the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners Spinning Certificate program "with distinction". She has taught for conferences, guilds and colleges, and written spinning articles for a variety of publications. To spinning, she brings curiosity, a need for technical mastery and delight in experimentation.

Equipment: three bobbins, carders, any odds and ends of fibres you may have in your stash and might wish to consider for blending

Work Less – Get More – Again?

Dorothy Hinchcliffe

Review Spinning Effectively. Quantity – how much is enough?
Rescue 911 –bring your "problem" handspun yarns for analysis and discussion;
Handspun Stash Reduction Techniques - "Reheat" leftovers and thrums.

Dorothy Hinchcliffe is a Bruce County farmer, spinner, weaver. She likes a challenge whether very small or very large!

General Equipment List: a spinning wheel in good working order, with a minimum of 3 bobbins; Lazy Kate; apron; medium or fine hand carders (or mini combs); small niddy-noddy; notebook and pencil; emergency kit for spinning wheel; **optional:** dust mask, lint brush, small plastic spray bottle (for water for animal fibre workshops and flax); flick carder, ball winder.



ONTARIO HANDSPINNING SEMINAR APPLICATION FORM

JUNE 6-8, 2008

Renee Coutts, Registrar, 1165 Moonstone Rd, RR 1 Midland, ON L4R 4K3 705-835-0079 rendon@sympatico.ca

REGISTRATION INFORMATION: The registration fee includes key presentations, Saturday workshops, supplies, handouts, hospitality suite, Sales Room entrance and coffee breaks for both days. Registration must be **postmarked no earlier than Monday April 7, 2008 and received no later than Friday April 25, 2008** (or as space permits). Please note that the name appearing on your registration form is the name that will be printed on your name tag. Forward the completed registration form with your payment to the Registrar (see above for address) **by mail** (email registrations cannot be accepted). **Note that registration is limited** and will be accepted in order of receipt. You will receive confirmation of your registration plus a map and items to bring prior to the seminar by mail in mid to late May. Late registrants (dependent on room availability) will be levied a higher rate than that negotiated for the seminar.

FEES: The total amount must be sent in with your registration. All cheques should be made payable to **ONTARIO HANDSPINNING SEMINAR COMMITTEE**. Post-dated cheques will **not** be accepted. For our American attendees, please send either an **International Postal Money Order or Bank Draft in Canadian funds** (travelers cheques will not be accepted and money orders other than International cannot be cashed in Canada). NSF cheques will be charged \$20.00. 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 College, no refunds for meals or rooms will be made after May 6, 2008.

BAGGIE CHALLENGE: Please indicate in the final fees if you wish to purchase a baggie. The baggie will be handed out this year and the challenge completed for the 2009 Ontario Handspinning Seminar. Baggies will be available for pick up at Registration.

ACCOMMODATION: Georgian Summer Suites, Georgian College. All rooms are single rooms in 2 bedroom suites. Each suite contains 2 single bedrooms, 1 bathroom and a kitchenette. **A full, hot breakfast is included in the price of accommodation each day.** 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 are 3 elevators in the building. **Please note that the Display Room and Sales Room are located within the gymnasium, a four minute walk from Georgian Summer Suites - around a paved parking area; all of the Workshop rooms are located in E & H Buildings which are adjacent to the gymnasium. All three buildings are wheelchair accessible.** If you are staying with a person who is NOT attending the seminar, please register BOTH people for accommodation using separate application forms. Forms may be mailed in together.

MEALS: Indicate the meals you wish to purchase on the form. Please list any food allergies. Please indicate if you would like vegetarian meals.

PARKING: One parking pass will be supplied for each suite. Delegate overnight parking is only allowed in the Summer Suites parking lot but passes can be used for access to any lots on Campus during the daytime. Some registrants with walking difficulties may prefer to drive and park in handicap access spots closer to the workshop buildings on Saturday and Sunday. For day guests (those not registering at Summer Suites) parking lots use an automated parking system with a set coin fee upon exit. Coin fees are \$4 during the day and \$3 in the evening.

SATURDAY WORKSHOPS: Workshops are full day. Please tick off your 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th choices for Saturday workshops. We will try to accommodate your preferences. Due to limited class sizes, workshop assignment will be on a first come basis. Saturday workshops will run from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm and from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm.

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.

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.