

# t h e seminar

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

[www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca](http://www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca)

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## Spring Newsletter 2018

### 2018: A Spinning Odyssey

od•ys•sey *n.* an eventful journey filled with adventure

We'll be taking you on a spinning journey from a beginning with the fleece, through a possible refresher or more advanced techniques to a finished product. Along the way you can encounter some woolly pine trees. The path is yours to choose.

**June 8 - 10, 2018**

**Western University, London, Ontario**

### Saturday Workshops

All workshops are all full day workshops.

#### It's Spun, Now What?

**Susan Alain**

In this workshop, we will be thinking about using all the bits of spun yarn that lie about in our stashes. Susan will be sharing ideas and patterns, ways to combine yarn, how to do quick calculations of what you need for a project and possibilities to go outside the box.

#### *Equipment List:*

- Wheel in good, working order
- Empty bobbins
- Handcarders
- A handful of your yarn
- Stuff to spin
- A selection of knitting needles
- An open mind.

Susan is a very long time spinner and knitter, who wants to do everything all the time. This gets her into trouble as a result, but she learns things along the way.

## **The Spinning Odyssey Departure Lounge A Great Place to Start**

**Janice Watterworth &  
Joan McKenzie**

We will explore the creation of singles yarns using various fibres and then venture into the wonderful world of plying. Several plying techniques will be covered including Chain or Navajo plying. Discover the many tips, tricks and secrets to great yarn. This workshop is perfect for fine tuning basic spinning skills or for those returning spinners looking for a refresher class.

### *Equipment List:*

- Wheel in good, working order.
- At least 3 bobbins
- Lazy kate + Niddy Noddy
- Your questions

Janice's passion is sharing the "spinning bug" with others. She is a seasoned spinner and an experienced teacher who has taught many spinning and dyeing classes in Ontario. Janice is a graduate of the 6 year OHS Spinning Certificate Program and is a member of the London District Weavers and Spinners.

Joan 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 was awarded a Certificate of Excellence in Spinning, from the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners (OHS).

## **From the Farm Gate to the Spinning Wheel**

**Harriet Boon**

- How to access a fleece
- Fleece to save and the other bits
- Preparation steps: washing and carding/combing for End Use
- Ready Set Spin

### *Equipment List:*

- Wheel in good, working order with repair kit
- At least 4 to 5 empty bobbins + 1 or 2 Lazy Kates
- Hand Carders + Niddy Noddy

Harriet met her first fleece/sheep in the early 1970s and learned by trial & error. Despite the best efforts of eminent instructors, lessons learned by error stayed with her. Her instructors emphasized sharing, she's here to share her lessons learned.

## Along a Twisting Trail of Texture

Beth Showalter

Cabled yarns have a natural drape and elegance that make them absolutely lovely to use in a variety of textile constructions. In this workshop we will use the cabled yarn structure as a starting point for yarn design. Then, you will learn to manipulate twist and texture in your spinning through fibre preparation, spinning variations and plying methods based on the simple cabled yarn. Come and see the possibilities that twist and texture can have in your spinning!

*Skill Level* : Intermediate

*Equipment List:*

- Wheel in good, working order with repair kit
- At least 4 to 5 empty bobbins + 1 or 2 Lazy Kates
- Hand Carders + Niddy Noddy
- Odd bits of fibre and sewing thread (a few spools)
- Optional: Swift, Ball Winder, Wool Combs



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

## Wooly Pine Tree

Theresa English

Try something different. This year the Seminar welcomes you to London, Ontario, also known as “The Forest City”. Come and join Theresa in making your own Wooly Pine Tree in winter white or choose from a variety of green wools. This does not involve spinning but you will be working with wool. No experience required, no sewing involved, come only equipped with a pair of sharp scissors and be ready for a day of fun. Theresa will take you through step-by-step and you will leave with a beautiful 18 inch Wooly Pine Tree, a lovely remembrance of your time in London.

*Equipment List:*

- A sharp pair of scissors

As far back as Theresa can remember she has always enjoyed creating with fibre. She has a love of wool in any state, locks, roving, yarn or fabric. Theresa designs and hooks rugs, pieces together wool quilts and just this past year has started learning how to spin on her new spinning wheel.



## Through the Mountains and Across the Desert A Spindle Odyssey

Catharina Forbes



Join us on a journey of discovery through the land of spindles. In this workshop we will explore the uses of various spindles, suspended, supported and Turkish among others. We will discover which fibres and which techniques work best with each particular spindle. Various spindles and fibres will be available for you to try. You may even discover a new favourite!

### *Equipment List:*

- Spindles, all shapes and sizes
- A sense of adventure

Catharina has been spinning since the mid 1980s when she made a spindle with a bar of soap and a stick and attempted to spin the hair from her long haired cat. She now spins almost exclusively with a spindle and loves to discover new techniques and spindles. Catharina believes that anything spun can also be spun on a spindle.

## Why Ply?

Julia Lee

Participants will be guided through the practice and theory of creating balanced 2- and 3-ply yarns. The group will consider the pros and cons of plying, and the effects of plying variegated singles with various other threads. They will also blend dyed wool, spin it, and ply to create a graduated-colour yarn. In the afternoon, using a variety of fibres, the participants will create yarns using uneven plying and multiple plying steps.

### *Equipment List:*

- A spinning wheel in good working order
- At least 4 empty bobbins with leaders
- A lazy kate (preferably braked)
- Hand carders
- Any fine threads or yarns to ply with

Julia graduated from the OHS Spinning Certificate Program and is a coordinator for the current Spinning Certificate courses. Through her business, Provenance Yarns and Textiles, she teaches spinning, spins custom yarns, and designs and creates unique knitted items. Julia is active in the Toronto Guild of Spinners and Weavers, is a proponent of Ontario-grown fibres, writes the Tips & Tricks column for *Fibre Focus*, and promotes spinning at every opportunity. However, she has recently started to weave...

## Explore the Spinning Odyssey of Blends

Donna Hancock

Come and explore blends that you may not have considered prior to this odyssey. We will be spinning different breed blends and trying our hand at making more complex blends. This will be a spinning Odyssey to experience.

### *Equipment List:*

- A spinning wheel in good working order
- Empty bobbins
- Hand carders

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.

## Sunday Morning Spin-in, Fashion Show and Awards Presentation

We are pleased to offer our Sunday morning session which combines a relaxed and sociable spin-in followed by our ever-amazing fashion show. Come and play at our spin-in where you'll have a chance to spin some very unusual fibres.

Fashion show items may be made using any technique and fibre type. Please think about the items you have spun which display the wonderful and varied ideas you have had this year. This event is a wonderful way to have your handspinning seen by your peers and to gain inspiration from others.

The fashion show will be followed by our Awards Presentation. Award winning items are selected from the amazing items entered for display.

## Door Prizes

Door prizes will be awarded Sunday morning. Our grand prize will be one free registration at next year's Seminar. You must be in attendance when your name is drawn to be eligible for a prize.

## Sales Room

The Sales Room will be open Friday from 3:00 pm to 10:00pm and again on Saturday from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Admission is free for Seminar participants. There is a \$5.00 admission charge for those not attending the Seminar. Admission may be paid at the door.



## Registration

Again this year registration will be done online at [www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca](http://www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca). By registering online you will know immediately if there is space available in your chosen workshop. The seminar registration fee (\$120.00) includes access to the workshops, fashion show, awards presentation and after-hours activities. It also includes all workshop supplies and handouts and access to the Sales and Display rooms. Online registration begins on April 7 and ends on April 30. 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 postmarked April 1 or later, to:

Ontario Handspinning Seminar  
Lee Donely, Registrar  
P.O. Box 69  
Delaware, ON N0L 1E0

**Note:** Any mailed registrations received prior to April 7, will not be processed until online registration begins on April 7.

Post-dated cheques will not be accepted. NSF cheques will be charged \$25.00. For our American participants, please send either an **INTERNATIONAL POSTAL MONEY ORDER or BANK DRAFT IN CANADIAN FUNDS**. 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 class 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 to the University, no refunds will be made after May 24, 2018.

## Accommodations

Our accommodations will be in Essex Hall, one of Western's newest residences. Essex Hall features furnished suites. Each suite contains four single lockable bedrooms, two bathrooms, a lounge and a kitchenette with a stove top, microwave and refrigerator. No cooking utensils, cutlery, glassware or dishes are provided. Each bed is made up with linen, 2 pillows, blanket and bedspread. Towels, face cloth, soap and a drinking cup are also provided. Free wifi, free parking and breakfast are included. Laundry facilities, a fitness room and a computer lab are available in the building. Room registration will be with your Seminar registration. The room rate is \$80.00 per person per night (including a full breakfast for each night booked).

## Meals

Our meals will be served in the Essex Hall Dining Hall. The Full Breakfast Grill on Saturday and Sunday is included with your accommodation, but is also available at charge of \$14.00 for those not staying at Essex Hall. On Saturday we will have a Summer Time BBQ Lunch and a 100 Mile Challenge Banquet. There will be a cash bar available at the banquet. On Sunday a Grab & Go Box Lunch will be available for those who want to eat before they leave or to have something to eat on the way home. The box lunch includes a sandwich, fruit and a soft drink. All meals must be ordered with your Seminar registration and are not included in the registration fee. 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.



## Baggie Challenge

Remember the baggie of fibre you received at the 2017 Seminar? The challenge was to create a historically themed item or skein from the fibres in your baggie. You may use additional fibres from your stash if you wish. Bring your item to be displayed at the 2018 Seminar. A prize winner will be chosen by the Seminar participants.

## Tote Bags

For the first time this year we will have Seminar tote bags available for purchase. These are heavy canvas bags, 11" high x 18" wide, with the Seminar logo. Great for all your sales room purchases and your projects. The cost is \$20.00 and you can order them along with registration. They will be available for pickup at the Seminar registration desk.



## 2018 Display Categories

Everyone is encouraged to bring an item to put into the Display. 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. Items on display will be eligible for the WOW award and items made from 100% handspun will be eligible for the Founders Award.

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.

Categories:

- **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.
- **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.

## 2018 Awards

**New to the Seminar Award:** This award will go to the first two people to register who are attending the Seminar for the first time. The award will be the registration fee, along with \$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 2018 Seminar display convenors.

**Baggie Challenge:** The \$50 award recognizes an item created from fibre received in the baggie at the 2017 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.

**Handweavers Guild of America:** This award of a gift certificate and a handwoven ribbon is presented by the Handweavers Guild of America in recognition of "a work of handweaving, spinning, dyeing, or basket making, 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.

## Coach's Corner

Coach's Corner will return again on Saturday night. This will be your opportunity to sit down with an experienced spinner and get some feedback on a particular aspect of your spinning.

## Volunteers

Volunteers help with many tasks during the seminar: collecting meal tickets, hosting in the Display Room, modelling for the Fashion Show. 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.

**Bookmark our website:** [www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca](http://www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca)



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