



# ONTARIO HANDSPINNING SEMINAR

Spring Newsletter  
March, 2007

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

**Welcome to the 2007 Ontario Handspinning Seminar!** The Seminar will be held at Georgian College, located at the north end of Barrie, Ontario on June 8-10, 2007.

**Tools of the Trade – Tips and Techniques for Handspinning** is this year's focus and we know you'll be impressed by the choices and variety of workshops geared to the theme.

As well, you won't want to miss the **Keynote Address by the Spinning Wheel Sleuth Editor/Publisher, Florence Feldman-Wood.** Florence Feldman-Wood has been a spinner and weaver for over thirty years and for many years lectured about silk and cashmere. In 1990 she discovered 19<sup>th</sup> century patented spinning wheels and her articles about them have appeared in Spin-Off magazine.

Florence had the opportunity to study in depth the spinning wheels at the American Textile History Museum in Lowell, MA which houses the largest collection of spinning wheels in the United States.

We are continuing the tradition of the ever-popular **Fashion Show**, highlighting **your** spinning talents. Bring and enter the items you have been working on over the past year. This event is a wonderful way to have your work seen by your peers and to gain inspiration from others.

The structured **"Spin-In"** time has proven to be popular and this year we will again have some specific times allotted to spin, chat, renew, and share.

The **Sales Room** will be located within the spacious and bright gymnasium. Hours of operation will be Friday evening 6:00 pm-10:00 pm; and Saturday from 12:30 pm-3:00 pm. Vendors wishing to have sales room space please contact Dianne Lamb at 705-429-2146 or by email at [aanddlamb@sympatico.ca](mailto:aanddlamb@sympatico.ca). Applications for space should be made no later than April 15, 2007. 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 appropriate payment to the Registrar.

Get ready for another **Baggie Challenge** but with a different outcome. We will supply you with fibre and ask you to use your imagination to create a "cuddly and lovable" creature. As usual, we will invite you to bring your creations back to display at the 2008 seminar and then we hope you will be willing to donate them to some worthy charitable children's cause yet to be named.

**What Have You Been Doing All Year?** Everyone is encouraged to bring an item to put on 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. Items for display and competition may be dropped off from 5-9pm Friday, June 8th in the Display Room; as well, display items may be dropped off until 8:30 am Saturday morning.

## Competition Categories

### 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 form (photocopy form 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 5 pm – 9 pm Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup> in the Display Room.

Following through on last year's colour theme, we are asking you to “push your limits with colour by using more than one colour - be it a dyed or natural fibre” in any of your submissions – be it the Skein Competition or Special Projects.

### 2007 Skein Competition

You can submit skeins in any of the three categories, using more than one colour

1. Simple 2-ply skein
2. Novelty Skein
3. Blend

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 **and colour** 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. explain how you “pushed your limits” with colour

### 2007 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 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 and colour in the project
- c. An explanation of how the fibre was prepared, including blending
- d. Description of the spinning technique used
- e. Sample of the final yarn used in the project
- f. Explain how you “pushed your limits” with colour

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

### **Amazing Angora**

**Eileen Land**

Come and spend a day learning about one of the most luxurious fibres we know - angora. The morning will be spent discussing the fibre - where it comes from - (those cute bunnies)- and the different properties of each breed. Each participant will have a sample of fibre from all four breeds to try. Later in the day explore how to change the results of our yarns though blending angora with different fibres. Come and give it a try!

**Eileen Land** has been spinning since 1990 when she discovered angora bunnies. She went on to complete the six levels of the Handspinning course at Georgian College.

Eileen raised angora rabbits for sixteen years, an enterprise that has now come to an end - although the spinning and knitting of angora will continue for a long time. She does enjoy spinning lots of other fibres - mostly exotics-and continuing to learn about fibre arts.

### **Clues to Spinning Wheel Structures**

**Florence Feldman-Wood**

In the one thousand years since its invention the spinning wheel has developed an almost infinite number of variations. This workshop will examine the basic components of spinning wheels and how they function. There will be a quick survey of general categories of wheels to illustrate variations that have developed in different geographic areas. We will cover how to search for a wheel's history using old records. There will be time to examine your pet antique wheel (bring wheel or a photo).

**Florence Feldman-Wood** is the editor/publisher of the quarterly newsletter, *THE SPINNING WHEEL SLEUTH*. She had the unique opportunity to study the large collection of spinning wheels at the American Textile History Museum in Lowell, MA.

### **Getting Started With Cotton**

**Hazel Alexander**

Relax and explore the basics of cotton spinning without pressure. This workshop has lots of time for participants to try spinning cotton on wheel, charkha and spindle. Several different spinning techniques will be demonstrated. Open a whole new world of soft, pleasant fibre for your spinning pleasure.

**Hazel Alexander** is a graduate of the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners Spinning Certificate program. 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.

### **Preparing Animal Fibres for Spinning**

**Julia Lee**

We all want to make the best possible yarn with our fibre, right? But, how? The key is *preparation*. Whether you have a raw fleece or a beautiful rainbow-dyed roving, you are going to have to do something to it, to get it ready for spinning. This workshop leads you through the steps of fleece preparation from the very beginning, including skirting, washing, teasing, carding, and predrafting. We will look at the available tools, and try them out to decide which works best for the job at hand.

**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 program, thinking it was just a one-week session. Seven years and hundreds of hours' homework later she graduated from the program. Since then, Julia has taught several "starting to spin" workshops and private lessons in Toronto, and is the co-coordinator of the current Spinning Certificate program at Haliburton.

### **Silk is Reel Easy**

**Harriet Boon**

Explore silk, start with cocoons and reel silk Thai style, make cocoons into hankies and spin, spin silk batts. Determine when enough twist is just enough for end use. Blend it too!

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

### **So Who's in Charge? Mastering your wheel**

**Barbara Scott**

This session will focus on wheels, how they work, how to care for them and how to make your wheel work for you. Using carded and combed wools, we will spend time spinning yarns of different diameters to help understand how spinners can adjust their wheels to increase control and have choices.

**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 for Ontario-based publications as well as for *Spin. Off.* To spinning, she brings curiosity, a need for technical mastery and delight in experimentation.

### **Spindles, Spindles, Spindles**

**Lorraine Smith**

2 Have you always wanted to use a hand spindle but thought you were too klutzy? Never fear! Join our cross-Canada spindler and explore all manner of spindles for use in all manner of venues. There are tips and tricks to be learned here, and lots of fun too.

**Lorraine Smith** is the publisher and editor of *Spinners' Quarterly*. She is entering year 6 of the Spinning Certificate program and still loves spindling.

### **Spinning Wondrous Mixtures with Mohair**

**Donna Hancock**

Mohair by itself is wonderful. When blended with other fibres it adds lustre and pizzazz like nothing else. This workshop offers lots of time for exploring the fibres and mixtures, and helpful tips and tricks for dealing with them. We will experiment with different equipment that can be used for blending.

**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 other fibre producers' fibre.

### **Straw Into Gold**

**Christine English**

4 This workshop will share tips and techniques for evaluating woolen fleeces and rovings, matching them with projects, and dealing optimally with their faults or positive characteristics. We will skirt and sort a fleece, look at a variety of fleeces and rovings and have time to experiment and share experiences (participants are welcome to bring fibres to discuss....)

**Christine English** has an OHS Spinning Certificate (2000, with distinction). She combines working as a personal support worker, sheep farming and teaching in her very active life. She has a degree in zoology and is very interested in many aspects of sheep and fleece production, especially animal behavior and the genetics of the various fleece characteristics and colours. Christine is both a fibre and sheep "junkie," and her barn and wool shed are bulging.

### **Work Less – Get More: Spinning Effectively**

**Dorothy Hinchcliffe**

3 Join Dorothy for tips on – Design: is it worth the effort?

Materials: Prepare, Prepare, Prepare Equipment: This means you too!

Consistency: counting sheep? Finishing: What end?

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



# ONTARIO HANDSPINNING SEMINAR APPLICATION FORM

## JUNE 8-10, 2007

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

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION:** The registration fee includes keynote address, Saturday workshops, supplies, handouts, hospitality suite, entertainment and coffee breaks for both days. Registration must be **postmarked no earlier than Monday April 2, 2007 and received no later than Monday April 23, 2007** (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. **Please note that Georgian College requires individuals to provide a valid credit card number or cash (approx \$80) at the time of check in, as a refundable security deposit, to cover any incidental charges.** 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 a postal money order or bank draft in Canadian funds (travelers cheques will not be accepted). 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 4, 2007.

**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 2008 Ontario Handspinning Seminar.

**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 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 dining area, display room and sales room are located within the gymnasium, a four minute walk from Georgian Summer Suites - across a paved parking area; six of the workshop rooms are located in E Building which is adjacent to the gymnasium. Four workshops will be offered on the second floor of Summer Suites. 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:** Georgian College requires a \$10 (refundable) parking deposit which will be required for the parking access pass card. 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:** Please select one full day workshop. Please tick off your 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 10:15 am to 12:15 pm and from 3:00 pm to 5:00 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.