



**ONTARIO HANDSPINNING SEMINAR**  
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## Fall Newsletter 2010

It's that time again! With the arrival of this newsletter, you can start planning for the 2011 Seminar.

The Committee wants to thank everyone who filled out the evaluation forms at the Seminar last June. We read through them thoroughly and welcomed your suggestions, your kind words and even your criticisms.

After reviewing participant feedback and considering topics from recent Seminars, we have decided that the theme for the 2011 Ontario Handspinning Seminar will be:

*Wild About Silk*

**Keynote Speaker – Karen Selk**

**Friday, June 10 – Sunday, June 12, 2011**  
**University of Guelph**  
**Guelph, Ontario**

Do the words Tassar, Muga and Eri sound like another language to you? Do materials such as carrier rods, laps, cocoons, caps and silk in sericin intrigue you? All this and more will be the focus at next year's Ontario Handspinning Seminar when we welcome Karen Selk, internationally renowned artist and teacher, to help us explore this exotic world. Through lectures, classroom study and some fun hands-on projects, Karen will be our guide so that you, too, will become Wild about Silk.

This year, we are trying something new for the Seminar. Instead of staying in a residence facility, we have reserved a block of rooms at the Best Western Royal Brock Hotel, across Stone Road from the University. It is only a short walk to all the activities but if you choose to drive, all parking is free after 5:00 p.m. on Friday. Your room, priced at single or double occupancy at the Best Western, includes a hot breakfast. However, if you still want to have the university residence experience, rooms will be available and you must arrange your own breakfast.

Peter Clark Hall, in the basement of the University Centre, will be the site of the Sales Room, Displays and Saturday evening Banquet. The University Centre is a very short walk from the classrooms and Rozanski Hall where we will hold the Saturday and Sunday morning lectures.

### **Sales Room Contact**

Anyone wishing to have Sales Room space should contact:

Helle Torm-Newland, P.O.Box 1291, Elora, ON N0B 1S0

tel: 519-846-8371

email: [torm.newland@gmail.com](mailto:torm.newland@gmail.com)

Vendors from last year's Seminar will automatically receive an application.

## 2010 Baggie Challenge

The 2010 Baggie Challenge was ... bagless! However, that doesn't mean that a challenge wasn't issued. Everyone has a stash of fibre at home. You might as well admit it – we know you do! So, in keeping with last year's focus on Wool, a challenge was issued to Seminar participants to dig through their wool stashes and create a project that gives homage to that great little fibre producer, the sheep! Boundaries are wide open on this one...the design tribute is totally up to you. The only rule is that your creation must be fashioned out of wool. You may use embellishments, of course, but the primary materials in your creation must be wool. And, even if you didn't attend last year's Seminar, you can still make something for this years' Challenge. So dig into those stashes. We can't wait to see what you bring baaa...ck to us!!

## 2009 Baggie Challenge

The 2009 Baggie Challenge was a great success!! Enough squares were created from the purchased bags of wool roving to create 3 afghans - 2 lap-sized and one baby-sized. Tickets were sold and the 3 afghans were raffled off resulting in a donation of \$600.00 to Interval House – the women's shelter in Kingston. The winners of the afghans were: Sharon Desserud, Lise Marvell and Colleen Thomson. A big thank you goes out to Susan Alain who stitched all the afghan squares together. Congratulations to all who participated. Everyone was a winner on this project. Enjoy the photos of two of the finished afghans!



### 2010-2011 Board of Directors

President: Hazel Alexander

Vice President: Liz van Wyck

Secretary: Dianne Lamb

Treasurer: Brenda Pedden Boyce

Members at Large: Esther Grav, Bridget Lewis, Elizabeth McConaghy, Linda Needles, Marta Spencer

### **2010-11 Committee**

Chair: Esther Grav  
Board Representative: Hazel Alexander  
Registrar: Barb Ross  
Secretary: Barbara Scott  
Workshop Convenors: Barbara Scott, Beth Showalter  
Salesroom Convenors: Helle Torm-Newland, Sheila Clark  
Display Convenors: Jennifer Earle, Sharon Gowland  
Special Projects: Esther Grav, Elona McCubbin  
Skeins: Elona McCubbin  
Fashion Show Convenor: Elona McCubbin  
Facility and Financials: Barb Ross, Hazel Alexander

## **Awards and Scholarships**

As you will see, there were very few awards presented last year. In an effort to encourage more entries, we have rewritten the criteria for some of the categories, hoping to encourage you to enter your projects. If you find it confusing to complete some of the forms, please ask for help. If you don't want to be judged on your project, then enter the "Just for Fun" category. You may not think that you are good enough to enter, but don't be shy! You may have come up with a colour combination that surprises, a fibre blend that entices or a design that everyone wants to try. We all love to see what others are doing, no matter how simple or complex. Plan now on entering your projects in the 2011 Displays. It's all about participating!

### **2010 Skein Competition and Special Projects Awards**

#### **2010 Skein Competition Winners**

##### **Simple 2-ply**

Novice: Hanna Hyvarinen  
Advanced: Linda Helms

##### **Creative 3 or More-Ply Skein**

Novice: Hanna Hyvarinen  
Advanced: Charlotte Altmann

#### **2010 Project Competition Winners**

##### **Wearables for the Human Body – over 100g**

Advanced – Barb Ross

### **2010 Competition Awards**

**(Any article submitted for Competition is eligible if appropriate guidelines are followed)**

#### **Founders Award – 2010 Winner: Catherine Forbes**

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.

#### **Barb Patterson Award – 2010 Winner: Hanna Hyvarinen**

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".

## 2011 Awards and Scholarships Categories

- 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.

### Skeins Competition

#### Skeins Competition Criteria

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

- If you have been spinning for fewer than two years, enter as “novice”.
  - If you have been spinning 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:** Your goal is to construct a yarn which has at least 3 plies and 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. However, remember that the yarn must be stable and suited to the end use you have stated on your entry.
  3. **Spindle-spun skein:** This 2-ply skein must be spun on a hand spindle. It will be critiqued on the same basis as the wheel spun 2-ply skein...grist, twist, balance and appropriateness for end use.

#### Guidelines for Submitting a Skein and to be Eligible for Judging

1. All skeins must be a minimum of 10 meters and a maximum of 15 meters in length.
2. Skeins must be correctly tied in four places with figure eight ties made from fine cotton. Skeins 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. a description of the intended end use for the yarn AND a description of why the yarn suits the end use.
  - f. 2"x2" swatch worked in the technique specified for the end product.

The entry form will be sent out with your registration information in the Spring Newsletter.

### Special Projects Competition

#### Special Projects Competition Criteria

You are encouraged to submit an item based on techniques taught at last year's Seminar.

- If you have been spinning for fewer than two years, enter as “novice”.
- If you have been spinning for more than 2 years, enter as “advanced”.

Techniques and subjects from last year's Seminar include: Spindle Spinning, Polworth Fleece, Handspun in Weaving, Lace Knitting with Handspun, Heads and Hands: Transforming Images in Wool, Plying, Tools of the Trade and Spinning Wheel Essentials.

The categories are:

1. **Wearable Items**

Projects for this category may include, but are not limited to: Items for the head, neck, hands or feet; items that are worn over the shoulder or that lie on your lap; items for your pet.

2. **Non-Wearable Items**

Projects for this category may include, but are not limited to: Items for carrying or for use around the house.

### **Guidelines for Projects and to be Eligible for Judging**

All entries must be 100% handspun wool. You may use any appropriate construction technique. Please include the following in order to qualify for judging:

1. Sample of the fibre(s) used, before and after preparation. If using commercially prepared fibre, include a sample of the unspun fibre.
2. An explanation of how the fibre was prepared, including blending
3. A brief description of the spinning technique used
4. Sample skein (5 metres in length) of the final yarn used in the project.

The entry form will be sent out with your registration information in the Spring Newsletter.

## **Competition Awards**

**(Any article submitted for Competition 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 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.

### **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.**

### **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”

The entry form will be sent out with your registration information in the Spring Newsletter.

## **“Just for Fun” Submissions**

### ***These creations will not be judged.***

If competitions are not for you but you wish to share your achievements with your peers, bring your skeins or projects along for **Display Only**. There is only one criterion in this category - all “Just for Fun” submissions must be created from 100% wool or a blend where wool is at least 50% of the total fibre content.

These submissions will require only a form for display. The form will be sent out with your registration information in the spring.

## The Handspinner's Research Scholarship

The Ontario Handspinning Seminar Inc. has money available for an annual Scholarship that is to be used in the exploration and development of new techniques, equipment and/or related research of interest to handspinning and dyers. A specific plan of study must be included with the application. Recipients are required to share the results of the experience with the participants of an Ontario Handspinning Seminar within 3 years of receipt of the scholarship. **Everyone is encouraged to apply – there is still lot of time to meet the January 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.**

For more information on the requirements and submitting an application, visit our website at [www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca](http://www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca).

## Fashion Show

The Fashion Show will be held after the Banquet on Saturday night. If you would like to model your creation, have someone else model for you or be a model in the Fashion Show, a form will be available to fill out with the Registration Form accompanying the Spring Newsletter.

## Spring Newsletter and Registration Form

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 information along to your friends and tell them to visit [www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca](http://www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca). If you received this Newsletter, please be assured that your registration form will be mailed by regular Canada Post with the Spring Newsletter.

### 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.