



ONTARIO HANDSPINNING SEMINAR

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Spring Newsletter 2011

Wild About Silk

Keynote Speaker – Karen Selk
Friday, June 10 – Sunday, June 12, 2011

University of Guelph
Guelph, Ontario

Forget about the cold and snow and ice and rains of March! Think forward to the warm days of June and the 2011 Ontario Handspinning Seminar. Join us in Guelph for the chance to renew friendships, learn about an exciting and luxurious fibre and become Wild about Silk. You'll have lots of opportunity to browse amongst the vendors' stalls, admire the skills of your fellow handspinners and become inspired during an informal and fun weekend.

Programs and Workshops

A BIT ABOUT KAREN ... We are very thrilled to have Karen Selk of Treenway Silks in British Columbia as our 2011 Keynote Speaker. Karen has been a textile designer and artist since 1972. Her primary focus has been weaving and fusing silk. A quest for knowledge of all aspects of silk has taken her throughout Asia researching the history and heritage of silk traditions. She enjoys sharing her approach through lectures and workshops. The cloth, culture and people of other countries, as well as the life in Karen's garden, are the sources of her creative spirit. Karen is the author of numerous magazine articles, an education poster about the life cycle of the silkworm and a silk fusion DVD. As managing director of Treenway Silks, she designs and develops new yarns, fibres, kits and colour palettes.

SATURDAY MORNING KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Join Karen for a journey on the Wild Side of Silk. Karen will concentrate this slide presentation in India where she has continued research on tussah, muga and eri wild silks since 1988. The wild silks are raised in the forests by the indigenous peoples. The character of the caterpillars and silk is as unique as their caretakers. The images will be enhanced by samples of cloth, cocoons, moths and fibres for everyone to touch and feel. This address will take place in Rozanski Hall - a large, comfortable auditorium that houses a state-of-the-art sound and projection system. The opening comments begin at 8:30 a.m. sharp, followed by the address. There will be a mid-morning coffee break. Spinning wheels will not be required; however, a wheel lock-up room will be available near the afternoon workshops for your convenience.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

The Saturday afternoon workshops will take place from 2:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. in Mackinnon Building. A list of specific equipment requirements will be sent out in May with your Registration Confirmations. We've assembled an interesting selection of workshops and instructors who will inspire, motivate and expand your knowledge so that you too, will become Wild about Silk! We will try to accommodate your preferences, but workshop assignments will be made on a first come, first served basis. Register early!!

BEGINNING SILK SPINNING

This workshop will be for those who have never tried to spin silk or for those who have tried and have been frustrated by the experience. You will learn about the different types of silk and about the various preparations that are available to the handspinner. You'll enjoy spinning both wild (Tussah) and cultivated (Bombyx) silk preparations and get tips and tricks to make spinning this wonderful natural fibre a pleasurable experience. All materials provided.

Mara Lusic has been spinning for over 20 years and is a graduate of the Ontario Handweavers & Spinners Spinning Certificate Programme. She is now an instructor in that programme and enjoys the experience of passing on what she has learned because "by your students you are taught". Mara loves to spin many different types of fibre, to knit lacy things, to flirt with sculptural crochet and to experiment with nature dyeing.

DYEING SILK WITH INDIGO – SHIBORI

MARGARET STALKER

Explore the beauty of silk dyeing in this hands-on workshop using simple Shibori resist techniques to produce a unique indigo-dyed silk scarf. All materials provided.

Handspinner, weaver and dyer, **Margaret Stalker** is a graduate of the Ontario Handweavers & Spinners Spinning Certificate Programme. Her fascination with natural dye pigments in textiles has taken her to the International Colour Congress in Iowa in 2002, to Scotland and the Outer Hebrides in 2001 and 2008, and numerous dyesheds across Canada and the USA. Margaret has taught workshops on spinning, weaving and dyeing of the Ontario Handspinning Seminar, the OHS Conference and the OHS Spinning Certificate programme.

EXPLORING THE SUBTLETIES OF SILK

MARTA SPENCER

This workshop aims to expand participants' basic silk spinning knowledge by examining the differences in the types of silk preparations available to handspinners. Cultivated (*Bombyx Mori*), Tussah (wild), Noil and dyed preparations can require slightly different spinning approaches relating to handling, ease of drafting and available twist rations. Silk type and preparation also suggest design, twist and diameter considerations towards end use. Silk Noil and Silk Waste will provide some "textural" fun.

Marta Spencer completed the Ontario Handweavers & Spinners Spinning Certificate Programme in 2006 and is currently a member of the Ontario Handspinning Seminar Board. She has led both guild and Seminar workshops.

LEARN TO SPIN

BETH SHOWALTER

This introduction to spinning workshop is perfect for beginners and those who want a refresher. You will learn how your spinning wheel works, the basics of spinning wool and tips to get the results that you want. We will begin with spinning singles, constructing a two-ply yarn and go from there. This is your first step in mastering the creation of yarns!

Beth Showalter has always found inspiration in textiles, fibres and history. She learned to knit as a child and was introduced to spinning more than twelve years ago – a perfect combination. Beth has just completed the third level of the Ontario Handweavers & Spinners Spinning Certificate Programme. She is busy with her young family, teaching Visual Arts at a high school in the Peel District School Board and enjoys experimenting and relaxing with a variety of fibre arts whenever possible!

MAKING SILK PAPER

BETH ABBOTT

Learn to make silk paper!! Pure dyed silk + a medium create a lustrous textured background for embroidery and beading, and has even been used to create wearable art. It can also be made into three-dimensional shapes such as vessels, masks, etc. In this two-hour session, you should be able to make two simple pieces for further embellishment. Lots of samples will be available to show the many ways it can be used.

Beth Abbott attended her first Seminar in 1976 and has been spinning ever since. She earned her Master Spinner Certificate from Georgian College in 1990 and her In-depth Study on the Icelandic Sheep has been published and recently reprinted as a book *Icelandic Fleece – a Fibre for All Reasons*. Beth has been teaching in the Ontario Handweavers & Spinners Spinning Certificate Programme for the past 20 years and one of her specialties is silk. Beth has also developed a summer course for the Haliburton School of Art on Silk Paper and working with silk in fibre art. Beth has won several awards for her work, including twice winning the Founders' Award.

REELING AND MAKING MAWATA

HARRIET BOON

We all marvel at wondrous silk but it is a bit hard to wear in cocoon form. We will retrieve silk fibres, creating yarns suitable for knitting and weaving. Participate in hands-on spinning, reeling and creating mawata. "If you bring knitting needles, I'll bring a warped table-loom so we can all be creative."

Since the early 1970's, **Harriet Boon** has knowingly chased or been chased by fibres. The 1976 Master Spinner's certificate has simply urged her to further studies with opportunities to teach and share across Ontario and beyond.

SPINNING SILK FOR EMBROIDERY

HAZEL ALEXANDER

Whether you are an experienced stitcher or just want to add a little pizzazz to your wardrobe, it is fun to spin your own fine yarns. The focus of this workshop will be to explore methods of spinning a consistent fine, smooth thread that would be appropriate for embroidery, cross-stitch or other techniques for which a finely spun yarn is desired. Using both cultivated and tussah silk, we will experiment with various ways of handling the fibre and twist amounts used.

Hazel Alexander has been spinning for fifteen years. She is a graduate of the Ontario Handweavers & Spinners Spinning Certificate program and has lead several workshops at the Ontario Handspinning Seminar.

SPINNING SILK FOR WEAVING

DOROTHY HINCHCLIFFE

After a general discussion of types and grades of silk, and commercial versus handspun silk yarns, participants will design and produce sample yarns to be woven in half-silk fabrics.

Dorothy Hinchcliffe is a Bruce County sheep/crop farmer. She has been spinning and weaving for 30+ years and enjoys solving fibre design challenges.

SPINNING SILK ON A SPINDLE

KAREN RICHENS

Put a positive spin on your spindle spinning. This workshop is for those who have experienced difficulty in the past and for those who wish to hone their skills with the drop and support spindles. We will explore different spindle spinning techniques using a few different silk fibres and preparations. Not just for beginners!

Karen Richens has been a fibre and textile enthusiast for 20 years, having travelled worldwide for a year in search of textiles and their making. She currently cares for over 100 spinnable sheep. Karen is a graduate of the Ontario Handweavers & Spinners Spinning Certificate Program and a spinning member of the Toronto Spiders, winner of the International Back-to-Back Wool Challenge.

SUNDAY MORNING HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

Carrier rods, throwsters' waste, cocoon strippings – what do all these strange words relating to silk mean? Once more, we return to Rozanski Hall for another fabulous morning with Karen Selk. This time, Karen will lead us as we explore what happens to the cocoon after it leaves the farmer. There is a lot more to this little silk package than just unravelling it. In addition to learning how all these by-products are obtained, we will work together and create some small art pieces using these fun ingredients. There will be a demonstration by Karen followed by a hands-on project for everyone. We will start the morning's activities promptly at 9:00 a.m. Spinning wheels will not be required. The demo and hands-on project will end at 11:00 a.m. There will be a short break and we will reconvene at 11:15 for the Awards Presentation and Closing Comments. Pre-ordered box lunches will be available in the foyer of Rozanski Hall at the end of the program and any Display items left over from Saturday night will be available for pick-up at this time.

Awards and Scholarships

We hope you have spent the long, cold winter wrapped in the warmth and satisfaction of spinning some fabulous wool fibre and perhaps using the yarn to fashion a glorious wool creation. Even if you just have skeins of wonderful wool yarn, sitting in a basket or layered in a glass bowl – we want to see them.

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. Ask someone in your guild for assistance or contact the Registrar of the Seminar for more information. 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!

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 Confirmation in May.

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 Confirmation in May.

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.

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 Confirmation in May.

"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 Confirmation in May.

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. Although the 2011 deadline for submission has passed, please give some thought to applying in 2012. The deadline is January 31st.**

For more information on the requirements and submitting an application, visit our website at www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca.

Everything Else That You Need To Know

REGISTRATION INFORMATION: The registration fee includes Saturday morning Keynote Presentation with Karen Selk, Saturday afternoon workshops and Sunday morning presentation and activity with Karen Selk, supplies, handouts, access to Sales and Display Room and a beverage break on Saturday morning. Registration must be **postmarked no earlier than Monday, April 11, 2011 and no later than Friday April 28, 2011**. 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 will be accepted in order of receipt. You will receive confirmation of your registration plus a map and a list of items to bring by mail in mid to late May. Acceptance of late registrants will be dependent on workshop space and room availability.

The Registration Desk will be open from 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. on Friday, June 10, 2011 on the lower level of the University Centre, outside of Peter Clark Hall where the Sales Room and Displays will be located. We'll be there to greet you and answer any questions you have about the weekend. On Saturday morning, the Registration Desk will move to the foyer of Rozanski Hall, outside the auditorium where the Keynote Address with Karen Selk will take place. On Saturday, the Registration Desk will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

FEES: The total amount must be submitted 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**. Neither personal cheques nor travellers cheques will be accepted, and money orders must be those specifically meant for international use. Domestic, US money orders cannot be cashed in Canada. NSF cheques will be charged \$25.00. Some restrictions may apply to requests for refunds. An administration fee of \$15 will be applied to all refunds. Due to contractual obligations with the University of Guelph, no refunds will be made after May 15, 2011.

PARKING PASSES: Parking will be free on the campus of the University **after** 5:00 p.m. on Friday and for the rest of the weekend. If you need to park on the campus before 5:00 p.m., you must purchase a parking pass for \$9.00. A parking pass may be ordered with the Registration Application. Maps of Guelph, the University Campus and surrounding areas will be sent out with the Registration Confirmation package.

ACCOMMODATIONS: This year, we are moving our accommodations out of the students' residence and into the Best Western Royal Brock Hotel. The hotel is located at 716 Gordon Street, Guelph, across the road and a short walk from Peter Clark Hall and Rozanski Hall where most of our activities take place. Prices are based on double occupancy and include a hot breakfast. The total price, including taxes, is \$106.20/room/night. Each room includes 2 queen-sized beds, a full bathroom, small refrigerator, TV, coffee-maker, desk, iron and ironing board and wireless internet. Depending on the weather in mid-June, there is an outdoor pool available to guests. A block of rooms has been set aside for the Ontario Handspinning Seminar participants but these rooms will be released to the public on May 12, 2011, so reserve your room early! Contact the hotel at 519-836-1240 or 1-888-471-2378 and indicate that you are attending of the Ontario Handspinning Seminar to receive this special price. Check-in time is anytime after 3:00 p.m. on Friday. Parking is free for the duration of your stay. Check out time is 11:00 a.m. on Sunday.

SALES ROOM: On Friday, the Sales Room will be open from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. in Peter Clark Hall, which is located in the basement of the University Centre. While this building is just a short stroll from the hotel, there are numerous parking lots close at hand. The Sales Room will be open again on Saturday from 12:00 noon to 2:30 p.m. After that, they will pack up so the room can be changed over for the Banquet.

Any vendors, who still wish to register for space in the Sales Room, please contact Helle Torm-Newland at torm.newland@gmail.com.

VISITOR PASSES: If you have friends who will not be attending the Seminar, but would just want to visit the vendors, Visitor Passes will be available for a small fee of \$5.00 for the evening.

MEALS: Indicate the meals you wish to purchase on the Registration Form. Also indicate if you have any **food allergies or dietary requirements** that we must accommodate. Please also note that we are contractually required to charge 15% gratuities and 13% HST on all meal costs.

On Saturday and Sunday morning, breakfast will be served at the Best Western Hotel as part of your accommodation plan. If you are not staying at the Best Western Hotel, you are responsible for your own breakfast. Lunch on Saturday will be an outdoor barbecue in Brannion Plaza which is located between the University Centre and Rozanski Hall. The Saturday evening Banquet, in Peter Clark Hall, will start with a cash bar at 6:30 p.m. and be followed by dinner and the Fashion Show. On Sunday, pre-ordered box lunches will be available in the foyer of Rozanski Hall.

SATURDAY BANQUET AND FASHION SHOW: Annual Banquet and Fashion Show will be held in Peter Clark Hall. We urge you to bring all the wonderful things you have made over the year, to model or have modelled, for the show. In response to your requests to pick up display items earlier than Sunday afternoon, we will be releasing them after the Banquet and Fashion Show on Saturday night. Any items not picked up at that time **must** be picked up in the foyer of Rozanski Hall on Sunday morning after the closing comments.

DISPLAY, COMPETITION AND BAGGIE CHALLENGE ITEMS: This area will be set up in Peter Clark Hall. Display, competition and baggie challenge items may be dropped off at the intake desk in Peter Clark Hall from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Friday night. Judging will take place on Friday night. If you aren't able to drop your creation off on Friday night, the intake desk will be open again in the foyer of Rozanski Hall (beside the Registration Desk). **Items dropped off on Saturday morning will be ineligible for judging.** In response to your requests, you will be able to pick up your items from the Display area after the Fashion Show on Saturday night. Anyone not attending the Banquet will be able to pick up their items on Sunday morning in the foyer of Rozanski Hall after the close of the Seminar.

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 year's Challenge. So dig into those stashes. We can't wait to see what you bring baaa...ck to us!!

VOLUNTEERS: Each year, the assistance of volunteers is a key part of the success of the Ontario Handspinning Seminar. If you would like to volunteer to assist us this year, please mark the appropriate box at the bottom of the registration form.

AND DON'T FORGET ... On Friday evening, join us in our Hospitality Room at the Best Western Hotel. Come for the refreshments, the lively conversations or just to sit and spin. It will be open from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

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.