



Ontario Handspinning Seminar

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Spring 2015 Newsletter

Pack your bags and join us on our Destination Fibre Tour. There are a lot workshops focusing on fibres from all over the world. Don't forget about the good food, great company and lots of shopping! Come and join us!

Destination Fibre

June 12 - 14, 2015
DELTA TORONTO EAST HOTEL
2035 Kennedy Road
Toronto, Ontario

PROGRAMMES AND WORKSHOPS

We've noted over the past few years that handspinners who attend the Seminar are very happy with the programmes and workshops offered. The only negative comment we see is that there isn't enough time to take more than one course. We are trying to fix that this year! Eight workshops, each 2½ hours in length, are being offered on Saturday morning. They will then be all repeated in the afternoon. You will have the opportunity to take two different workshops on your Fibre Tour. Be sure to indicate, on your Registration Form, your 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th choices. Your selections will be assigned in either the morning or afternoon, according to space availability. Here are the workshops being offered:

ALPACA: THE ANIMAL CLOSEST TO HEAVEN HIGH UP IN THE ANDES (PERU, BOLIVIA AND CHILE)

NANCY CARR

In the workshop you will learn about alpaca, the animal - its history, characteristics and basic husbandry. You will also learn about alpaca, the fibre - the various attributes of alpaca fleece and how to assess alpaca fleece including learning the different grades of alpaca. We will look at a whole fleece; learn about skirting and preparing the fleece for handspinning, and what fibres can be blended with alpaca. There will be spinning of the different grades of alpaca from different preparations, and also spinning some alpaca blends.

NANCY CARR has been alpaca farming since 1998 (Silver Cloud Alpacas near Kingston, Ont. with the present herd numbering 65) and spinning since 1999. She has attended numerous seminars and lectures on alpacas in both Canada and the U.S.A. learning about alpaca fleece and its assessment. She has taught several workshops on spinning alpaca.

COTTON PICKIN' FUN: TRAVELLING TO INDIA (INDIA)**HAZEL ALEXANDER**

Travel to India while learning some of the history of the fibre that helped the rise and fall of empires. Get hands-on with different types and techniques of spinning the fibre that we all wear every day. No previous cotton spinning experience necessary.

HAZEL ALEXANDER is a graduate of the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners Spinning Certificate Course. Hazel has taught various workshops and guild programs including cotton spinning, novelty yarns, natural dyeing, mohair and mohair blends, spinning for embroidery and silk reeling. She enjoys spinning a wide variety of fibres and exploring new techniques to showcase them.

FALKLAND WOOL: LOOK DOWN, LOOK WAY DOWN (THE FALKLAND ISLAND)**HARRIET BOON**

Look down, look way down to near the South Pole where we find the Falkland Islands, populated by many, many sheep. Falkland fleece is a versatile and multi-purpose fibre that can be spun woollen or semi-worsted. Come and explore this lovely fibre.

HARRIET BOON has been spinning for some 40 years and still enjoys learning about new fibres and techniques. She is always willing to share her knowledge. Harriet says, "workshops are a two-way experience. I always learn something and I trust others will also learn."

HEMP: WET-SPIN LONG LINE HEMP FIBRES FROM A DISTAFF (ROMANIA)**DAPHNE SUMMERS**

Spin bast fibres from around the globe: 12-18" staple length hemp from Romania, 4-6" staple length hemp from China, 4-6" staple length flax/linen from West Germany and 12-18" staple length flax/linen from Great Britain. We will examine the fibres and explore the staple length including the differences between them and how this influences the finished product. We will also look at woollen vs. worsted when spinning bast fibres.

Five years ago, **DAPHNE SUMMERS** founded a craft business that supplies Vegan and Environmental yarn, fibres and goods. When people ask her "What can you do with Bast materials?" she replies "everything!" Daphne recreates old techniques using modern tools.

THE ICELANDIC SHEEP: ONE FLEECE, SO MANY YARNS (ICELAND)**ROSLYN DARLING**

The Icelandic Sheep is an ancient, dual-coated breed whose fleece comes in many beautiful natural colours. Learn to separate the fine undercoat (*thel*) from the coarser outer coat (*tog*). Learn to spin the two coats separately, and then to spin them together for a traditional Lopi style yarn. Come to appreciate how one sheep breed could supply all the fibre needs for an entire culture. There will be the opportunity to examine the spun, knit, woven and embroidered samples presented in Elizabeth Abbott's definitive book *The Icelandic Fleece: A Fibre for All Reasons*.

ROSLYN DARLING is an incorrigible collector of fleece. She would like to knit the same shawl pattern with handspun wool from as many breeds of sheep as she can get her hands on. She has spent the past year spinning rug-hooking yarns from a selection of longwool, primitive and dual-coated breeds.

PAPER: THE WORLD OF WASHI - SPINNING PAPER THREADS (JAPAN)**BETH SHOWALTER**

Welcome to Japan. For centuries, "washi", Japanese paper, has been extremely important in many aspects of life. Through resourcefulness and need, it was discovered that "washi" could also be spun and made into fabric. In this workshop you will learn how to make paper threads that can be used in a variety of textile constructions.

BETH SHOWALTER finds inspiration in many things and is especially drawn to textiles, fibres and history. She began her spinning journey 17 years ago and completed the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners Spinning Certificate Program in 2014. Beth enjoys experimenting, sharing ideas, learning new techniques and relaxing with a variety of fibre arts whenever possible.

SHETLAND: A FAIR ISLE (SHETLAND ISLES)**CHRISTINE BOTTOMLEY**

Come journey over the sea, north of Scotland to the Shetland Isles, famous for knitwear and lace. In the harsh climate of these isolated islands lives a small agile sheep with a wool of exceptional fineness. Learn about the diversity of Shetland Sheep, its fleece, varied colours and markings. Taking advantage of the wide range of natural colours of the Shetland Sheep, we will blend and spin a Fair Isle inspired yarn, used in Traditional Fair Isle knitting.

CHRISTINE BOTTOMLEY is a shepherd, dyer and spinner. Having something to keep the grass short was the original inspiration which has then turned into a flock of thirty Shetland sheep. From sheep to wool, lambing and shearing, creating a one-of-a-kind fibre that is spun, knit or woven is a truly rewarding occupation.

SPINNING ANGORA: BETTER THAN STORE-BOUGHT YARNS (ENGLAND)**JULIA LEE**

Participants will enjoy preparing, blending and spinning this readily available luxury fibre while learning a little about its history and characteristics.

JULIA LEE has been spinning since the 1980s, graduated from the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners Spinning Certificate Course in 2000, and now co-ordinates and teaches parts of that program in Haliburton. She also teaches spinning privately in Toronto. Julia enjoys working with many kinds of protein fibres, often taking raw fleeces through all the steps to finished garments or household items. She loves colour and texture and focuses on the function of her creations as well as the appearance.

ALSO PRESENTING....

Ontario Handspinning Seminar Scholarship Presentation

Saturday Morning

THE MAIWA HAND-PRINTING TECHNIQUE**KIT FISHER**

After Breakfast and before the workshops begin, we will have a presentation from Kit Fisher on the Maiwa Hand Printing Technique. This presentation is a report from her studies with Maiwa Handprints, located on Granville Island in Vancouver, B.C. Kit was able to take part in this program with the assistance of an Ontario Handspinning Seminar Scholarship in 2012.

KIT FISHER has been spinning since her early teens. Her first Seminar was in 1978 and was so inspired she has not missed one since. Kit first began working with natural dyes in 2007 and now uses nothing else. Kit teaches natural dyeing and various levels of handspinning.

Keynote Presentations

Sunday Morning

SEARCHING FOR SILK IN SOUTHEAST ASIA**TABI FERGUSON**

Comprised from over 7 months journeying through Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar, Tabi's presentation will allow us to take a peek in the small silk studios, research centres and museums where sericulture is being revived. Many woven silk samples and silk skeins will be on display.

TABI FERGUSON caught the spinning bug in 2000, and has been smitten ever since. In order to support her habit, she started Sericin Silkworks in 2010, specializing in hand-dyed silks and exotic fibres and yarns. When not behind her spinning wheel, she can be found on two wheels cycling in southwestern Ontario and around the world.

A TEXTILE JOURNEY THROUGH ESTONIA

CATHARINA FORBES

CATHARINA FORBES is a knitter, spinner and an occasional weaver. Knitting is her first love, and she is still learning after knitting over 50 years. Catherina loves to explore new techniques, colour and design. She has a particular interest in folk costumes and their cultural and historical significance. Catherina has twice had the good fortune to travel to Estonia with Nancy Bush where she attended lectures, took workshops, toured museums and met several masters of Estonia handcraft.

2014 - 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Fashion Show Convenor: Yvonne Hugli

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2015 COMPETITIONS AND CHALLENGES

This year we will be accepting projects from the last two years. There were no competitions, displays or baggie challenge during our 50th Anniversary Celebration. These are the guidelines for each participant:

- Seminar participants are limited to one entry per category.
- Entries in the Special Projects Competition are eligible for the Founders Award if they meet the criteria that the item is totally made of handspun yarn.
- Entries in all categories must have been completed in the last two years.
- Seminar participants who act as judges may not submit entries in the competition.

BAGGIE CHALLENGE

As explained in the Fall Newsletter, our Baggie Challenge is to be made from the three bags of fibres we received at the 2013 Seminar. The challenge is to create a small item that is inspired from a story.

- Choose a story, nursery rhyme, myth or folktale.
- Use the fibres provided in the baggie challenge.
- You may add fibre(s) to create your item.
- Emphasize all the beautiful provided fibres.
- Embellish your item as desired.
- Decide how you will spin your tale.

This year we are giving a small prize to the baggie challenge that receives the most votes in our Baggie Challenge Peoples' Choice competition. So, let's get spinning!



SKEINS COMPETITION

Skeins Competition Criteria

Please enter your skeins for competition in one or more of the four categories shown below.

- **Novice:** You have been spinning for fewer than two years.
 - **Intermediate:** You have been spinning for 2 - 5 years.
 - **Advanced:** You have been spinning for more than 5 years.
- 1) **Simple 2-ply skein:** Your goal is to produce a consistent, balanced yarn that is appropriate for the end use suggested in your documentation.
 - 2) **3 or more ply skein:** Your goal is to produce a consistent, balanced yarn that is appropriate for the end use suggested in your documentation.
 - 3) **Novelty skein:** Your goal is to produce a yarn that contains a decorative element. This may be a spinning technique, (crepe or bouclé, for example) or it may consist of additions such as beads, feathers etc. The yarn must be stable and suited to the end purpose suggested in your documentation.
 - 4) **Spindle-spun skein:** This 2-ply yarn must be spun on a hand spindle. Your goal is to produce a consistent, balanced yarn that is appropriate for the end use suggested in your documentation.

Guidelines for Submitting a Skein

1. All skeins must be a minimum of 20 metres and a maximum of 25 meters in length.
2. Skeins must be correctly tied in four places with figure eight ties made from fine cotton.
3. Skeins must not be twisted.
4. All entries must be handspun, including binder threads, and include the following in order to qualify for judging.
 - Sample(s) of the fibre used before and after preparation. If using commercially prepared fibre, include a sample of the unspun fibre.
 - Percentage of each fibre (if using more than one fibre) in the skein
 - An explanation of how the fibre was prepared, including blending and/or dyeing
 - Full explanation of the yarn construction technique
 - A description of the intended use for the yarn and a description of why the yarn suits the end use.

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMPETITION

Special Projects Competition Criteria

You are encouraged to submit an item based on techniques taught at the 2013 and 2014 Seminars.

- **Novice:** You have been spinning for fewer than two years.
- **Intermediate:** You have been spinning for 2 - 5 years.
- **Advanced:** You have been spinning for more than 5 years.

Workshop Topics from the 2013 Seminar include:

- Grimm Yarns about Flax and Linen
- The Mitten: Waste Not, Want Not
- The Goat in the Rug
- Spinning Hemp into Gold
- Three Bags Full
- Rapunzel, Rapunzel, Let Down your Kumihimo
- The Fates and Your Sweater
- The Sleeping Beauty

- Legends, Myths and Taboos Behind Linsey-Woolsey
- Beauty and the Beast: How to Spin Handpainted Rovings 12+ Ways to Get Beautiful Colours in Your Yarn and Not Mud.

The topics at the 2014 Seminar include Flax Spinning, Natural Dyeing and Felting.

The categories are:

- Garments: Sweaters, skirts, ponchos, shawls, etc.
- Accessories: Hats, mittens, scarves, etc.
- Other Items: Toys, afghans, household items, etc.

Guidelines for Special Projects

All entries must use 100% handspun yarns. Please include the following in order to qualify for judging.

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

Entry forms for all display and competition items will be sent out with your Confirmation package.

“JUST FOR FUN” SUBMISSIONS

These creations will make up the year’s biggest show and tell. These items on Display will not be formally evaluated but are eligible for the **Founders Award, the WOW Award, the OHS Award and the HGA Award**. So, bring your skeins and projects to put on display. The only criteria are that the projects and/or skeins must have been made within the last two years and may be made from any fibre.

AWARDS

Founders’ Award: This award honours the Founders of the Ontario Handspinning Seminar: Edna Blackburn, Ted Carson and Dorothy Kirk. The award is \$100.00 and is presented to the person with the best article on display, made from 100% handspun yarn. The Seminar attendees, who cast ballots for their favourite piece, are the judges.

The Edna Blackburn Award: This award will be presented to a novice spinner (less than two years experience) for a 100% handspun article. The award was created with the proceeds from the auction of a painting of Edna’s farm, the first home of the Ontario Handspinning Seminar. The award will be in the amount of \$50.00 and will be chosen by the judges from the current Seminar. It will be awarded by the Committee Chair.

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.

WOW!! Award: This award of \$50.00 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 \$25.00 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”.

“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. Encourage new members to send their registration in early!

Re-inspired Spinner Award: For The Spinner Who Has Lost Interest or Confidence in Their Spinning. The purpose of this award is to allow the spinner to further their education and re-inspire them by attending a class, workshop or course that is of interest to them. A cash value of \$250.00 will be awarded to the successful recipient. They must apply in writing, stating their educational goal and afterwards must present results of their studies to the Ontario Handspinning Seminar attendees, either by a workshop, oral presentation or comprehensive visual display.

THE HANDSPINNERS’ RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

The Ontario Handspinning Seminar Inc. has made 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 in the application. Recipients are required to share the results of the experience with the participants of the Ontario Handspinning Seminar within three years of receipt of the Scholarship. Everyone is encouraged to apply – the next application deadline is January 31, 2016.

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

THE NITTY GRITTY

SEMINAR DESTINATION: We begin our journey at the Delta Toronto East Hotel located near the intersection of Kennedy Road and Highway 401 in Markham (northeast Toronto). A block of rooms has been set aside at the rate of \$139.00 per night. There is a \$25.00 surcharge per person if there are more than two people in the room. Please book your accommodation early. The number to call is 1-800-268-1133. The code to reserve a room at the Seminar rate is HOHSS2014. (Please note that there has been a change in the code from the Fall Newsletter.) The block of rooms will be held until May 12, 2015. Check in time is anytime after 3:00 PM on Friday. All Seminar events will be held within the hotel. Check out time will be at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. The Hotel has an indoor salt water pool and fitness area for the use of registered guests.

PARKING: There is no charge for parking if you register your license plate number at the hotel front desk when you check in. If you are attending the Seminar, but not staying in the hotel or attending as a Visitor, you must still register your license plate at the hotel front desk in order to obtain complimentary parking.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION: The registration fee includes access to the Saturday lecture and workshops, the Fashion Show, Awards presentation, after-hours activity and Sunday morning presentations. It also includes all

supplies, handouts and access to the Sales and Display rooms. **Registration must be postmarked no earlier than April 1, 2015 and no later than April 17, 2015.** Please forward your completed registration form with your payment to the Registrar, Anne Reynolds **by mail.** **Email registrations cannot be accepted.** Registrations will be accepted in order of receipt. You will receive your Registration Confirmation, Equipment List, entry forms for Competition, Display and the Fashion Show as well as a list of items to bring for your workshops in May. Acceptance of late registrations will be dependent on workshop space and room availability.

The Seminar Registration desk will be open from 3:00 to 8:00 PM on Friday June 12, 2015. Competition and Display items will be received in the Ajax Room. The registration desk will also be open from 7:30 until 8:15 a.m. Saturday morning.

FEES: The total fee must be submitted with your registration. All cheques must be payable to the **ONTARIO HANDSPINNING SEMINAR COMMITTEE.** Post-dated cheques will not be accepted. NSF cheques will be charged \$25.00. 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 Hotel, no refunds will be made after May 12, 2015.

For our American participants, please send either an **INTERNATIONAL POSTAL MONEY ORDER or BANK DRAFT IN CANADIAN FUNDS.** We do not accept either 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.

MENU: We have attached the menu plan for the entire weekend at the end of the Newsletter so you know what to expect. The Hotel will accommodate those with allergies and dietary requirements – please indicate them on the Registration Form. As with most hotels, we are contractually obligated to include 15% gratuities and 13% HST in our prices. Please be aware that there are no refrigerators in the hotel rooms, only coffee makers.

SALES ROOM: The Sales Room will be open on Friday from 3:00 to 9:00 PM, and from 12:00 to 2:00 PM on Saturday. Any person who is not registered for the Seminar but would like to visit the Sales Room will be charged a fee of \$5.00. Be sure to register your license plate number at the Hotel Check-in Counter in order to receive complimentary parking. **If there are any vendors who would still like to register please contact Kim Bushby at bushbykim@gmail.com.**

BANQUET AND FASHION SHOW: The Banquet and the Fashion Show will take place on Saturday evening. There will be a cash bar at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Banquet and the Fashion Show where we will enjoy seeing all the items everyone has been working on over the past two years.

SATURDAY EVENING ACTIVITY: We have another fun group activity planned for Saturday evening, after the Fashion Show. There are a couple of items that we'd like you to bring for it – they'll be listed on the Equipment List that will be sent out with your Registration Confirmation.

DISPLAY, COMPETITION AND BAGGIE CHALLENGE ITEMS: Display, competition and baggie challenge items may be dropped off at the display area in the Ajax Room from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. Friday night. Items for competition must be dropped off Friday night before judging begins at 8:00 p.m. **Items may also be dropped off on Saturday morning, but they will not be eligible for competition.** Items may be picked up after the Fashion Show on Saturday evening.

VOLUNTEERS: Volunteers are an essential part of the Seminar. If you would like to volunteer, please check off the appropriate box on the Registration Form.

AND DON'T FORGET...There will be a Friday evening spin-in in the Atrium, which is located just outside the Sales Room so you'll be able to spin and shop and spin and shop.....

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.

WEEKEND MENU

HOT BREAKFAST - SATURDAY AND SUNDAY A.M.

- Chilled Tropicana® orange and grapefruit juice
- Display of seasonal fresh fruit
- Freshly baked muffins, Danishes, butter croissants, preserves and honey
- Farm fresh scrambled eggs served with: bacon, country sausage and home fries
- Freshly brewed Starbucks® regular and decaffeinated coffee
- Wide selection of Tazo® teas

DELI LUNCH - SATURDAY

- Kettle-cooked soup of the day
- Assorted field greens and Chef's choice of dressings
- German red-skin potato salad

SANDWICH AND WRAP DEPARTMENT

- Selection of roast beef, tuna, deli turkey, maple ham, capicolli, beef pastrami and grilled vegetables
- Soft tortilla wraps, focaccia and kaiser with mustard mayo
- Sweet and dill pickles, sour onions, olives and cherry tomatoes

DESSERT

- Assortment of dessert squares and tarts: double fudge brownies, date squares, petite pecan and butter tarts
- Freshly brewed Starbucks® regular and decaffeinated coffee and wide selection of Tazo® teas

BANQUET - SATURDAY NIGHT

- Basket of breads and rolls with sweet butter
- Crudités of fresh garden vegetables with buttermilk and herb dip

SALAD BAR

- Assorted field greens and Chef's choice of dressings
- Traditional Caesar salad with Parmesan cheese
- German potato salad
- Traditional cole slaw
- Coriander Cajun couscous, raisins and fresh herbs

PASTA

- Penne pasta with an oven-roasted tomato sauce with fresh herbs and roasted Mediterranean vegetables

ENTREES

- County-style breast of chicken
- Roast top sirloin of beef with caramelized onions and red wine sauce
- Served with Chef's selection of seasonal market vegetables and potatoes

DESSERT

- Chef's selection of cakes and pies
- Fresh fruit salad
- Fresh brewed Starbucks® regular and decaffeinated coffee and wide selection of Tazo® teas
- Cash Bar