



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

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

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## Fall Newsletter 2020

Greetings and best wishes from the Ontario Handspinning Seminar! The Organizing Committee and Board of Directors hope that this newsletter finds you in good health and good spirits. We have all been through an unimaginable year and it looks like we need to hold on for a while yet. Stashes are being raided, both our own and those of our friends.

Earlier this fall as the Organizing Committee looked to the future, we could not in good conscience plan to bring us all together physically in June 2021. While there is hope on the horizon that looks promising, the Committee has committed to creating a virtual Seminar that can be experienced from the safety of our own homes. We will include all of the important elements of past Seminars. As in years past, there will be time and space to socialize, share, learn with and from each other while enjoying fibre and spinning!

Our theme planned for 2020 of Sustainable Fibres will be the focus for the Seminar in 2021. We hope to have many of the 2020 instructors returning as well. This unique opportunity of hosting a virtual Seminar also allows us to look beyond Ontario to bring a Global presence to our event. We understand that attending a virtual event may be new ground for some, however, the committee is working on several projects to make it easier for everyone. We look forward to hosting a safe, fibre-filled weekend and invite you to join us.

# Sustainable Fibres

*Supportable, Renewable Choices: The Options are Endless*

**June 11-13, 2021**  
**Your Living Room**

## 2020-21 Board of Directors

President:	Catharina Forbes
Vice President:	Mara Lusic
Secretary:	Anna Warren
Treasurer:	Barb Ross
Members at Large:	Colleen Thomson, Beth Showalter, Edy Marlatt, Donna Hancock

## 2021 Seminar Committee

Lis Baston  
Leslie Falzone  
Kitt Fisher  
Edy Marlatt  
Joan McKenzie  
Beth Showalter  
Kelley Stanczak  
Angela Whyte  
Anna Warren, Registrar

## Receiving the Newsletter

The newsletter is posted on the Ontario Handspinning Seminar website [www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca](http://www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca). Anyone who has attended the Seminar in the past three years or who has requested information about the Seminar in the past two years will receive an email to notify them that the newsletter is available on the website. Anyone who does not have a computer or access to email will receive a copy of the newsletter in the mail.

## Seminar 2021 Registration

An email notification will be sent when the Spring 2021 Newsletter, including workshop details and registration information is available online at [www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca](http://www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca). The Spring Newsletter will be mailed to those not able to receive email.

## Vendors Contact

We are planning on promoting and featuring fibre vendors during this Virtual Seminar. We want to especially highlight those vendors who have been attending in recent years. We want to help support you in these times. If you are interested in learning more please contact our Vendor Liaison, Edy Marlatt at [edymarlatt1@gmail.com](mailto:edymarlatt1@gmail.com)

## Scholarships

Is there something spinning related that you want to explore? Something that might be outside of your budget? Did you know that the Ontario Handspinning Seminar offers two scholarships?

One scholarship is to help research projects and the other is to help be re-inspired by your handspinning.

### The Ontario Handspinner's Research Scholarship:

The Ontario Handspinning Seminar Inc. has funds available for an annual Scholarship to be awarded and used for the exploration and development of new techniques, equipment and/or related research of interest to handspinners and dyers. The Ontario Handspinners Research Scholarship has up to \$1000 available to help research a new technique, equipment, or similar.

*Or*

### The Re-Inspired Spinner Scholarship:

The purpose of this scholarship is to allow the individual to further their education and knowledge of handspinning in order to re-inspire them in their craft. This is to be accomplished by attending a workshop, class or course which pertains to spinning or dyeing handspun fibre or other related areas. The Re-Inspired Scholarship has up to \$250 available to attend a workshop, class, or course that's related to spinning or dyeing handspun fibre. This scholarship only requires a short presentation or display but has a shorter time frame of 2 years.

### You can apply to either scholarship if you...

- Attended 5 seminars in the past 8 years
- Are not a member of our board of directors

### Requirements

- The presentation will be shared for the first time at the seminar within 3 years as either a workshop, presentation or display
- Cannot be used for tuition to a formal school

### Who Decides?

- Two board members and a member of fibre art community who is not on the board

### Run Into Problems?

- If you can't use the scholarship money in that first year the Board Secretary is there to re-negotiate or arrange repayment. So, if you get sick or the workshop is cancelled get in touch there are plans in place on how to handle these issues.

### Application

- A short biography
- A description (250-500 words) describing your plans
- A letter of reference endorsing your research or study plans. (Members of the board are ineligible to write these letters.)
- 3 photos showing at least 3 projects you've completed in the past 3 years, also descriptions of these projects
- Permission for the board to keep a set of photos for archive and promotion purposes

The deadlines for these are January 31<sup>st</sup> and should be sent to [seminarsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:seminarsecretary@gmail.com)

## Past Recipients

2015 Jules Hojnowski, Maori Weaving

2012 Kitt Fisher, Natural Dyes (Maiwa)

2001 Bridget Lewis, Moroccan Dyes

2000 Harriet Boon, Medieval Dyes in the Low Countries

1995 Tricia Weatherston, Shetland Yarn, Colours and Using a Knitting Machine for Fair Isle Designs

1993 Dee Burnlees

**Tricia Weatherston** - Used her scholarship funds to take a knitting course in Lerwick, Shetland. By combining that knowledge with what she had learned on colour from Ted Carson she was able to create these two vests.



### Thoughts from Harriet Boon

- Deadlines like these help curb the wanderings
- Telling museums you are undertaking a 'scholarship' opens doors like magic
- Motivates you to keep actual samples and document what you are doing

### Thoughts from Bridget Lewis

I received the Seminar Scholarship in 2001 to study spinning, weaving and dyeing in Morocco. It turned out that the trip was shortly after the September 11<sup>th</sup> Trade Tower bombing. This meant that there were fewer tourists in the country and we had more access to the markets and weaving schools and demonstrations. We found that spindle spinning while not common was still being practiced.



I was inspired to apply for the scholarship as I felt that the traditions in Morocco were fading as new technologies took over. The process of applying for the scholarship was not an arduous process. The hardest part at that time was to have slides of some of the items, I had completed with handspun yarn

Following the trip, I presented a program at the Seminar so that the participants could share in the experience.

**Kitt Fisher's Final Project** Using what she learned about Natural Dyes from Maiwa, Kitt was able to dye all of the yarn needed for this sweater using natural materials.

## 2020/2021 Baggie Challenge



### **The Challenge from the 2019 Seminar:**

You Can't Make a Silk Purse Out of a Sow's Ear... This expression was a proverb from the mid-1500s, meaning to produce something refined, admirable, valuable from something which is unrefined.

Your challenge from this Seminar is to make a 'purse' out of the "unrefined" items found in the bag handed out in 2019. You must use at least some of every fibre in your baggie and you may also use additional fibres from your stash if you wish. We hope that you will share the item you made in our virtual Display Room in 2021. Then, we would like you to bring your item to our next in-person Seminar which we hope will be in 2022 where this baggie challenge will be judged and eligible for the Baggie Challenge \$50.00 Award that is selected by ballots cast by that year's Seminar attendees.

Photo: Barb Ross

Stay tuned for information on the 2021 display room. We not only have plans to have a virtual display we will also be helping you learn how to take photos of your creations!

### **Legal Stuff**

The Ontario Handspinning Seminar cannot be responsible for inability to connect due to personal internet issues or digital theft of images. We will take every precaution to ensure your content does not get shared beyond this platform. We will be hosting this event on password-protected sites and will remove them after August 31, 2021. The virtual Seminar content will be for the registered participants only and for personal use. The participants will agree not to share the content and links with others.

### **Ontario Handspinning Seminar Code of Behaviour**

The Ontario Handspinning Seminar strives to promote and establish a safe, respectful and positive atmosphere:

- For shared knowledge,
- For respect of ideas, cultures, and values and
- In a common space for learning.

We also respect the policies of the facilities where we hold The Handspinning Seminar and the support services that make this annual event a success.

## Find us on Social Media

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



[www.facebook.com/ontariohandspinningseminar/](https://www.facebook.com/ontariohandspinningseminar/)



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