

# 2010 FINGER LAKES FIBER TOUR

## ITINERARY

September 15 – 19, 2010

### Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>

Arrival. You will be met at the Elmira airport (your flight must arrive by 3:00 pm) or if you prefer to arrive on your own, plan to be at the **Watkins Glen Harbor Hotel**, 16 N. Franklin St., Watkins Glen no later than 4:00pm. Finger Lakes Fibers Yarn Store at 129 E. 4<sup>th</sup> St. in Watkins Glen will be our base camp for the next few days. Registration begins at 3:00 pm at the Harbor Hotel and there'll be plenty of room to sit, visit, and knit at the Yarn Store after you register.

This evening we will enjoy introductions and a welcome reception at Finger Lakes Fibers with light appetizers and a wine tasting from Lakewood Vineyards, an award winning winery overlooking the western slopes of Seneca Lake, the largest of the glacially formed Finger Lakes.

### Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>

After breakfast, we will have a class with **master spinner Kathy Halton** who will demonstrate the ancient art of hand spinning using a drop spindle. Participants will receive a locally-crafted solid wood drop spindle and enough fiber to get started on their own small spinning project.



Our motor coach or van will pick you up at Finger Lakes Fibers then head east through the scenic rolling hills of the Finger Lakes region to **Bel Canto Alpaca Farm**. Specializing in alpaca breeding, our host Barbara Rossi will share her knowledge of farm planning, alpaca care, marketing, and farm management. The tour will include a visit to Barb's farm fiber shop which features high quality alpaca yarn, roving, and other products.

We will swing by Grist Mill Café in Burdett to pick up lunch and eat it at the stunning falls overlook of Taughannock Falls State Park. Then, we'll head to **Finger Lakes Woolen Mill**. Located just north of Ithaca, it's the only US mill that manufactures angora yarns for the hand knitting market in addition to its wool and wool/silk yarns. Finger Lakes produces carded wool and wool/angora blends for hand spinning, felting and other craft uses. Finger Lakes Un-spun™ is the popular brand of pencil roving, also known to some as the "yarn" the Icelandics use in their famous yoke sweaters.

On our return trip, we'll have a chance to shop at one of Ithaca's lovely yarn stores. When we get back to Watkins Glen, there will be time for an optional cruise on Seneca Lake, a state park hike, a massage or pedicure that we will be happy to help you arrange; and then dinner on your own at one of several popular harbor-side dining options.

After dinner you can relax and knit at Finger Lakes Fibers Yarn Store (which will stay open as late as folks want).

### Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup>

Today the group will head north after breakfast; and following a short drive, we will arrive at **Laughing Goat Fiber Farm**. Host Lisa Ferguson will introduce us to her animals, talk about being a fiber farmer, and offer for sale gloriously soft mohair yarn and rovings from her flock of gentle angora goats.

Next stop is the **Schaefer Yarn Company** in Interlaken. This is fiber heaven! Well-known for its luxurious hand-painted designer yarn, this behind-the-scenes, hands-on tour will allow participants to meet Schaefer's founder and creative director, Cheryl Schaefer, and hear how her gardens and the beauty of the seasons in the Finger Lakes inspired her unique color choices – now numbering 36 palettes in wool yarns, 18 colorways of cotton, and silk yarns in all 54 colors. Each skein is individually hand-painted. Participants will each be able to dye a skein of sock yarn to bring home with them at the end of the tour. While at Schaefer you will enjoy a picnic lunch.



On leaving Schaefer we will visit **Windsong Farm**, home to grass-fed Belted Galloway cattle and Cotswold and Wensleydale sheep. David & Karen Stern graze the animals in the uncrowded pastures of their 175-acre farm during the warm months of the year and then offer them hay and bed them on straw, during the snowy winters. Their dual-purpose sheep are also known for their lustrous longwool fleece which is especially prized by handspinners.

The group will visit **Graceful Arts** specialty shop featuring hand-spun and hand-painted yarns, one of a kind patterns designed by Graceful Arts' owner Karey Solomon, and knitting supplies.

**Atwater Estate Vineyards** will be the site for an early evening reception including a complimentary wine tasting; and a perfect setting in which to unwind after a fiber-filled day. The vineyards are planted with sixty acres of fifteen varietals including native, hybrid and vinifera grapes. Atwater's dry Riesling was featured in *Wine Spectator* magazine as one of the nation's top wines of this type.



### **Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>**

After breakfast we will leave Savard's Family Restaurant for the **Finger Lakes Fiber Arts Festival** is one of NY State's premier wool and sheep events. Held at the Hemlock, NY, Fairgrounds, this popular festival is a must-do for any fiber aficionado visiting our area. Sponsored by the Genesee Valley Handspinners Guild, this festival offers a variety of demonstrations, exhibits, workshops, classes and vendors related to the fiber arts including fiber dyeing, felting, knitting, sheep shearing, herding dog demonstrations, and a spinning and knitting tent. Lunch will be on your own.

Our farewell banquet this evening will take place at **Veraisons Gourmet Restaurant** at Glenora Wine Cellars overlooking Seneca Lake north of Watkins Glen in Dundee. The meal will feature inspired regional cuisine by an award-winning chef. Finger Lakes wines available for purchase.

### **Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>**

Following breakfast, departure. Guests will be driven to the Elmira airport for their flights home.

**Optional Additional Weaving Workshop**

**Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. includes lunch, transportation, and additional night's lodging.** Materials will be available for purchase at class with a special 20% tour discount.

Join local weaver June Szabo at her beautiful studio in the Finger Lakes National Forest, just a few miles from Watkins Glen, for a day of hands-on weaving instruction. June will have some of her looms warped for various projects, giving everyone a chance to try weaving on a floor loom. She will also have locally-made solid wood back strap looms for everyone to weave on and take home at the end of the workshop. You will be able to choose between doing tapestry techniques on the back strap loom or weaving a color block sampler.

