

2011 FINGER LAKES FIBER TOUR

UPDATED ITINERARY

September 14 – 18, 2011

Wednesday, September 14th

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 315 No. Franklin St. in Watkins Glen will be our base camp for the next few days (two blocks from the hotel). Registration begins at 3:00 pm at the Store and there's plenty of room to sit, visit, and knit after you register.

This evening we will enjoy introductions and a welcome reception at the Store with light appetizers and a wine tasting from **Lakewood Vineyards**, an award-winning winery producing many varieties of grapes on a family-owned vineyard on the western slopes of Seneca Lake, the largest of the glacially-formed Finger Lakes.

Thursday, September 15th

After breakfast in the shop, 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.



Following a relaxed lunch in town, our motor coach will pick you up at Finger Lakes Fibers and then head out for a tour of the region. We'll head east through the scenic rolling hills of Schuyler County to **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 Finger Lakes winters. Their dual-purpose sheep are also

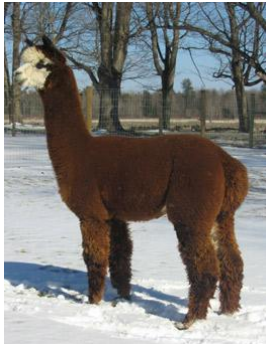
known for their lustrous longwool fleece which is especially prized by hand-spinners.

When we get back to Watkins Glen, there will be time for a state park hike, a massage, or pedicure that we will be happy to help you arrange; and then early dinner on your own at one of several popular harbor-side dining options (or just call for room service – the Harbor Hotel has an excellent menu).

After dinner we'll meet back at the Store for a knitters workshop on working with beads presented by nationally-known knitwear designer **Laura Nelkin**, who makes her home just a few miles from the shop. Laura's patterns have been published in Knitty.com, Interweave Knits, Creative Knitting, Knit 'N Style, Designer One Skein Wonders, Luxury One Skein Wonders, and Knitting Socks with Handpainted Yarn. Laura will also be bringing in a trunk show of beaded items to inspire you. Evening plans also include wine and dessert, games, and door prize drawings. We will stay open as late as folks want to sit and knit; and you will enjoy a 10% discount on all yarn purchases.

Friday, September 16th

Today the group will head to Interlaken after breakfast; Following the short drive, we will arrive at the **Schaefer Yarn Company**. 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. Cheryl's stories are delightful; and in other years, tour participants have learned how her gardens have informed her color ideas; and how 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 we will enjoy a picnic lunch as a group.



On leaving Schaefer we will visit **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 for sale.

Standing Stone Vineyard 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. Standing Stone owner, Marti Macinski is also an avid knitter! She and her husband Tom have consistently made an array of the region's best wines: "The Vidal dessert white is a knockout; Gewürztraminer, Chardonnay and Riesling are quite good; and while many wineries in the area try to make Cabernet Sauvignon, the Macinski's actually pull it off," *Wine Spectator* magazine.

We'll end the evening back at the Store for more door prize drawings, relaxing, and knitting.

Saturday, September 17th

After breakfast we will leave the shop and head for the **Finger Lakes Fiber Arts Festival** which 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 **Blue Pointe Grille** at the Harbor Hotel overlooking Seneca Lake. The meal will feature inspired regional cuisine by an award-winning chef. Finger Lakes wines available for purchase.

Sunday, September 18th

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

Optional Additional Weaving Workshop

Sunday, September 18th. 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.

