

Greetings from Salt Spring Island

It has been a fabulous summer filled with conferences, Convergence and seeing many of our old friends and making new friends. We love what we do and a lot of it is because of you, the people we send silk to. We continue to appreciate you as creative, original, and warm human beings.

Our summer has been sunny and warm, just right for peaches, tomatoes and melons. Many things we usually have to baby along in our climate, but not this year. We have bumper crops all around. Yesterday and today has been very different, we have had a significant amount of rain. The fog is so thick, it looks like billows of smoke traveling in front of the tall fir and cedar trees out my window. We definitely need the rain, and it has started the fibre craving, hibernating fall feeling that happens when the sun goes out and the days turn wet.

We have a number of new items and great "oldies but goodies" to inspire you and keep your creative hands and spirit happy, when those fibre craving days hit you as the weather turns to shorter, cooler fall days.



Sue at Convergence Denver 2004

Newsletter on Our Web Site

The newsletter is posted on our web site for you to view. We send everyone who requests the electronic version a short e-mail message when the new newsletter is posted.

We urge you to give us your e-mail address if you have one so you can help save trees and postage. View the newsletter on our website and you will see everything in colour and 2-3 weeks earlier than the newsletter by mail! Contact us at silk@treenwaysilks.com to make the change. Please include your full name and address.

If you have not placed an order in the last year and receive the newsletter by post, we remind you the subscription fee is \$5 yearly to help with printing and postage costs.

US Customers Note our Address

We have a US address on the newsletter for bulk mail purposes **ONLY**. All your inquiries and orders should come to our Canadian address.

Silkster's Gallery

We have a new gallery of beautiful work and some heart warming stories of very caring and creative people. Please take a look and let some of the stories make your day: www.treenway-silks.com and visit the Silkster's Gallery under our Galleries menu. Thank you to all for taking the time and courage to share your work.

Wendy Durfey from Guelph, Ontario has done some very innovative work combining silk fusion with traditional basketry techniques.

Ann Chavas from Pasadena, California stitched a beautiful cushion cover



Wendy Durfey

inspired by a William Morris design.

Hartford Artisans' Center from Hartford, Connecticut instills a sense of well-being in the people they work with who have disabilities. They weave

Continued on page 8

Call for Entries

We encourage all of you to send photos of your work using Treenway silks. It is fun and inspiring for all of us and you are rewarded with silk product from Treenway if your piece is chosen.

See our web site for details of what we require from you to participate in this fun and exciting gallery. We so look forward to your entries.

Treenway Silks is located at 501 Musgrave Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, Canada, V8K 1V5. You can reach us **toll free** at **1.888.383.SILK** (7455) or at 250.653.2345 or by fax at 250.653.2347 or by email at silk@treenwaysilks.com. See our website www.treenwaysilks.com.

New Products

Look What's Been Brewing at Treenway

Introducing the Salt Spring Island Series – Hand-painted Tussah Silk Sliver.

The series was developed by Kim McKenna and Treenway-Silks. We are proud of our community and place on this planet and have used it as the inspiration for the colourways. Imagine dancing to the colours at the beautiful sites on our lovely island. We are proud of the hand painted sliver by Cheryl and Mary, our dyers.



View these colour combinations on our website at http://www.treenwaysilks.com/ssi_series.html

Salt Spring Island is the largest of the Canadian Gulf Islands in the Georgia Strait and is 17 miles long and 9 miles wide. It is situated midway between Victoria and Vancouver. We have 10,000 residents, 83 miles of shoreline, 8 lakes, 6 mountains and 225 farms. Our island is known for its stunning views, natural beauty, extra-ordinary artisans, organic farms, dairies and vineyards. Visitors come for a relaxed, reflective holiday of hiking, cycling, kayaking, swimming, frisbee golf and attending our bustling, colourful Saturday Market.

The Salt Spring Island Series is packaged in 25gm (approx .9 oz) and 50 gm (approx 1.8 oz). The price is \$9.70 (approx \$7.45 US)/25 gm or 25gm x 3 for \$27.60 (approx \$21.25 US) and \$18 (approx \$13.85 US)/50gm. The sample card is \$7.

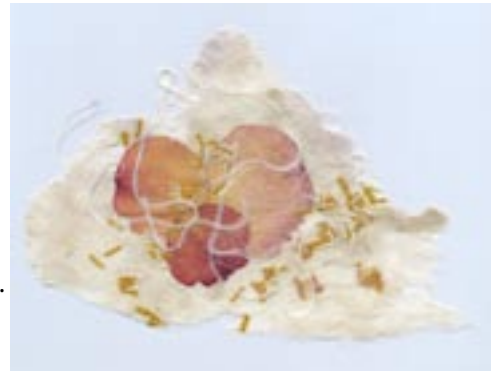
Silk Blend Bonanza

Yak, camel, angora rabbit, wool, cashmere, cotton and ramie are animal and plant fibres carded with silk for exotic yarn blends that are a treat to work with and lend added scope for fabric diversity. We wanted you to experience the unique hand of each of the special blends, so we have assembled a kit of the seven blends we carry with enough yardage to weave a 6" wide by 8" long sample of each or a striped scarf on a 30/2 silk warp. The cost of this excellent opportunity is \$44 (\$33.85 US). See *Holiday Gift Guide*.

Natural Silk Waste in Sericin

This is another by-product of the reeling process. This waste is in gum, meaning it still has the sericin in it. Within a 100 gm package there is usually an assortment of straight fibres which are shiny, long and smooth as well as curly fibres

that may be a bit more tangled. It is very easy to incorporate into silk fusion with the sericin still in it. It should be degummed for spinning or dyeing. This product is similar to throwsters waste, so the degumming recipe and spinning tips from our consultant, Celia Quinn which is posted on our web site http://www.treenwaysilks.com/inout_spinning.html can be used for the natural silk waste. Scroll down until you find Throwster's Silk Waste.



Silk fusion with carded cocoon stripping, embellished with rose petals, natural silk waste and snippets of silk threads.

This information was also included in our September 2002 newsletter. It is a very unique and fun fibre to work with. It is \$11.25 (approx \$8.65 US)/100 gm (approx 3.5 oz) package.

Dyed Degummed Throwster's Waste

Cheryl and Mary are dyeing the degummed throwster's waste curlicues. The waste has been degummed, which means the stiff sericin has been taken out. We put an assortment of colours in each little bag for fusers or spinners. You can read more about throwster's waste in the specials section. It is packaged in 25 gm (.9 oz) units for \$4.50 (approx \$3.50 US) each. The colours are randomly mixed in each package with no specific colour choice.



Some Dyed Throwster's Waste

20/2 Muga Spun Yarn from India

We were first introduced to muga in 1992 in the jungles of Assam, India. Muga is the common name of the caterpillar *Antheraea assama*. It is a cousin to the tussah caterpillar and produces a very special golden colour silk when it is reeled from the cocoon. As a spun yarn it is a golden honey colour. It is very special, because the eco-system provided by the Brahmaputra River valley is the only place that provides the perfect conditions for its growth. Muga sericulture was encouraged by the ancient royalty of Assam, but hit serious decline with the clearing of forests to make way for tea plantations. The Assamese struggle to continue raising muga silk as it is woven into the fabric of their traditions, culture and economy.

The yarn is handmade, so expect those wonderful irregu-

New Products continued on page 7

Treenway Treasures

Wild and Soft

Huck is not just for tea towels. It creates little floats in both the warp and weft for colour as well as textural interest in a 4-shaft weave. We are always excited to weave a project with any new yarn that arrives. We introduced our new muga yarn in the New Products section of this newsletter. We wanted to combine the muga's honey colour and similar grist of 20/2 with our heavier, shinier 8/2, for a textured scarf. Half the warp and weft threads were dedicated to the muga yarn for a sense of cohesion. The three different colours of 8/2 are similar in value and used randomly in the pattern where the black squares appear.

Black squares denote 8/2 and grey squares denote muga yarn. Shafts 1 and 4 carry the threads that will be making little floats on the cloth. For visual interest, the placement of 8/2 and muga, on shafts 1 and 4, shifts periodically. It is important to follow the colour and weave threading pattern for a sense of organization in the coloured floats.

The weaving uses the same yarns and the shuttles change often to achieve the random coloured floats. A second treadling option is given so you can create movement of the pattern. Each treadling sequence can be repeated until you are ready to change. The colour and weave treadling pattern is important to follow for the same reasons as the threading.

Warp: 20/2 muga silk (natural) - approx 4,500 yd/lb, 900 yd/skein
8/2 reeled silk (colours: 223, 215, 9515)
approx 2,800 yd/lb, 560 yd/skein total of 184 warp ends

Weft: Same as the warp

Warp Length: 3 yd for one scarf, 5 yd for two scarves, it is more financially economical to make two scarves the cost is only an additional \$22.75

Warp Width: approx. 7 1/4"

Sett: 24 EPI

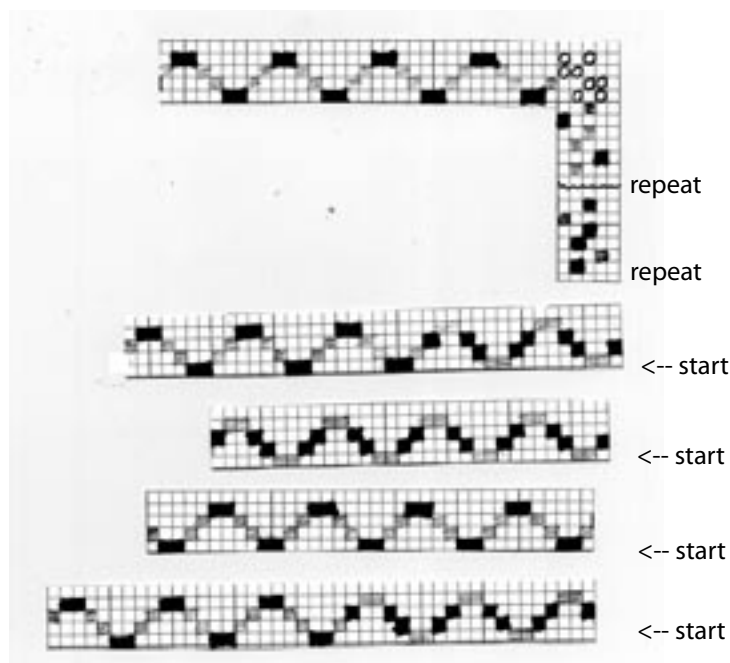
Beat: 24 PPI

Threading: Colour and Weave Huck as per pattern: the darkest threads are the coloured 8/2, inserted at random as the warp was wound. The lighter threads are muga.

Treadling: Same as warp. The dark and light threads are indicated the same as the warp.

Inspiration: The pattern was inspired by a sample woven by Nell Van de Guchte for the Handweavers, Spinners and Dyers of Alberta newsletter.

Finish: Remove fabric from the loom and prepare fringe as desired. A twisted fringe using 12 threads per twist suits this scarf. Hand wash, rinse, dry and press as directed in Care and Washing.



Specials

We are discontinuing some products. We have decided to offer all of them at a very special price while supplies last. Don't be disappointed, order early.

Mini Skeins of 20/2, Fine Cord and 8/2

We are changing the size of our mini skeins from either 30 yd and 50 yd to 10 yd. Mini skeins are great for sampling different colours, kumihimo, finishing work and on it goes. A colourful little bundle tied with silk ribbon makes a lovely gift for a fibre friend. Let us know if you would like us to bundle your minis with ribbon. We would be delighted to do that for you. Order early to avoid disappointment.

20/2

This yarn is currently in 50 yd skeins. There is lots of some colours and just a few of other colours. Our offer is buy 4 get 1 free, which is a **20% savings**. Four mini skeins costs \$19.60 (approx \$15 US).

Fine Cord

Jewelry makers really like this tightly twisted yarn to fashion cord. It is currently in a 30 yd skeins. The colour situation is the same as the 20/2 with a lot of some colours and just a few of other colours. Our offer: buy 4 get 1 free which is a **20% savings**. Four fine cord mini skeins costs \$19.60 (approx \$15 US).

8/2

This yarn is shiny and plump wound into 50 yd skeins. We do not have much of this yarn left. The colours available are: 3, 7, 8, 11, 16, 22, 25, 28, 29, 31, 34, 41, 44, 53, 54, 955, 958, 206, 208, 214, 217 and 220. Our offer: buy 4 get 1 free for a **20% savings**. Four 8/2 skeins cost, \$33.40 (approx \$25.70 US).

Evening Sky Scarf Kit – 4 Shaft



Evening Star Scarf kit

This scarf of muted blue-violet with streaks of inlaid gold, blues and coral was inspired by a Laotian head covering and the featured cover of the January/February 2000 Handwoven magazine. The warp and weft are plain weave in 60/4 silk/cotton, sett 32 epi. The kit makes **two scarves**, each scarf is approx. 7" wide, 72" long. The colourful bands of inlaid shiny fine cord are easy to weave and perfect for both novice and exper-

enced weavers who are excited by colour, design and playing in the threads. We are offering a **20% savings off** of our normal price of \$105. The price is \$84 (approx \$64.60 US).

Autumn Splendor Scarf Kit – 8 Shaft

The warp is made of our shiniest 8/2 reeled silk, in 9 colours ranging from greens to dusky purples and reds. Weft yarns are luxurious silk chenille in four colours: rich red, ochre, green and dusty grape woven in a block twill with inter-

changing warp faced and weft faced blocks. These lush scarves are perfect for a special gift to yourself as well as a friend. The kit makes **two scarves**, each scarf is approx 7.5" wide, 72" long and sett at 18 epi.



13mm Dyed Ribbon in 5 yd pkg

Currently we dye our 13mm ribbon in our 100 colour range. We will no longer be dyeing this size of ribbon for the smaller 5 yd packages as stocks run out. Our stitchers use it for ribbon embroidery, fusers incorporate it into their silk fusion, weavers use it for elegant accents and doll makers use it to make fabulous clothes. Our special is buy 4 get 1 free for a **20% savings**. Four packages of ribbon costs \$27.60 (approx \$21.25 US).

Throwster's Waste in Gum

Throwster's waste is a by-product of the twisting of filament in the reeled silk industry. These fibres get tangled around the machine. It is high quality long silk fibre with kinks and curls. The fibre feels wiry with the sericin still in it. In this form, it is very easy to incorporate into silk fusion. The sericin (gum) is a natural and fuses in beautifully, still keeping its three-dimensionality.

It should be degummed for spinning or dyeing. We have a degumming recipe and spinning tips posted



Silk Fusion using multicoloured silk fibre, dyed degummed throwster's waste and dyed tussah sliver. Stitched with 8/2, fine cord and 20/2 by Diana Caleb.

on our web site:

http://www.treenwaysilks.com/inout_spinning.html. Scroll down until you find Throwster's Silk Waste. It was also included in our September 2002 newsletter. It is a very unique and fun fibre to work with. It is normally \$5.50/100 gm package. We are giving **25% off** while supplies last. The price is \$4.00 (approx \$3 US) for a 100 gm (approx 3.5 oz) package.

Silk 70%/Cotton 30% Fibre

Our silk/cotton spinning fibre normally has a fibre content of 55% silk and 45% cotton. Our supplier made an error and sent us a small "batch" of an 80% silk/20% cotton mixture. It is extremely silky and easy to spin.

Our special is **25% off** the regular price of our normal 55%/45% blend which is \$14.30/100gm package. The sale price is \$10.70 (approx \$8.25 US) for a 100 gm (approx 3.5 oz) package.

Holiday Gift Ideas

It is always nice to entice someone new to the fibre arts or treat a special fibre friend during the holiday season. We have assembled some gift ideas for you. Prices range from \$8 - \$135 Cdn. Please look on our web site for pictures and more details.

Weavers

- Silk Blend Bonanza Box
- Scarf kits – 7 choices
- Embellishment kits – 8 choices
- Canadiana Series Ribbons and Yarns – 30 choices
- Silk fusion kits – 10 choices, video
- Mini skein and ribbon special



Silk Bonanza Kit

Spinners

- Fibre Fun Kit
- Silk blends
- Salt Spring Island Series and Treetops dyed slivers
- Dyed degummed throwster's waste
- Silk fusion kits – 10 choices, video



Some Dyed Throwster's Waste

Stitchers

- Cross stitch kits – 4 choices
- Embellished art quilt kits – 9 choices
- Embellishment kits – 8 choices
- Canadian Series Ribbons and Yarns – 30 choices
- Silk fusion kits – 10 choices, video
- Mini skein and ribbon special



Tuscany Cross Stitch Kit

Scrapbookers

- Embellishment kits – 8 choices
- Burmese embellishment – 6 choices
- Silk fusion kits – 10 choices, video
- Mini skein and ribbon special



Sea Dream Embellishment Kit



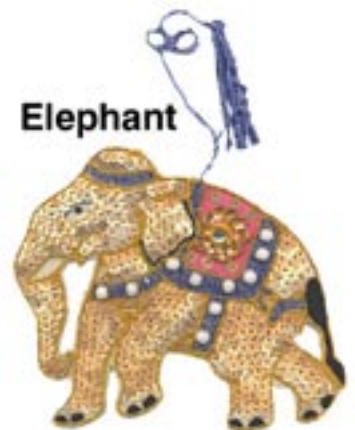
Jitterbug Art Quilt Kit

Quilters

- Embellished art quilt kits – 9 choices
- Embellishment kits – 8 choices
- Canadiana Series Ribbons and Yarns – 30 choices
- Burmese Embellishments – 6 choices
- Silk fusion kits – 10 choices
- Mini skein and ribbon special

Kids

- Cross stitch kits – 4 choices
- Embellishment kits – 8 choices
- Burmese embellishments – 6 choices
- Rigid heddle scarf kit
- Silk fusion kits – 10 choices, video



Everyone

- Beautifully handwoven silk scarves and shawls from Phaeng Mai Gallery workshop in Laos
- Silk fusion kit – 10 choices, video



Phaeng Mai Scarf

The Asian Journal

Bali – Island of the Gods

Ceremonial and festival clothing holds great importance in Bali. It consists of a number of lengths of cloth of various sizes which are never tailored, but draped, wrapped and tied around the body with great flare. We are finishing our Bali journey with visits to villages making Bebali and Songket cloth.



Bebali

We visited two workshops making the striped ceremonial cloth called Bebali. There is much discussion around the exact perimeter of the cloth. We learned the perspectives of Nyoman and Diu regarding the Bebali cloth they make. Both workshops strive



to keep the traditions and symbolism of colour and stripes surrounding the cloth correct. Over the years, most of this knowledge has been passed on by word of mouth. Some written information is available to priests looking in Lontar (old palm leaf) scriptures.

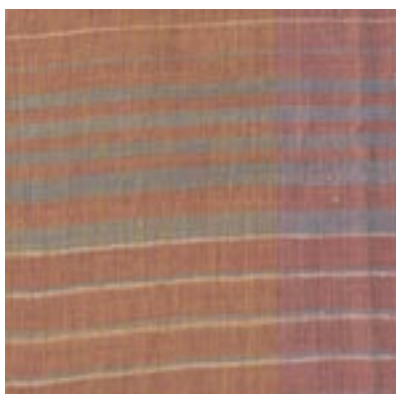
The cloth holds spiritual significance for many rites of passage from the three month ritual, to tooth filing and weddings.

Both Nyoman and Diu keep with the traditions of hand spun, local cotton, dyed with natural dyes and woven in plain weave. While the colours of the stripes for specific rituals is important, the arrangement of the stripes is done to the weavers own choice. As a general rule, Bebali cloth is not symmetrically striped and there is an uneven number of threads per stripe. One side of the cloth has



more stripes than the other to provide "extra measure" for the life giving spirit of the cloth.

Surya is the name of Nyoman's shop and the Hindu god of the sun. He has ten weavers who come to work at his place for 5-6 hours a day, depending on their



other home responsibilities. He raises his own cotton and he and his wife do all the dyeing in their lovely compound. He looks at traditional cloth and bases his designs on that. He makes cloth for Bali as well as overseas markets.

Diu's family compound is a short distance from Surya. The type of Bebali cloth she has spent her time developing is Nagarsari and Wealth of Modesty because they are used the most in ceremonies. She has spent a lot of time

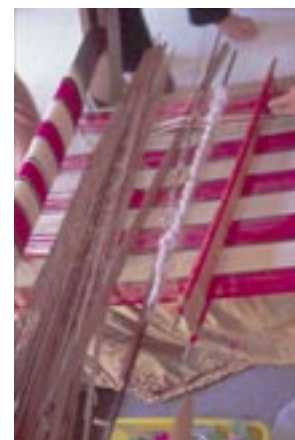


re-searching the symbolism of each style of Bebali. She has had the high priest of her village look in the Lontar for references of colours and stripes. Most Bebali cloth takes its name from plants and trees. Nagarsari is a tree grown in a sacred place, whose leaves are used in many rituals. The colours of this Bebali are inspired by the wood, bark, leaves, flowers and fruit of this tree.

Songket

Gold and silver threads are used as supplementary wefts across the whole width of the cloth or in specific areas. The splendid glittering cloth has traditionally been associated with Bali's royal family and the highest caste. It continues to signify a position of status when worn at temple ceremonies and other rituals of tooth filing, weddings and more. The cloth contains geometric designs as well as figures drawn from the Ramayana epic and therefore is worn extensively in theatrical performances.

The making of Songket cloth is complex and involves a number of different people. Programming the supplementary weft pattern is an exacting process that takes great skill, patience and good eyesight. Often times, the programmer is different than the weaver. After the warp has been wound, the threads are put through the reed. The programmer counts and picks up the threads for the first row of pattern and inserts a rod, often made of palm leaf, to hold the pattern. She continues with this process weft thread by weft thread until the whole pattern is complete. After the pattern has been picked up, each pattern rod is replaced by





a bamboo rod with heddle loops wrapped around the threads to make it easier to access the design when weaving. If the design is complex, there can be as many as 120 heddle rods. The bundle of warp is now delivered to the weaver.

We visited Sideman village and heard the "clack-clack" of weaving as we walked through the streets. Two women were weaving in the family compound we visited. The looms are a type of back-strap with a wooden "belt".

The width of the cloth is limited by the stretch of the weaver's arms. The songket cloth requires two lengths which is sewn together. The weaver sits on the ground with the wooden belt around her back, and legs outstretched in front of her, against a horizontal loom cross beam. The tension on the warp is controlled by the shifting of the weaver's body forward and backward.

The weaver inserts two plain weave heddle rods used to form the three picks of plain weave after each group of three supplementary weft picks. The weaver lifts the pattern heddle rods and inserts a flat palm leaf for each. She draws the first one toward her, inserts a weaving sword and turns it on



edge to enlarge the pattern shed. The supplementary weft threads are wound on small pieces of cardboard. Three supplementary wefts are inserted, the sword and palm leave rod are removed and three picks



of plain weave are woven in. The next row of supplementary pattern is woven in exactly the same way, starting with moving the pattern heddle rod forward.

NOTE

1. Prices do not include shipping.
2. Specials end December 31st, 2004.
3. Regular 10% Discount: If silk specials are ordered in bulk, totaling over \$150.00 CDN, our normal discount for orders over \$150.00 CDN does not apply.

larities of a handmade yarn. The majority of the yarn in the "Wild and Soft" Treenway Treasure scarf is woven in muga with accents of softly dyed 20/2. The muga is similar to a 20/2 weight with 4,500 yd/lb. The skeins are approximately 100gm and cost \$22.75 (approx. \$17.50 US)/skein. It is also available in a 10 yard mini skein for \$1.90 (approx. \$1.50 US)



Muga Silk Yarn

Silk/Camel Spinning Fibre (55%/45%)

The fibre is warm in hue and texture. Camel tan blended with shiny white Bombyx silk is gorgeous. The fibre is wonderfully soft, but shorter than 100% silk. It is similar in staple length to our silk/yak blend, about 2-3". It is fabulous spun on its own or plied with either our silk/yak or silk/cashmere blend.



Silk/Camel Spinning Fibre

It is available in 100gm (3.5 oz) packages. The cost is \$23.50 (approx \$18 US)/package.

Cross Stitch Kits

These beautiful little kits were designed by Diana Caleb and Treenway. They are a perfect way to try some of our beautiful yarns in all different weights. Choose from Fuchsia Folly, Morning Mist, Morocco or Tuscany colourways. The little 2 1/4" x 2 1/4" projects are perfect for making greeting card inserts, a little pouch, tasseled ornament or a feature button on that special project. Each kit comes with detailed instructions and corresponding yarns and will make 2-3 projects. This is a great project to do by yourself or share with a special child or friend. The price is \$22.50 (approx \$17.30 US) per kit.



Silkster's Gallery Continued...

exquisite clothing for sale in boutiques.

Dick Lindell from Geneseo, Illinois has turned a near disaster into a sumptuous silk jacket with matching purse.

Becky Simon from Champaign, Illinois is making astonishing bubbles, fusing silk to hand blown glass balls.

Marge Taylor from Plevna, Ontario used her skills and warm heart to weave baby blankets for needy and street moms.

Donna Venderwekken from Salt Spring Island, BC has woven a very special Tai Chi shirt for a friend.

Sarah Withrow from Anderson, Indiana enticed special needs and at risk high school students into making silk fusion and raising silkworms with a grant for her "Traveling the Silk Road, A Worms Eye View" project.

New Price on Canadiana Series Yarns and Ribbons

We have assembled 30 colour schemes for all your fancy works. These adventurous colourways in ribbon and yarns are named for colourful Canadian places. These beautiful little sets are perfect for all types of embellishing, stitching, gift wrapping, hair adornment, tassel making or any place you require some elegance. There are 6 hues per colourway. We have re-packaged this product enabling us to lower the price. The ribbon has 5 yd/colour for a total of 30 yards of 3.5mm ribbon for \$27 (approx \$20.75 US). The yarn has 10yd/colour or a total of 60 yards in a combination of 20/2, fine cord and 8/2 for \$17 (approx \$13.10 US).

Remember

All prices are in Canadian funds. Divide by 1.30 to arrive at the approximate price in US dollars.

We are Proud Recyclers

Working in our mail order business means acquiring a box fetish. This means patiently waiting until the grocer takes the last can out of that perfect "3 kg yarn box" and then asking permission to take it, having friends with other businesses save their cast off boxes for a Tuesday pick-up and weekly runs to the liquor store on Wednesdays (shipment day) for the 5-6 kg size, is part of our weekly duties. We love all boxes: long and thin, squat and wide and perfect cubes. We can visualize just what and how much of a product will fit into that box. If the box doesn't fit just right, we do box art. We can make a precise container with a little cut here, a fold there and tape all around.

If your boxes hint there may be Pinot Gregio or grey knee high socks inside, it may well be from Treenway. In 27 years of business we are proud to still be scrounging for boxes instead of succumbing to ready-mades and adding to the waste problem we have on this planet.

Washing and Dyes

Water all across North America differs from area to area. We hand dye all of our yarns in four different locations. Our dyers rinse the yarns until the water runs clear at their studios. Due to the differing minerals and chemicals in a water, you may see some colour rinse out of your Treenway yarns or a piece woven with Treenway yarns. Because of the differences in water composition, we strongly suggest you wash your items in cold water.

Karen Selk
Newsletter Editor

Rachel Ogis
Lay-out
