

Greetings from Salt Spring Island

That should be Soggy Salt Spring Island. We have had 25 consecutive days of rain and are heading for a record breaker in a few days. The last time we had this many days of rain was 1953. Things are soggy, muddy and flooded around here, but we have snow in the mountains. The Treenway gang and our families are heading up to Mt. Washington next weekend for some fun in the bright snow.

Our thoughts and plans are already underway for Convergence in Grand Rapids and the other conferences we will be attending. Yarns and fibres are being dyed and labeled. We are looking forward

to seeing old friends and meeting new ones while on the road.

We all had a very creative fall and seem to be heading in the same direction in the new year. It is always so easy to spend time in front of the loom, spinning wheel or studio table when it is wet and cold outside.

We have some very nice specials, new products and exciting projects to keep you creating during the last of winter while dreaming of the warm spring sun and daffodils.

Our wishes for a healthy and creative 2006 to all of you.

Silkster's Gallery

We have "hung" a new gallery of exceptional work on our web site. We all love to ooh and aah when images of the new work comes in. We are always amazed and delighted by the diversity of projects and techniques. Please take the time to have a look www.treenwaysilks.com and visit the **silkster's gallery** under **galleries**.

Congratulations and thank you all for sharing your creativity.

Michael Cook of Dallas, TX, reeled his own silk thread and tablet wove personalized, stunning neck bands for a number of friends.

Jan Ede from Pender Island, BC, has delighted us with her crazy quilted, 3-dimensional chickens.

Margarete Griffiths of Burlington, VT, wove a sumptuous scarf for her mother



using silk/angora and silk/yak.

Barbara Groves from Anacortes, WA, fused natural grasses into a delicate silk fusion piece.

Patricia Liptrap from Guelph, ON, is using her creative juices to fashion gorgeous silk fusion bags.

Dawn Page of Anchorage, AK, hand-spun and dyed silk hankies to knit an elegant lace Moebius scarf.

Kim Mastromartino from Ajax, ON, used silk fusion to create a pictorial series *Around the Pond*.

Annette Rogers of Raleigh, NC, used silk fusion with painting and stitching for a multi-media piece.

Florence Shearer from the Shetland Islands in the UK knit an elegant shawl.

Newsletter on our Web Site

Thanks to all who have switched to the online newsletter.

If you would like to receive notification of our online newsletter as well as web specials, send us a short e-mail with your name and mailing address. Help save trees and postage!

You can also view the newsletter in html format at www.treenwaysilks.com/newsletter.html.

Not only do you see the newsletter in full colour, you see it 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.

Secure On-Line Order Form on our Web Site

We have an order button on our web site. It has all the information about ordering along with the order form for placing your order. We are happy to receive your order on line or by phone. We are always happy to talk with our customers and hear about what you are creating.

Call for Entries

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

See our web site for details of what we require from you to participate in this 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

Exotic Blends Fibre Fun Kit

We just can't keep our fingers out of the exotic fibre bins around here! We thought you might enjoy the opportunity to get your fingers into a beautiful box of downy fibre and then carry on to your wheel.

We have put together 12g (1/2 oz) each of:

- silk / bamboo,
- silk / camel,
- silk / cashmere,
- silk / cotton,
- silk / wool, and
- silk / yak.

The percentage of silk to other fibre is between 55-60% except for the cashmere blend which is 80% silk and 20% cashmere. The percentages are dependent on what the carding machine can handle with ease.

Each of our kits is presented in a beautiful handmade box produced by a family cottage industry in India.

The price of the kit is **\$33** (approx \$29US).



New Montano Series Colours

Variegated Yarn and Ribbon for Stitchers and Quilters

We have collaborated with internationally renowned crazy quilter and stitcher Judith Baker Montano to create a line of brilliant, hand-painted, variegated silk thread and ribbon for stitching and embellishing.

The series is a seductive variety of colourways including combinations of rich, soft, vibrant and dusky hues reflecting flowers, water, trees and special places on the Earth.

We currently have 65 colourways on our web site under **silk products - montano series** on the drop down menu and will be adding a few more colourways this spring. They're truly irresistible!



- | | | |
|------------------|-------|---------------------------------|
| 3.5mm Ribbon | 5 yd | \$6.95 (approx \$6.05US) |
| Fine Cord Thread | 10 yd | \$5.30 (approx \$4.60US) |

Specials

60/4 Silk/Wool Yarn

(two 60/2 yarns plied together)

60% Silk/40% Wool

Our blend possesses the best qualities of both fibres to create a buttery feel with subtle sheen. Wool is strong, resilient and warm, absorbing 50% of its weight in moisture before becoming saturated and is wrinkle resistant. It is easy to spin and dye. Wool and silk improve from their union with wool becoming smoother, shinier, better draping and easier to wash without fear of felting, while silk acquires resilience and warmth. This yarn has a firm twist, is a joy to weave and yields a firm, but supple cloth good for all types of clothing and upholstery (sett tighter). And look at the collapse scarf we made with it!

We have discounted this yarn **30%**. The skeins are approximately 200g (7 oz) and have 6,400 yd/lb (12,860 m/kg). The discounted price is **\$21.40/skein** (approx \$18.60 US), marked down from \$30.50. Regular dye charges apply.



Collapse Scarf

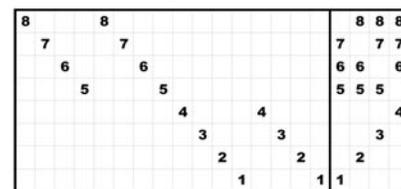
We took advantage of the firmer twist and fibre content of the silk/wool and combined it with our 20/2 spun silk and 120/8 tussah silk to make a fun collapse scarf. A collapse is formed with just the right combination of fibre content, twist, weave structure and sett. Our 120/8 (4 threads of 120/2 plied together) tussah yarn forms the valleys and our 20/2 forms the ridges of the collapse. We gave it a twill sett of 30epi and used 60/4 silk/wool as the weft to take advantage of the slight shrinkage and the energy of the firm twist of the yarn.

We went to our stash of 20/2 and chose little balls of this and that which would look good with natural colour tussah and natural colour silk/wool. The colours we used were 9514 Amber, 36 Sun Dance, 21 Pondicherry, 216 Soft Iris and 16 Sea Spray.

Our Colour Order for the 20/2 stripes is: 9514, 21, 216, 16 (wound together) x 2; 9514 & 36 (wound together) x 4; 9514 x 8;

- 9514 & 21 x 4; 21 x 8;
- 21 & 216 x 4; 216 x 8;
- 216 & 16 x 4;
- 9514, 21, 216 & 16 x 2;
- 16 & 36 x 4; 36 x 8;
- 36 & 9514 x 4; 9514 x 8;
- 9514 & 21 x 4; 21 x 8;
- 21 & 216 x 4; 216 x 8;
- 216 & 16 x 4; 9514, 21, 216 & 16 x 2.

Each stripe of 8 threads of 20/2 is followed by 8 threads of tussah.



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Specials

Warp

8 threads of 20/2 spun silk / 8 threads of 120/8 tussah silk x18 plus 8 threads of 20/2 at the end

Total: 296 plus 2 for floating selvedge

Approx 10" wide on the loom. Finished width: 3 1/2" - 4"

5 yds long for two scarves approx 60" with 6 inch fringe

20/2 is threaded on shafts 1-4; 120/8 tussah on shafts 5-8

Sett

30 epi, a variation of any of these specifications may change whether the fabric will collapse

Weft

60/4 silk/wool

Beat

30 to 32 ppi, important to make the fabric collapse

Finishing

Washing is essential. The fabric will remain flat without washing and coaxing. Handwash and squeeze water out and lay flat to dry. Pull on the 20/2 fringe at both ends firmly to raise the ridge and coaxing their formation by pinching them with the fingers.

Excerpts on finishing from [Fabrics that go Bump](#), edited by Madelyn van der Hoogt.

Silk/Yak Fibre

55% silk/45% yak

Yak is a valued beast of burden living above the snowline in the Himalayan Mountains. It provides meat, milk, hair and hides to the people living there. Its long shaggy coat reaches the ground. The soft undercoat is combed out at the time of the spring molt. The fibre length varies between 1" - 1 1/2". Separating the guard hairs from the down is a slow, necessary process before obtaining spinning fibre, which is nearly as soft as cashmere. The longer hair is used in rope making, mats, sacks and hut coverings. The undercoat of the yak keeps it warm in extreme cold, so the fibre is warm and lightweight with a luster.

Silk lends the delicate down substance, sheen and elasticity at the same time becoming softer and warmer with a lovely soft brown/grey colour reminiscent of a wolf. It's staple length of 2-3" is similar to many of our other blends. It is truly an exotic blend of luxury fibres creating a soft, drapeable yarn just perfect for light weight jacket fabric or gorgeous unisex scarves.

We have discounted this fibre 15%. It comes in 100g (3.5 oz) packages. The discounted price is **\$20.85/100g** package (approx \$18.10 US) marked down from \$24.50. We have a limited quantity of 8kg for this special so don't hesitate to order.



NOTE

1. Prices do not include shipping.
2. Specials end May 31st, 2006.
3. Regular 10% Discount: If silk specials are ordered in bulk, totalling over \$150.00 CDN, our normal discount for orders over \$150.00 CDN does not apply.

8/2 Dyed Reeled Silk

From the top: #39 Tasmanian Myrtle, #40 Winter Sage, #46 Peony (with a purple tinge), #49 Purple Rain, #48 Intrepid, #4 Rendevous Blue, #951 Tequila Sunrise & #23 Truffle - all with amazing shine!

Reeled or filament silk is the highest quality yarn and is very white and shiny. First the cocoons are inspected and sorted, as only those with a perfect shape can be used for the reeling procedure. Cocoons are soaked in warm water to soften the gummy sericin. The silken strand from a single cocoon is too fine to use alone, so individual filaments of 6-20 cocoons are unraveled at the same time, traveling through a very small eye. The softened sericin dries, hardens and binds the strands together to become one thread the size of a human hair.

The 8/2 has a looser twist offering optimum sheen. Cloth made with this yarn looks and feels luxuriant. The appearance of this yarn is what everyone imagines when they hear the word silk. It adds bright spots and a touch of class when combined with other yarns, especially with our silk chenille, 20/2, 12/2, fine cord, tussah, and alpaca, and adds a wonderful sparkle to wool.

These yarns are from the discontinued Autumn Splendor scarf kit. We have about 20 skeins of each colour left, so don't delay for this great special.

We have discounted each skein 20%. The skeins are approx. 100g (3.5 oz) and have 2,800 yd/lb (5,630 m/kg). The discounted skeins are **\$28.80/skein** (approx \$25 US) marked down from \$36/skein.

Tips for Handling

Reeled yarn is extremely slippery and requires some special handling. A ball winder should not be used with reeled silks. The yarn will slip off, making a tangled mess. Wind the balls by hand, or, better still, wind your warp and shuttle directly from the skein placed on a yarn holder (swift). It is best to clamp the swift sideways rather than straight up. Investing in a couple of swifts and bypassing the ball stage saves time and potential tangle no matter what type of silk yarn you are working with.

Web Site Specials

We offer new specials on our website approximately four times a year. We notify those people on our email newsletter list each time we put up new specials. Please send your email address to us at silk@treenwaysilks.com if you would like to receive notification when our newsletters and specials are posted on our web site.

Or, just keep checking our website for updates!



This Season's Fleeces from New Zealand

Notes from Rowena

The Gotlands are in and we have selected different fleeces this year. Beautiful caramel shades and unusual mixtures of many shades. These multi-coloured fleeces are useful as you can do several different projects from the same fleece.

Note that some of the fleeces are a cross between two breeds. Crosses of all these show up very clearly the nature of both breeds. I have listed the dominant breed first i.e. Polwarth/Cormo. This will be a more open fleece like the Polwarth, with a slightly bulkier look to it, and sometimes a shorter staple like the Cormo. It is easier to use a Merino fleece that has a little part of another breed in it. So we have offered a few Merino cross fleeces as well.

We have divided many of the larger fleeces into two bags this year. We have noted that by: split with # _____.

Badgerface

These sheep are a definite type: chubby with thick bulky fleeces and cute black marking on their heads. The wool is a rich silver cream colour, sometimes with a little patch of dark grey that comes from the neck. The special nature of the fibre is the bulkiness with loose curls, luster, lovely hand and bounce. We push the fleeces into the bags and they keep bouncing back! The curious thing is that the sheep are bouncy too – they love to jump! Especially over fences. So they must live in wide-open spaces where they are not confined to a normal sized paddock. White Rock farm where these sheep live is in our remote back country. A very scenic area, where steep limestone cliffs form natural valley pastures for the sheep. The weight of the fleeces match the chubby sheep. We only have 23 this year.

Romney

New Zealand has a distinct Romney breed and this year's fleeces are outstanding in colour mix, staple length, crimp, luster and soft hand. We have a couple very special lambs. Uniformity of crimp from butt to the tip of a lock is typical. Romney wool has the finest fibre diameter of all the long wool breeds, with a spinning count from 40 to 48 which is 38 to 31 microns. It spins easily with a low grease content that makes it a very light shrinking fleece. These fleeces are perfect for clothing, blankets and the like. (The Treenies couldn't help but keep a couple of these special fleeces while sorting!)

Perendale

We only have a few Perendale fleeces this year. This breed is the result of interbreeding Cheviot and Romney and its fleece fits into the finer crossbred range. The wool has exceptional spring which gives good shape retention to knitted garments and a high insulation factor to blankets.

Polwarth

This breed was developed in Australia by crossing Merino and Lincoln breeds. It is a unique combination and provides us with perfect wool, very much sought after by spinners and weavers for its exceptional hand.

Cormo

These fleeces are quite rare! It is a Corriedale/Merino cross so very unusual, resulting in a fine fibre density.

Merino

There are some very unusual colours this year. Some have a white spot which is a feature of the wool from this farm. For people wanting to spin some super-fine threads for the first time I can recommend the book "Merino" by Margaret Stove. This takes you through the step-by-step stages of sorting, washing and the techniques of spinning the fine Merino Fibres. We have a few more white merinos this year for your dyeing pleasure.

Gotland

We are lucky to be able to offer these lovely ewe fleeces this year. The colour choice is varied but different to others years where most of the staples have a distinct colour change/stripe along their length. There are a few striped ones but most are mixtures of several colours. The fibres are soft and silky for spinning, have a lovely sheen when used in woven fabrics and easily felted. In fact, we were waiting for the lovely lamb fleeces to arrive and there was a late winter rain that lasted for days, followed by very unseasonally warm weather. So because the wool was long and overdue to be taken, the fibres actually felted on the sheep. Perfect conditions for felting, fine wool, water and friction. Spring lambs with wet wool frolicking in summer heat! So no lamb fleeces this year.

Prices

All fleeces except Merino:

– **\$22.50/kg** (\$10.25/lb), Approx. \$19.55US/kg (\$8.90US/lb)

Merino fleeces (100% Merino):

– **\$28.80/kg** (\$13.10/lb), Approx. \$25.05US/kg (\$11.40US/lb)

Check our fleece list online for up to date availability of fleeces at www.treenwaysilks.com/fleeces.html.

#	Breed	kg	Split w.	Description
134	Badgerface	2.7		white with bit of light & medium grey, 3 1/2" - 4 1/2" locks, loose crimp
129	Badgerface	3.0		" " " " "
122	Badgerface	3.1		" " " " "
132	Badgerface	3.2		" " " " "
136	Badgerface	3.2		" " " " "
139	Badgerface	3.2		" " " " "
126	Badgerface	3.4		" " " " "
125	Badgerface	3.5		" " " " "
133	Badgerface	3.6		" " " " "
135	Badgerface	3.7		" " " " "
130	Badgerface	3.8		white with bit of light & medium grey, 3 1/2" -6" locks, loose crimp
140	Badgerface	3.8		" " " " "
137	Badgerface	4.5		" " " " "
120	Badgerface	4.6		" " " " "

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This Season's Fleeces from New Zealand

#	Breed	kg	Split w.	Description	#	Breed	kg	Split w.	Description
Cormo					141	Merino	2.1		white
19	Cormo	1.3	18	silver and light caramel	143	Merino	2.8		white
18	Cormo	1.6	19	silver and light caramel	Perendale				
Cormo X					171	Perendale	3.2		mixed greys with caramettip, 6" staple
62	Cormo/Merino	1.7		lovely colour, brown and cream	167	Perendale	3.6		mid to dark greys with caramel tip, 6" staple
21	Cormo/Polwarth	1.9	20	silver beige fine and supersoft with long staple	169	Perendale	3.7		beautiful crimp, mixed greys, 6" staple
Gotland					Polwarth				
70	Gotland	1.3		mid grey with brown undertones	47	Polwarth	1.3		medium brown very fine
71	Gotland	1.3		light to dark mixed greys with cream	26	Polwarth	1.0		multi greys, beige, toffee tips
108	Gotland	1.5		mid greys with cream tip	53	Polwarth	1.4		mocha wth toffee tips
114	Gotland	1.5		dark grey with a stripe of light grey	34	Polwarth	1.5	33	chestnut brown
116	Gotland	1.5		dark curly greys, straight toffee tips	32	Polwarth	1.8		lovely grey brown
87	Gotland	1.6		cream with brown tinge	52	Polwarth	2.0		even brown
106	Gotland	1.6		cream to mid grey	15	Polwarth	2.8		light caramel with a cream stripe
111	Gotland	1.6		cream with some dark grey	Polwarth X				
86	Gotland	1.7		mid dark and light greys, with some creamy tips	30	Polwarth/Cormo	1.3	31	silver beige soft long staple
110	Gotland	1.7		mixed greys with cream tips	31	Polwarth/Cormo	1.4	30	silver beige soft long staple
103	Gotland	1.8		dark grey with a tinge of light grey	27	Polwarth/Cormo	1.4	26	silver length of polwarth with heavy full tip of cormo
76	Gotland	1.9		very dark grey with light tips	42	Polwarth/Cormo	1.8		light grey to beige tip
112	Gotland	1.9		mixed medium and light greys with cream tips	43	Polwarth/Cormo	2.2		multicolour grey beige
82	Gotland	2.0		cream and light grey	67	Polwarth/Merino	1.2	66	mid grey browns
91	Gotland	2.1		dark grey with toffee tips	66	Polwarth/Merino	1.3	67	mid donkey browns
74	Gotland	2.3		dark grey, some light grey, with white spots and brown tips	42a	Polwarth/Merino	1.6	40,41	multicolour grey/beige/white fine and bouncy
85	Gotland	2.3		light multi greys with cream	59	Polwarth/Merino	1.6	58	oatmeal brown lovely colour
Leicester X					38	Polwarth/Merino	1.7		silver/cream/beige very bouncy
163	Leicester X	3.0		grey/browns, soft, lofty crimp	41	Polwarth/Merino	1.7	40,42a	multicolour grey/beige/white fine and bouncy
Lincoln					69	Polwarth/Merino	1.8	68	light beige/grey will take dye beautifully
154	Lincoln	3.9		silver grey, soft wide crimp, 6 1/2" staple	40	Polwarth/Merino	1.9	41,42	multicolour grey/beige/white fine and bouncy
Lincoln X					37	Polwarth/Merino	2.0		silver/cream/beige
191	Lincoln/Romney X	3.0		lively crimp, soft & bouncy, med grey with caramel tip	Romney Lamb				
Merino					164	Romney Lamb	3.3		dark grey with brown tip, beautiful crimp, 5 1/2" staple
11	Merino	1.0		unusual grey with white spot	Romney				
10	Merino	1.2		white	166	Romney	2.4		dark grey with chocolate tips, beautiful crimp
28	Merino	1.2	29	shades of slate grey with a white spot	176	Romney	2.4		gorgeous grey/beige, med to dark
142	Merino	1.3		white	155	Romney	2.7		soft grey brown with light tips, beautiful crimp
7	Merino	1.4		white	158	Romney	2.7		mid grey/browns, light tip, soft & bouncy, 6" staple, nice crimp
54	Merino	1.4		mid grey/brown unusual staple fine and long	165	Romney	2.7		mixed grey browns, lmid to dark with light tips, soft & bouncy, 7" staple
146	Merino	1.5		white	156	Romney	2.8		silver to medium greys, light tips, 7" staple
49	Merino	1.6		lovely grey brown					
56	Merino	1.6		light caramel with a small bit of grey					
8	Merino	1.7		white					
63	Merino	1.7		lovely grey brown with white spot!					
57	Merino	1.8		multicolour beige/browns with a cream spot					
9	Merino	1.9		white					

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This Season's Fleeces from New Zealand

#	Breed	kg	Split w.	Description
168	Romney	2.8		silver, beige & cream, great for dyeing
172	Romney	2.8		medium greys, soft & bouncy
178	Romney	2.9		medium to dark grey/browns with light tip, soft & bouncy, beautiful crimp
188	Romney	2.9		medium grey with silver, nice wide staple
177	Romney	3.0		silver to medium greys, soft & bouncy
182	Romney	3.0		medium grey with caramel tips, soft & bouncy, lovely crimp
193	Romney	3.0		light to medium greys with cream tip, soft & bouncy
150	Romney	3.1		light grey/grey brown/medium grey, soft, 7" staple
192	Romney	3.1		fawn grey brown with light tips, soft & bouncy
170	Romney	3.2		mid to dark brown, toffee tips, 7" staple, beautiful crimp
185	Romney	3.2		lovely mid grey with caramel tips, soft & bouncy
153	Romney	3.3		light grey to mid grey brown to dark grey, light tips, soft & bouncy
179	Romney	3.6		medium grey with caramel tips, soft & bouncy
183	Romney	4.0		silver grey/beige with light tips, soft & bouncy

More....

Treenies Work

When roaming our web site don't forget to check out the new work we Treenies have been up to as well as the great work done by our customers and friends in the Silkster's Gallery.

Look for **treenway artwork**

under **what's new!**



Scrumptious Treenway Brochure

Susanna has made a colour luscious brochure which shows off our gorgeous products. Information is provided to find prices on our web site.

Please phone to ask for these brochures for your classes, conferences, shop or any special event.



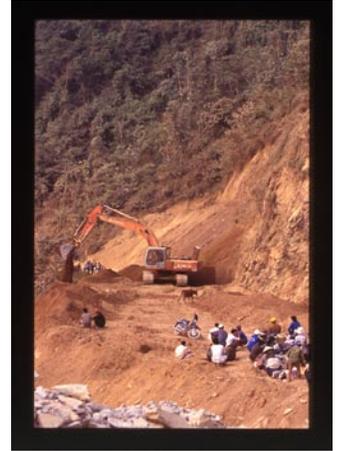
Sue Earle's handspun cashmere and silk scarf

The Asian Journal

Vietnam continued

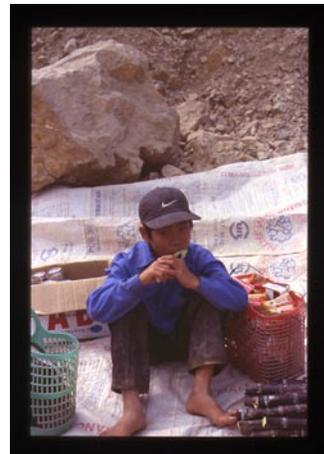
Mai Chau

We left at 7:20am with driver, guide and van. We stopped at 10:30 because they were blasting rock to improve the road. It was incredible how they moved huge rock mountains with equipment that was not very good. A lot of rock was being broken by hand and ancient machinery that seemed to be in need of constant repair. We had a good picnic lunch, read, smiled and joked with the other people waiting to get through. We moved, stopped, moved, stopped, moved, stopped, moved, stopped and finally we could see the beautiful Mai Chau valley on the other side of a huge pile of rock in the road. Upon closer inspection, we could see we would be there until midnight before the last pile

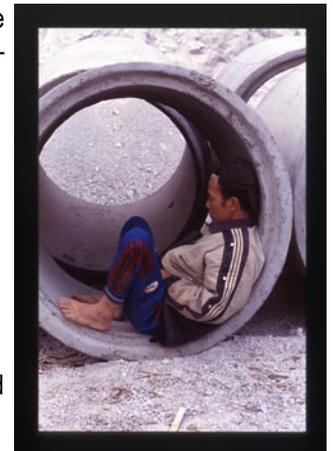


would be moved. We decided to climb over the pile of rocks at the same time the machinery was working and walk to the village, leaving the van and driver to come later. We walked for a couple of kilometers after climbing the rock barrier and then caught a ride for the remaining 10 km to the village, arriving about 3:30. Our four hour trip turned into nine hours!

We had a cup of tea with Mrs. Thuy, our host and a silk weaver. It was very exciting to discover



she was a friend of Xuyen, our Vietnamese friend living in Laos. We visited Mrs. Thuy's sister next door because she was raising a few silkworms. It was the last of the year's batch, because it was now winter and too cold. They raise silkworms continuously from February to September. During this time period they can raise three crops. Each crop contains 10 trays of silkworms. Each tray of silkworms yields five trays of cocoons. Five skeins of thread are reeled from each tray of cocoons. Each crop produces 25 skeins of silk. Mrs. Thuy says, "Work with silkworms, always on the go, no time to sit and eat, must stand and eat. Work with



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rice, have time to sit down and eat.”

The indigenous silkworms of this area are a type of *Bombyx* caterpillar, but the cocoons are a buttery yellow colour. The colour is in the sericin and mostly washes out when the silk is degummed.

The sisters kindly showed us their reeling equipment and the



process they used for reeling the cocoons into yarn. Both the equipment and method were similar to what we saw in



Laos. This is unique to Buddhist villages. The larvae is allowed to change into a moth and break out of the cocoon, thus creating a hole in the cocoon. The reeling of these cocoons is very different than in most areas and factories. (see *Silk Tidings* Sept '93 and Feb '94) This did not surprise us as the people in this group of silk weaving villages belonged to the Tai ethnic group. They migrated to Vietnam over 2,500 years ago. Their customs, housing and weaving style resemble the Tai groups in Laos, Southwest China, Thailand and Burma.

We strolled with the sisters through their mulberry garden and veggie fields. It was very quiet and peaceful, but for the croaking of frogs and clucking of chickens. Upon our return to the house, we were sent out to walk while the family began dinner preparations.

We strolled to the next village chatting to folks as we went, wandering about the picturesque, idyllic weaving village. The



villages were made of bamboo houses on stilts. There were 20-30 houses per village with cattle and pigs living underneath some of the houses and looms pounded into the stilts of other houses. Children laughed and played in the creek and men returned from the fields on bicycles, cattle carts or motor-

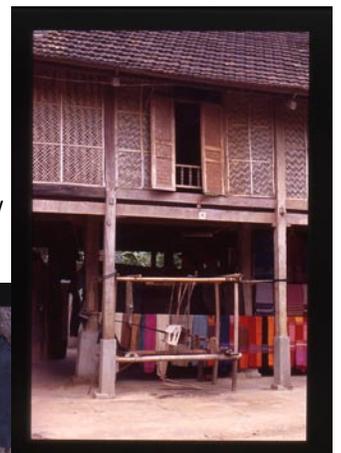


and lots of room to chop veggies and visit. Beans and potatoes had been gathered from the garden, mushrooms picked fresh from their mushroom “house” across from their dwelling and eggs, rice and rice wine rounded out the evening dinner. There are nine family members in Mrs. Thuy’s house and we all sat on the floor in a circle around the plates of food. There was lively discussion and many toasts followed by either gulps or sips of rice wine depending on who you were.

Our driver arrived at 8:30pm. After his dinner and wine we prepared the house for sleeping. The great room had cupboards along one wall for clothes, blankets and pillows. The room had a series of clothes lines which we did not notice until preparing for bed. We divided the room into nine compartments with curtains on the lines to give a little privacy. We laid out the mattresses, pillows, blankets and mosquito nets. The floor is made of bamboo which had been prepared by laying the bamboo on the road for trucks to drive over and smash. It is polished and very comfy to walk and sleep on.

cycles. A few of the houses with looms under them also housed their woven goods for sale. Some people buy from the village, but most of their goods go to larger towns for sale.

The house smelled so good when we returned. We all gathered in the kitchen while the family finished preparing a scrumptious meal. The kitchen had a fire in one corner for cooking, a bed/couch for the nursing mothers, a raised bed close to the fire for napping



The Pulse of Treenway

We are a busy little operation with many people doing a variety of things to enable us to offer the best products in a friendly, caring and efficient manner. In this issue we would like to introduce you to our mail order diva:

Sue Earle (Bootsie)

Bootsie joined us in August 2001, when we moved from Victoria to Salt Spring Island and we thank our lucky stars every day. She talks with you when you place your orders, fills orders, types invoices, totally takes care of inventorying and ordering all Ashford products and travels with us to conferences. Since she has been with us she has initiated many time saving things to make our business run smoother and make us appreciate the computer more. One of her most important jobs is keeping us in stitches with her jokes and warm personality. Her artistic background in costuming has been extremely helpful with all of the colourful, artistic and aesthetic work that goes on here.

A Bootsie/Salt Spring story

Last week I borrowed Bootsie's car to interview a new dyer. It's the kind of car you have to roll down the window to open the door. On the way into town I noticed the gas gauge was on empty. (She forgot to mention the gauge was broken!) I pulled into the gas sta-



tion and told the young man I borrowed my friend's car and did not know what side the gas tank was on. I had to turn around because it was on the other side and then filled up the tank. At the end of the day Bootsie went to pick up her son and others after a basketball game. She panicked about the gas because she knew it was low and held her breath all the way to the gas station. There, she announced to the young man that she had lent her car to a friend and that maybe she had put gas in and so she did not know how much it would take. He said, "Oh yes, she came in and filled up the tank." We love living in a small community.

Bootsie is an amazing seamstress and embellisher. She has been making a fast shift to spinning and weaving. A couple weeks ago all the Treenies and families went up to Mt. Washington for a ski weekend together. On the way home in the van, Bootsie wove a scarf in the dark on her new Ashford Knitters Rigid Heddle loom aided by a miner's lamp on her head.

She is so dedicated! You can see her creative work on our web site under **what's new! - treenway art**.

She is a great mom to Eland, 16, an awesome athlete, and Ella, 12, a talented writer. Bootsie has her finger on the pulse of everything here and is a valued member of the Treenway team.

Remember

All prices are in Canadian funds. Divide by 1.15 to arrive at the approximate price in US dollars.

Editor Karen Selk
Lay-out Susanna Kong
