

Silk Tidings

Greetings from Salt Spring Island

We wish everyone a prosperous and healthy year for 2008. I look at the number 8 and think it will most definitely be a good year. The energy of that number just keeps going round. That is our wish for all of you, energy that just keeps moving you in the directions you want and need to go. We know this will include beautiful fibre work.

Clay/Straw House Update

It has been a busy fall and winter. We continue to work on our clay/straw house which now has a roof, windows and plumbing pipes laid out. We will have another fun work party this summer, plastering the walls. Let us know if you are in the neighbourhood and we will give you a pair of gloves and trowel and feed you well!



Our On-Line Newsletter

Our last issue (September 2007) was our first on-line only newsletter. The Pink printed copies rest nicely in our history file boxes. From this point on, we will be publishing our newsletter three times a year in Jan/Feb, May/June and Sept/Oct. We will still have your favourite chapters: The Asian Journal, Specials, New Products and others. They will not be in every issue but they will continue to appear on a rotating basis.

We have some back-issues posted on-line for your perusal. As we began writing the newsletter in 1987, there are a number of older issues that we do not have in a digital file. We still have some of those oldies in that history file box. They are \$3 per back-issue.

Journey to India

Shortly after we attended the Houston Quilt Festival, we set off to India. Our mission was to acquire more photographs and data about the wild silk being raised and used in India. Most of this is done rurally, so the road trips were long. None were under five hours and were often eight hours each way.

These were not boring North American drives on an interstate highway. We decided we could make our million by turning a typical five hour drive on an Indian highway into a hot video game. The aim would be to make it from point A to point B in a designated time while swerving, braking and screeching to manoeuvre



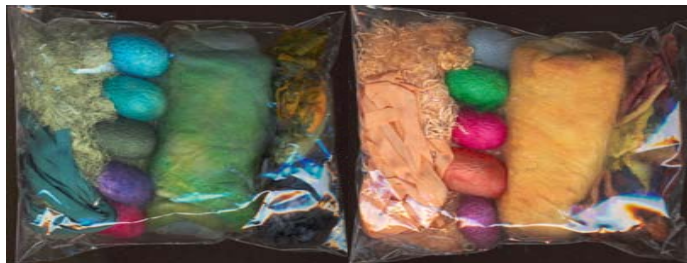
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Treenway Silks is located at 501 Musgrave Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, Canada, V8K 1V5. You can reach us toll free at **1.888.383.SILK (7455)** or at 250.653.2345 or by fax at 250.653.2347. Email us at **silk@treenwaysilks.com**. See our website **www.treenwaysilks.com**.

New Products

Silky Play Pack

Artists of all types from mixed media to spinners will have fun experimenting with this spectrum of whimsical silk fibres in this experimental pack.



Each pack contains at least 20g of colourful cocoons, rods, hankies, degummed throwsters or cocoon strippings and 5 yards of 7mm ribbon.

At Treenway, we cut and manipulate the cocoons to make earrings, flowers, tassels and create shapes in silk fusion. The quirky structure of the rods, degummed throwsters and cocoon strippings add form and texture to all art work.

Hankies are a ten inch square of fibre held together by a "selvedge." They can be used in silk fusion, needle felting, stitched onto fabric, spun into thread and more.

Don't miss this special while supplies last!

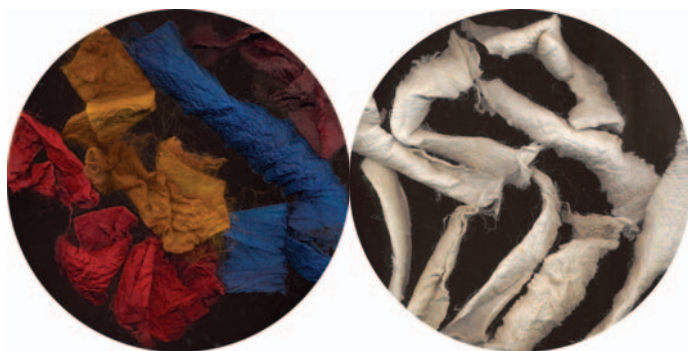
The price is \$17.25.



A1 Carrier Rods

Carrier rods are a by-product of reeling silk yarn. As the silk filament is unravelled from the cocoon into skein form, some of the filaments escape and get wound around the machinery. This very high quality silk, with the sericin still in it, is then slit and removed from the machinery.

Our A1 Carrier Rods are specially picked and are at least



5" long. We also have Standard Carrier Rods that may have some short pieces and partially wound cocoons in the mix.

Both types are wonderfully textural for stitching, silk fusion, needle felting and any application needing depth. They can also be pressed flat, pulled apart to reveal the interesting criss-cross of the fibers or pulled and shaped into "flowers" and other forms. Rods have a lot of personality and attitude which you can use to advantage in your work.



Both type of rods are available in:

Natural in 25g (0.9 oz) packages (approximately 28-30 rods) and

Dyed in 10g (0.35oz) packages.

A1 Carrier Rods

Natural: \$3.75

Dyed: \$4.75

Standard Carrier Rods

Natural: \$3.00

Dyed: \$4.25



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Salt Spring Island Series

We have added three new colourways to our popular hand painted tussah sliver, the Salt Spring Island Series. Our community and landscape are very dear to all of our hearts. One might describe our feeling for this place on the planet as a love affair. We draw on its beauty for the inspiration for the colourful fibre. We imagine ourselves dancing to the colours at these special spots on the island.

Treenway and our dyers, Cheryl, Mary and Charlene, are excited to bring you: Channel Ridge Charleston, Long Harbour Limbo and Ruckle Park Rhumba. View these colour combinations on our website at www.treenwaysilks.com/ssi_series.html.

The Salt Spring Island Series is packaged in two sizes: 25g (approx. 0.9oz) and 50g (approx. 1.8oz).

The price for 25g is \$9.70 each or \$9.20 each for three or more. The 50g packages are \$18 each.

Channel Ridge Charleston



Long Harbour Limbo



Ruckle Park Rhumba



Call for Entries

We will be changing the gallery for our April/ May issue. We encourage all of you to send photos of your work using Treenway silks. It is fun and inspirational for all of us to see what unique work is being produced. We reward you for your time 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.

www.treenwaysilks.com/gallery.html

You Asked For It & We Were Listening

Many of you want our natural fibres packaged in smaller amounts. We will be changing our undyed 100% silk and silk blend sliver from 100g (3.5oz) to 50g (1.8oz) packages. Our natural funky fibres will be changing from 100g and 50g packages to 25g (0.9oz) bags. All of these fibres are still available in bulk amounts (200g/7oz minimum).

We have begun to package in smaller amounts as we run out of larger packages of fibre. It will take us a while to get totally changed over. This is what is available now:

Funky Fibres

Standard Carrier Rods	Natural	25g	\$3.00
	Dyed	10g	\$4.25
A1 Carrier Rods	Natural	25g	\$3.75
	Dyed	10g	\$4.75
Degummed Throwsters Silk	Natural	25g	\$3.00
	Dyed	10g	\$4.25

This Season's Fleeces from New Zealand

This past year was not a good one for fleeces in New Zealand. There were no Gotlands and far fewer of the other breeds as well. Raising sheep with good fleece is a challenge when the weather is not cooperative. When you see how few fleeces there are this year, you will understand our policy of one fleece per person.

The fleeces we have are lovely and as always it was a real treat to unpack and describe each one. We will all hope for a better year in 2008 for good and plentiful fleeces.

All fleeces except Merino - \$25.50/kg (\$11.60/lb)

Merino fleeces (100% Merino) - \$28.50/kg (\$12.95/lb)

(1 kg = 2.2 pounds)



No.	Breed	Wt (kg)	Description
1.	Badgerface	2.5	White with wisp of medium grey
2.	Badgerface	3.2	White
3.	Corriedale	2.1	Almost black with coffee tips
4.	Corriedale	2.8	Almost black with coffee tips
5.	Corriedale/Polwarth	1.2	Dark chocolate to milk chocolate, coffee tips
6.	Corriedale/Polwarth	2.2	Medium grey with coffee tip
7.	Corriedale/Polwarth	2.4	Multicoloured staple, dark grey, milk chocolate to tan
31.	Corriedale/Polwarth	2.0	Dark brown with tan tips, strong fibre, good staple length
8.	English Leicester	2.7	White, top quality, true to type
32.	English Leicester	2.4	White, top quality, true to type
9.	Merino	1.2	Fawn with cream tips, well crimped, fine fleece with soft handle
10.	Merino	1.9	True to type, white, lovely, soft and good staple length
11.	Merino	2.4	Bright white, lovely handle, good length staple, clean, 19-20 microns
12.	Merino	2.9	Silver to medium grey, tan tips, well crimped, soft handle
13.	Perendale/Romney	2.1	Light grey/cream tips
14.	Perendale/Romney	2.5	Silver grey, cream tips
15.	Perendale/Romney	3.2	Pale silver, cream tip
16.	Perendale/Romney	3.5	White
17.	Polwarth	1.6	Fawn with cream tips
18.	Polwarth	2.1	Café latte with cream tip
19.	Polwarth	2.2	Medium grey+chocolate with tan tips
20.	Polwarth	2.4	Cream to silver grey
21.	Polwarth	2.5	Silver to medium grey, cream tips
22.	Polwarth	3.0	Silver to medium grey, fawn tips
23.	Polwarth/Corriedale	4.1	Café au lait, gorgeous colour, approx 29 microns, handles well
24.	Romney	2.7	Medium greys, cream tips
25.	Romney X	2.8	Silver grey
26.	Romney X	3.0	Silver grey, cream tips, soft, beautiful
33.	Romney X	2.0	Light grey with cream tips
34.	Romney X	2.9	Medium grey with cream tips, soft loose crimp
27.	Romney/Eng.Leic.	1.7	Charcoal grey, brown tips, lustrous with a silky handle
28.	Romney/Eng.Leic.	2.0	Dark Grey to Charcoal
29.	Romney/Eng.Leic.	2.2	Pale grey, silky soft handle with lustre
30.	Romney/Eng.Leic.	2.6	Variable, light to dark, lustrous, strong lamb fleece
35.	Romney/Eng.Leic.	1.7	Dark charcoal with brown tips, well crimped and lustrous

Specials

Rigid Heddle Scarf Kit

A variety of natural colour silk yarns of different weights and qualities acquaint you with the different feel of each yarn. The weave is a balanced plain weave. The weft is 20/6 spun Bombyx silk and the warp is a random threading of five different silk yarns. Each scarf is approx 5" wide, 83" long and uses a 12.5 dpi reed.

Each kit contains enough yarn for one scarf as well as complete warping and weaving instructions. This is a perfect project for someone who wants to have a good start working with exotic yarns on a Rigid Heddle loom. The kit is presented in a beautiful hand made box produced by a family cottage industry in India.

Our special price has been discounted **more than 30% off at \$35.00.**



Bombyx Silk Caps

in 100g packages, while supply lasts

Caps are made from degummed cocoons that have been stretched into a cap shape over an arched bamboo slat. Ten cocoons are pulled over the frame to make one cap. Caps generally weigh 14-20 grams.

To spin with caps you need to work with a very thin layer of these long, strong silk fibres, otherwise they will be impossible to draft. Even with a thin layer, the edges of the cap are strong and dense, and must be snapped apart to facilitate drafting.

We are discontinuing our 100g (3.5oz) packages of caps but will continue to offer caps in Bells (approx 500g or 1lb). Offered at **40% off** regular price.

Regular Price: \$13.50/100g package

Clearance Price: \$8.10/package



Natural Silk in Sericin

This is another by-product of unravelling the silk cocoon to make yarn. In the throwing mill, occasionally fibres tangle around the machine or are otherwise unable to be used for finished yarn.

These silk fibres are high quality with long fibres and include long curly strands, kinky strands and others in between. Natural Silk in Sericin adds great texture and interest to silk fusion and other mixed media. It is in sericin, so it is stiff.

In our effort to change our packaging to smaller sizes, we are offering the 100g package at at 20% discount. Regular Price: \$9.75/100g. **Discounted 20%. Sale Price: \$7.80/100g.**



Remember

All prices are in Canadian funds. Divide by 1.01 to arrive at the approximate price in US dollars.

Web Specials

In addition to our newsletter specials, we have specials on our web site. We notify everyone on our email list each time we post new specials. You can also check our website periodically. See the Specials button in the drop-down menu or go to www.treenwaysilks.com/sale.html.

If you would like to be added to this list, please send up your full name and email address to info@treenwaysilks.com. Please add us to your address book to ensure you receive our emails.

NOTE

1. Prices do not include shipping.
2. Specials end April 30th, 2008.
3. Regular 10% Discount: Our normal Bulk Discount for orders of silk yarns and fibres over \$150.00 CDN does not apply to Specials items.

The Dedicated Fibre Fanatic

continued...
Greetings from Salt Spring

A New Series!

We love talking with our customers on our toll free number. We are faceless over the phone, but we like to hear your stories. Many of you confess to some pretty great fibre follies and addictions. Your stories are incredible, funny and sometimes serious. We are publishing our first of these Fibre Fanatic stories in this issue. We invite and encourage you to share/confess your stories. It comforts all of us to know there are others out there with the same affliction. All Fibre Fanatics will remain anonymous. Following is the first Fibre Fanatic Story.

Like many spinners, I keep an eye out for lovely fleeces for my spinning addiction. My husband thinks I have a screw loose and has threatened eviction and mayhem if any more fleeces come in. So when Treenway mailed seven fleeces to me at work, I needed to bring them home safely. At the end of the workday, I moved the fleeces to my car trunk, but I didn't stop to put the clear bags of fleece into large black garbage bags because people were watching and looking at me strangely. Since I usually get home an hour before my husband, there should have been time to re-bag and store the luscious new wool in the basement.

I had barely gotten home when my husband drove up, bounded into the house and said, "Let's go buy you a new car." I couldn't think quickly enough to make up an excuse. So off we went in my old car with seven beautiful fleeces in the trunk and my stomach grinding. It felt like traveling with a time bomb.

We went to one dealership and while my husband was inside with the salesman enduring the sales pitch, I slipped out, opened my trunk and stuffed the seven fleeces into five black garbage bags, closed the trunk and went back inside. A deal couldn't be reached so we went to a different dealership. Again we test drove and bargained. The result was we agreed to buy. My car and the new car were parked side by side, trunks to the road. I hoped I could quietly move the wool. Then the manager made an intercom call. A tall young fellow came in. The manager tossed him the keys and said to take the new car around back and clean it up. While my husband waited happily for the paperwork, I slipped out, removed the five large black bags and toted them down the side of the building to where the young man was vacuuming the car. I placed the sacks in the trunk and bless his heart, he never said a word about the switch. I re-entered the building by the restroom, sat down beside my husband and announced that I really liked the new car. My husband smiled and the fleeces made it safely home.



around cows, goats, 3 wheeled auto rickshaws, bullock carts hauling the rice harvest, bicycles, people, camel carts hauling bales of cotton, great huge pot holes, bicycle rickshaws and enormous goods carrier trucks.

With lights blinking on and off and horns honking constantly, all these travellers squeeze onto a two lane road turning it into a pandemonium of three lanes.

Overloaded and noisy goods carriers request you honk so they know to move over by way of a sign on the back of truck "Horn Please." It appeared total chaos to us but seemed to flow in Indian style as gracefully as a woman walking in her sari.



Silk research includes meeting officials and drinking chai (sweet, milky tea) in government offices in every area we visited. We enter these offices with a smile and our story and each one has always been fruitful in information and an overwhelming willingness to help us achieve what we have set out to do. The field work of looking at the different stages of the silkworms in the jungles and meeting the families that care for them was always exciting and humbling. The families that make the thread out of the silk cocoons, dye it and weave it into cloth adds to our awe of what is attained by caterpillars and the patience of artisans. We are very pleased with what we accomplished. It is a huge addition to the

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Greetings from Salt Spring

silk book I am working towards.

India has a Ministry of Textiles and within it is the Central Silk Board (CSB) which is made up of a team of scientists who have worked hard to understand the caterpillars. They are rightly proud of their role in the commercial wild silk. Taking care of the wild silk has always been the job of the tribal people. When disease hits the silkworms, it is always just days before they start spinning their cocoons. Consequently, the 30 days of work using sling shots and bows and arrows to protect the silk worms from

crows, snakes, rodents and other predators as well as carefully transferring them to fresh trees with more leaves has been for no financial gain. The CSB can now provide the rearers with disease free layings (DFL) silkworm eggs so they realize a much better financial gain for their work.



We have been travelling to India for over 20 years and were happy to connect with great old friends and make many new ones during this journey. We also booked in some time for relaxation in two national parks. In Kaziranga Park, in the state of Assam, we rode into the park by elephant in the early morning to look for the Asian one horned rhino. We were well rewarded when we sighted several rhinos and babies as well as birds, deer and buffalo.

In Bandhavgarh Park in the state of Madhya Pradesh we went out by jeep in search of the Bengal tiger. Just as the tiger's morning hunting time came to a close, a tiger was spotted. We exchanged the jeeps



for elephants to get into the hilly jungle and found the tiger sleeping. She was done hunting for the day and needed to rest before the late afternoon and evening hunt. On the back of the elephant, we walked around her while she showed minor annoyance at being disturbed during nap time. It was a thrill to see her in her natural habitat.



India seems other worldly because it is so different from our surroundings here but it is so wonderful and alive. We had a grand time with a most remarkable people and our lives have been enriched.

In our next newsletter, the Asian Journal will bring you the last segment on Vietnam. After that we will start the stories with the marvellous eri, muga and tussah wild silkworms in India.