

## Greetings from Salt Spring Island

We are all loving the summer with beautiful gardens, lots of fresh fruit and veggies, walking barefoot, warm lakes to swim in, long warm nights to enjoy outside, visits with family and friends and the colours, sounds and smells of the season.

Summer also means conference time. This year we were happy to see many of you at Convergence in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

As I write the newsletter, summer is still full on, but the crickets have started their call to shorter days and the fall is coming. This means life is getting back to normal, whatever that is, and more time in our studios to encourage our creative spirit to bolt forward.

We have some nice specials and exciting projects to get your imagination sparked.

## Silkster's Gallery

We have a gallery of diverse and creative pieces on our web site. Your creative spirit will be awed by taking the time to visit the Silkster's Gallery on our web site under Galleries. Thank you to all for taking the time to share your creativity.

**Ann Ashworth** of Punta Gorda, Florida, wove a beautiful silk blouse with scarf.

**Leef Bloomenstiel** from Gunter, Texas, has used our oblongs in creating a shawl as light as the clouds.

**Chris Dorman** of Kitchener, Ontario, has spun the creamy silk of a brick and knit a lovely little bag.

**Wendy Durfey** of Rockwood, Ontario, created an innovative blend of silk fusion and basketry.

**Marilyn Rand** from Delhaven in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia has

been making lampshades and wall pieces with silk fusion.

**Harriett Ringold** of Ranchos de Verdes, California, wove a stunning tallis (prayer shawl) in warm reds and fuchsias for a client.

**Nancy Roberts** from Albany, California, created a great way of using the knitting machine to make knit blanks which she dyes, unravels and weaves into scarves creating a great ikat effect.

**Sharon Roth** of Henderson, Kentucky, has been using silk fusion in her imaginative pieces.

**Fred Ullom** of Youngstown, Ohio, created exquisite woven scarves for his lucky clientele.

**Byron Williams** from Accokeek, Maryland, mixed his love of gourds with silk fusion for a unique style.



## Change coming for Treenway Newsletter

The February 2007 newsletter will be our last biannual printed pink newsletter. We will be publishing a smaller newsletter four times per year starting with the Fall 2007 issue. We will still have your favourite chapters: The Asian Journal, Specials, New Products. They may not be in every issue but they will continue to appear on a rotating basis.

We will continue to post the newsletter on our web site. We have been putting our newsletter on our web site for some years now under Info – Silk Tidings on the drop down menu. We send many of you an email informing you when each new newsletter has been posted on our web site. There is a link in the email message that takes you to the appropriate place on the web site without a long download time. The web newsletters are in colour but will print black and white if you don't have a colour printer.

We have also started to post back issues of our newsletters for your perusal. Find them at [www.treenwaysilks.com/newsletter.html](http://www.treenwaysilks.com/newsletter.html).

We so enjoy being in touch with all of you. Please give us your email address so you won't miss out and can be among the first to read the newsletter, and get first dibs on the specials and those scrumptious specialty fleeces. When you change your email address, please remember to let us know, so we can change our list.

If you do not have a computer, we are not leaving you without a newsletter. Please inform us and we will mail you a printed copy for \$10/year.

Email us at [silk@treenwaysilks.com](mailto:silk@treenwaysilks.com).

## 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

Email us at [silk@treenwaysilks.com](mailto:silk@treenwaysilks.com). See our website [www.treenwaysilks.com](http://www.treenwaysilks.com).

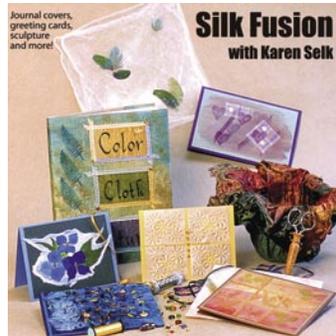
# New Products

## Silk Fusion DVD

We have converted our award winning Silk Fusion video to DVD format.

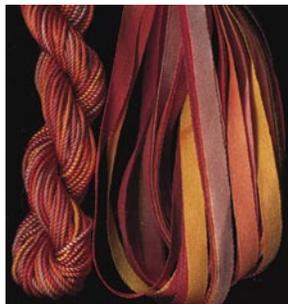
Karen Selk demonstrates eight different projects with step-by-step instructions. Techniques include: stitching, painting, sculpting, scrunching, embedding, beading, stamping, nature printing and embossing. Easy solutions are provided for anticipated problems. 2 hours.

Keep checking our website for the arrival of this new item.



## Latest Montano Series Colourways

Treenway has 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 74 rich, soft, vibrant and dusky colourways reflecting flowers, water, trees and special places on the Earth. The Montano Series was created by drawing from Treenway's palette of 100 hand-dyed colours.



*Kathmandu*

All the colours are posted on our website under Silk Products – Montano Series on the drop down menu. They are truly irresistible! We have printed a lovely card reproducing all the colourways. Ask for these new cards to distribute at your events and classes or for your own reference.

3.5mm Ribbon      5 yards      \$6.95 (approx \$6.60 US)

Fine Cord Thread      10 yards      \$5.30 (approx \$5.05 US)

## Scrumptious Treenway Brochure

Our graphic guru, Susanna, has made a colour luscious brochure which shows off our gorgeous products. Information is provided to find prices on our website.

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



# China's Economy

## Rise in Silk Prices

In the Fall 2005 newsletter we told you about the fun and informative visit from our Chinese suppliers. In their visit they confirmed everything we saw on our last visit to China. Their economy is growing at a mind boggling rate as the population urbanizes. This is similar to what happened to the North American economy in the 1950s, but at an even greater rate. Because silk is an agricultural industry, this economic shift also means a change in the silk market.

Treenway has absorbed the price increases we have received over the past year and a half. We held off as long as we could, but now we must increase prices as of October 1st on the following products:

### Reeled silks:

#0, 8/2, Medium Cord and Fine Cord — 10% Increase

### Blends:

Silk/Yak products — 15% Increase

### Ribbons:

13mm width — 15% Increase

## Web Specials

In addition to our newsletter specials, we have changing specials on our web site. We notify the people on our email newsletter list each time we put up new specials.

Please send your email address to us at [silk@treenwaysilks.com](mailto:silk@treenwaysilks.com) or keep checking our website periodically. There is a Specials button in our drop-down menu.

## Scenes at Treenway



*Terry Nelson hard at work*

# Specials

## Silk/Angora Yarn

30/2 55% Silk / 45% Angora

Rabbits of many colours, specially bred for long fur, provide Angora fibre. There are a number of different breeds, each with distinctive characteristics.



Angora rabbits have two types of fibre in their fur. The outer layer is long with shiny, stiffer guard hair, that protects the inner fibres. The inner layer is thick and fluffy to keep the rabbit warm. Different breeds have varying amounts of these fur layers. The rabbit fur is removed by plucking or shearing three to four times a year. Small scale growers usually pluck the rabbit, which is believed to give the best quality fibre although this is not feasible on a commercial level, where the rabbits are shorn. Neither process hurts the rabbit.

The fur of the rabbit is very fine, soft, lightweight, has great insulation qualities (it is seven to eight times warmer than wool) and can have a silky texture depending on the breed. Angora can be difficult to spin as the fur can felt if not stored properly. The fur is excessively warm and benefits greatly when mixed with silk to provide length, sheen, less pilling and greater practicality in price and uses. Silk's softness, warmth and luxury are increased. This soft, strong yarn is delightful to weave and provides a warm, soft fabric. It is sumptuous for both warp and weft and mixes well with our finer yarns like 30/2, 60/4 silk/wool, silk/yak, silk/camel, silk/cashmere or 120/8 tussah. It is an excellent weight for clothing with a good drape and lovely hand. We dye it in our range of 100 hues. The colours emerge from the dye pot barely lighter than those on our shade card of 100% silk.

We have **discounted** this yarn **20%**. The skeins are approximately 100g (3.5 oz) and have about 1,400 yd/skein. The discounted price is **\$15.95/skein** (approx \$15.20 US), marked down from \$19.95. Regular dye charges apply. We have a limited quantity for this special, so don't hesitate to order.

## Oblongs

Also called Laps in Britain and Australia

Waste cocoons, often cut to remove the pupa, are used to make oblongs. The degummed cocoons are carded on a large carding machine to make "batts" approx 36" x 82" and weighing approx 400g. The semi-bleached tussah fibres look stretched, similar to a hankie, but are actually carded. These lofty oblongs are great for felting, nuno or silk fusion. We sell them in their full 400g (approx 14 oz) weight or 200g (approx 7 oz).

This special offers a **20% savings** from \$82.50/kg to **\$66.00/kg** (approx \$62.75/kg US).

Make sure you go to the Silkster's Gallery on our web site to see the elegant shawl Leef Bloemenstiel made with the oblongs.

## 2mm Silk Ribbon

Silk Ribbon is hip and trendy. We are offering bundles of gorgeous colourways and instructions for weaving a scarf. Get all the details in the Treasures section of this newsletter.

11 different palettes made up of 8 colours, 10 yards each colour (in two 5 yard packages), for a total of 80 yards.

**\$36.00** (\$34.30 US) – **40% off**. This product is normally priced at \$60.80. Order early to get your colour choice.



## Silk Fusion Video

Plus a bonus of 75g of Silk Fibre

Silk Fusion is a unique process that bonds silk fibres into a kind of "felt" which can be gossamer and transparent or opaque and thick like leather. The rich luster and texture of silk is captured in this exciting medium, which can be machine or hand stitched, painted, rubber stamped and embellished in many different ways.

Karen Selk demonstrates eight different projects on this video using a variety of techniques with step-by-step instructions.

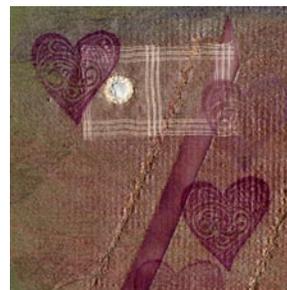


Natural tussah silk fibre

Winner of four different awards, this video is now available at a substantial savings of \$20.00 which includes 50g of natural tussah silk fibre and 25g of Salt Spring Island Series dyed silk fibre to help get you started.



Salt Spring Series hand-dyed silk fibre in Booth Bay Bop



Ribbon and lace embedded in silk fusion and stamped

The sale price is **\$29.95** (approx \$28.50 US) - regular price is \$49.95. While supplies last.

We also have Jo Sonja's Textile Medium available in three sizes:

2 oz - \$3.25

4 oz - \$5.50

8 oz - \$9.50

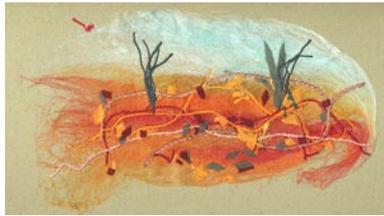
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## Decorator's Delight

Mix and match brilliant silk colours and textures with your imagination!

Stitch it, tassel it, embroider it, embellish it! Great for silk fusion!

Eight striking colour palettes:



Fields of Gold embedded in silk fusion



#1 Berry Patch



#2 Dancin' in the Streets  
**Sold Out!**



#3 Fields of Gold



#4 Marrakesh



#5 Midnight Blues



#6 Reverie **Sold Out!**



#7 Sea Foam



#8 Starry Night



Stitched with  
Dancin' in the Streets

Each palette contains three colours of silk ribbon (total of 12 yards in 3.5mm and 7mm widths) and five colours of silk threads (total of 120 yd (in 20" lengths) in a variety of textures and sheen).

- 1 Colour Palette - \$3.00 (approx \$2.85 US)
- 4 Colour Palettes - \$10.00 (approx \$9.50 US)
- 8 Colour Palettes - \$18.00 (approx \$17.15 US)



Stitched with Midnight Blues



Tassels made  
with Berry Patch

## Mixed Media Kit For Holiday Cards and Wrappings

### Tree Rubber Stamp and Embellishment Kit with Winter Holiday Charms, Beads, Ribbons and Threads

We have noticed that many of the holiday greeting cards we have received in



the last couple of years, especially from young adults, are hand crafted often using rubber stamps. They are cheery, original and full of creativity and love.



We have put together a Mixed Media Kit so you or a special friend can create your own winter holiday greetings for those you care about.

**\$12.00**  
(approx \$11.45 US) while supplies last.



Add some Decorator's Delight (see left) for even more fun.



### NOTE

1. Prices do not include shipping.
2. Specials end December 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.

# Treenway Treasures

## Hot and Trendy Ribbon Scarf

Ribbon has re-appeared on the fashion scene. It is being woven into the fabric as well as being used lavishly as embellishment. We carry five widths of ribbon and have used the narrowest, 2 mm, in making a luxurious scarf.

We have assembled 11 delicious colour palettes to provide stunning results for your scarf. Each palette includes eight colours, 10 yards of each colour.

We used 80 yards of ribbon to make this scarf. The ribbon is put up in 5-yard packages.

Along with the ribbon, we used our 20/2 spun silk in black but many colours would look nice with the different palettes.

## Warp

20/2 spun silk in black – 5,000 yd/lb (approx 1,000 yd/skein)  
approx 500 yards required

2mm ribbon in eight different colours – total of 80 yards

Total: 164 ends

## Winding Sequence

8 black, lavender, black, orange, black, raspberry, black, sage, 18 black, grape, black, turquoise, black, mint, black, lavender, 14 black, turquoise, black, raspberry, 10 black, mint, 8 black, fuchsia, black, orange, black, raspberry, black, fuchsia, 14 black, turquoise, 4 black, mint, 16 black, grape, black, sage, 18 black, grape, black, orange, black, lavender, black, sage, 8 black, fuchsia, 8 black



## Width

Approx. 7.5 inches

## Sett

Approx. 26 EPI for the yarn

Each ribbon is dented in its own dent (12 dpi or smaller reeds) or with one 20/2 thread (10 dpi and larger reeds).

## Length

Due to each ribbon being 5 yards long, we made our warp just under 2.5 yd long to accommodate tying the ribbon to the yarn. Our finished scarf is 63 inches long plus fringe.

## Threading

Twill – 1,2,3,4,1,2,3,4,



## Beat

18-20 PPI

## Treading

Plain Weave. You can also treadle twill.

There is enough ribbon to use sporadically in the weft. To keep the ribbon flat, open the shed, insert the ribbon and untwist any kinks, close the shed and beat lightly, open the new shed and insert a 20/2 yarn. We have found the ribbon lays better with a 20/2 yarn on either side of it.

## Colourways

The Blues – **Sold Out!**

Café Latte – **Sold Out!**

Caravan – #4, 19, 33, 55, 956, 9515, 202, 225



Day Break – #16, 29, 25, 38, 41, 47, 53, 56



Day Dreaming – #216, 3, 2, 1, 7, 8, 215, 221



Gypsy Train – **Sold Out!**

Harmony – #2, 3, 8, 15, 25, 37, 50, 955



Imagine – #9510, 203, 210, 213, 214, 215, 216, 223



Jazz Bar – #5, 12, 26, 39, 43, 45, 49, 9513



Miami Nice – #28, 13, 32, 31, 38, 41, 8, 53 **New!**



Printemps – #11, 13, 17, 28, 30, 32, 9511, 9512



Rendezvous – **Sold Out!**

Sugar Sugar – #21, 22, 27, 31, 40, 958, 52, 959



## Special

We are offering each colourway of ribbon at **\$36.00** (approx. \$34.30 US) - **40% off** the regular price of \$60.80! Each colourway includes 80 yards of 2mm silk ribbon in a palette of eight colours (10 yards per colour).

# The Asian Journal

## Vietnam

### Mai Chau – Natural Dyeing

*In our last newsletter we journeyed to Mai Chau valley and met the silk weaver Mrs. Thuy, had a lovely dinner with them and stayed overnight in their home.*

We awoke at 5am to loud music. Testing of the sound system was taking place for the wedding celebrations which were set to start at 9 am. We chatted softly behind our curtains until 6 when we finally realized sleep had vanished. We walked through the village absorbing the ambience and snapping photos to help us grasp it again in another time and faraway place. We stopped in the wedding tent where the tables were set with sausage and beer for the anticipated guests. As we roamed through the village, we “chatted” via sign language with the weavers at their looms. This group of people is part of the ethnic group, white Tai, who build their houses on stilts. Most of the weavers use the framework of their home as support for their looms. It is cooler under the houses and easier to keep an eye on the children and animals. We noticed different looms had different types of cloth in progress using a variety of techniques known to the style of the white Tai. They are very accomplished weavers and natural dyers. We saw beautiful skirt cloth using a combination of weft ikat and supplementary weft.



Other cloth was woven in plain weave, supplementary warp or warp ikat or a combination of these techniques.

After a wonderful breakfast of banana pancakes, Thuy brought out the materials she uses for vegetable dyeing and we dyed some of her hand reeled scarves. We did three pots: mac bao root which gives a brown colour, indigo for blue and lac for red. We rushed through



*Indigenous cocoons on a scarf made of thread reeled from these cocoons. The scarf has not been degummed.*



*Silk scarves (from top) dyed with indigo, lac and mac bao and undyed. When the scarves are degummed and the sericin removed the silk loses its yellow colour.*

each process as we had to leave in time to accommodate all the road work and return to Hanoi in time for our 9:30 train departure to the north. We were so comfortable with Thuy at her home, it was difficult leaving. She is such a perfect picture of a little Tai lady with her indigo stained hand and blackened teeth. Many Asian women have dark teeth due to chewing beetle nut, but this group actually

dyes their teeth. Thuy said, "We had to hold a liquid in our mouths over night to get rid of the enamel, then we dye them black." This is an identifying characteristic for the women.

The journey back saw many hours of waiting by the roadside for the rock to be moved after the blasting. It was cherished time to write in a journal to try and capture the essence and feelings of such a rich experience.

On the road again, the profusion of lush greens that is Vietnam is a wonder; a wonder because I have never seen greens like this anywhere and because the land has healed itself so fully after being scorched and poisoned with war chemicals. The



*Mrs. Thuy*

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continued....

## The Asian Journal



greens are a diversity of gardens, crops and promise of good food. But the greenery disappears as we head into Hanoi with its pollution from heavy traffic.

Left: Thuy's indigo  
Below: Thuy's lac



## Sapa - in the Hoang Lien Mountains

We stopped long enough at our Hanoi hotel to re-organize luggage for the damp and cold of the mountains where we were headed. We made a quick stop for dinner then searched for our car and berth at the train station. After a nice chat with our Parisian roommates, we settled down for the night, then awoke early to the calls of a young man selling coffee and tea. It was lovely to wake up with something warm in our hands and stomach while the beautiful, misty mountain scenery passed by as we chugged up to the train station. From the station we travelled an hour to Sapa. The mountains are at about 4,500 ft and terraced for rice cultivation. They are an awesome sight. Sapa was discovered at the turn of the last century as a hill retreat by the French during their occupation of Indochina. The architecture, gardens, good coffee, chocolate and bread still reflect the treasures left behind by the French. All of the Indochina countries have this lovely fusion of European and Asian flavours in food, gardens, architecture and style, which is comfortable and exotic all at the same time.

This northern region is very near both the Lao and Chinese borders and is populated by hill-tribe peoples. The French called them Montagnards (mountain people) and this name is still used in

Vietnam today. During the Vietnam war the Montagnards occupied the area known as the Ho Chi Minh trail. Both the communists and the USA sought their services as guerilla fighters because of their familiarity of the territory.

The customs and lifestyle traditions of the Montagnards are related to their tribe; it does not matter whether they live in Vietnam, Laos or China. Most communities share a rural, agricultural lifestyle with similar village architecture and festivals. Each community distinguishes itself with its clothing. There are a variety of fibres used for weaving, dyeing and embroidery stitches. The Montagnards have substantial autonomy which means they can lead their lives as they wish, but they are now "forgotten" when it comes to benefits like better education, health care and subsidized irrigation.



Thuy and Karen



Terraced fields of Sapa

*Our next newsletter will continue with: Indigo, Hemp, Shiny Cloth and Batik.*

# 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 another of our six incredible dyers.*

## Cheryl Wiebe

Spinning led Cheryl to dyeing in 1980. Cheryl's positive personality and dyeing skills led Treenway to Cheryl and we have been happily connected over the past six years. Cheryl is involved in all the types of dyeing we do: immersion dyeing in pots to obtain solid colours, hand-painted dyeing on silk rovings for the Salt Spring Island Series, hand-painted ribbons and threads for the Montano Series and the variegated wool rovings. We have grown together with the creation of the Salt Spring Island Series and the Montano Series. It has taken many hours of designing and experimentation to get the variegated fibres, ribbons and yarns just right and reproducible. With all this work, Cheryl's dye studio has evolved from one hot plate and abused canner to six propane burners with spiffy stainless steel pots. This set up and 30 hours of dyeing a week in peak production makes her indispensable to Treenway.

Efficiency is important in Cheryl's work. Her innovative husband, John, has been a great help with each new dye challenge that has come her way. The multi-dyed fibre and yarns are steamed rather than dipped in a pot, so John picked up a discarded water conditioner and cut it in half lengthwise to make a steamer complete with lid. He then welded it onto a framework to fit over two propane burners and built a series of eight galvanized mesh screens in cedar framework the length of the steamer to layer one on top of the other like Chinese Dim Sum.

Cheryl's passions are spinning and dyeing, although she also weaves, knits and crochets. She has been known to spin everything including the dust bunnies under the bed! Our multi-talented Cheryl also enjoys plunking tunes of all sorts from the piano. In between the weighing, tying, soaking, calculating, mixing, packaging and actual dyeing, she loves and tends their nine llamas, four sheep and 70 chickens. The llamas all have Spanish names to help them feel more at home in this northern land. The animals are great companions, give freely of their fleece for spinning and do the mowing for John.

Cheryl says, "When I first began to dye, I was living in the city so relied on vegetation from our garden and ornamentals plus the odd gathering excursion in the country to feed my quest for more colour for my natural dyeing experiments. Once we moved to the rural setting of Salt Spring Island, it was like I had arrived at the most glorious smorgasbord for my dyepots. I couldn't gather plants and cook them up quickly enough so I began to dry and freeze them as if I were some sort of overgrown squirrel. Eventually in that first summer I realized that I planned to live here for many years and that perhaps I could slow down and try a few new sources each year. I came to the conclusion that it's good to live and dye on Salt Spring."

Dyeing and especially forging through new territory in this fickle art is challenging. We are continually amazed and thankful at Cheryl's composure, good nature and tenacious detective skills.

