



September 2008

Silk Tidings

Greetings from Salt Spring Island

The crickets started chirping last weekend and that always means a time of struggle for me to stay in the present moment and enjoy the last days of summer. Crickets mean the coming of fall and abundant harvests from the veggie garden which is fabulous. They also mean the scurrying to prepare for the rains which will set in including getting the firewood in, putting the garden to bed, finishing plastering the house and getting the sealer coat on.

Crickets are the harbingers of autumn and the gathering of materials for winter projects. Thoughts begin to turn to the studio and to the first art works to start or finish.

We had a product development day here at Treenway and created some fun and unusual things with cocoons. We have added a new page to our website, Projects, and will periodically be adding ideas for using some of our products to spice up the creative time in your play room.



Clay/Straw House Update

We had a fun and busy plastering weekend in June. Family and friends, new and old, came and went, plastered, sang, ate and drank for three days.

Continued on page 2

Silkster's Gallery

We have a new gallery of interesting and diverse pieces on our website to delight you. As always, the work is awesome. Please take the time to have a look at www.treenwaysilks.com and visit the Silkster's Gallery under Galleries. Thank you all for sharing your talent and beautiful work.

Sue Earle of Salt Spring Island, British Columbia, (also known as Bootsie at Treenway Silks) used our threads and ribbons for the exquisite stitching on her shirt.

Tabi Ferguson from Waterloo, Ontario, spins fine silk and silk blends for lace knitting projects, weaving and for sale.

Jean O'Connor of Edmonton, Alberta, creates beautiful baskets using silk yarn.

Louise O'Donnell from Rosedale, British Columbia, constructs fabulous temari balls with silk thread.

Abra Palumbo of Black Creek, British Columbia, collaborated ideas with her daughter to weave a stunning wedding shawl.

Robin Reid from North Vancouver, British Columbia, fuses silk to make enchanting fairy shoes for us humans.

Marie Seabrook of Maple Ridge, British Columbia, used her imagination to make a lovely silk cocoon necklace.



Temari Ball by Louise O'Donnell

Call for Entries

Our next Silkster's Gallery will be in our 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

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.

continued....

Greeting from Salt Spring Island

A half inch mixture of clay, straw, sand and water was applied to the clay straw walls for protection and the finished look of the house. This consisted of making a small ball of the "mud" in your hand and smearing it on the wall. We got all of the outside done and the inside of my studio. It was thrilling for us. We are so thankful for our many friends and family that came to help us make a house.

Right now we are finishing the application of a thin second coat of earthen plaster on the house. This seals any cracks that formed, adds another protective layer and smoothes out any wobbles in the walls. We will have just enough time to get a second sealer coat and the first pigment paint coat on before the rains come. We will put the pigment paint coat on in the spring along with sculpted artwork of sunflowers, celestial sky and sprouting vegetables.

The windows are in and the doors will be hung in another month. Then we can get some heat going to work in the dry and warmth over the winter.



*Clockwise from above:
Susanna Kong;
Megan Riley and
Emma Holmes;
Karen Selk with
Teru and John Low;
getting theirs hands
dirty!*



Silk Workshops

Karen Selk will be in the Mid-west (Minnesota) in February 2009 and on the east coast of the US (NY) in March 2009. There is still room to add a couple more workshops to each region which would help defray travel costs for everyone.

Choose from two weaving workshops, **Silken Kaleidoscope** and **Sumptuous Silk Clothing**, both at the intermediate level, as well as a workshop on **Silk Fusion** at the beginner level.

Karen has five slide lectures from her tours of Asia and study of silk spanning Asia from India to Laos. She

covers all aspects of silk including its history, the geography and cultures of the peoples, raising silkworms, spinning, and weaving and the making of silk fusion. She can also present a lecture tailor made for you.

Please contact Karen if your guild would be interested in hosting a workshop and/or lecture during one of these tours.

Toll free: 1.888.383.7455

Email: silk@treenwaysilks.com

Find more information on workshops and lectures online at: www.treenwaysilks.com/workshops.html

New Products

Funky Fibre Collection

We have updated our collection of Funky Silk Fibres – they are now available in four colourways. We were inspired by four of our annual community events on Salt Spring Island: Apple Festival, Fall Fair, Sea Capers and Saturday Market. Each package includes a selection of colours from the colourway.

Apple Festival is organized by Captain Apple (Harry Burton), who we are proud to say, lives here on Salt Spring Island. The first settlers arrived here about 1860. They were farmers and grew numerous varieties of apples and some of the trees are still producing. Many people here still have a strong connection with the land and are serious about local organic food. During the apple festival 15 farms open their doors for us to come and tour, taste and buy apples. Fulford Hall has a display of the 250 varieties of apples grown here and the pie ladies sell a delicious assortment of pies.

Reds, pinks, russets, yellows greens and bark give Apple Festival a crisp edge.



Fall Fair is something our rural community looks forward to all year. Vegetables, fruits, flowers, canned goods, quilts and much more are judged and hung with blue, red and white ribbons. The chickens, goats, llamas, sheep and other animals kindly put up with hordes of humans oohing, ahing and reaching for a touch. Friends meet, get something yummy to eat from their favourite food stand and listen to fabulous music or watch the kids on the rides.

Fall Fair is the colours of harvest including oranges, burgundy, soft greens and earthy browns.



- Silk Hankies (mawata) 15g \$7.50
- Silk Cocoon Strippings 10g \$4.25
- Silk Cocoons 10 \$4.75
- Carrier Silk Rods 10g \$4.25
- Degummed Throwsters Silk 10g \$4.25

(Fibres are shown below from left to right.)



Sea Capers is always a lot of fun and provides great entertainment. During the boat building segment, participants arrive at the park with \$50 worth of materials donated by one of our local building supply stores and in just three hours build a sea worthy vessel that can be sailed, paddled or otherwise manoeuvered through the water. The launching and sailing always prove hilarious. The vessels must travel approximately 250 yards to a marker in the bay and back. Nearly half of them make it back without any assistance.

Blues, turquoises, greys and purples represent the fun and whimsy of Sea Capers and the ever changing ocean.



Saturday Market is an exciting destination for locals as well as many people who visit the island. Lunch or the week's groceries can be found in the form of fresh bread baked in an adobe oven, fresh goat or cow cheese, vacuum packed salmon, fruits and veggies of all kinds, fresh baked goods or homemade chocolate for dessert and fresh flowers to adorn the table. We love good food and our farmers. A wander down the other side of the park provides a dizzying selection of handmade arts and crafts ranging from hats, soaps, pottery, jewelry, lotions, clothes and wind chimes. Saturday Market is a rainbow of primary colours.



Silky Play Pack

We introduced this bundle of fun in our last newsletter and it has been very popular. This fun pack provides a great opportunity to explore those new silk fibres being incorporated into creative textile arts and mixed media.

Each package contains elements of texture, colour, layering, freshness, imagination and fun.

Silk cocoons, rods, hankies, degummed throwsters silk (or cocoon stripplings) and silk ribbon in dazzling hues inspire the creative spirit to venture out and experiment with something playful.

Each pack contains at least 20g of colourful silk fibre plus 5 yards of 7mm silk ribbon. Colours vary.

\$17.25 each.



Below, clockwise from top left:
cocoons, rods, and ribbon; flower; envelope; vessel; hankie; and cocoons.



Web Site

Projects Web Page

Something new coming to our website

Some products look so interesting, you just have to have them. After it arrives you think, *What am I going to do with it?*

We had our first Professional Development day in August and concentrated on playing with our hand-dyed silk cocoons to give you ideas of some of the fun things you can do with them.

Here are the results of some of our efforts!



What do you want and need from Treenway? We are all ears!

All of you, our customers, are a big part of our business. It is important for us to provide the best product and service we can to meet your needs and desires.

We would like to hear from you about how we are doing, how we could improve and what we can provide other than our current products. Please drop us a line with any thoughts or requests, we always look forward to hearing from you: silk@treenwaysilks.com

Specials

100% Noil Silk 20/2 Yarn

Short fibres left behind after making higher quality spun silk are made into noil yarn. The shortness of fibre length results in a textured yarn with a matte look. It is much less costly than higher quality reeled and spun silks, but combines beautifully with them. The hide and seek between dull and lustrous threads lends a coy playfulness to a cloth.



Left: 4 Shaft Plain Weave, 22 epi; Warp: 20/2 Noil Silk, Merino Wool, Silk Boucle, 120/8 Tussah Silk; Weft: 20/2 Spun Silk
Right: 8 Shaft Undulating Twill at 28 epi; Warp: 20/2 Noil Silk; Weft: 20/2 Spun Silk

Silk has a distinctive silk aroma. Noil has the strongest scent due to impurities in the yarn. The majority of the smell dissipates after washing but can return again when wet.

The skeins weigh 100-105g (approx 3.5oz) with about 900 yd/skein. **Discounted 20%.**

Regular price: \$7.80/100g skein

Sale price: \$6.25/100g skein.

NOTE

1. Prices do not include shipping.
2. Specials end December 31st, 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.

Remember

All prices are in Canadian funds.

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 web site 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 us your full name and email address to info@treenwaysilks.com. Please add us to your address book to ensure you receive our emails.

Dyed Funky Fibres

Cocoons, Carrier Rods, Cocoon Strippings & Natural Silk in Sericin for interesting and textural fibre art!

We have created a series of colourways for our Funky Fibres based on special events that take place on Salt Spring Island (see New Products). We still have an assortment of fibre packages stuffed with random colours which we would like to pass on to you at a good 20% savings. While supplies last only.

Each of the fibres has their own distinct character. For those of you who have not worked with these fun and cutting edge treasures before, here is a little description of each one.

Carrier Rods are a by-product of reeling silk from the cocoon. As the silk filament is unraveled from the cocoon into skein form, some of the filaments get wound around the machinery. This silk with the sericin still in it is then slit and removed. The rods are 5 – 5 1/2" (13 – 15 cm) long when whole and unscrunch. There may be some short pieces and partially wound cocoons in the mix. They are wonderfully textural for stitching, silk fusion and any application needing depth. They can be pressed flat or pulled apart to reveal the interesting criss-cross of the fibres. These rods have so much personality; you won't know what you can do with them until you try.

Regular price: \$4.25/10g

Sale price: \$3.40/10g



Cocoons are the egg shaped metamorphosis home of the silkworm. It contains nearly a mile long strand of uninterrupted silk. The cocoons are stiff and hollow. They can be cut and pierced to make all sorts of things from jewelry to clam shells.

Regular price: \$4.75/10 cocoons

Sale price: \$3.80/10 cocoons



continued on page 6

continued....

Specials: Dyed Funky Silk Fibres

Cocoon Strippings

look like slightly disorganized puffs of carded fibre. This fibre is the first silk extruded by the silkworm which is used as a hammock while the caterpillar spends three days spinning a cocoon. There is still some sericin in the cocoon stripplings which means they can become stiff when wetted. A little teasing makes them soft and fluffy again adding texture to any of your art work or easy to spin.

Regular price: \$4.25/10g

Sale price: \$3.40/10g



Natural Silk in Sericin

is a by-product of the twisting of filament in the reeled silk industry. Fibres get tangled around machinery or are otherwise unable to be used for finished yarns. This source of high quality, long silk fibre contains a mix of curly fibre and lengths of fine yarn. It gives character and surface interest to all of your work.

Regular Price: \$4.25/10g

Sale price: \$3.40/10g



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 graphics wizard.

Susanna Kong

Susanna flew from downtown Vancouver to Victoria's Inner Harbour for an interview with us just before we all moved to Salt Spring Island in the summer of 2001. She worked through the chaos of the move learning a new business and the language of fibre and silk.

Susanna has been an integral part of Treenway ever since, doing everything from taking orders and sending parcels, setting up the accounting system, and much more. As her computer and graphic skills emerged her role has evolved into that of our web mistress, ad diva and all the other things that make us look beautiful in the print and web world.

She is an artist who creates individually designed knit and crochet work for the Saturday Market and dabbles in drawing, painting, sculpture, spin-



ning and weaving. We are fortunate to have her technical and artistic expertise.

Susanna loves poetry, walking home in the moonlight, eating, riding her bike, asymmetry, mowing the grass, her family, her friends, seeing her garden grow, day dreaming, living on salt spring, good coffee, her four legged friends, languages, hard work, colours, fiendish sudoku, sharing, making discoveries, the feel of sunshine on her skin and the smell of the

air after a rain shower.

Susanna is not naturally patient or punctual but is working on both (having less success with the latter).

