



away from him moved along the sides. The one I wanted was not too smart, I guess. He cornered her and was able to lift her by the horns, while I caught her under the belly. So—we got her on to the barrel. He held her & I combed. We decided to name her “Radda”. I combed the bleating, struggling Radda for at least another ½ hour. Finally we had all had enough. I had a small handful of cashmere.

We gave up and left the pen. Nora was by then in the shop, selling skin products. I showed her my results, and then she held up a bag of cashmere that had been combed from one of the larger male goats. I had a handful—she held up a bagful at least 6 times as much. Oh well, I was happy with what I had and with the experience.

Now what should I do? I had ended up with about 28 gms (1 oz.) of fibre (after all that). I had heard that wool was good for storing pearls. I thought—if wool is good, maybe cashmere is better.

I hand carded the fibre of the 2 goats separately on fine carders and rolled it into punis. I spun the fibre from the 2 goats separately. I used a ratio of 12:1 spinning Z and ended up with singles measuring about 37 wraps per inch. I then plied the singles together, one ply being Greve, the other Radda. The plied wraps per inch were about 18.

After washing in mild soap and warm water, I had 87.5 metres of yarn, weighing about ¾ oz.

To knit the pearl bag, I chose a stitch called “Moire” (Mon Tricot Knitting Dictionary, Paris France, page 60). The bag was knit on 2.5 mm needles; a square was knit, then the bottom and one side were sewed

together. A “string” was crocheted and beads added at the ends, to form the closure for the bag. After the bag was finished, a pocket was knit inside, to hold my pearl ring and earrings.

In total, I used only 35 metres of this wonderful yarn, so I still have about 52 metres. Oh joy—another pearl bag—a gift for someone dear.

(You can visit with the goats and Nora Kravis at www.chianticashmere.com or contact Nora via e-mail to info@chianticashmere.com)

Bio: Mara leads an interesting life, being married to a Latvian diplomat. They both grew up in Canada, but went back to their roots after Latvia regained its independence. They have served in Washington, DC; Riga, Latvia; London, England; Ottawa, Ontario; Rome, Italy and have now moved back to Ontario. Mara returned from Rome each summer to work on the OHS Spinning Certificate Course which she has now completed.

Upcoming Deadlines
Features
Dec.31
News - Oct 22
Ads - Nov 15

25 YEARS
SUN BENCH FIBRES

Ashford, Lendrum, Louet
 Majacraft Wheels
 Ashford and Leclerc Looms
 Fiber Trend Patterns
 Spinning and Weaving Supplies
 Books and Dyes.

Hannelore Lubben
 # 1 – 8979 Broadway St.
 Chilliwack, BC, V2P 5V9
 Tel. 1-866-793-0058
www.sunbenchfibres.com

www.tapestryline.com
tapestryline@sympatico.ca 905 836 1321

weaving classes □ Leclerc □ Ashford □ tapestry looms
 4/8 cotton □ mop cotton □ cable cord □ Paternayan tapestry
 yarn in 420 colors □ Lemieux □ Rug Yarn □ assorted novelty
 yarns □ Eucalan □ books