



- On a more personal note, we at FSAD were pleased to know that at least two 4-H groups (Ontario and Cayuga counties) were in attendance.

Regular runway attendees will recall that the Cornell Fashion Collection (formerly known as the Cornell Design League) is a student-run organization open to all students who want to showcase their creative talents through fashion design and fashion management. Students receive no academic credit, but the show provides an invaluable opportunity to design their own clothing line, collaborate with fellow students, and learn how to produce a large-scale fashion event.

Watch a slide show of the event at Cornell Cast <<http://www.cornell.edu/video/slideshow-of-cornell-fashion-collective-2013>> Read more about the show at the Cornell Daily Sun <<http://cornellsun.com/section/arts/content/2013/04/29/sins-and-springtime-cornell-fashion-collectives-29th-fashion-show>> and at the Cornell Chronicle <<http://news.cornell.edu/stories/2013/04/fashion-show-april-27-showcase-cutting-edge-designs>>.

## ENGAGING YOUTH

### Design Smarts at STARR

by Charlotte Coffman

The workshop Design Smarts was offered at the State Teen Action Representative Retreat (STARR), New York State Fairgrounds, Syracuse, NY on April 13, 2013. Participants explored 1D (body



measurements), 2D (paper patterns) and 3D (draping fabric on manne-

quins) methods for designing clothing. Teens discussed using darts, pleats, gathers and other shaping techniques as they experimented with paper pattern puzzles, and pre-cut woven fabric shapes such as rectangles, squares, and circles. They then applied their learning in pairs as they tackle a design challenge using half-size mannequins and an interesting array of fabrics. For complete information about the event, visit <http://nys4h.cce.cornell.edu/events/Pages/STARR.aspx>.



Note: The last newsletter stated that a Fabrications workshop would be offered at STARR. Due to a special request by the teen organizers, this design workshop replaced the Fabrications workshop



### Volunteer to Pilot Test Fabrications

The Fabrications project is all about fabric structure. By making small items such as a trivet, bracelet or keychain, youth will better understand how different textiles are made and why one structure is stronger, more flexible, or in some way preferable to another structure. The project teaches seven techniques: braiding, rya knots, wrapping, twining, plain weave, twill weave and satin weave. It also encourages creativity and collaborative design as young people work together to create a wall hanging as part of a culminating design challenge. All pilot groups will receive the same materials for the challenge but will design their own wall hanging. They will be allowed

to omit one material and to add one material. It will be both instructional and fun to see what other groups did with the same starting materials. We will post photos of the final wall hangings on the FSAD youth webpages and can discuss possible exhibit venues depending on where the clubs are located.

We are seeking ten 4-H clubs who are willing to pilot test the project by the end of 2013. Due to the degree of dexterity required, the project is best suited for those in fifth grade or older.

#### What you receive

- Supplies for ten youth to complete the seven activities
- Instructions for the seven techniques
- Supplies for youth to complete the design challenge
- Instructions for the design challenge
- Feedback on the final wall hanging
- Questionnaires for youth and adults

#### What you do:

- Teach the seven fabrication techniques to club members
- Complete the accompanying questionnaires
- Take photographs of youth engaged in the project
- Complete the design challenge and submit a photo of the wall hanging

#### Timeline:

- Pilot kits for the seven activities are ready and can be picked up on campus or shipped upon request.
- Complete the seven activities and submit questionnaires and action photos by **September 30, 2013**.
- Materials for the design challenge will be shipped when the activity questionnaires and photos are received.
- Complete and submit photos of the wall hanging by **December 31, 2013**.

If your club is interested in trying this new project, contact Charlotte Coffman at [cwc4@cornell.edu](mailto:cwc4@cornell.edu) or 607-255-2009. The pilot phase is limited to the first ten clubs who apply and are willing to commit to completing the project. After revisions based on pilot feedback, the instructions will be posted on the department website for all to use.

### ***The Activewear Advantage at Career Explorations – June 25-27***

Can what you wear make you a better athlete? Is high performance gear worth the price? Join us for *Activewear Advantage*, a Focus for Teens course offered through the annual Career Explorations, June 25-27, on Cornell campus. Participants will learn how special materials and innovative designs used in clothing for sports and exercise can boost physical performance and keep you cool, warm, dry, safe, and comfortable. Meet Cornell researchers and explore careers in this area of functional clothing. Learn how to select and care for these garments. For more information about the complete program, go to <<http://nys4h.cce.cornell.edu/events/Pages/CareerEx.aspx>>



*Note: This course is part of a larger project, Active Youth, Activewear, Active Learning, funded by the New York State 4-H Foundation.*

## Smart Clothing; Smart Girls (SCSG)

The Cornell team has been working on the Materials module and the Minnesota team has been developing the Electronics module as we move toward offering the full 5-day summer program for Smart Clothing, Smart Girls — Engineering via Apparel Design. In the meantime, two other exciting opportunities came along that took SCSG from Geneva, NY to Houston, TX.



### Science Fair, Geneva, NY

A few of the girls who were involved in last summer's pilot project had the great idea of sharing some of what they learned with elementary students through a school science fair. They decided to offer two activities that demonstrated the importance of insulation for clothing worn in cold weather. Fairgoers were asked to compare the effectiveness of different materials in keeping their hands warm. First, they pressed their hands onto a block of ice. "Ooh, that's cold!" They repeated the procedure but with insulative fabrics and insole foams between their hands and the ice. That worked better — well, some of the materials worked better. "Why does the cold go through the spongy one?" Youngsters also tried wrapping themselves in different fabrics, jumping around to generate body heat, and recording the different temperatures using a temperature laser gun. A youth leader remarked, "My favorite part of the event was getting to show others how different materials had such different outcomes and how amazed the kids were when something unexpected happened." The Cornell team says, "Thanks to the adult leaders, the youth leaders, the school administration, and all the enthusiastic participants for including this program in your science fun."

### Diva Design, Space Center, Houston, TX

Diva Design, a program with some of the same objectives as SCSG is taking place in Texas this spring, so it made sense to see if their participants would test some of our activities. About 150 middle school girls built circuits and constructed an LED; they also compared the stretchability of woven and knit fabrics; and tested materials for their ability to provide insulation.

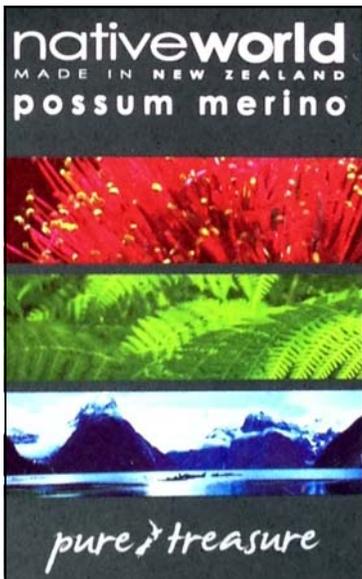
Thanks to Stoll Knits for providing interesting fabrics for the girls to use as they wrapped trees and other structures around the Space Center.



*Note: This project is funded by the National Science Foundation.*

# EXPLORING FABRICS/FIBERS

This is the fifth in a series of short articles about interesting but little known textile fibers.



## (Oh!) possum

by Charlotte Coffman

It is 55 percent warmer than merino wool and 35 percent warmer than cashmere. It is luxuriously soft, long wearing and resists pilling. What is *IT*? The answer is POSSUM FIBER, a unique textile fiber used in expensive knitwear manufactured and sold in New Zealand.

I know what you are thinking. Aren't "possums" those scruffy-looking grey animals that waddle along the road at night and that "play dead" when threatened? The confusion here is that New Zealand has Australian Brush Tailed Possums, *Trichosurus vulpecula*, and the United States has North American Opos-

sums, the most familiar of which is the Virginia Opossum, *Didelphis virginiana*. Different animals; different fibers.

## Australian Brush Tailed Possum



## Virginia Opossum



The stateside opossum's fur is made mostly of awn hair, a fiber of intermediate length shorter than outer guard hairs and longer than the fluffy down hairs found close to the body of other mammals. Although it is not as coarse as it looks, it is not prized for making clothing. In contrast, the Australian possum's fiber has soft tapered ends and is hollow in structure, making it very warm for its weight. The fibers are soft, short and a bit slippery so they are usually blended with wool, silk or nylon fibers for ease of spinning and stability.

The knitters of New Zealand have discovered that possum fiber blends almost perfectly with their other famous fiber, merino wool. This possum-merino fabric is sometimes marketed as "eco-wool" because elimination of the Australian Brush Tailed Possum is a conservation goal of the New Zealand government. The Aussie animal

was introduced into New Zealand in the 1850's and having no natural enemies it thrived until it became the country's #1 pest. It does significant damage to native forests and endangered wildlife species, and is a major carrier of bovine tuberculosis. Possums in New Zealand are not farmed; they are hunted and trapped.

Visitors are fascinated with items made from possum fiber, but you don't have to go to the other side of the world to own a pair of gloves, shawl, sweater, socks, or scarf. All of these items are available online. These products can be safely washed by hand or gentle machine cycle using cold water and wool detergent. Dry flat for drying.

## Resources:

1. Brushtail Possum, Australian Wildlife, <<http://www.australian-wildlife.com/Possum-information.html>>
2. Common Brushtail Possum in New Zealand <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common\\_brushtail\\_possum\\_in\\_New\\_Zealand](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_brushtail_possum_in_New_Zealand)>

## Lavish Lace

by Megan Rodrigues\*

Delicate and intricate, lace has been a widely recognized and popular adornment since the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Although industry executives give varied answers as to what constitutes lace, the most inclusive definition speaks of an open work textile made with interlaced threads to create ornamental or structural patterns. It is often named after the place where it is manufactured or produced, such as Chantilly, France or Antwerp, Belgium.

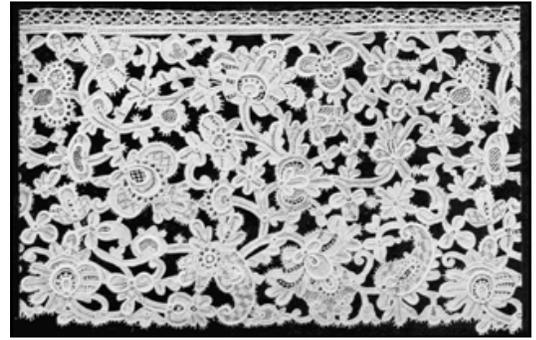


Photo: <[http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Lace\\_Its\\_Origin\\_and\\_History](http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Lace_Its_Origin_and_History)>



Photo: Blake Uretsky

Lacework originated from the desire to make clothing more attractive and interesting. It was also commonly used as a way of making clothing more sustainable. As an outfit was worn frequently and the edges started to fray, a type of lacework involving twisting and stitching frayed threads was used to prolong the wear of the garment. Lace was seen all over the world: with Pharaohs in Egypt, in ornamenting togas in Greece and Rome, and even Italy and Flanders, where artisan guilds made up a large part of the workforce.

As winter slowly turns into spring, many women are opting to skip their heavy coats for higher hemlines and open weaves. Along with this shift, designers have been opting to include lace in their collections, particularly in classic black and white. Industry heavyweights, like Tracy Reese and Nanette Lepore, showed they weren't afraid of showing more skin with lacey collared shirts and floor length dresses coming down the runway. BCBG Max Azria artfully paired their structured and formal garments with dainty lace inserts in unexpected shapes.

In case you are already on trend and own lace garments, here are a few tips to keeping your lace looking its best: Always hand wash lace products under cool water and with a mild and gentle detergent. Use a light hand and be sure to air-dry garments, preferably flat to avoid stretching.

### Types of Lace:

- Chantilly* – Bobbin lace known for its fine, netted ground, outlined pattern, & intricate detail
- Alençon* – Needle lace made in the Venetian style
- Cluny* – Mostly used to trim household items, featuring a rose ground
- Guipure* – Stiff Venetian lace with no netted ground, but embroidery stitches instead

### Resources:

1. Lauriks, W. J. The Birthplace of Lace, LACE Magazine International #49 Spring 1999, <<http://www.lacemagazine.com/Lace%20History.htm>>
2. How to Care for Lace Garments and Linen, About.com <<http://laundry.about.com/od/laundrybasics/a/carelace.htm>>
3. The Lace Guild, <<http://www.laceguild.demon.co.uk/craft/history.html>>
4. Spring 2013 Trend – About Lace, Women's Wear Daily, September 21, 2012. <<http://www.wwd.com/eye/fashion/spring-2013-trend-about-lace-6312440>>
5. Threads Magazine (April/May 2013)

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# ENHANCING SAFETY

## Remembering National Poison Prevention Week

by Charlotte Coffman

President Barack Obama proclaimed March 17 – March 23, 2013 as National Poison Prevention Week, a public awareness event that has been observed in the US since 1961. This year, the American Cleaning Institute effort focuses on the safe use and storage of single-load liquid laundry packets. This relatively new product is convenient for the home launderer, but it can also be attractive to young children if left within their reach. These packets of concentrated detergent contain chemicals that are harmful if swallowed or exposed to eyes.



The American Cleaning Institute offers these safety reminders and asks that you share them with friends and family and through your work with parents, teachers, and young people.

- Store out of child's sight and reach – and away from food
- Do not let children handle laundry packets
- Read and follow the product label
- Do not use single-load packets for washing laundry by hand or to pretreat fabric.
- Place in bottom of washing machine – NOT in the dispenser
- Do not puncture or pull packets apart
- Keep the container closed and dry – handle with DRY hands only
- Packets can rupture, releasing contents into eyes
- Keep product in its original container with intact labels.

**If you think a child has been exposed to a single-load liquid laundry packets, call your local poison center at 1-800-222-1222 immediately.**

Read more about safe laundry practices at [http://www.cleaninginstitute.org/clean\\_living/laundry.aspx](http://www.cleaninginstitute.org/clean_living/laundry.aspx)

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