

# TEXTILES AND APPAREL NEWSLETTER

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## Announcing

### New TXA Websites

#### Costume Collection Website

CHARLOTTE JIROUSEK

**<http://costume.cornell.edu:8080/>**

The new online gallery for the Costume Collection is ready for you to explore. Don't miss the animated three-D (QTVR) selections under the "Treasures" link, and the pop-up images of specific garments in the Johnson Museum show and elsewhere. We will continue to improve and expand this site so check back periodically.

#### Cornell Body Scanner Website

SUZANNE LOKER

#### **[www.explore.cornell.edu/bodyscanner](http://www.explore.cornell.edu/bodyscanner)**

Check out the new website posted by Cornell's body scan research groups. It explains the technology, how it is being used now, research directions at Cornell, and some possible future uses. The site has many visuals and interactive offerings to bring body scanning alive in your own living room.

## ENGAGING YOUTH

### New York State Make It Yourself with Wool Contest 2003

JEAN BONHOTAL

The Make It Yourself with Wool Contest is an exciting opportunity for anyone who likes to work with wool—sewing, felting, knitting or crocheting. The contest is fun and educational and all participants walk away with a prize.

The contest will be held October 18, 2003, 10AM – 2PM. It will take place at the 31st Annual Sheep and Wool Festival in Rhinebeck, NY. (The Festival is October 18 and 19 so plan to spend a little extra time to see the numerous wool exhibits)

The NYS Make it Yourself with Wool Contest has five divisions:

- Pre-teens, age 12 and under
- Juniors, ages 13-16
- Senior, ages 17-24
- Adult age 25 years and older (as of 12/31/02)
- Made for others (any age)

The contest is divided into three parts—modeling the outfit, and garments judged on and off the participant. Garments can be sewn, knitted (by hand or machine), crocheted, or felted from fiber that is more than 60% wool. Short workshops/demonstrations related to working with wool will also be offered.

This year The National Make It Yourself With Wool Contest will be held in Sacramento, CA, January 23-25, 2004. You must participate in the NYS Contest to be chosen for nationals.

#### Applications and flyers are enclosed. Submit applications by October 10 to:

Jean Bonhotal, 4483 Rte. 22, Lacona, NY 13083,  
Tel: 315-387-8050, E-mail: jfb40@tcenet.net  
or

Ann Kelchlin, 3178 Route 7 Howes Cave, NY 12092,  
Tel: 518-296-8388, E-mail: kelchb@yahoo.com

### Pilot Study: Textile Arts & Technology

CHARLOTTE COFFMAN

THANKS to the educators, volunteers, and 4-H'ers in 21 counties who tested activities for the developing Textile Arts & Technology curriculum. A summary of their feedback is given below.

#### Numbers of Participants

Unit	Youth	Leaders
Baskets	79	25
Crochet	86	25
Dyes	77	14

#### Review of Activities

	Youth	Leaders
Best Part	Hands-on experience. Take-home product. Creating designs. Fun.	Watching youth learn and gain confidence. Leaders enjoy these activities, too.
Change	Allow more time.	Provide patterns and instructions for 2 or 3 age groups as younger children had difficulties. Recommend 1 leader for 3 children. Practice techniques before beginning project. Use locally available materials. Provide more background info.

#### Activity Presentation

Organization	Format
By topic – 11	3-hole punch sheets – 16
By age – 10	Spiral notebook – 2
By skill level - 2	Individual handouts – 10
	Web pages - 2



*Post-consumer textile product waste in the US is 8.75 billion pounds annually or 35 pounds per person*

—Steinbring, Y. and M. Rucker  
*Journal of Family & Consumer Science*  
Vol. 95 (2): 33. 2003

## CONCERNING CONSUMERS

### Insect-Repellent Apparel

CHARLOTTE COFFMAN

That buzzing sound you hear is the sound of consumers talking about BUZZ OFF Insect Shield™ Insect Repellent Apparel, the first insect-repellent clothing registered by the US Environmental Protection Agency (July, 2003). Manufacturers claim that this new product repels mosquitoes, ticks, ants, flies, chiggers and no-see-ums. The release of BUZZ OFF comes at a time when US health officials and consumers are increasingly concerned about insect-transmitted diseases such as Lyme disease, West Nile virus, malaria, encephalitis, and dengue fever. Consumers are also cautious about over use of traditional insect repellents, especially those that contain DEET.

BUZZ OFF™ clothing is made by Buzz Off Insect Shield LLC, a company based in Greensboro, NC. BUZZ OFF researchers have been working on this problem since 1997 but only incorporated in 2001. They developed a patent-pending process that tightly binds the insect repellent permethrin to garments, creating an invisible and odorless protective barrier around the wearer.

Permethrin is an insecticide first registered by the EPA in 1977. It is a pyrethroid, a synthetic chemical similar to the natural insecticide pyrethrum found in the chrysanthemum plant, but it remains effective for longer periods of time. Permethrin is found in different concentrations in flea dips for animals, lice shampoos, body lotions for scabies, agricultural pesticides, and garden pest-control products. For some time, it has been available as a spray-on insect repellent for clothing and the US Armed Forces has experimented with impregnating tent fabric and personnel clothing with permethrin. In fact, BUZZ OFF Insect Shield LLC collaborated with the military in the development of this product.

BUZZ OFF has proven effective for the entire time the clothing is worn in contrast to insect repellents applied directly to the skin that wear off in a few

minutes or hours. The more BUZZ OFF Insect Shield garments you wear – shirt, slacks, and socks, for example – the greater the overall shielding effect from insects. According to the International Fabricare Institute, BUZZ OFF insect Shield maintains its efficacy for at least 25 washings.

Extra benefits are sun protection and thermal comfort. Many garments provide 30+ UV protection and the fabric wicks moisture away from the wearer's body.

A limited number of BUZZ OFF pants, shorts, shirts, and socks for men and women are already available from The Orvis Company of Manchester, Vermont and Ex Officio of Seattle, Washington. Both companies are well known for durable, dependable outdoor clothing and promise larger offerings for Spring 2004. In addition, Ex Officio will soon announce a line of BUZZ OFF clothing for children.

BUZZ OFF garments should be machine washed using standard laundry detergent. Small amounts of the active ingredient may be removed during cleaning. Thus, you should launder Buzz Off Insect Shield garments separately from other items. The garments can be ironed, starched, or pressed without any adverse effects. Do not dry clean because this removes the active ingredient. As with any clothing, remember to read and follow the label instructions on the garment.

*Note: Insect Shield™, BUZZ OFF™, and BUZZ OFF Insect Shield™ are trademarks of Buzz Off Insect Shield LLC.*

#### Resources:

1. Apparel Resources <http://www.apparelresources.com/defaultnextnext.asp?cod=newsindetail&msg=3582>
2. Buzz Off <http://www.buzzoff.com>
3. ExOfficio <http://www.exofficio.com>
4. National Pesticide Telecommunications Network <http://www.ace.orst.edu/info/npic/factsheets/permethrin.pdf>
5. The Orvis Company <http://www/orvis.com>

## EXPLORING FABRICS/FIBERS

### Chitin Fiber

CHARLOTTE COFFMAN

Chitin, the second most abundant natural polymer (after cellulose), is extracted from the shells of shrimp, crab, and insects. Chitosan is derived from chitin. Both materials can be made into fibers or used as coatings on conventional fibers or films.

Chitin is bio-degradable. It is anti-microbial, eliminating odors and inhibiting the growth of microorganisms such as *Escherichia Coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Candida albicans*.

The Jifa Group in Qingdao, China uses chitin fibers in underwear, socks, and towels already marketed in France, Japan, and Russia. Physicians use chitosan film as an "artificial skin" to treat burns and severe wounds. Other uses of chitin are as food supplements for humans and animals, coating for seeds, cosmetics, and the removal of heavy metals from industrial waste water.

#### Resources:

1. Chitin Fibre Received Award, Environmental Watch, ATA Journal, Apr/May 2003, pp. 20.
2. Chitin Fibre.  
[http://www.chinajifa.com/en/new\\_product\\_news02.asp-9K](http://www.chinajifa.com/en/new_product_news02.asp-9K)
3. Clemson News.  
[clemsonnews.clemson.edu/WWW\\_releases/1998/November1998/Crab\\_Shells.html](http://clemsonnews.clemson.edu/WWW_releases/1998/November1998/Crab_Shells.html) - 6k

## BROWSING WEBSITES

<http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu/TSactivities.html>

CHARLOTTE COFFMAN

Jan Scholl, Associate Professor, Pennsylvania State University has posted instructions for simple 4-H sewing projects on the Pennsylvania 4-H Textile Science Activities website. Projects include bread warmer, jewelry bag, and fleece hat. All are in color with good quality graphics and can be downloaded without charge. Jan requests that anyone using these projects, let her know how they were used. She can be contacted at Email: [jscholl@psu.edu](mailto:jscholl@psu.edu), Tel: 814-863-7444, Fax: 814-863-4753.

## GATHERING RESOURCES

### Pesticide Safety Education Materials

CHARLOTTE COFFMAN

The US Environmental Protection Agency is offering free posters, bumper stickers, and brochures to remind consumers to properly use pesticides. These colorful materials are available in both English and Spanish:

- *Learn to Use Pesticides Safely* (poster or sticker)
- *Pesticides Are Meant to Poison These... [BUGS] Not These* [KIDS] (poster)
- *Ten Tips to Protect Children from Pesticide and Lead Poisonings* (brochure)

#### For ten or fewer copies, contact:

Communication Services Branch  
Office of Pesticide Programs (7506C)  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460  
Tel: 703-305-5017  
Email: [opp-web-comments@epa.gov](mailto:opp-web-comments@epa.gov)

#### To order more than ten copies, contact:

National Service Center for Environmental Publications  
(NSCEP)  
Tel: 800-490-9198  
Internet: <http://www.epa.gov/ncepihom/ordering.htm>

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