

## Volume 15, Number 3

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September, 1999

## **GENERAL NEWS**

*Charlotte Coffman*

## **A New Look...Coming in November**

The **TXA News** has been to summer camp and will soon sport a new look, a different format, and a more frequent schedule. Watch for the updated newsletter coming to you five times a year (Nov., Feb., April, July, and Sept.). It will include information on department faculty, staff, and resources; inservice opportunities; textiles and apparel research; youth programming; historical notes; and consumer issues.

Suzanne Loker and Fran Kozen will continue to publish **topstitch**, a newsletter for the New York State apparel and sewn products industry. If you want to receive this newsletter, send your request to SL135@cornell.edu or

FHK2@cornell.edu.

Ann Lemley and Katrie DiTella will submit articles on water quality to **Housing Home Environment News**, a newsletter coordinated by the Department of Design & Environmental Analysis. If you want to receive this publication, contact Mark Pierce, Cornell University, E-202 MVR Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853. Tel: 607-255-0431, Fax: 607-255-0305, Email: MRP6@cornell.edu.

## **Textile Exhibits Around New York**

### **"Unmistakably Mackie"**

The Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City will exhibit 100 of designer Bob Mackie's dramatic Hollywood creations, including some of Cher's outrageous costumes. The display is open from September 24-December 31.

### **"Clothing: Science from Head to Toe"**

A traveling interactive exhibit for adults and children is at the Ithaca Sciencenter, Ithaca, NY, until October 25. It explores the science and technology of both everyday and special clothes. Visitors learn how to weave yarns into cloth, how fabric structure affects fabric strength, how reflective fabrics work, and how fabrics help wearers stay warm. Displays on fasteners and protective clothing, including a real space suit, complete the display.

## **Resources from the TXA Extension Workroom**

### **Kit Refills: In-Touch Science-Foods & Fabrics**

In-Touch Science: Foods & Fabrics kit refills are available again this fall. A refill includes experimental materials for 10 persons. Refills cost \$10 and will be sent via POUCH mail to Cornell Cooperative Extension offices; via US mail to others.

### **TXA Lending Library**

Videotapes, slide sets, exhibits, notebooks, and teaching kits are part of the continuing TXA Lending Library. For a complete list of available educational resources, check TXA Visual and Demonstration Aids and Study Packets via CENET or access <<http://www.cce.cornell.edu/home/clothing/txa-materials.html>>

*Note: To order or borrow any of these materials, contact Paula Smith at Tel: 607-255-3196, CENET: TXA, or E-mail: [pjs15@cornell.edu](mailto:pjs15@cornell.edu)*

## **YOUTH PROGRAMMING:**

*Charlotte Coffman*

### **TXA Fun at the NYS Fair**

#### **The Fabric/Flight Connection**

More than a million people attended the 1999 New York State Fair in Syracuse, NY, August 27 - September 6. Approximately 100 4-H members from 13 counties introduced young visitors to the ways textiles are used in aviation. Oswego and Tompkins counties built more than 400 tetrahedron kites. Livingston County taught fairgoers to make flying saucers and parachutes. Other participating counties were: Cayuga, Columbia, Greene, Lewis, Livingston, Niagara, Ontario, Saratoga, Schoharie, and Wyoming. Funds for the materials were provided by the Cornell NASA Space grant.

*Note: The Fabric/Flight Connection Notebook is available at the Cornell Media Services Resource Center, 7-8 Business and Technology Park, Ithaca, NY 14850, Tel: 607-255-2090, Fax: 607-255-9946, Email: [dist\\_center@cce.cornell.edu](mailto:dist_center@cce.cornell.edu).*

### **Simple Gifts**

The Simple Gifts program was once again part of the community service emphasis in the Youth Building at the New York State Fair. 4-H youth and volunteers led fairgoers in making age-appropriate recreational items for persons with Alzheimer's Disease. The items were donated to nursing homes in the sponsoring counties. Handouts and a poster display completed the booth.

Thanks to the community service teen workers and to supervisors Roxanne Dueppengiesser (Wyoming), Tim Davis (Ontario), Beth Garrigus (Monroe), Barbara Merrill (Livingston), and JoAnne Baldini (Tompkins).

## **Make It With Wool Contest in November**

The New York Make It With Wool Contest will be held this year on November 6 at the Best Western in Cobleskill, NY. The national contest is scheduled for Denver. For additional information, contact the State Director: Linda Holmes, P.O. Box 52, Cobleskill, NY 12043, Tel: 518-234-2977 or the National Director, Marie Lehfeltdt, Box 175, Lavina, MT 59046, Tel: 406-636-2731, Fax: 406-636-4911.

## **Inservice Opportunities for 1999-2000**

### **NYSACCE4-HE, October 13-14, 1999**

Workshops for two new curricula will be offered at the New York State Association for Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Educators Conference in Grand Island, NY. Won't you join us for one or both?

### ***In-Touch Science***

In-Touch Science: Chemistry & Environment

In-Touch Science: Fibers & Animals

In-Touch Science: Plants & Engineering

These three NEW In-Touch Science publications will be introduced on Thursday, October 14, 1:30PM. The workshop offers a general overview, explains the teaching strategies, and engages participants in a sampling of hands-on activities. This is a great introduction for those who have not used this program or a practical update for those familiar with In-Touch Science: Foods & Fabrics.

### ***A Style of Your Own***

What's a "weasel word"? Can you distinguish "reverse fit" from "straight leg" jeans? These are some of the topics on the agenda at the *A Style of Your Own* workshop scheduled for Wednesday, October 13, 2:15PM. This project teaches youth in grades 7-12 the six steps of decision-making as they explore clothing needs, examine merchandise, analyze

advertisements, compare costs, and organize community service projects.

The curriculum was developed in New York with 4-H Cooperative Curriculum System funds. Pilot sites were located in California, Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Idaho, Kentucky, Missouri, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Please congratulate these members of the New York team who helped design, write, and pilot *A Style of Your Own*:

JoAnne Baldini  
Melania Nice

Nancy Breen  
Kay Peischel

Barbara Bristow  
Barbara Phelps

Charlotte Coffman  
Josephine Swanson

Linda Davis  
Deborah Sweeney

Susan Greene  
Eve Tamela

Lauralee Harner  
Marcie Wyant

Lois Morton

The series has three publications: *Discovering Choice* (Grades 6-8), *Managing Choice* (Grades 9-12), and *Clothing Decisions Group Activity Helper's Guide*. They can be purchased from the 4-H Cooperative Curriculum System, Tel: 612-625-8173 or 800-87608636, Fax: 612-625-6281, Email: [order@extension.umn.edu](mailto:order@extension.umn.edu), or Web: [www.n4hccs.org](http://www.n4hccs.org) or from the National 4-H Supply Service, Tel: 301-961-2934, Fax: 301-961-2937, Email: [4hsupply@fourhcouncil.edu](mailto:4hsupply@fourhcouncil.edu), or Web: [www.4hstuff.org](http://www.4hstuff.org)

### **Sci-Tech Conference, March 22-24,2000**

The 4-H Science & Technology Committee has agreed to sponsor a statewide conference on science education in Ithaca, NY, from noon on March 22 until noon on March 24. The two primary concepts are:

- The Learning Cycle—preparing adults with teaching strategies
- Citizen Research— preparing youth with science research techniques and skills

Participants will explore these two ideas in large group sessions and then break into one of several tracks that are based on departmental themes such as Natural Resources, Fiber Science, etc. Planning is in progress with full announcement anticipated in early fall. Mark your

calendars now and watch your mail for details.

### **Key Leader Retreat, May 11-13, 2000**

The Department of Textiles & Apparel will offer a retreat at Casowasco Conference Center, Moravia, NY, for persons working with youth textiles and clothing programs. The intention is to organize it so that you can attend one, two, or all three days depending on your time and interest. Topics to be covered are:

- How to organize a Key 4-H Textiles & Clothing Volunteer Program
- Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced Skills for Key Volunteers
- Computer Pattern-making
- Textiles & Apparel Youth Programs/Curricula
- Textiles & Apparel Resources
- Discussion: What is the role of textiles and clothing in 4-H and other youth programs? What should it be? How do we bridge the gap?

Please take note of the dates and watch for details in the November newsletter.

## **SPECIAL NEEDS:**

### **Dressed for Work**

*Katherine Barboza, TXA Summer Student Employee, and Charlotte Coffman*

"If a woman does not have a job, she cannot afford career-oriented clothes, but without the right clothes, she cannot get the job," says Nancy Lublin, founder of Dress for Success. Non-profit organizations, such as Dress for Success, are stepping forward to provide suitable interview and work clothing for women with limited incomes. Some also provide help with career development skills.

Self-sufficiency is the common goal, but the agencies are organized and operated in a myriad of ways. They are funded by religious groups, private corporations, national foundations, government grants, communities, and individuals. Some are open only by appointment and pamper the client with a head-to-toe makeover; others take pride in a drop-in, self-serve atmosphere. Clients are referred by social services, potential employers, homeless shelters, literacy programs, domestic violence groups, and job training programs for welfare recipients or incarcerated women.

The clothing is usually geared to the corporate office so suits, dresses, and separates predominate but some organizations offer uniforms and casual clothing as well. Donations come from neighbors, churches, educational institutions, corporations, the apparel industry, and famous personalities such as Rosie O'Donnell, Oprah, and Hillary Clinton.

Almost all of these organizations rely on dedicated volunteers. Volunteers serve on the Board of Directors, meet with clients, organize clothing drives, manage the shop, inventory donations, and raise money. Some, such as Suited for Change, recruit volunteers to plan and lead professional development seminars.

If you would like to donate apparel to a similar service in your area, remember that the greatest need is women's clothing in sizes 16-28; black slacks and white shirts for food service workers; and accessories such as shoes, purses, briefcases, jewelry, and scarves. Used clothing is acceptable except for pantyhose that must be new or unworn.

If you would like to organize this type of service, you might consult Barbara Smith in Chemung County (Telephone: 607-734-4453; Email: bls10@cornell.edu). She and other concerned community residents pooled their energy, ideas, and determination to establish the Community Clothes Closet in Elmira, NY. Open little more than a year, they have already served about 130 clients and have an inventory of more than 10,000 articles of clothing.

In a recent telephone interview, Barbara pointed out that they had no startup funds. Everything from the building to the clothes hangers was donated. The first clothes came from the closets of the organizers and the dormitories of local college students. Now, folks throughout the county participate. On weekdays, donations are brought to the site. On weekends, a drop box is provided by a local business.

As with similar organizations, the Community Clothes Closet accepts clients through referrals only and depends on volunteers to sort, size, and repair clothing and to assist clients. The Community Clothes Closet, however, offers a bit more—a selection of men's clothing and a free personal care product for each client. As Barbara put it, "Our goal is employment. We are here to serve the entire community."

For an overview of how other service agencies operate, take a look at the chart below.