

TEXTILES AND APPAREL NEWSLETTER

Contents

Announcing

New Publication Available:
Simple Gifts 1

A Style of Your Own Satellite
Training 1

Engaging Youth

\$ for Hands-on Activities at the
NYS Fair 2

Supporting Industry

Database of Apparel and Sewn
Products Manufacturers 2

Technology Management
Survey 2

Concerning Consumers

Farewell to Scotchgard 3

Protecting Kids from the Sun's
Rays 3

Gathering Resources

Publications for Pesticide
Applicators and Their
Families 4

Mail-order Sources for Personal
Protective Equipment 4

Announcing

New Publication Available: *Simple Gifts*

The manual, *Simple Gifts*, is now available from the Cornell Resource Center. It contains illustrated instruction sheets and patterns for 16 handmade recreational items. Skill requirements range from simple cut-and-paste operations to intermediate sewing skills. The items include sewn fabric items such as sensory vests and fleecy muffs; wooden items such as picture dominoes; and miscellaneous craft items such as stress balls and message/communication magnets. Also included is information about Alzheimer's disease and explanations on using the items to interact with nursing home residents.

Authors are Doreen Greenstein, Hesperian Institute, Berkeley, CA; Linda Buettner, Decker School of Nursing, Binghamton State University, Binghamton, NY, and Charlotte Coffman.

Manuals may be ordered from Cornell Resource Center, Business & Technology Park, Ithaca, NY 14850, Tel: 607-255-2080, Fax: 607-255-9946, Email: resctr@cornell.edu, Internet: <<http://www.cce.cornell.edu/publications/catalog.html>> Cost is \$7.03 for CCE offices and \$11 for others.

A Style of Your Own Satellite Training

CHARLOTTE COFFMAN



On your calendar circle in red the date of Tuesday, September 19, 3PM. This will remind you to sign up for the training by satellite on how to use the new curriculum, Clothing Decisions: A Style of Your Own (for youth in grades 6 - 12). The workshop will explain the Experiential Learning Cycle and show how it applies to A Style of Your Own. Designed for 4-H educators, the program should also be useful for other youth groups and for middle and high school teachers.

A Style of Your Own teaches decision-making skills through clothing and accessory management. This learning is reinforced through community service projects.

Engaging Youth

\$ for Hands-on Activities at the NYS Fair

CHARLOTTE COFFMAN

As part of a 4-H Science & Technology Work Group initiative, TXA will offer \$75 to counties willing to promote In-Touch Science, The Fabric/Flight Connection, or Simple Gifts through experiential activities at the New York State Fair. Limited funds are awarded on a first come, first served basis.

The Fabric/Flight Connection explains how textiles are used in aviation. A manual for K-12 includes instructions for building tetrahedral kites, rockets, flying saucers, kites, and more. Select an activity and have fun with visitors to the Youth Building

Awards to 6 counties

In-Touch Science, a hands-on science program for children in grades 3-6, encourages exploration and discovery and helps young people see the science in their daily lives. Select activities from any of four titles:

- *In-Touch Science: Chemistry & Environment*
- *In-Touch Science: Plants & Engineering*
- *In-Touch Science: Fibers & Animals*
- *In-Touch Science: Foods & Fabrics*

Awards to 10 counties

Simple Gifts is a new CCE publication (June, 2000) that features illustrated instructions for making and using 16 recreational items, designed especially for persons with Alzheimer's disease. These items can be donated to a nursing home or used to enhance interactions with family and friends. This has been a successful "donate-one/take-one" fair activity.

Awards to 3 counties

TXA responsibilities:

- Provide participating county \$75
- Provide participating county with promotional materials and activity suggestions
- Serve as a resource to the county staff

County Responsibilities:

- Recruit youth and adult volunteers to staff the booth
- Purchase supplies
- Provide TXA with name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of volunteers
- Provide TXA with an estimated number of participating fairgoers
- Distribute program promotional materials

How to Apply:

Information and applications have been mailed from the 4-H Office. If you did not receive this information, contact Celeste Carmichael, Cornell University, 4-H Office, N-131 Martha Van

Rensselaer Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853. Tel: 607-255-2233, Fax: 607-255-3767, Email: cjc17@cornell.edu.

If you want to discuss program activities, contact Charlotte Coffman, Cornell University, TXA, 239 MVR, Ithaca, NY, 14853-4401. Tel: 607-255-2009, Fax: 607-255-1093, Email: cwc4@cornell.edu.

Supporting Industry

Database of Apparel and Sewn Products Manufacturers

Fran Kozen maintains a computerized database of manufacturers of apparel and soft goods in New York State for the Apparel Industry Outreach Program. This database can be sorted many different ways, making it useful for identifying firms by geographic location, product type, size, or other factors. We use it to locate firms that might benefit from information we have acquired, firms other firms might collaborate with, firms to participate in research or industry studies. It is helpful for government or industry associations needing to identify and describe the industry in New York.

For each company in the database, we have as much of the following information as we can obtain:

Name and Address

Telephone and fax numbers

Web address and E-mail contact

Name and title of administrative and production contacts

Firm type (that is, manufacturer or contractor)

Products manufactured

Brand names or labels manufactured

Number of employees

Production capacity per week

Turn around time for orders

If you have a need to know about apparel and soft goods manufacturing in your county, please contact Fran at fhk2@cornell.edu. Also, due to the fluid nature of the industry in the New York, it can be difficult to keep the database up-to-date. Please help us by notifying Fran if you learn of companies leaving or entering your county, or if existing firms make major changes.

Technology Management Survey

Suzanne Loker is conducting a survey of selected apparel and sewn products firms regarding management issues that affect competitiveness, including technology, organizational resources, training, and mass customization. Phone calls to gather confidential data may be made to firms in your county by the Cornell Computer Assisted Survey Team. If you should receive any calls about this survey, please refer callers to Suzanne at (607) 255-6204.

Concerning Consumers

Farewell to Scotchgard

CHARLOTTE COFFMAN

On May 16, 2000, EPA announced that the 3M company will voluntarily phase out and find substitutes for perfluorooctanyl sulfonate (PFOS), chemical compounds used in some of their Scotchgard lines. Data supplied to EPA indicated that these chemicals are very persistent in the environment, have a strong tendency to accumulate in human and animal tissues and could potentially pose a risk to human health and the environment over the long term.

Until a suitable substitute is found, consumers will miss the convenience of the rain/stain protector known by its trade name Scotchgard. This type of fluorochemical water repellent is unique because it confers some oil repellency while providing durable water repellency. PFOS chemicals are also used in fire-fighting foams; coatings for fabrics, leather, and some paper products; and as mist suppressants.

At present, 3M is the only US manufacturer of PFOS. EPA will be contacting foreign governments and other chemical manufacturers to seek their support for a voluntary phaseout of PFOS and related chemicals. Some brands of fabric protectors, such as Guardsman from Lilly Industries and Teflon textile and carpet protectors made by DuPont, do not contain PFOS. Nonetheless, the EPA is looking at the entire industry.

"Today's phaseout announcement by 3M will ensure that future exposure to these chemicals will be eliminated, and public health and the environment will be protected," said EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner. "EPA will work with the company on the development of substitutes to ensure that those chemicals are safe for the environment. 3M deserves great credit for identifying this problem and coming forward voluntarily."

But what about the accident-prone consumer who spills coffee on the carpet and wine on the sofa? When this question was posed to interior designers and textile scientists, they offered these suggestions:

- Purchase colors of medium tones, textured weaves, and mottled patterns to hide the soil.
- Wait for the appearance of high-performance, stain-resistant synthetic fabrics now in the development and testing stage.
- Use natural fibers that can be laundered.
- Buy white fabrics that can be bleached.
- Use slipcovers for easy removal, laundering, and replacement.

Sources

1. United States Environmental Protective Agency, Washington, DC. Press release, May 16, 2000.
2. Rogers, Patricia Dane. *Fabrics for a Messy World*, Washington Post, Washington, DC. June 2, 2000.

Protecting Kids from the Sun's Rays

CHARLOTTE COFFMAN

Past issues of *TXA News* have described the dangers of exposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays, explained how to protect oneself using ordinary clothing, and introduced fabrics designed to be sun barriers. The current emphasis is on strategies that protect and teach children.

The Australian government recently set standards for sun-protective clothing and now requires children to wear hats to school. In the US, the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) has formed a sub-committee on UV-protective clothing. This committee, which is regulated by the Consumer Products Safety Commission and the Federal Trade Commission, is charged with setting standards and measurements for UV-protective clothing that will be easily understood by the consumer. It is expected that these standards will be published sometime this year.

Recent research has targeted toddlers because they are very active outdoors, still supervised by adults, and not yet set in their habits. Savvy marine equipment and apparel manufacturers have noticed this trend and are touting the protective characteristics of swim vests, swimwear modeled after wet suits, and a variety of hats. Clothing that changes color in bright sun is popular with kids. Prints and colors mirror the general children's market. Splashy tropical patterns, bold stripes, and wild tie-dyes are popular.

Sources

1. Hatch, Kathryn L. *Parent's Sun Protective Practices for Their Preschool Children*, Symposium Proceedings, Safety, Health, chemicals and textiles in the Near Environment, St. Petersburg Beach, FL, pp. 132-143. 1997.
2. *Safeguards from the Sun, Trends in Sun Protective Apparel*, Cleanliness Facts, Soap & Detergent Association, NY, NY May/June 2000.



It takes 88,000 tons of yarn to stretch from Earth to asteroid Braille—more than enough yarn to make sweaters for every person in the US.

—Dr. Marc's Amazing Facts,
The Space Place
<<http://spaceplace.jpl.nasa.gov>>

Gathering Resources

Publications for Pesticide Applicators and Their Families

CHARLOTTE COFFMAN

As temperatures warm and New Yorkers move outdoors, they encounter weeds, insects, and other pests. Many will decide to apply some type of pesticide; some will call CCE offices for training or advice. Encourage all pesticide users to read the pesticide label and to become familiar with the required protective clothing. This is important — whether the person is a certified pesticide applicator with a thriving commercial operation, a council member voting on the issue of mosquito control, or a home gardener hoping to harvest a few cabbage or roses.

Some consumers report that they do not understand label terminology or that they would like more information. You can help those folks by sharing these educational materials.

1. Personal Protective Equipment guides were produced through the cooperative efforts of the United State Environmental Protection Agency and the Cooperative Extension System, United States Department of Agriculture. Titles include:
 - Brush Up on Covering Up
 - Coveralls, Gloves, and Other Skin Protection
 - Clothing Layers for Added Protection
 - Choosing Chemical-Resistant PPE
 - Protective Eyewear
 - Respirators
 - Inspecting, Maintaining, and Replacing PPE
 - Avoiding Heat Stress

To order, contact Cornell Resource Center, 7-8 Business & Technology Park, Ithaca, NY 14850, Tel: 607-255-2080, Fax: 607-255-9946, Email: resctr@cornell.edu, Internet: <http://www.cce.cornell.edu/publications/catalog.html>

2. Iowa State University offers two publication series. The Family Pesticide Safety series includes:
 - Understand Label Precautions
 - What to Do When Clothes are Soiled
 - Wear the Right Clothes
 - Wear Coveralls and Aprons
 - Use Eye and Lung Protection

The Safe Farm series includes:

- Learn About Pesticides and Clothes
- Keep Gloves handy for Pesticide Work
- Cover Up with Coveralls and Aprons

To order, contact the Extension Distribution Center, 119 Printing and Publications Building, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011-3171, Tel: 515-294-5247, Fax: 515-294-2945, Email: pubdist@exnet.iastate.edu, Internet: http://www.public.iastate.edu/-tc-ext/protect_clothing.html

3. Tailgate Training Tip Sheets can be ordered in sets or binders. Titles related to personal protective clothing for pesticide users include:
 - Understanding Pesticide Labels
 - Understanding Material Safety Data Sheets
 - Proper Use of Dust/Mist Respirator
 - Proper Use of Dual-Cartridge Respirators
 - How to Properly Care for Your Respirator
 - Use and Care of Protective Gloves
 - Protective Clothing for Pesticide Use
 - Caring for Your Protective Clothing

To order, contact GEMPLER'S, Inc., PO Box 270, 100 Countryside Drive, Belleville, WI 53508, Tel: 800-382-8473, Fax: 800-551-1128.

Mail-order Sources for Personal Protective Equipment

A copy of the revised handout (May, 2000), New York State Protective Clothing Sources, is enclosed with this newsletter.

Other vendors are listed in Sources of Protective Apparel and Gear, available from Iowa State University (see #2 above for contact information).

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