

TEXTILES AND APPAREL NEWSLETTER

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Announcing

Flammability Fact Sheet

Iowa State University has published a revised fact sheet, NRC-174 Facts about Fabric Flammability. A copy is enclosed for your convenience. Printed copies can be ordered from Iowa State or the fact sheet can be viewed on their Extension Publications website

<<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pubs/cl.htm>>

Simple Gifts Receives Award

The National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences recognized the Simple Gifts Project with the Florence Hall Award at the Galaxy Conference last month. This award acknowledges the CCE educators and many volunteers who have used this program and the 4-H'ers who have demonstrated Simple Gifts activities at the New York State Fair. 2003 Career Exploration youth also participated in this project, making items that were donated to local nursing homes. Congratulations to all who make this project work!

ENGAGING YOUTH

In-Touch Science Update

CHARLOTTE COFFMAN

The National Science Foundation funding for In-Touch Science ended over the summer, but the program continues at a somewhat reduced activity level. Publications are still available through the Cornell Resource Center (<http://www.cce.cornell.edu/publications/catalog.html>) and National 4-H Supply (<http://www.4-hmall.org/>), the kits can be purchased from West Hill Biological (<http://www.westhillbio.com/>), and the exhibit can be borrowed from the TXA Department (txa_extn-mailbox@cornell.edu).

Remember — we are still collecting evaluation forms. If you lead In-Touch Science activities with children, submit the evaluation forms by mail, email, or through the website. Five evaluation forms = free supplies. View the “Incentives” pages on the website for details.

Leanne Moorman from West Virginia and I led a workshop for 20 participants at the Galaxy Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, last month. With completion of that workshop, approximately 1800 adults from 47 states have been trained. Thousands have encountered the program through seminars, demonstrations, interactive exhibits, articles, posters, mailings, and the website.

These educators, parents, and volunteers have engaged approximately 20,000 children in one or more In-Touch Science session. Some youth groups (4-H, scouts, science clubs) have methodically worked through one or several units; others have been involved with the program through science fairs, NYS fair, summer camps, and afterschool programs.

The BIG NEWS is the updated website <<http://www.intouch.cornell.edu>>. Everything you need to present a workshop for adults has been posted on the “Organize a Workshop” page. Viewers can download workshop steps, sample agendas, teaching modules, visuals, and handouts. Suggested agendas for 2-, 4-, 8-, 12-, and 16-hour workshops are available. Text, photographs, and illustrations are organized into 15 modules that include such topics as Program Characteristics, Learning Cycle, Engaging Children, Facilitator’s Role, Parent Involvement, Safety, and Evaluation. The 24 handouts include information on supply costs, letters for parents, applications for trainer

grants, and forms for photography and evaluation forms. All of these items can be printed for your immediate use or you can download them for editing to create your own workshop.

The addition of these materials was in response to a suggestion voiced by several viewers who participated in an online user survey. All respondents rated the site easy to use and helpful. January and May were the months of greatest use; September and October were the months of lowest use. The website is under utilized with fewer than 2000 visitors annually so check it out and see what you’ve been missing.

Great Year for the Fabric/Flight Connection

CHARLOTTE COFFMAN

You’ve probably seen the photos in airports, heard a radio report, or read an article celebrating our 100 years of flight. On December 17, 1903, Orville Wright piloted the “Wright Flyer” for 120 feet, demonstrating the first heavier-than-air, powered aircraft. The First Flight Centennial, a five-day celebration (December 13-17, 2003), is planned for the memorial site near Kitty Hawk, NC. But why wait for the last month of the year? You can lead children in all sorts of flight-related activities right now by using the Fabric/Flight Connection program. The videotape and the manual can be borrowed from the TXA Lending Library (txa_extn-mailbox@cornell.edu, 607-255-3196) or purchased from the Cornell Resource Center. Finally, instructions on how to build your own Wright flyer, are available at this website <<http://www.grc.nasa.gov/WWW/Wright/ROGER/1903model.htm>>.

Chemistry at the Mall

CHARLOTTE COFFMAN

Once again, TXA faculty and students will join others from Cornell University and Ithaca College in presenting Chemistry at the mall in Ithaca, NY. This event is sponsored annually by the American Chemical Society as part of National Chemistry Week. This year, TXA will engage children in indigo dyeing at our exhibit “Blue-Jean Blue.”

CONCERNING CONSUMERS

Everybody Loves a Bargain

CHARLOTTE COFFMAN

A famous actress boasts in a magazine interview about shopping at factory outlets. An eye-catching TV ad shows a young stylish mom racing to the opening of TJ Maxx. Now, the results from Cotton Incorporated's Lifestyle Monitor tracking research makes it official — it is chic to get a good deal.

While some folks have always been astute shoppers; others are facing the financial realities of an economic recession. Some simply like the convenience of parking and shopping without walking acres of mall.

The interesting thing about the Lifestyle Monitor results is that women (ages 16-70) of all income levels shop at off-price retailers — and at roughly the same percent.

Shopping Choices by income

	<25K	26-49K	50-75K	>75K
Off-price	21%	22%	23%	27%
Catalogs	9%	15%	22%	26
Factory Outlets	18%	25%	20%	18%

Women's Wear Daily, September 26, 2002

The leading off-price company is TJ Maxx with over 700 locations. Marshalls has 600, Ross has 485, and HomeGoods 130. These companies target middle and upper-level incomes, but a new off-price store, A.J. Wright, aims at lower income customers. A.J. Wright currently has 60 locations with plans to establish up to 1,000. All of these stores have fresh merchandise trucked in regularly and that is part of the attraction. As a TJX spokesperson put it, "There's an excitement — you never know what you'll find." Forrest Gump couldn't have said it better.

TEXTILE TECHNOLOGY

Textile Technology in the News

FRAN KOZEN

A future without dry cleaning may be coming! JCPenney has introduced a machine washable, wrinkle-resistant men's tailored suit, the Stafford Washable Suit, to accompany its Stafford Wrinkle-Free Dress Shirt. The suit is made of a wool/polyester/spandex blend fabric. Go to www.jcpenney.com to see the suit separates.

Cold? Hot? No more. Italian scientists have created a shirt from fibers that are able to maintain the wearer's body temperature at a constant level. The fiber has capillaries that expand and contract with changes in ambient temperature.

You've read about Smart Clothing (TXA News June 2002). Here's an example coming to market: M.I.T. researchers have developed a protective jacket for women that will jolt would-be attackers with 80,000 volts at the punch of a button. A rubber lining will protect wearers. Advanced Research Apparel will be manufacturing the jacket and selling it for a mere \$900 each.

You'll be able to wear glow-in-the-dark clothing next Halloween if a new Japanese product makes it here. Jack & Co. has developed a thread which glows for 8 hours after exposure to natural or fluorescent light for 10 minutes. It will still work after at least 50 launderings.

Body odor elimination has been the focus of research at another Japanese textile firm. Teijin Fibres unveiled Permafreshy polyester fiber, a fiber with a deodorant attached to the fiber. They expect to be selling it in spring 2004 fashions.

Another antibiotic and deodorizing solution for fibers comes from the Tokyo-based Jewel Power Company. They believe that the inclusion of semi-precious gems and minerals into acetate, art-silk yarns has many health benefits. Tourmaline and serpentine are minerals tested thus far.

You might soon be able to close a separating zipper with your gloves on, or be able to teach younger children to zip their own jackets, with a new zipper design from Talon International. The ZipKlip has a ball design that can be used one-handed and eliminates feeding the end of the zipper into a narrow slot.

SUPPORTING INDUSTRY

Topstitch Goes On-line

FRAN KOZEN

Topstitch, the newsletter for the Apparel Industry Outreach Program at Cornell, is switching from print to on-line delivery. It can be found at www.apparelindustry.cornell.edu/. The current issue, beginning with the Fall 2003, due in late November, will be highlighted. There are currently links to all past issues. These will be expanded to allow searches by topic.

Wanted: Pilot Testers/Reviewers for New Curriculum

FRAN KOZEN

Suzanne Loker and Fran Kozen are developing a web-based curriculum called the *Cutting Edge Apparel Business Guide*, providing design entrepreneurs with tools to start and grow their business. Topics will include product development and life cycle, sourcing of materials, production, intellectual property issues, distribution strategies, and technology for the sewn goods industries. The program will be in modules requiring 1-2 hours to complete. Each will have graphics and videos, such as interviews with design entrepreneurs and will be interactive. A prototype will be ready by November. Pilot testers and reviewers are needed to provide feedback and recommendations before the curriculum is released. If you are interested, or know of someone who might be interested, please contact Suzanne at sl135@cornell.edu.

ENHANCING SAFETY

Glove Liner Study

CHARLOTTE COFFMAN and JANIS STONE

TXA faculty are collaborating with faculty from Iowa State University to conduct a study on liners for chemical-resistant gloves. The study has two parts:

1. Questionnaires and interviews that will assess pesticide applicators' comfort, opinions, and satisfaction in wearing separate cotton glove liners UNDER chemical-resistant (nitrile) gloves as compared to their experience of wearing chemical-resistant (nitrile) gloves WITHOUT liners while applying pesticides in greenhouses.
2. Chemical analyses that measure the contamination levels on various locations of chemical-resistant (nitrile) gloves worn WITHOUT liners, on chemical-resistant gloves worn WITH cotton liners, and on cotton glove liners.

Five applicators in each state wore the gloves for their usual pest-control activities for 10 wearings (five without and five with liners) occurring between April and September. The duration of each wearing was about 30 to 60 minutes, and altogether over 40 chemicals were used for various pest control problems – primarily mites. The chemicals used most frequently in both states were Endeavor (pymetrozine), Floramite (bifenizate), Orthene (acephate) and Distance (pyriproxfen).

Chemical analysis is in process to determine the contamination levels on the gloves and liners for selected chemicals with higher toxicity ratings. Applicators reported that the glove liners were absorbent and kept their hands more comfortable, but that their hands sweat so much that the liners were wet at the end of application time. Applicators did not find the liners difficult to manage, but were concerned about the added cost to employers. Compared to the unlined gloves used before the study, they said that the nitrile and cotton gloves fit better and improved hand dexterity.

Findings from this study are pertinent to the US Environmental Protection Agency decision of whether to allow the use of disposable liners when wearing chemical-resistance gloves. Since the Worker Protection Standard was enacted, pesticide labels have required handlers to wear unlined chemical-resistant gloves. Pesticide applicators resisted wearing these gloves, complaining that they caused increased dermatitis, thermal discomfort, and were difficult to don and doff. The EPA is now considering a change in that position, in hopes of convincing more pesticide applicators to wear protective gloves.

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