

KENTUCKY

MASTER

CLOTHING

VOLUNTEER

PROGRAM

CLOTHING & TEXTILES PROGRAM

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Bobbin' along with Marjorie



"extending clothing knowledge and skills"

July
2010
Newsletter

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I trust that summer is treating everyone well. I have begun to get yearly reports in from some of you. It is so rewarding to see the classes that we offered at the fall trainings being taken back to the counties to be taught again to others. I recently received a forwarded email via long-time Certified Master Clothing Volunteer, Sandy Davis, from one of her former sewing students. The email was a thank you and an acknowledgement of what the Kentucky Master Clothing Volunteer Program is all about. Sandy had mentored a missionary woman from her church, teaching her valuable sewing skills so that she could then pass them along to others. The missionary, Ellen Ombati, now in Narok, Kenya, was able to get sewing machines through the Threads of Hope organization and start a small business with the locals in Kenya making sewn items and crafts. With money earned, they can provide a home, food, uniforms, and a school for "street" children in Narok. With the Extension Homemaker relationship with Ghana, there is the potential for more international involvement. Dr. Kim Spillman, University of Kentucky Merchandising, Apparel, and Textiles professor recently returned from Ghana. Inspired by the visit to the Kentucky Academy, she wants to return with sewing machines in hand. You just never know where our love for sewing will take us and because of it we are making the lives of others better.

This is always an exciting time of the year when I get to announce the upcoming classes for the fall training. Details follow in this newsletter. I hope to have another full class of new recruits. The Class of 2008 will have a major part in training the new class and then be certified. We will also have a special ceremony to induct our emeritus members.

In preparation for our twentieth anniversary, I have been reading through the old newsletters. The program has certainly grow and evolved since those first few years. I was pleased to see so many people—agents and volunteers—are as active today as they were 20 years ago. Reading some of the early spotlights reinforced the need to continue documenting who we are and where we came from. So when I ask for your Spotlight information, please respond.

Marjorie M. Baker

Marjorie M. Baker, M.S.

Extension Associate for Clothing and Textiles

SPOTLIGHT



Rosella Armstrong

CMV Muhlenberg County, Class of 2002

Rosella, tell us about your earliest sewing experiences.

I was first introduced to sewing as a child growing up in Princeton, Indiana. I would watch my mother make clothes on a treadle sewing machine. I developed my passion for sewing in my early teens during two sewing classes. One was an elective at school instead of taking a class in Latin. I loved learning to use a commercial pattern. My first projects were simple versions of a house coat and pajamas. My first fabric was "feed sack" material. After retiring from Tennessee Valley Authority in 1988, I bought a top of the line sewing machine just to have fun sewing with.

How about your experience as a Master Clothing Volunteer?

As a MCV I had to unlearn some skills picked up during a lifetime of sewing. I had been a volunteer for about five years for my county, including 4-H sewing, before being asked by my FCS agent to go through the program. I didn't know how hard it was going to be. It was very demanding.

How about your family?

My husband Dean and I will celebrate 60 years of being married, this fall! Our daughter, Greta Mitchell lives in Orlando, Florida. Our granddaughter, Amber, now a second grade teacher in Orlando would visit every summer and I would teach her to sew. She still takes her spring breaks to visit and do sewing projects together. Our son Greg, also married, lives in Greenville. All together we have three grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Any other thoughts?

I still use my 1950-era Singer Featherweight portable sewing machine to teach basic sewing classes. It is still in excellent condition.



I've learned to quilt since retiring and all family members have their own special personalized quilt. I like learning new skills that I can share with others. It is a privilege and honor to be counted among the talented ladies who go through the CMV training at Jabez.



Paula Atkins

CMV Muhlenberg County, Class of 2002

Paula, tell us about your earliest sewing experiences.

My mother taught me to sew at an early age. She sewed most of her clothes and worked for Marshall Field's department store.

How about your experience as a Master Clothing Volunteer?

I do a lot of volunteer work sewing for special events and teaching 4-H and adult classes in our county and area.

How about your family?

My spouse, James, retired from the state as a social worker. We have two sons Andrew teaches literature and journalism at a Christian school in Nashville, Tennessee. Our youngest son, Thomas, is married and has two sons and a daughter that I am teaching to sew. Thomas is a certified electrician.

Any other thoughts?

I am a retired medical technologist; a graduate of Carson Newman College and Bowman Gray Medical School, Wake Forest University.

I enjoy sewing, especially heritage and doing all kinds of handwork. I am a member of the Embroidery Guild of America.

JUST SEW YOU KNOW

The **statewide training** for fall is scheduled for November 2-5. The Steering Committee is asking that everyone help out with a service project for Operation:

Military Kids. They are in need of backpacks.

We would like to provide them with 100 drawstring backpacks.

Instructions for making the backpack will be included with everyone's confirmation letter and supply lists. Please bring completed backpacks to the training in November.

The following classes are being offered:

Personal Sewing Space; Advanced Collars; Pattern Alterations for the Mature Figure; Textile Fiber and Fabric Identification; Junior 4-H Sewing Projects/Unit II Purse; Service Sewing Showcase; Tool Caddy; Tatting; Vintage Apron; Design by Draping; Level 3 Serger Techniques; Quilt-as-you-go Jacket; Jeans, Jeans, and More Jeans: Recycled Denim; Beyond the Bound Buttonhole; and Creative Machine Embellishment. You can find full descriptions and photos on the MCV website.

<http://www.ca.uky.edu/hes/fcs/MVP/train.html>

Remember to bring silent auction items and money to spend, too. Funds from the auction are used to provide materials and guest presenters for future trainings. The *Mastering Meters* books that everyone received last year were in part funded by auction funds from the previous year.

4-H Fashion Revue

A big thank you goes to Bonny Glass and Patsy Kinman, Grant County CMCVs for judging the finalists' garments for construction. The winner of the state 4-H Fashion Revue received a new Brother sewing /embroidery machine. Participating in the state 4-H Fashion Revue is a great opportunity for senior-age 4-Hers to show off what they have made to a large audience or their peers. Please encourage your senior 4-H sewers to attend Teen Conference next June and be a part of the Fashion Revue



track. Only 17 teens modeled garments this year, one less than last year.

State Fair Judging

If you are interested in volunteering to judge the 4-H sewing or needlework entries at the State Fair, please let Marjorie Baker know so that she can forward your names and contact information to the department superintendants. This should also be coordinated with your county agent(s) who may be traveling to the fair at that time.



Applications for the 2010 Kentucky Make it with Wool contest are now available. The event is scheduled for October 30 in Frankfort

at the Franklin County Extension Office.

Applications are due back to state coordinator, Dorothy Vale, October 1.

Contact Dorothy via email at:

kymiww@aol.com or check with your local county Extension office to obtain an application form.



Preparation is the Key to Success

Submitted by Ann Beard

Being prepared for a sewing workshop can determine success or failure of the program.

We recently did a workshop with military families. The project was a simple drawstring bag. The bags had been precut into kits and all the families had to do was finish the seams, press under the top for the casing, sew the sides, and make the straps. Simple enough if everything is planned and sewing supplies are there, where they are supposed to be. The majority of the group had not sewn prior to the workshop, but they all took instructions very well.

The lesson that I learned is to check to make sure the machines are working properly **with bobbins inside** and extra bobbins and needles just in case. Some first time sewers

tend to pull the fabric through the needle or try to stop the fabric by pulling back instead of removing their foot from the pedal. Luckily, no needles were broken.

All in all if you have extra supplies including needles, **bobbins**, seam ripper, and general sewing supplies, everybody can complete the project and leave with a drawstring backpack on their back.

Remember if you are going to a camp facility; wear comfortable shoes and take a fan; most buildings in a camping area are not air-conditioned. After the class when everyone has completed their bags, it is neat to watch and listen to the sewers comparing each other's projects.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Ann Beard and Amelia Baumgartner volunteered to teach the beginning sewing class for the Operation Military Kids Family camp held in June at the Lake Cumberland 4-H Camp. Thank you to both ladies for their willingness to share their time and skills. Amelia submitted the photos to the right.

TIPS FROM SEW THIS & THAT

Submitted by Marion Mulligan

- Our Derby hats were sensational, adorned with lace ribbons and glorious petunias. Sadly they weren't real, but with a squirt of perfume they looked and smelled like the real thing!
- Tip of the month: Don't throw away any scraps after completing a project. Just sew several coordinating colored strips or blocks together in a pleasing manner. Treat the resulting fabric piece as regular fabric and use it to make collar and cuffs for your next sweatshirt project.
- Gadgets of the month: Keep a small lint roller in your sewing box to pick up those little threads after you "unsew."
- Use bamboo skewers to help guide small seams under the presser foot. They come 50 or 100 to a package at the grocery store. You'll have plenty to share with your class mates at minimal cost.



Calendar of Events



August 16 to 17 – Judging for Cloverville exhibits, West Hall, State Fairgrounds, Louisville

August 20 – Statewide training workshop registration due in state office

August 27 to 28 – ASG Sewing Expo, Indianapolis, Indiana

<http://www.indyasg.org/EXPO%20INFO.htm>

August 28 – Sewing Skill-a-thon, Cloverville, State Fairgrounds, Louisville

September 25 – Ordinary to Extraordinary with Lyla Messinger, Indiana Wesleyan University, Louisville, contact sewnutty2@fewpb.net

October 30 – Kentucky Make it with Wool contest, Frankfort

November 2 to 5 – MCV Statewide training, Lake Cumberland 4-H Educational Center, Jabez

December – MCV Steering Committee meeting, date and location TBA.

Fold-up Fabric Dresser Tray

Here's another idea to use up leftover fabric scraps. Or how about showcasing one of your trial embroidery stitch-outs in the center? Ribbon-ties hold the sides together creating a handy place to leave your keys, cell phone, or jewelry until you need them again. The tray unfolds flat for storage or travel.

Materials Required:

Two squares of fabric measuring 8 to 11 inches (the one pictured used an uneven nine-patch block for one of the sides)

One square of cotton batting the same size as the two squares
2 to 2½ yards of narrow ribbon

Thread

Equipment Required:

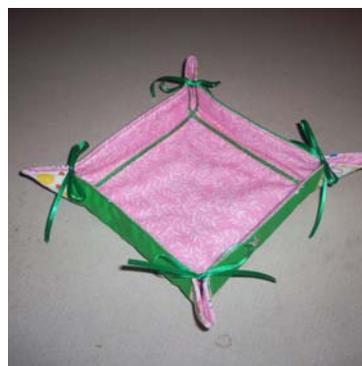
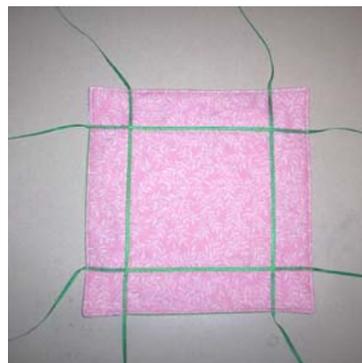
- Sewing machine (with optional embroidery capabilities)
- Measuring tape
- Dressmaker's cutting shears OR rotary mat, cutter, and ruler
- Dressmaker's pins
- Marking pen (water or air-soluble)
- Iron and pressing surface

Sewing Instructions:

1. Layer the two fabrics and batting with batting against the back of one fabric and remaining fabric face down to first fabric. Stitch around all four sides, allowing a ¼-inch seam allowance. Leave a two and a half-inch opening for turning. (Tip: If using the uneven nine-patch block, cut your sides pieces 2 inches wide. Leave the opening within the inside of the block. The opening will get sewn shut when the ribbon is attached.)
2. Trim batting close to seam. Fold corners in along stitching lines and press seam flat as it was first sewn. Turn right side out, work seams along the edges and corners to lay flat and press.
3. Topstitch close to outside edge making sure to close the opening used for turning.
4. With marking pen, draw lines parallel and 1½-inch in from each edge. Cut ribbon so that it extends past the edges approximately 6 inches. Center and sew ribbon along marked lines. (Tip: zigzagging over the ribbon is easier than straight stitching; adjust stitch width to be slightly less than the ribbon width.)
5. Tie corners with extended ribbons. Tray can be tied with either side showing.

Marjorie M. Baker, M.S.
Extension Associate for Clothing and Textiles

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