

Hold On Tight!

TO STYLE

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Susan Sweeney-Crum

AGE: 46 ♦ AFTERNOON NEWS HOST AT WFPL RADIO 89.3

In 2001 Susan Sweeney-Crum was diagnosed with Scleroderma disease, a rare rheumatic disease that affects the connective tissues of the body. She was later diagnosed with lupus and rheumatoid arthritis and suffers from a circulatory condition called Raynaud's disease. Susan suffered for almost two years with body aches, hand, shoulder and elbow inflammation and pain, and with sores and pain in her hands. Susan says when you are in this much pain for such a long time you forget what it is like to feel good. She would wake up at night but would not want to get up because it hurt to move. Her description of the pain level on a scale of one to 10 was a nine.

Individuals with arthritis often find it difficult to use their hands. Joints can swell and lessen mobility. Consequently, dressing yourself can become a chore and sometimes even impossible. Here are some ideas on filling your closet with easy, comfortable clothing and accessories.

Susan is wearing three looks all selected for those with arthritis:



Business Attire (RODES)

St. John bell skirt, \$395 (elastic waist, easy to slide on and covers knee), Bryan Bradley silk shirt, \$188 (open neck-line, easily pulled over the head), St. John jacket with leather & gold trim, \$1,695 (deep v-neck & large button for easy closure), Stuart Weitzman patent pumps, \$298 (slip on, low heel), Majorica pearl necklace, \$395 (long strand, easy to drape over head), Majorica pearl earrings, \$55, Brahman black purse \$295.



Dress Attire (DILLARD'S)

Adrienne Pappelle dress, \$185 (side zip closure and length below the knee), Kate Landry brown purse, \$55 (magnetic closure), Michael Kors Ginger mocha shoe, \$83 (snap closure), Swarovski necklace, \$320 (clasp closure). Susan says, "That's what husband's are for!", Swarovski earrings, \$90, Swarovski bracelet, \$100.



Casual Attire (BLINK BOUTIQUE)

Vince sweater, \$260 (no clasp, easy to put on), Dylan George jeans, \$198 (larger button closure), Blink tank, \$30 (open neck-line, easily pulled over head), Cynthia Vincent boot, \$440, Summer Eliason bracelet, \$45 (magnetic clasp), Summer Eliason necklace, \$86 (ribbon tie, easy to drape over head), Cole Haan gold boho bag, \$357 (light weight, large tag).

Some key things to remember are:

- ♦ tops with open neck-lines so they easily go on over the head
- ♦ skirts below the knee to cover swollen joints
- ♦ over-sized rounded buttons or snaps
- ♦ lightweight bags with a big tag zipper
- ♦ jewelry that will fit over the head or has a magnetic clasp
- ♦ shoes without tiny clasps or laces that will slip on and with lower heels
- ♦ side zip pants and skirts
- ♦ dresses with a side zip or without any fastener
- ♦ capes or wraps
- ♦ larger belts