



First State Mini Club NAME C-150

First State Mini Club Newsletter September 2020

New Castle Senior Center, 400 South Street, New Castle, DE 19720

PRESIDENTS' COLUMN

Hello Miniaturists!

First off – we will be having our September meeting by ZOOM, provided for by NAME, at our usual meeting time and date of 7pm the third Thursday of September, the 17th. Lois will send out emails for everyone with internet. If you have not yet used Zoom, the link will let you download the free application and the instructions for joining are very clear and easy. We are looking into a way for those without internet to join us on a group phone call.

Now for some more web links to keep us looking at the wider world of miniatures.

Dollhouse Live sent out an email that included a link to the Nostell Priory Dollhouse in Britain, a short Youtube video about the house:

<https://www.dollhouse.live/video-nostell-launch-put-on-hold/>

That video led me to the museum's website which has this same video and several more about the dollhouse. Here's that link:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/see-the-18th-century-dolls-house-nostell-priory>



All this led me to the Uppark Dolls House, also in the U.K.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/uppark-house-and-garden/features/the-dolls-house-at-uppark>



I have books that talk about these two dolls' houses and others, but the websites have information about restoration, cleaning and stuff that miniaturists like us really love. Check them out.

Send me info about others that you know about so we can all share.

Thanks,
Angie

I had a phone call from Grace Hayford the other day. After reading last month's newsletter article about the website for the Miniature White House in Florida, she described to me the time the it came to Wilmington in 1980. It was displayed at a hotel on King Street, but she couldn't remember the name. Any help here? She had just joined the club and had volunteered to help with daytime security, keeping people from touching anything, (there's always someone), while the hotel security guards took the night shift. Diane Sawyer was Club President at that time and had been shown how to turn off the lights in the House at the end of the day. One end of the House opens and someone has to crouch inside and underneath, flipping switches as one backs out. Grace remembers that Beverly Meese and Bob Barnet were also members at that time. There were also individual room boxes that showed different Presidential Oval Offices. Does anyone else have a memory of this? Grace thinks that she remembers that Diane DeWalt was also there. Anyway, thanks to Grace for the reminisce.

Co-president Angie Phillips



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lois will be reviewing the budget report which has to be voted on at our September meeting. She has emailed the report so everyone please review it before the meeting and be prepared.



Lois has also been looking into a possible alternate venue for our 2021 show if Covid restrictions continue into next year, as they probably will. The Figure 8 Barn in Bellevue State Park in Wilmington is a huge indoor space with plenty of room to spread out the vendors and (hopefully) the crowd of attendees. A quick overlook at this facility is at this link: <https://www.destateparks.com/wwwroot/downloads/brochures/figure-8-barn.pdf>



Even though we are not having an in-person meeting this September, Wanda is still offering to share her shoe kits with us. Let her know if you are interested and she will make arrangements to send the shoe kit to you, (16 kits available). She is also looking at preparing an instruction video.

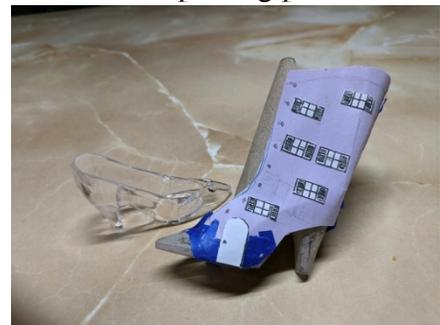
“From Cinderella to Old Woman” by Wanda Simons

Turning a provided “Cinderella slipper” into “An Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe” small scale project begins with making it into a higher-than-ankle shoe, like the usual



representations of the nursery rhyme. Members may customize and make it high-button or lace-up using patterns for the size plastic shoe that is often used as a wedding shower favor (about 2- $\frac{3}{4}$ ” long by 1” wide by 1- $\frac{5}{8}$ ” high).

Whether to use your shoe as $\frac{1}{2}$ ” or $\frac{1}{4}$ ” scale will evolve after deciding how big to make the trim pieces, accessories, and tiny people, if you want to include them. If you want, this can be more of an eye-ball project than true scale.



Also from Wanda Simons

Remember the charming gingerbread houses Marnie introduced us to last year and taught us for the monthly program in December? She also had headed up teaching them at a "Crafternoon Class" at Winterthur last fall.

Now the Newark Arts Alliance (NAA) has announced a "**Gingerbread Extravaganza**", a fundraiser for the NAA to take place this November-December. They'll be having a **gingerbread house competition**, an **online silent auction** featuring fine art, crafts and merchant baskets and an **artist ornament sale**. For more information go to terry@newarkartsalliance.org or contact Wanda at 302 420-3325 or wmsimons@udel.edu.

I will repeat the reminder that Bonnie Kincaid is now using only her cell phone, 302-593-4797 as of the 8th of August.



BIRTHDAYS for September:

Happy Birthday to Pat Deverell, Wanda Simons and Karen Kaminski.



SUNSHINE

Grace is bravely dealing with increasingly poor health. Phone calls, cards, and visits, if possible, would make a huge difference for her.



Marnie is starting a new chemo drug which she will take weekly at home for the next three months with monthly checkups. Fingers crossed, everyone.

DianeAlice Scheuer, Sunshine Chair



OUR PROJECTS

Grace Hayford and Billie Leary report that they are working hard on their kitchens. Grace is using her clone, the one she had made of herself in costume, in a log cabin setting and Billie is doing a one half inch scale contemporary. Both kitchens will have dogs: Grace will share her scene with a mastiff and Billie has beagles.



So far, I haven't received project articles from anyone but Wanda for this month, so I will post some more photos from my "Hygiene In The Absence of Plumbing" project. I have been working on these pieces taken from Thomas Sheraton's *The Cabinet Maker and Upholsterer's Drawing-Book* of 1793. I have previously shown you a washstand with cistern and bidet, and a corner nightstand with chamber pot.



I have since made this Pot Cupboard with a tamboured pair of doors, seen at left. It has 2 working drawers and a small cupboard above for medicines.

My latest in the series, (right), is a washstand with a lead-lined cistern above, a tap with a basin and a lined drawer for the used water to be drained into. The basin has to be taken out of the stand in order to remove the drawer to be emptied. It also has a pair of doors below for concealing a chamber pot. The chamber pots and the basin were all made by the paper coiling method Marnie showed us during one of our last year's meetings.



I have plans for several more pieces of Sheraton's furniture: night stands, dressing tables with pop-up mirrors, and other interesting furniture. I am also working on my *Bunnies at Versailles* series and my *Nursery Rhyme*, going back and forth between them all, solving different problems and working with different materials on each one.



The tea set that I got as a gift for a two-year subscription to *Dollhouse Miniatures* magazine is too large for the standard 1:12 scale but it turned out to be perfect for the bunnies I started making in no particular scale a few years ago. These two bunnies and two more, (Flopsie, Mopsie, Cottontail and Peter), will be having tea outdoors when I am done. I'm not sure yet if they will be serving carrot cake or fresh veggies. The latest two-year gift for a magazine subscription is a chess set in this same too-large scale so I guess the bunnies will get to play with it sometime in the distant future.

Co-president Angie Phillips

If anyone has an article to share for next month's issue, don't hesitate to send it to me, with photos or without.

Thanks

Angie

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Remember:

"Only Through Sharing Can We Really Enjoy Our Treasures"

Happy Miniaturing!