



First State Mini Club Newsletter

January 17, 2019; Meeting is Thursday at 7-9 PM
 New Castle Senior Center, 400 South Street, New Castle DE 19720

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President’s Message Angie Phillips and Marnie King, co-presidents

Happy New Year to all our members. Co-President Marnie and I hope you all had a very enjoyable holiday season and are ready to get going on some great and fun mini work in the new year.

How is everyone coming along on their Tea Party Annual Project? I just finished the final touch on mine. I am a big fan of Jane Austen and her period of the Napoleonic Wars, so I created a bust of the Duke of Wellington for my period party setting. I took a male doll head and added hair using Durham’s Rock Hard Wood Putty. I set a wooden dowel in more putty inside the neck of the doll for a base. I glued on muslin cloth, lace and braid to create his uniform and covered everything in several coats of white paint to make it all look like it was carved from marble. I am pleased with the results and hope you will all be impressed.

Even though Christmas is past, I want to mention my Italian nativity scene that I add to every time I get to vacation in Rome. I buy the figures but build the stable and other buildings myself, so I think it qualifies as miniature making. This year I discovered that on my last trip, I had bought two figures that I already have, so I had to figure out a way to change the repeats to something different. I have two women selling baskets so I repainted the one in different colors and added Fimo bread to her baskets. She is now a baker and I should build an oven for her soon. My other repeat is a water carrier, a little harder to change since he has a shoulder yoke and two clay pots but I think I can cover the pots with baskets and add grapes to make him a vineyard laborer.

We are continuing with our book projects in the coming months, with work on the windows and a demo on wiring for electricity to look forward to. Our annual show and sale is getting closer, so we have our annual work on the postcards coming up. We also have a project for the Annual Convention in July, our table decoration with the theme “A Little Bit of Country - Shabby or Chic”. We need donations along the lines of the theme, so please look through your stashes and find us some “shabbys” and “chi-chi” to furnish this entry. Any questions, contact Wanda who is taking the lead on this project.

Looking forward to seeing all of you,

Angie Phillips, Co-President

Program for JANUARY...bring back your book box! If you still need the opening cut, this will be the LAST time I will bring the saw! Didn't get a book box? Marnie has more and will bring them one more time.

In November, we had papier mâché egg cartons for stone or brick...some are still available.

On your own, install wallpaper, floor the inside, adding floor boards as you wish. Hold off gluing any window trim.

The window and roof will begin!

Supplies to bring: X-acto knife (new blade), emery board or sandpaper, metal cork-backed ruler, sharp or mechanical pencil, cutting mat. Tacky Glue is needed from the club stash (Bonnie and Susan), plus wax paper. If you have a smooth, scoop-like modeler, bring that for the copper which will be tooled into the curve of the roof overhang.

Windows: learn to make a pattern for your window opening. Cut matboard frame strips and glue up the frame and the top and bottom 2 trapezoids that form the bay window sill and the bay ceiling. These will hold the acetate window, which will be provided. Window frames may be taken home to paint before final gluing in of the acetate. DO NOT glue final window into box yet since it could be damaged when we add the light, battery and switch next month.

Roof will be taught as well...bring scraps of foam-core, about 8" long x 1-2" to be cut and glued as the support for the copper roof overhang which will not show, so any color or condition of foam core is fine. It is not recommended to use plain Styrofoam because it flakes and compresses.

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Program for FEBRUARY---(or March as snow date)...**Electricity with LED battery pack!**

Ann Pennypacker will bring a 2-light unit for each of you and teach the insertion of the light for the box. Bring your book box without gluing in window (to protect it while inserting lighting). Evan Designs at www.LightsforMinis.com

Plan where to put the **switch button**...it measures about 5/16" wide, 1/2" long (the part showing) and tapers taking the total of an inch. is about 1/8" deep. We will have drills to make the holes from the back and to create depth for the switch. It could be along the "leaves of the pages," the top of the spine of the book, etc.

Plan where to hide the **battery case but still get to it, about 1" from the switch**. Battery/case measures 1" x 1 1/4" and 3/16" deep...best place is on bottom of book, in pages.

Plan where you want the **lights**, which are a tiny blip on the end of the wire. If you want it to come out into a lamp or sconce, bring that accessory. The light can be at the top, back, or side of your book box. The light is threaded through the item (lamp), through a hole in the box and then threaded through the black shrink tubes and connected to the wires to the switch and battery box.

Tools: soldering iron (Marnie has one), Tacky glue, X-acto knife, Drill (Marnie has one), hair dryer (Marnie has two).

Light kit components are in photo on the next page:

OUTREACH

Marnie King

Iron Hill and New Sweden Centre are resting during the holidays... but Wanda is at work.....

Houseparty Helper for Nashville (July 2019)

Wanda Simons chairing

Cttee: Connie Gorman, Grace Hayford, Bonnie Kincaid, Marnie King, Angie Phillips

THE LATEST ON THE CLUB’S HOUSEPARTY HELPER DONATION TO NAME – HELP AND “STUFF” NEEDED

At the December meeting, it was decided to start with a working meeting of those interested in putting together our 1” scale “Shabby or Chic” project for this summer’s Nashville convention fundraiser. Anyone who would like to be involved should come on Thursday, January 10 at 10:30 a.m. to help plan, design, divide responsibilities, work, etc., and enjoy lunch together at Wanda Simons’, 808 Baylor Drive, Nottingham Green, Newark. Phone: (302) 738-3073 -- wmsimons@udel.edu -- Wanda will have soup, Nick’s dill bread, and cookies for everyone. If anyone would like to have more or different food, please bring it. If you can’t come then, please let Wanda know how you’d like to be involved. If coming on the 10th, please let Wanda know to expect you. -- Phone: (302) 738-3073 - wmsimons@udel.edu.

At this point, the room box base will probably be divided to be two adjacent booths in a multi-dealer “antique/junque” mall. It is expected that we would need donations of small furniture (chairs /tables /bookshelves), lots of small accessories (any scale is OK) in any style, a couple of rugs or more, possibly a transformer and working lamps. If you’d like to contribute anything(s), please bring to the meeting (labeled with your name) or let Wanda know what you have and then bring it, also labeled, to the club’s January or February meeting. Pickup can be arranged. If we end up not using something you have donated, we can return it to you if it is labeled.

Looking forward to having lots of input and donations so we can make a very desirable raffle item, like last year’s Clown Bedroom, coordinated by Bonnie Kinkaid and Susan Ross. Thanks to everyone who worked on that project, too!

Wanda Simons

Joan Hoyt shares this project. Someone is getting a project finished!

My sister collects nativity sets, and I decided to make her a mini set in a cigar box. If all the figures were anchored down, she could set up the nativity set by simply opening the box. First, I took a cigar box glued and two beads to the back-side of the box. Now the box would stand level when the lid was opened down onto the table.



Then I put a faux stone paper on the inside of the box top and one of the sides if the box. This would be the stable floor and outside ground. Inside the box, I built a stable roof and corral for the animals. I used sharpie markers to stain the wood.



I then gathered all the mini nativity figures I could find and began painting. If I had two figures the same, I painted them differently to make them look like another person.

Finally, I glued each piece in place making sure that they did not knock into each other or the stable when the box is closed. My sister loved it!



Happy Miniaturing!

