

A-1 Region Newsletter

Greetings,

Aside from miniatures, one of my main hobbies is gardening. I volunteer with a local community garden, tending and teaching in a section dedicated to children. In the fall my main tasks are harvesting, seed saving, and cleaning up the garden. Even though I have volunteered for eight years every year brings new surprises, such as learning that the ground cherry (see picture to the right) self-seeds. For those of you unfamiliar with this term, when ground cherries die off at the end of the growing season, their seeds nestled within intricate husks fall to the ground leading to new plants next year. The lesson of the ground cherry reminds me of the importance of sharing "seeds" of knowledge with others. Last newsletter I introduced a new section called "Pass It On." As NAME members our motto is "*Only through sharing can we really enjoy our treasures.*" In this edition we go back in time to learn about a talented miniaturist whose almost 100-year-old, hand-carved creations are still educating the public today. If you have a "Pass it On" story, please share.

Sincerely,

Meredith Hink
Newsletter Editor
zondagmd@hotmail.com

PS: Our next newsletter will be published in December so please send me your updates anytime throughout the fall.

Regional Coordinator Notes

Greetings A1,

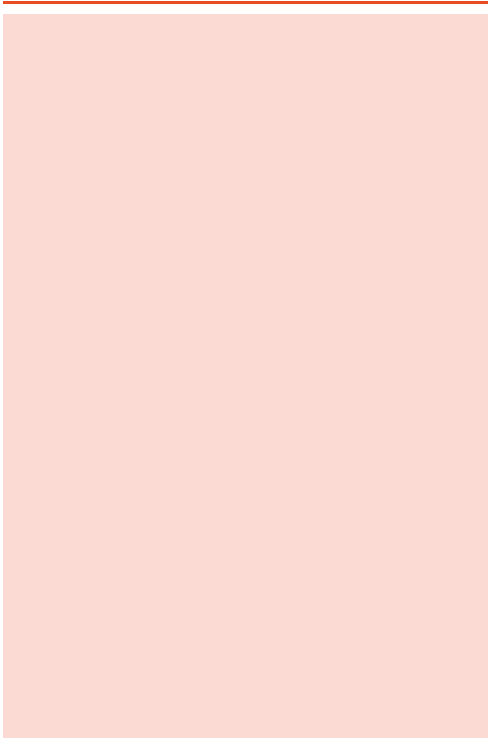
This is my first newsletter as I am brand new to the Regional Coordinator role. But first, thank you Lynn Jensen for the years you served and all that you do for NAME! I have connected with Lynn at many events over the years and always enjoy seeing and talking with her.



Image by [Mabel Amber](#) from [Pixabay](#)

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I just returned from the NAME convention in Cincinnati, which was a great success. I chaired the Exhibits Room. We had great exhibits in all scales. I also was tasked with the gala, where we hit the road to go to Maysville, Kentucky to view the Kaye Savage Brown Miniature Collection. I had never been there, and it was stunning. We had dinner in the Washington Opera House next door to the museum. Although we just walked through to the dinner space, the Opera House was a beautifully restored historical building. Kaye gave the attendees a wonderful presentation about her collection. It seemed everyone had a great time. The gala was on Wednesday night and the convention was in full swing on Thursday.

Great workshops and theme luncheons were offered. I will say that the publicity team did an amazing job announcing public days for the event. On those days, the sales and exhibit rooms were packed! What I enjoyed most was seeing all the young people that came through, many with bags in their hands. It was a great sign for the future of our hobby.

For those of you I have not met, a little about me. I live in Adel, Iowa, which is just west of Des Moines. I am originally from eastern Iowa. I have attended many NAME conventions, state days, house parties, and other events. I also served on the Board of Trustees until the convention in Cincinnati when my term was up. I have belonged to a club in Des Moines for several years. I work in most scales but tend to lean towards one-inch, although I have several quarter-inch projects in the works. Besides miniatures, I cross stitch and sew. I also love to travel and have been to all 50 states, with the help of NAME events that have taken me around the country. I look forward to meeting you all!

Beth Grabau

Events

T&D Miniatures Shows 2025 Schedule

September 5 & 6, Tennessee Dollhouse and Miniature Showcase, Patriot Hall, 320 Emberson Dr, Ringgold, GA, Fri 4-8, Sat 9-3

September 12 & 13, Indianapolis Dollhouse and Miniature Show, Wyndham Hotel, 18592 Carousel Lane, Westfield, IN, Fri 4-8, Sat 9-3, Classes on Friday

Oct 3 & 4, St Louis Dollhouse and Miniature Show, Machinist Hall, 12365 St Charles Rock Rd, Bridgeton, Mo, Fri 4-8, Sat 9-3, Classes Friday, Exhibits

Nov 7 & 8, Chicago Autumn Showcase of Miniatures, Wyndam Garden Hotel, 1725 E Algonquin, Schaumburg IL, Fri 4-8, Sat 9-3, Classes Friday, Exhibits

Want to host a NAME table at a T&D show? Contact Teresa Zwiener at tminiatures@gmail.com; 314-277-2601.



Club Information

Illinois

Midstate Minimakers of Illinois
Meets every two weeks 1:00-4:30 PM
Bloomington, IL
Contact: Sandy Staker
309-585-0384

Wee "C" Miniature Club
Meets 4th Friday at 7:30 p.m.
Oakbrook Terrace, IL
Contact: Monica Bernard
773-251-5180

The 993 Club
Meets Saturdays at 1:00 p.m.
St. John, IN
Contact: Lula Martlink
219-627-4770

Metro Mini Makers
Meets 2nd Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
Moline, IL
Contact: Karen Cockerill
309-797-6489

Iowa

Miniature Club of Cedar Rapids
Meets 2nd Saturday at 9:30 a.m.
Contact: Linda Freeland
Marion, IA
319-373-1993

Omaha-Council Bluffs Miniature Guild
Meets 3rd Sunday- La Vista Community Center
La Vista, Nebraska
Contact: Sheila Froendt
402-305-2989; sfroendt@cox.net

Minnesota

Midwest Miniature Guild**
1st or 2nd Saturdays February, May, October
Minneapolis, MN
Contact: Eva Donaghue
eva@evasetceteraetc.com
www.midwestminiatureguild.org

Mini Wonders in Chicago
Meets 2nd Saturday at 3:00 p.m.
Chicago, IL
Contact: Delia Gray (773-820-1519)
President Carla Burruss (312-404-7986)

North Shore Miniature Society
Meets 2nd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
Contact: Sharon Zingery
773-262-7699

Town Hall Minis
Meets 3rd Tuesday at 12:30 p.m.
New Lenox, IL
Contact: Karen Dircks
815-462-9527

WEST
Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month
Contact: Beth Grabau
Windsor Heights, IA
515-993-3240

Missouri

Dream Builders (all scales welcome) **
3rd Wednesday of the Month – 10:30 am
St. Louis Area
Contact: Elaine Levine
314-323-6193
elainebio@aol.com

Wisconsin

Madison Area Miniature Enthusiasts (MAME)
Meets 2nd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
Madison, WI
Contact: Janice Waisman
608-770-8458

Lakeshore Miniature Makers
Meets 3rd Saturday at 9:00 a.m.
Sheboygan, WI
Contact: Elaine Dunisch
920-452-4798

Retreat Into Miniatures (RIM)
Meets second weekend (Friday-Sunday) October
Cedar Valley Retreat Center – West Bend, WI
Contact: Carolyn Mitchell
414-355-8492

** Non-NAME clubs

State Representatives

Iowa: Beth Grabau
greta@alumni.iastate.edu

Illinois: Sharon Zingery
szingery@gmail.com

Missouri: Susan Goodwin
aspsusang@gmail.com

NAME Updates

Convention News

A1 was well represented at the convention this year. We had the following people on the steering committee:

MINIS ONLY
Meets 1st Wednesday at 11:00 a.m.
Wentzville, Mo
Contact: Frances Gerardi
636-887-0167

Milwaukee Miniatures
Meets 1st Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Greenfield, WI
Contact: Carolyn Mitchell
414-355-8492

Mini Diversions
Meets Sundays every couple of months
Greenfield, WI
Contact: Lynn Jensen
414-235-8193

Three Rivers Miniature Club**
Meet Saturdays once a month
La Crosse, WI
Contact: Yarrow Brown
Yarrowbrown74@gmail.com

Wisconsin: Alician Pearce
ubfaep@yahoo.com

Minnesota: Jane Sanem
janeannsanem@gmail.com

Welcome Chair: Barbara Anderson
barb-a2110@hotmail.com

Sharon Zingery: Member/Club Favor Co Chair
Carol Mosse: Houseparty Helper Co Chair
Alician Pearce: Operations Chair
Becky Maganuco: Sale Room Co Chair
Jane Sanem: Theme Luncheon Chair
Joan Purcell: Theme Luncheon Co Chair
Julie Stuckmeyer: Workshops Co Chair
Beth Grabau: Exhibit Room Chair

During the convention in Cincinnati, the following Clubs were recognized:

- Madison Area Miniature Enthusiasts received a 45-year anniversary certificate
- Miniature Club of Cedar Rapids received a 40-year anniversary certificate
- Midstate Minimakers of IL received a 30-year anniversary certificate
- Metro Mini Makers in the Quad Cities received a Blue Ribbon Club Award
- WEST in the Des Moines area received a Blue Ribbon Club Award



If a club rep was not at the convention, I will be sending your certificate to the point of contact listed on the website.

Alician Pearce is looking for people that would be willing to help at the National Convention in A1 Reg'n (location TBD) in 2028. If interested, please contact Alician at ubfaep@yahoo.com.

Missouri News

The National Museum of Toys / Miniatures in Kansas City has various ongoing programs and is hosting talks from experts on collecting retro Star Wars memorabilia. The museum is accepting applications for the Executive Director position – for more details go to toyandminiaturemuseum.org.

The St. Louis Miniature Museum will be having the following classes this autumn: "Real Estate is for the Birds" on September 20 and "Hauntingly Cute Halloween Scene" on October 25.

The Trails Regional library in the small town of Holden will host a class on making a Halloween diorama on September 17, from 3 to 5 pm.

Iowa News

The Iowa State Fair just wrapped for 2025. This year the entries were up slightly at 61. It is exciting to see the increase from year to year in our hobby. The miniature department is still considered one of the top things to see at the fair and as always, the exhibit room was packed!

This year, the following Iowa NAME members had exhibits: Terry Neuzil, Tia Eggers, Lorna Whitlow, Renae Brandow, and Beth Grabau.



Gypsy wagon: Renee Brandow

The WEST Club sponsors the People's Choice Award. Fairgoers can vote on their favorite exhibit. This year 10,438 votes were cast. Given that voters are a small portion of those who visit the exhibits, our miniature hobby saw a lot of traffic at the fair. I hope the Iowa NAME members consider entering next year.

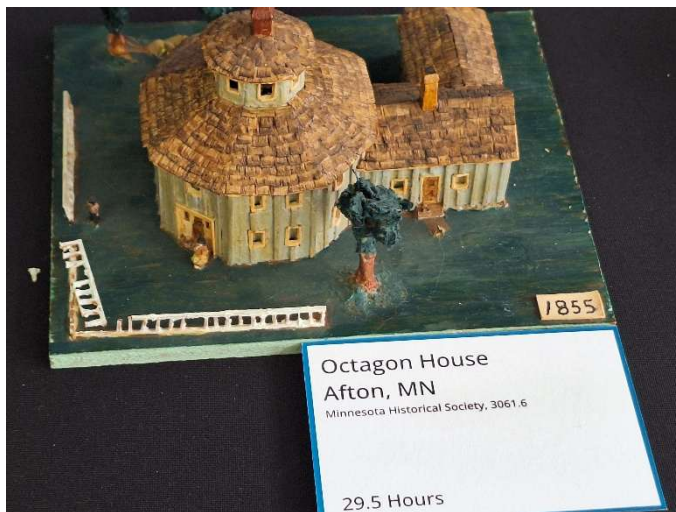
Pass It On



This summer I had the chance to go on a day trip with fellow miniaturists to the Minnesota T&D Miniature Show. En route we stopped at the Sibley Historic Site which is operated by the Dakota County Historical Society to see the Marian B. Winter collection. The exhibit was put together by site supervisor Kara McGowan who describes herself as a “budding miniaturist”

Marian was a Minnesota resident who wanted to preserve homes, buildings, and structures that were important to Minnesota history in miniature. She researched and visited each site and then recreated it in miniature using stone, brick, wood, paint, a jack-knife and razorblade. Sometimes she even used materials from the original structure. She completed 45 structures in all over 1000 hours.

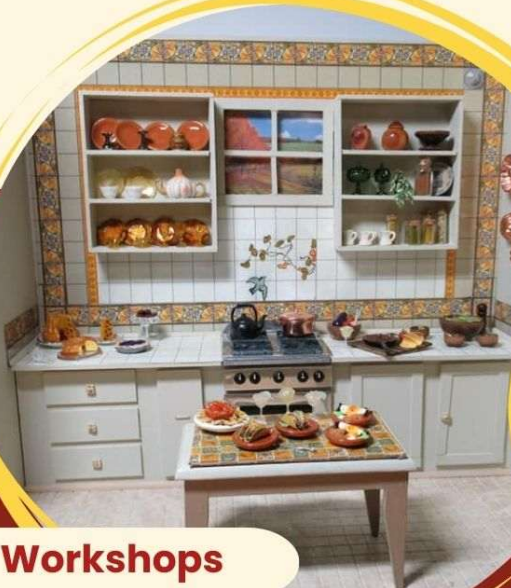
Viewing this collection, I was impressed by the level of detail given the limited tools that Marian used. Some buildings even had tiny people she had carved and painted! The buildings were grouped by type of structure – schools, churches, homes of famous politicians, and famous buildings of industry. Signage explained each building, where it is/was located, how many hours it took Marian to create each building, and even QR codes to websites for buildings that can still be visited today. Some buildings are no longer in existence, which made me grateful that Marian had the foresight almost 100 years ago to preserve their memory for future generations.





RETREAT INTO MINIATURES

DO YOU ENJOY MAKING SCALE REPRODUCTIONS (Miniatures)?



Workshops



Social Networking



Connect with Nature

Want to spend a weekend with like-minded people and Create Miniatures?
JOIN US the 2nd weekend in October

- Affordable, on-site lodging
- 8 Cooked and Served Meals
- Door prizes, vendor tables, exhibits, guest speakers & more!
- Variety of classes in different scales to choose from!

**JOIN OUR
FACEBOOK GROUP!**



retreatintominiatures@gmail.com



West Bend, WI

www.retreatintominiatures.org