



NAME Region E-2

NO - Name NEWSLETTER

Volume 003 Issue 003 January 2025

Name this Newsletter Contest!

In the November 2024 issue of this Newsletter all members of Region E-2 were invited to participate in a contest by submitting suggestions to the editor for a name for our Newsletter. I know everyone was busy during the holidays with family and travel, etc. Therefore, the contest has been extended until February 2, 2025!

Not only will the winner have their name suggestion proudly displayed on all future Newsletters, but they also get to pick a prize to be mailed to them, postage free, at the end of the contest.

Please email your suggestions to the editor at marthabates@comcast.net or text 318-658-2867. All submissions will be considered, and a drawing will be held to choose the winner! The winner will be contacted for their mailing address and choice of one of these prizes: *1/12 scale floral arrangement; 1/24 scale molded jello; 1/48 scale fireplace*

Thoughts and Prayers, please

John Clarke has been a SAM member since 2010. His wife LaJuanna has been one of SAM's favorite instructors at the Wonderful Workshop Weekend for several years. John has been LaJuanna's right hand as well as a cheerful volunteer, active supporter, and familiar face at SAM events. He also helped with the design of several mini projects and kits. Recently he has had some health issues; we wanted to let all who know may have met him know of his plight. Here is a brief update on his condition.

John had a stroke on December 6th. The stroke was triggered by a melanoma that metastasized to his brain causing a large blood clot and brain bleed. He had surgery on the 9th and that went well - doctors think they got everything. Since then, we have seen progress every day. He can now walk with assistance, dress and feed himself. We are now dealing with confusion and cognitive issues. We are told that he probably will not get better, but we are praying for that to improve. They also said he will not drive nor be left alone. Next week he will start radiation just to be sure there are no more cells. He will only have 5 treatments. After that he will start Speech therapy, Occupational therapy, and Physical therapy. This will be done at the Permian Basin Rehab Center where he served as the Ex. Dir. for 25 years.

Mini Memories

Dedicated to those NAME Members recently lost

Karen Carter * Mar 7, 1944 – Dec 17, 2024 * Arlington, TX

Margaret Karen Carter was born March 7, 1944, at St. Francis Hospital in Cape Girardeau MO and grew up in Jackson MO. She obtained a BA in elementary education and BA in French from the University of Missouri. She taught middle school languages in Sacramento California.

While in California she met and married USAF Ronald Keith Carter in August 1968. She traveled as a military spouse and settled in Arlington Texas with Ron and her daughters. She was a lifelong pianist and flutist playing for the marching band during college and with civic groups.

Karen was a lifetime member of NAME since 1981 and highly active with shows and clubs in Texas. As a member she received the Founders award and held many state and national offices. She loved creating real life scenes and playing music.

John D. Underwood, Jr. * Nov 8, 1932 – Nov 20, 2024 * Denison, TX

John was born in Piggott, Arkansas in 1932 to John and Marietta Underwood. He attended Hendrix College before joining the Air Force in 1953.

He met his wife, Sandra Ashburn, in 1955 in Denison, TX while he was stationed at Perrin Airfield. Together they embarked on his military career, which took them across the United States and around the world with assignments in nine states, and Japan and Italy. He and Sandra retired to Denison in 1980 but continued to travel the world to places like Hong Kong, Paris, and Morocco.

During his years in Denison, John and Sandra ran a small business building and furnishing doll houses for delighted customers around North Texas. He served on the board of the Society of American Miniaturists in several roles and as its president. John and Sandra were highly active members of SAM since joining in 1989. They taught many classes in Salado throughout the 1990's and he served two terms as SAM President from 2000 until 2004.

Region E-2 NAME Clubs

Austin, TX area:

Lone Star Miniaturists Stacey Abernethy 610-751-9393

Houston, TX area:

N.U.T.S. Mandy Hebert 713-303-5568

San Antonio, TX area:

Inching Along Kitty Engstrom 281-732-2800

Oklahoma City, OK area:

Shrunken Treasures Sandy Davis 405-623-4780

Quarter Nuts Denise DeCost 405-615-5320

Tulsa, OK area:

Tulsa Miniature Club Sonny Thompson 918-231-9001

N. LA area: Non-NAME club looking for new members

Ark-La-Tex Miniatures Society Martha Bates 318-658-2867

Miniature Diorama Shown in New Orleans

Miniaturist and NAME member, Mickey Finley, from Shreveport, LA entered this unique diorama in the *What if?... Diorama Contest*. The event is held each December at The Bywater Museum of UnNatural History in New Orleans, LA.

Mickey's entry depicts a praying mantis, Dr. P. Ray Mantis PHD in his doctor's coat at his worktable examining an "abnormal" brain, which is human! Around the room you can see other items that tell the *What If?* story, such as a jar of eyeballs, human skulls, and a skeleton.

an imagination!

Seems our Mickey has quite



NAME Region E-2 Calendar of Events

Feb 22, 2025. SAM Birthday Party hosted by Lone Star Miniature Club, Cedar Park, TX. Contact: Susan Carr. kaaalaroo1@gmail.com

Jun 21-22, 2025. Texas Miniature Showcase, Dallas, TX. Contact: Susie Mendoza. 214-494-1452 info@ texasminiatureshowcase.us

Aug 14-17, 2025. NAME National Convention, Cincinnati, OH
Contact: www.miniatures.org/25cincy

Sep 11-21, 2025. Oklahoma State Fair Miniature Exhibits, Oklahoma City, OK
To Enter Contact: www.okstatefair.com

Sep 12-14, 2025. SAM Wonderful Workshop Weekend, Killeen, TX
Contact: Kendra Sechovec. mininut99@gmail.com

Oct 4, 2025. NAME Day 2025 Contact: greta@alumni.iastate.edu

Oct 4-5, 2025. Lubbock Annual Miniature Exhibit & Sale, Lubbock, TX
Contact: Linda Clifton. lgc@sptc.net or www.miniaturistsoflubbock.org



TINY TIPS!

Need to remove the brown edges on laser cut wood kits or to lighten them before staining or painting? Simply moisten a Magic Eraser, wipe the edge on the white sponge and watch the brown disappear! Sanding also works, but I find this quicker and easier.

Submitted by Martha Bates

Melinda Yates

NAME State Rep, Texas



My name is Mindy Yates and I've been fascinated with miniatures since I was 5 years old. My mother and father are both highly creative people. My dad could make anything in wood or metal and would often putter around in electronics. He taught me to build without fear. If you mess something up, maybe it'll actually be better than you planned. My mother can draw, paint, and sculpt. Her imagination can find the most amazing things where someone else might just see the mundane. She taught me to see the possibilities in acorns and rocks.

I started making miniatures when I was very young with them. My first doll's house was made when I was only about five years old. It didn't make it past the bare shell until much later. It didn't matter. I played in that house every day. It often had many more rooms than the original 6 because I would expand it, in my imagination, out into my room. I would furnish it with a combination of fine miniatures, scraps of fabric and unfinished wooden pieces from the local discount store. There were rarely dolls in my houses. I always imaged myself in them and never agreed on any doll that looked like my vision of myself.

As I grew older, fashion dolls became a passion, with many hours spent sending my characters through all sorts of wild and domestic adventures. Playing with them taught me the value of scale and proportion. Shoe boxes became homes to imaginary mice and sand piles became entire landscapes for Lilliputian communities.

Later, I spent less and less time in my imagination and more and more in the large world. Even then, though, I was teaching myself new skills. I learned to sew, quilt, tat, knit and crochet. I learned how to make pictures from stained glass. I developed skills in photography and drawing. When I had a son of my own, I helped him learn to imagine his own worlds with action figures and building bricks. Mud puddles in the backyard would become swamp worlds far, far away.

Now I've come to realize that I don't just make miniatures. I make entire worlds with wood and metal. I can draw, paint, sculpt, sew, quilt, tat, knit, crochet, photograph and make stained glass pieces for them. I can spend hours on end sharing my new little worlds with my family. Imagining exactly what I like. Building it just the way I like it. If it doesn't come out right. Well, maybe it'll actually be better this way!