

# THE MUM CHRONICLE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OLD DOMINION CHRYSANTHEMUM SOCIETY

Camilla Ng, President  
Dorothy Pines, Editor

ODCS website: [www.odcsmums.club](http://www.odcsmums.club)

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**Events Box: Please join us Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 for the Zoom Meeting at 2:00 pm. Topic will be “Fertilizers for Mums” and mums available for new members to purchase and for May public sales.**

**All meetings will be in Zoom until the pandemic is abated.**

Featured in this newsletter is ODCS Board officers, mums order update, membership update, Awards and horticulture notes.

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear ODCS members,

A belated happy New Year and happy upcoming Lunar New Year.

First off, I like to thank everyone for your support and encouragement to me to accept the position as President of ODCS for 2022. During the last two years of service as Co-President, I have gained a deeper understanding of the enormity of tasks that need to be performed in-order to fulfill the objectives set forth in the ODCS By-Laws. Thanks to the contribution from you, these goals were met. For the chapter to continue to thrive, your continuous volunteerism and support are most needed and appreciated.

The Board members of 2022 are Ed Mascali as Vice President and Galen Goss as Treasurer. The Executive Board is comprised of the elected officers and the Standing Committees - Lisa Romano as Membership Chair, Dick Waldschmidt for Supply Order with Gary Holliday as Assistance, Jim Dunne for Public Relations and Publicity with Janice Chan as Assistance, and Dorothy Pines as the Newsletter Editor – plus Rosemary Smith as the Immediate Past President. The ODCS website Webmaster is Van Avondolio. I am grateful to each of you for staying on as officers of the Board and Committee Chairs, providing continuity and services to chapter members.

The Corresponding Secretary slot is still vacant. The duty of the Corresponding Secretary is to conduct general correspondence of the Society, send cards to members as deemed appropriate. Anyone who is interested please email me at [OldDominion@mums.org](mailto:OldDominion@mums.org).

A gentle reminder to members to renew your membership if you have not done so. Please send in your 2022 membership dues made payable to ODCS and the Membership Form to Lisa Romano, the Membership Chair. The Membership Form is attached in the Newsletter email.

## **NEW MEMBER WELCOME**

By Lisa Romano

We welcome new members Lillian Chan, KuanLoh, Kim Renick and Royal Reynolds to the Old Dominion Chrysanthemum Society. Since the chrysanthemum was introduced into the United States during colonial times, its popularity has grown such that mums now reign as “Queen of the Fall Flowers.” Many varied effects can be achieved, even when only a small growing area is available. As a new member, it is important to attend meetings as often as possible. That way you can get hands-on help from long time members. Get involved: the more you put into your membership, the more you receive in return. You’ll be winning blue ribbons in no time, make new friends, and having lots of fun! We look forward to meeting you in person at some point during the year – perhaps at our potting activities and plant sales.

## **GOODBYE TO NORMANDIE**



Normandie Atkins, an ODCS member of 38 years has relocated back to her home state of Texas. Normandie has been a very active member of the chrysanthemum community both on the chapter and national levels. She served as a NCS Judge, the NCS Garden Committee, and the ODCS Corresponding Secretary. We wish Normandie the very best in her new home.



Normandie at her garden.  
Photo by Ed Mascali.

## 2021 NELS and GINNY JOHNSON AWARD

The ODCS Executive Board has selected Van Avondolio as the 2021 recipient of the Nels and Ginny Johnson Award for Outstanding Service to ODCS. Van designs and maintains the ODCS website with monthly upload of our newsletter and other updating of current information. She facilitated the Sign-up Genius App to help with the potting event. She volunteered for the potting tables set-up and potting. Van has been an active member of Old Dominion for 17 years. The recognition is well deserved for her many contributions.



Camilla Ng, Van Avondolio, and Rosemary Smith (left to right)  
Photo by Ed Mascali.

## OTHER ODCS AWARD RECIPIENTS IN 2021 by Galen Goss

In addition to Van, ODCS had two additional award recipients in 2021. They are pictured above with Van. Rosemary Smith and Camilla Ng both received NCS Outstanding Service Awards last year. The awards were announced at the NCS Board meeting in October and reported in the December issue of *The Chrysanthemum*.

Rosemary and Camilla were recognized for their outstanding contributions to ODCS, especially during 2020 and 2021. They saw us through the pandemic as our co-presidents. Camilla took the lead on our monthly newsletters (with input from Rosemary, Galen, Ed, Dorothy, and others) during the two years. It is no small task to put together the newsletter. Rosemary was our Zoom leader. She mastered Zoom and instructed many of us on how to access it for our meetings. Rosemary has also been compiling our mum group order for several years. Congratulations to both Rosemary and Camilla!

### **SAVE THE DATES FOR POTTING ACTIVITIES**

Many hands will be needed to help with the potting. Please mark your calendar to help with setting up on Wednesday May 4th, and potting on Thursday and Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> and May 6<sup>th</sup>. This will be at Tim Moore's backyard, 9338 Athens Road, Fairfax, VA 22032. Participants will be required to wear masks and maintain safe spacing between one another. Plants and supplies will be available for curb-side pick-up on Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup> by scheduled appointment. You can pick up your plants on the day of potting if you are volunteering on the potting task. There will be further information on signing up for the potting activities.

### **ODCS MUM ORDER STATUS FOR 2022**

by Rosemary Smith

I would like to thank all our members for your patience and understanding in getting our mums cultivars ordered! It couldn't have come at a busier time in our life with the holiday season upon us. Yet everyone rallied and got their orders in to me so ODCS could place our order with King's on time. King's Mums had assured us that if we got our order in by 31 Dec 2021, it would be fulfilled. All bets were off the table if we placed it after 31 Dec 2021. This was particularly difficult as we did not receive an update from King's letting us know what cultivars had been eliminated.

Mums is the word this year! Nationwide the demand for exhibition mums has greatly increased from last year. Many NCS non-members have been turned away from purchasing King's as he has been unable to fulfill all the demand! This year we had a total of 397 King's mums ordered for 2022 but 102 of those are for our two plants sales at Green Spring Gardens and Freeman Store Grounds meaning we had 295 from members. Last year, with no plants ordered for sale, we ordered 380 plants from King's. Thus, despite the nationwide increase in demand, orders from our members declined by over 20 percent.

*River City*, an Irregular Incurve and *St. Tropez*, an Intermediate Incurve were the most popular cultivars overall.



*River City*

Grower/photographer Doris Shen



*Golden Gate*

Grower/photographer Harry Livesay

Here is a breakdown of cultivar popularity by how they appeared on our order form:

Irregular Incurve	<i>River City</i>
Reflex	<i>Joyce Fountain/Samson</i>
Regular Incurve	<i>Derek Bircumshaw</i>
Decorative	<i>Honeyglow/Indian Summer</i>
Intermediate Incurve	<i>St. Tropez</i>
Pompon	<i>Feeling Green/Statesman</i>
Single/Semi-Double	<i>Peggy Stevens/Yodogimi</i>
Anemone	<i>Prom King/Seaton's Ruby</i>
Spoon	<i>Matchstick/Oriental Knight/Redwing</i>
Quill	<i>Seaton's Coffee</i>
Spiders	<i>Coral Reef</i>
Brush and Thistle	<i>Saga Nishiki</i>
Exotic/Unclassified	<i>Lili Gallon</i>
Cascades/Bonsai/Trees	<i>Hatsune</i>
Heritage Mums	<i>Kiwi Magic</i>

Here is the rundown of non-King's mums ordered: 1,224 Garden mums were ordered with *Mumma Mia Red* being the most requested; *Staviski Yellow* cultivar was the most popular of the 102 Belgian mums ordered; 672 Pot mums were ordered with *Golden Gate* being the most sought-after cultivar.

Once again thank you for your orders!

### SUPPLY SALE

The Supply Order form will be sent out at the beginning of March. The supply will be available for pick-up the same time you pick-up your plants on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Dick

Waldschmidt, our Supply Order chairperson, will be assisted by Gary Holliday. Thank you both for volunteering.

## HORTICULTURE NOTES

by Galen Goss

**What do I plant my mums in – soil that is.** You have a couple of choices depending on where you are planting.

1. **If in the ground** – then you can just plant in the natural soil – Virginia clay – or you can supplement the natural soil with some additives. The danger of just planting in Virginia clay is that you will probably not have adequate drainage which your mums need. The clay will create its own in-ground clay pots holding the water and potentially drowning the mum plant's roots. You can avoid this danger by amending the natural soil with a number of additives. Normandie Atkins developed a simple recipe.

For a bed of approximately 100 square feet, mix and till in:

- 5 lbs. 5-10-5 fertilizer
- 5 lbs. superphosphate
- 5 lbs. dolomitic limestone
- 1 bale peat moss
- 3 bags composted cow manure or rotten leaf mold (3 bushels). I cheat on this one and use topsoil. You may have to judge whether your bed needs or can hold the whole bale of peat moss and 3 bags of additional material. I do not always use the whole amounts.

Let the bed rest for a week or so before planting. Before planting, rake the bed to a smooth surface. This is an easy recipe to follow and it works.

You can consider a raised bed for your mums. This gives you the opportunity to add better soil with the Virginia clay. I have a slightly raised bed for my garden mums – framed and leveled – so somewhat raised. Each year as I turn the soil (by hand as opposed to a tilling machine) I remove some old soil with clumps of clay. This gives me the space in the bed for the additives from Normandie's recipe. After many years, I can put a shovel into the bed to at least the top of the blade. It is good, loose, dark soil.

The other step you should take when planting in the ground is to test the soil pH. Mums like a slightly acidic soil – about 6.5. You can obtain soil test kits at a number of locations – local library, garden centers, and Master Gardener’s tables at local farmer’s market. The test kits are sent to VA Tech. The kits are free, the test has a modest fee. The results will tell you if you need to increase or decrease the acidity of your soil to the optimal level.

2. **If in pots** – you can either mix your own soil or use a pre-mixed soil like Pro-Mix that we will have on the Supply Order next month. We will also have several sized pots on the Supply Order. I have used both and I must tell you that I find it a whole lot easier and quicker to use the Pro-Mix. When I mixed my own, I would combine topsoil, peat moss, and perlite. I was buying 3 items and then spending time mixing them in a tub – 1 bag of topsoil, an approximate equal amount of peat moss, and then enough perlite that would help with drainage. Then I would add water. Now, I just put the Pro-Mix in the tub and add water – enough that the soil sticks together when picked up and squeezed.

There are more extensive discussions about soil for your mums in both the *Beginner’s Handbook* and the *Advanced Grower’s Handbook*.

Either in the ground or in pots, you need to fertilize your mums throughout the growing season. Our February Zoom speaker will talk about fertilizers. We will have a variety of fertilizers available on our supply order next month.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Please save the dates for upcoming chapter Zoom meetings and activities:

- February 13<sup>th</sup>, Mums for plant sales; Fertilizers for Mums, Ed Mascali and Camilla Ng
- March 13<sup>th</sup>, Propagating Chrysanthemums, Pat Stockett Johnston video
- April 10<sup>th</sup>, “Magic with Mums”, David Eigenbrode video
- May 5<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup>, ODCS Potting Activities
- May 7<sup>th</sup>, ODCS Mums and Supply pick up; Ayr Hill Garden Club Public Sales, Vienna
- May 14<sup>th</sup>, Green Spring Gardens Public Sales, Annandale

- June 12<sup>th</sup>, July and August Tasks, Pat Stockett Johnstonvideo
- July Picnic, TBA
- September 11<sup>th</sup>, September/October Tasks, Pat Stockett Johnston
- October 29<sup>th</sup>, ODCS Mums Show
- November 13<sup>th</sup>, Annual Meeting/Brunch - TBA

### **GROWER'S HANDBOOKS**

Everything you want to know about mums but afraid to ask? Galen Goss has copies of the *Beginner's Handbook* (\$10), the *Advanced Grower's Handbook* (\$10), *Mums the Word* by Pat Stockett Johnston (\$15), and the 2021 *Classification Handbook and Appendix* (\$15) for sale. These are very handy informational books, valuable for new and experienced growers. Please contact Galen at [galen.goss@mums.org](mailto:galen.goss@mums.org).

Those who are interested in keeping this season's mums as stock plants, the NCS booklet *Care of Stock Plants - Rooting Cuttings, 2021 Edition* (\$6) can be ordered through NCS's website [Care of Stock Plants – Rooting Cuttings | National Chrysanthemum Society, USA](#) NCS accepts PayPal for your convenience.

### **EDITOR'S MUSING**

Saving mums in this weather is a guessing game. The methods vary depending on personal preference. For a novice "saver" the use of best guest is handy. Some experts say bury the pot in the soil about halfway up the pot, others say turn the pot on its side and lightly cover with mulch or pine needles, or place in the garage watering only to keep the soil slightly moist. I choose the last two, using different varieties of mums. More to come. Now we wait.