

# 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)

JUNE 2022 Vol. L, No. 581

**Events Box: Save the date - Please join us Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, for the Zoom Meeting at 2:00 pm, July and August Tasks, Pat Stockett Johnston video and discussion on pinching.**

Featured in this newsletter is information on potting and sales events, horticulture notes, ODCS Show Challenge and new NCS website.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear ODCS members,

On behalf of ODCS, I like to thank all the volunteers one more time for your generous gift of time and energy helping out with potting and public sales. In face of adversity, be it inclement weather or shipment delays, you stepped forth in number, rose to the occasion to do what was needed and succeeded with flying colors. It was wonderful to see the cooperation and camaraderie amongst the members. Thank you also to the Supply team, Dick and Gary, for filling our supply orders, and Tim for hosting potting at his backyard. Each of you make this village a thriving mum community.

I especially want to acknowledge and thank Galen for pulling the lion's share of the potting and public sales responsibilities. From handling the numerous correspondence and coordination with plants wholesalers, supply ordering and booking sales venues, to creating a method to the madness in printed order labels and cross check order tables, and reshipping plants to out-of-state members. All the behind-the-scenes details that Galen tended to, made the process on the days of potting and pick up ran like clockwork. And don't we all rather sleep in on a cold rainy Saturday morning? Galen set up shop for the Ayr Hill Gardens Club Sales, on such a rainy day, 7 A.M., while others were still California dreaming. A week later, on a milder misty morning, Galen arrived at Green Spring Gardens at 7:30 to discover that our neatly assembled tables, tent and trays of plants that we have set up the day before, were disassembled and moved by the Green Spring Gardens

staff! By the time I arrived at 8 A.M., Galen had all the tables and tent reassembled, single-handedly. Each time, in face of adversity, Galen dealt with what had to be done, never wasted a moment on negative word towards heaven or men. This is a person of true grit. I am very lucky to have Galen as a mentor, as ODCS (and NCS) is lucky to have Galen in leadership.

With plants and supplies orders fulfilled, it is now up to the grower to nurture and train the young plants according to their styles. Our next Zoom meeting will be June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2 P.M. “July and August Tasks” with Pat Stockett Johnston videos will be featured. Discussion on pinching will follow the short clips. Reminder that the recording of the April meeting is available till June 11<sup>th</sup>. The link to the recording is in the May newsletter. Looking forward to seeing you on Zoom.

### **POTTING AND SALES REPORTS**

By Galen Goss, Potting and Sales Chairman and  
Camilla Ng, Major Supporter and Team Leader

As you are all aware, our potting and sales activities this year were unusual – to say the least. The shipping date from King’s was a week later than it was supposed to be. Then, UPS sent one of the 5 boxes of King’s Mums on a journey through TN, VA, CT, PA, MD, and finally back to VA and Tim’s house. However, it arrived too late for any of the cuttings to be available for our Green Spring Gardens sale.

We had great help at Tim’s to pot the garden and pot mums on Thursday, May 5. We finished potting about 1,400 cuttings and filling members’ orders on Thursday which allowed us to avoid any work on Friday in the rain. The Vienna sale was rainy and chilly. Fortunately, the weather did not deter buyers and we had a good sales day even without any King’s Mums. Todd Brethauer met Galen at the Vienna site at 7 am to help set up the tent and other equipment. It was great to see

Todd after over 2 years. Janice Chen assisted with sales as did Ed Mascali. Shuntai Zhou delivered plants at 7 am and then came back to help with the take down at 1 pm. (photo of Vienna sale – photo by Galen Goss)



Once the King's boxes (4 of them) arrived on Thursday, May 12, Camilla made some quick phone calls and texts, and we had a group assembled to sort and pot the nearly 350 cuttings. We filled our members' orders and then prepared for the sale at Green Spring Gardens. Friday morning saw Gary Holliday, Camilla, and Galen put up the tent and tables. Ed delivered several trays of plants as did Kuan Loh (a new member).

Saturday started with some light rain which fortunately stopped just as the sale was beginning at 9 am. After 2 years with no sales events to buy mums, our customers seemed most eager. We were sold out of our King's in about an hour and totally sold out by 11:45. This is the quickest we have reached a sold-out position in decades. It was a good feeling. We saw many new customers and recognized quite a few returning customers from years past. We signed up one new member and one new associate member. Those are good results also. Gary and Janice helped Galen with the take down at 3 pm. (Photo by Janice Chen)



I will report the final sales numbers in the next newsletter. Refunds have been made to our members for cultivars that were not ordered.

## **YOUNG GARDENER PROJECT**

We are very pleased to share that five families have registered six participants for the Young Gardener Project. The children, ages 7 to 15, are within our targeted age group. The parents all expressed that their children are excited about the program and looking forward to learning to grow mums. We will have our first meeting with the families in June.

## **JUNE BIRTHDAY**



Happy birthday to Mike Hill in Tennessee. Galen Goss is also having a June birthday. Wishing you both healthy and joyful birthday and many more to come.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Welcome new Associate member Jon Gazakek and new member Katherine Linden of Maryland. We look forward to meeting you at our June meeting.

## **GARDEN TIPS FOR JUNE AND BEYOND**

Here are some overall instructions for care of your mums during the upcoming summer months of June, July, and August.

1. Keep re-potting your new plants. When the roots have penetrated the soil and are to the edge of the pot, re-pot! “Potting-up” helps the plant develop a good strong root system. Best to increase the pot size step-wise; resist using too large a pot too soon.
2. Garden mum and cut flower mums should be planted early as they benefit from pinching (up to about July 15). Make the first soft pinch after the plants are established and they have made four or five new leaves.
3. Large flowering types (disbuds/exhibition) also require pinching to control plant height and to determine the kind of bloom bud and bloom date. Do not pinch past late July.
4. Many mums require support. Staking and tying are a must for straight stems. Keep tying them up as they grow (not too tight!).
5. Water, water, water! When possible, morning is the best time to water. Water deeply, but don’t over water. Keep an eye on drainage, the roots need air, too. Mulch to keep roots cool, conserve moisture, and keep foliage clean.
6. Establish a regular routine of fertilizing. This keeps the growth rate steady as evident in the internode’s spacing. If possible, alternate watering and fertilization. Do not apply fertilizer to dry soil or wilted plants. Watch for signs of over-fertilization such as brittle leaves or curled edges of leaves.
7. Insects and pests – check the plants routinely. Good cultural practices and sanitation will take you far. When chemical controls are needed, spray both upper and lower sides of leaves.
8. Groom as you grow (disbud). Remove growth from leaf axils. Maintain only the number of stems on the exhibition plants that you wish to grow and bloom. Remove yellowed leaves. For garden varieties, pinch to encourage branching (up to July 15).
9. Maintain regular routine, keep records of all feeding, repotting, and spraying.
10. Learn to read your plants. Records and attention are your best allies.

## NEW NCS WEBSITE

NCS has a newly designed website. The address remains [www.mums.org](http://www.mums.org). Please check it out. It has some new features and many improved old features. We are still building it (the photo gallery, in particular) so if you have any suggestions for the site, please let Galen and Anette Lloyd (the NCS Social Committee co-chairs) know. Anette can be reached at [anette.lloyd@mums.org](mailto:anette.lloyd@mums.org).

## PHOTO GALLERY



Setting up crew: Tim, Galen, Van, Dick and Shuntai.  
(Photos by Camilla Ng)



Potting crew: Janice, Carol, Tim and Jody.



GSG crew: Camilla, Galen, FROG, Lisa and Dorothy.  
(Photo credit to GSG staff)



Sold out success. Trucks loaded.  
(Photo by Janice Chen)

## 2022 SHOW CHALLENGE

John Capobianco has sent us a limited quantity of a “mystery” disbud, which we will use for our 2022 Show Challenge. The name of the cultivar will be revealed at our show. All we know now is that it is a Class 1 Irregular Incurve.

John is the owner, operator of Capobianco Creations in Farmingdale, NY. He is also the president of the Long Island chapter and a past president of NCS.

If you are interested in growing this mystery cultivar to enter in the Challenge section of our October Show, please contact Galen at [galen.goss@mums.org](mailto:galen.goss@mums.org) while supplies last. The cost of a cultivar is \$3.00. They will be distributed on a first-come basis.

## IMPORTANT DATES

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

- June 12<sup>th</sup>, “July and August Tasks”, Pat Stockett Johnston video
- July Picnic, July 9<sup>th</sup>, location TBA
- August 14<sup>th</sup>, Part 2 “Magic with Mums”, David Eigenbrode video
- September 11<sup>th</sup>, “September/October Tasks”, Pat Stockett Johnston video
- October 29<sup>th</sup>, ODCS Mums Show
- November 13<sup>th</sup>, Annual Meeting/Brunch - TBA

## NCS T-SHIRTS AND CAPS

Galen has a supply of “Mums the Word” T-shirts (recently reduced to \$15, XXL \$18) and ball caps (also reduced to \$15) for sale, no shipping cost. You can see the items at the NCS website: <https://mums.org/shop/>. If you like to get one of these NCS products, please contact Galen at [galen.goss@mums.org](mailto:galen.goss@mums.org).

## GROWER’S HANDBOOKS

Everything you want to know about mums but are 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* (\$7) can be ordered through NCS's website <https://mums.org/shop/>. NCS accepts PayPal for your convenience. Galen has this one also. You can save the shipping and handling charge by contacting Galen directly.

### **EDITOR'S MUSING**

Three cuttings appear to be strong and unaffected by the weather. The lone cascade will be transplanted to a larger pot with the wire mesh netting in a few weeks. The remaining plants will not be transplanted until I can see roots at the bottom of the pots. The testing continues.