

# THE MUM CHRONICLE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OLD DOMINION CHRYSANTHEMUM SOCIETY

Camilla Ng, President

Dorothy Pines, Editor ODCS website: [www.odcmums.club](http://www.odcmums.club)

MAY 2022 Vol. L, No. 580

**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.**

Featured in this newsletter is information on 2022 supply order, horticulture notes, potting and sales events and Signup Genii.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear ODCS members,

The April nor'easter brought us the last blast of winter for several days. Even though it was relatively mild in the MidAtlantic compared to the foot of snow in Pennsylvania and New York areas further north, we had to protect our winter overed mums against damages from the cold rain.

At the April meeting screening of Part One of David Eigenbrode's "Magic with Mums", we learned the effects of the different sizes of the containers for propagating cuttings. David shared with us the meticulous design of his in-ground disbud beds and shading structure. Note that his flower beds are open to the elements, it is not a greenhouse.

There will not be a Zoom Meeting in May. We will resume our monthly Meeting in June. Please be sure to save the date June 12<sup>th</sup>, for the screening of the "July and August Tasks" with Pat Stockett Johnston.

## PROMIX ORDER

The ProMix have been delivered and promptly picked up at Galen's driveway. Thank you, Galen for ordering and coordinating the ProMix pick up. All other supplies will be available for pick up at Tim Moore's place on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

## **PRESENTATION TO OUR NEW GARDEN CLUB**

In mid-April, Camilla Ng and Galen Goss presented a program on chrysanthemums to the Centreville Garden Club, which is one of our newest members. We discussed the history of mums, the various types of mums, the 13 classes, and the many ways that mums can be grown and displayed. The club members were quite enthusiastic as evidenced by the many questions. Even though it was a rainy evening, the welcoming atmosphere made for a very enjoyable time. We made use of our new presentation board – thanks to Janice Chen for alerting us to this free donation. The mum photos helped us throughout the presentation.



## **GENIUS FOR POTTING EVENT, ORDER PICK UP, PUBLIC SALES**

A final reminder: Please use the Signup Genius to sign up for volunteering and pick up appointments. Select your spot, then click on the button at the bottom of the page to confirm your sign up. You will receive an automatic email confirmation as reminder of your appointment(s). You also have the option to make changes to your appointment at any time.

To volunteer for the Potting activities and schedule pick up orders, click (Ctrl+Click) on this link to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D4DA8A92FA1F85-maypotting1>

To volunteer for Ayr Hill Sales (May 7<sup>th</sup>) and Green Spring Gardens Sales (May 13<sup>th</sup> and May 14<sup>th</sup>), click (Ctrl+Click) on this link to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D4DA8A92FA1F85-public>

A few of us cannot do all the work required to prepare the cuttings for distribution and for our sales. We also need your help at the sales – particularly at Green Spring Gardens. Just remember the adage – many hands make work light. Thank you in advance to those who have already signed up to help out.

Please refer to our April newsletter for the instructions and directions to Tim Moore's house for our potting activities.

Also, please remember to gather low sided cardboard boxes for filling plant orders and for the plant sales. This is a critical aspect of our potting and sales. Without the boxes, our customers at the sales might be discouraged to buy if there is no container for their purchases.

## **MAY BIRTHDAY**

**Bob Howell** is our lone May birthday – on May 2. Many happy returns to Bob. Bob has been a member of NCS (through the Potomac chapter and now ODCS) for 53 years. He is a Life member of NCS and a Master Judge.

## **YOUNG GARDENER PROJECT**

We are very pleased to share that five families have registered 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 host an introduction meeting with the families in May.

## **GARDEN TIPS FOR MAY**

In early May, you will be picking up the plants you've ordered. Here are the steps as recorded by Gene Mertes (one of our expert growers who has passed on but left us with many lessons on growing and caring for our mums).

Getting your plants off to a good start begins with planning and that means having the materials you will need ready and available. That means 4-inch pots, deep flats, Pro-Mix, soluble fertilizer, plastic tags, 5-inch bamboo stakes, and Ortho Bug-Getta. Gene would moisten the Pro-Mix the day before planting, half fill the 4-inch pots and almost fill the flats with Pro-Mix.

1. Remove the plant from its foil wrapper (or its cup), spread its roots, insert in the pot and add more Pro-Mix.
2. Add the tag and small bamboo stake to the pot. The bamboo stake is added now so that when it is necessary to stake the plant at a later date, you will not damage the roots when inserting. This step is most important for your exhibition and pot mums.
3. Place the pots and flats in good, but not direct sun light.
4. Watch out for slugs and keep the Bug-Getta handy.
5. Water with the fogging-type nozzle a few times a day depending on temperature.

6. After 3 to 5 days, move pots and flats to your best sunny location and cut back on water.
7. If a cold snap should be forecast at night be sure to cover or move the plants to a protected location.
8. After a week to 10 days you can fertilize the plants with a weak fertilizer solution (30 – 50% solution of 9-45-15 to encourage root development). There should be no need to treat the plants for insect or diseases.
9. If any small flower buds appear, pinch them off, if more buds appear, pinch them again and a little harder. They should respond with new growth

### **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.

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

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

- May 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>, ODCS Potting Activities
- May 7<sup>th</sup>, ODCS Mums and Supply pick up by appointment; and 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 Johnston video
- July Picnic, 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 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

I placed the Mums outdoors a week ago. I allowed the elements to reached them trying to determine if they would survive. I checked today and some appear to be more alive than others. The few with a wilted look will be watered today just to see if it helps, but I separated them from those that are healthier looking in case the others have a virus. Still testing.