

# THE MUM CHRONICLE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OLD DOMINION CHRYSANTHEMUM SOCIETY

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

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**Events Box: July 9<sup>th</sup> Picnic. Next Zoom Meeting August 14<sup>th</sup>.**

Featured in this newsletter is information on Young Gardener Project, trays for sale and July growing guide.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear ODCS members,

The June 12<sup>th</sup> Zoom meeting screening was the first half of Part 2 of David Eigenbrode's "Magic with Mums" on pinching. Due to the low volume of the original video which made it difficult to hear, we summarized David Eigenbrode's notes, recapped by Ed Mascali. As before, the recorded meeting link was forwarded to everyone in the email sent on June 13<sup>th</sup> from Galen Goss. The recording will be available until our next Zoom meeting in August.

You may also like to watch on your own the "July Tasks" with Pat Stockett Johnston video on the National Chrysanthemum Society's Video Gallery. No password is needed.

Ctrl-click on this link: [Video Gallery – The National Chrysanthemum Society Inc. USA](#)

A reminder, the potluck Picnic is on July 9<sup>th</sup>, at Mason District Park, Shelter B, 3 P.M. Come on out for food and fun. Please use the Signup Genius APP created by Van Avondolio to RSVP.

Ctrl-click on this link: [Free Online Invitations, Premium Cards and Party Ideas | Evite.](#)

It was unfortunate that we had to destroy the "Mystery challenge" plants due to the discovery of Chrysanthemum White Rust on several of the plants of that cultivar. We notified members who purchased the Mystery challenge mums immediately, to trash the plant in double bags. We advised this even if the plants looked healthy, as a precaution to avoid any outbreak. Galen will make refunds for the Mystery challenge mums. Let Galen know if you want a refund.

## **JULY BIRTHDAY**

Happy July birthday to Cathy Washburn, Harry Livesay, Doris Shen, and Ed Mascali

Two of our distant members, Cathy Washburn of Indiana, and Harry Livesay of Sutherland, VA, celebrate July birthdays. Both Cathy and Harry have been member of ODCS for eight years. Happy birthday!



Doris Shen, one of our very successful growers in the chapter also celebrates a July birthday. Doris is a credit to ODCS. Five of our new members in recent years were introduced to the chapter by her. Doris helps to train the new members. She also held open houses in her garden for us to enjoy her beautiful blooms in the fall. In addition to mums, she is also a passionate organic vegetable gardener. Happy birthday Doris!

Ed Mascali's birthday is on July 5<sup>th</sup>. He likes all the fireworks celebration just for him. Ed is our go-to teacher. He leads the talk at our meetings on cultivating mums, insects and diseases. Ed is the Vice President of Old Dominion, an Accredited NCS Judge and a mum grower for fifteen years.

## **YOUNG GARDENER PROJECT**

The Young Gardener Project met the first time on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022. After a round of introduction and explanation of the goals of the Young Gardener Project, Galen and Camilla demonstrated how to pot up from 6-inch pots to the 10-inch pots. The children enthusiastically dived into the potting medium to pot up their Garden mums. They received instructions and materials, and other plants to pot up at home. It was a delight to see the children's attentiveness and having fun. We look forward to the monthly coaching the Young Gardeners through the growing season.



Photo by Camilla Ng.

Left to right, standing in front of their Garden mums are Young Gardeners Isabelle, Sophie, Lemuel, Nathaniel, and Hudson. Hannah was absent but represented by her father Mr. Zhou. Next to Galen is a prospective new member Jacquie who joined us for the introduction to growing mums.

### **ODCS METAL TRAYS AVAILABLE**

The ODCS Board approved the sale of up to 50 of the metal trays that we use for potting and sales. We have many more in the shed than we use. The trays are made of heavy gauge galvanized steel. They are practically indestructible and do not rust. They are great for holding small pots during the early growing season. Some members use them for rooting their cuttings. They have drainage holes. Each tray measures 21 inches long, 12 inches wide, and 2 1/2 inches deep. The cost is \$10.00 per tray.



If you are interested in purchasing trays, please contact Galen. He can have them for you at the ODCS picnic or make other arrangements for pickup and payment. Phone: 703-978-7981 or [galen.goss@mums.org](mailto:galen.goss@mums.org).

## **GUIDE TO GROWING MUMS**

Per our Feeding Schedule, we switch fertilizer in July to the **22-5-16** formula as the plants go into the vegetative stage from the root development stage. Dilute 1.5 Tablespoon of the 22-5-16 fertilizer per gallon of water and apply 2 cups per plant, weekly. This formula with the high Nitrogen (first number) feeds the chrysanthemum for rapid growth of leaves.

### **JULY**

About two weeks after the first pinch in June, the new lateral branches will have grown out. Perform the second and final pinch. The flower buds will start to develop in mid-July especially on the garden mums. Your final pinch on garden mums should be around July 15 – if you are a little later than the 15<sup>th</sup>, that is ok.

Water only when the plants begin to wilt and then water deeply. Shallow watering keeps the roots near the surface, and they cannot tap all the nutrients available, and they dry out more quickly.

The blooms will be heavy especially the exhibition mums. Tie the stems to stakes for support using twist-ties, clips, or wire. Three-foot stakes for garden mums. Five-foot stakes for large blooms.

## **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:

- July Picnic, July 9<sup>th</sup>, at Mason District Park, 3 P.M.
- August 14<sup>th</sup>, Shading and Growing Sprays.
- September 11<sup>th</sup>, “September/October Tasks”, Pat Stockett Johnston video
- October 29<sup>th</sup>, ODCS Mums Show, TBA
- 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**

The cascade has been transplanted to a larger pot with the wire mesh netting. The remaining plants showed roots at the bottom of the pots of the six-inch pots were also transplanted and one shows new growth as the others appear to be struggling. The mystery plant was destroyed along with the Mum closest to it.