

THE JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL CHRYSANTHEMUM SOCIETY

# Chrysanthemum

MARCH 2024

2024 CHAPTER SHOW REPORTS



STOLONS OR ROOTED CUTTINGS?

DESIGNING WITH WEATHERED WOOD

EXCITING NEW INTRODUCTIONS



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## The Year of Opportunities

Irene C. Bernal, NCS President

Here we are again, face to face with another glorious Mum Season. Though we are a few months into the new year, 2024 still offers us an ample supply of opportunities. Our mission then becomes: how to secure the results for NCS that these opportunities make available to us. Among the opportunities which are ours to take on in 2024 are:

- The opportunity to grow. It is obvious to us all that as our chapters grow, so does the membership in our National Chrysanthemum Society. Sharing a few cuttings or plants with a friend or neighbor and encouraging them to enter their blooms at a local mum show just might result in the addition of a new member to our rolls. Many of us belong to other plant clubs as well -- offer to exchange presentations or information with them! It's through your good words about NCS that our membership grows.

- Becoming a Candidate Judge is an opportunity available to any NCS member who meets the candidate requirements. Last year, we welcomed six new Judges -- let's try to match or exceed that number this year! NCS is in urgent need of Judges.

- The opportunity to share your knowledge and growing experiences with your fellow growers. The best way to achieve that goal is to submit articles to *The Chrysanthemum*.

- The opportunity to encourage new members and our 18-and-under growers with the Bowersox Award. Last year, I had the pleasure of attending the San Gabriel Valley 2023 Awards Dinner where the Bowersox Award was presented to both a Youth and a Novice grower. It was quite heartwarming to see the look of delight on the Youth winner's face. When she heard that she would receive a \$100 check as well, she was bouncing with joy. I'm happy to report she was already looking forward to this year's growing season!

- Thanks to the combined efforts of members from three NCS chapters, everyone will have the opportunity to attend the first NCS Convention and Show to be held since 2019! See page 4 for "save the date" information about the national event.

I encourage every Society member to attend! For many of you, this will most likely be your very first opportunity to attend a chrysanthemum show at the national level where you can meet members from other chapters and forge new friendships. In addition, your attendance will be the greatest way of thanking those individuals who formed a unique alliance to bring about this long-overdue event and who are doing their best to make this 2024 NCS Convention and Show the most successful exhibition ever. Let's give recognition to those members: Dale Wisniewski (SGV chapter); Tamara Bliley and Conrad Russell (Portland chapter); Bruce W. Zisterer (General Member), Jon Peterson, our late President Sharon Peterson, and Leanne Ortega (Sacramento chapter).

Wishing all of you the best of good fortune for the upcoming growing season. Let's make the desert city of Las Vegas bloom with mums!

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### Membership and Subscription Information

A subscription to *The Chrysanthemum*, the Journal of the National Chrysanthemum Society, is included as a benefit of membership in the National Chrysanthemum Society. Annual dues are \$20. Single issues of *The Chrysanthemum* may be purchased if available. Institutional subscriptions are also available. Membership requests and change of address should be addressed to Anette Lloyd, Secretary, 3325 Oakland Blvd. NW, Roanoke, VA 24021-3429.



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**ON THE COVER:**  
The 2023 Bay Area C. S.  
Chapter Show floor. Photo  
by Eileen Halcrow.



## The Show Must Go On! It's Las Vegas!

By Dale Wisniewski

A national show is overdue following the restrictions of the pandemic. It's been over four years since an NCS National Show and Convention has been held.

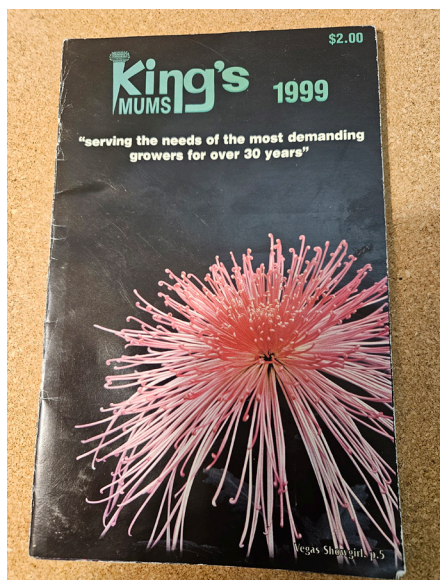
After many months of dedicated efforts from the Sacramento, San Gabriel Valley and Portland Chrysanthemum Societies, a venue has been secured for 2024. The NCS 77th Annual Convention and Show will be held in Las Vegas at the Santa Fe Hotel, November 11 - 13, 2024.

The 2024 National Show promises to be an impressive event with a perfect opportunity for making new friends, meeting old friends, attending symposiums, sharing chrysanthemums, and of course, enjoying tons of entertainment and sports in Las Vegas. There is something for everyone. Mark your calendars for November 11 - 13, 2024 for Las Vegas!

*Vegas Showgirl* (at right) was bred by Ted King and named to honor the 56th Annual NCS National Show and Convention scheduled for Las Vegas in 1999. That venue fell through and the 1999 National Show was ultimately held in Fort Worth, TX. Twenty-five years later, *Vegas Showgirl* will again take her star turn at the 2024 National Show!

The King's Mums catalog described the cultivar: "*Vegas Showgirl* 11A. Nov. 4 - Nov. 20. Very long-lasting and slender, deep pink florets that spray out like a giant rocket burst. This is one of the largest spiders in diameter. Blooms are well-supported on good stems, an easy grower. Tall. Flower to crown bud."

NOTE: *Vegas Showgirl* will be available in 2024 from Crown Mums.



## 2023 NCS Fundraising Campaign

The 2023 Fundraising Campaign has concluded, and we thank all who gave to this initiative. A total of \$4,787 was raised, achieving a wonderful 96% of our goal of \$5,000! We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of all contributors. The final contributions for 2023 were from Harry Livesay, Jr., the Pengra-Wherley household, Wayne and Pamela Wight/in memory of Amy Goss and Sharon Peterson, Jana DeForest, and Lisa Romano/in memory of Camila Romano.

Below is a list of donors for the entire year. Again, we thank each and every contributor.

- **Marilyn and Jim Relles**,  
in memory of Alicia J Relles
- **Stephen Avallone**,  
in memory of Annette Avallone
- **Sharon Parks**,  
in memory of Dr. John M. Parks
- **Margie and Charles Case**,  
in memory of Honor Brewer Toy
- **John and Ruthann Clayton**,  
in memory of Tom Aker
- **Galen and Amy Goss;  
Virginia Scarbrough;  
Jody Goulden**;  
all in memory of  
James E. Dunne, Sr.
- **Harry Livesay, Jr.**
- **Pengra-Wherley Household**
- **Wayne and Pamela Wight**  
in memory of Amy Goss  
and Sharon Peterson
- **Jana DeForest**
- **Lisa Romano**,  
in memory of Camila Romano
- **Dan Schadler**
- **Old Dominion Chrysanthemum  
Society**



# 2023 NCS CHAPTER SHOW REPORTS

## Bay Area C. S.

By Jeff MacDonald, President

"A Decade of Mum Magic" was selected as our theme for our 10th anniversary show. It is hard to believe 10 years have flown by since the Bay Area CS held its first show. Our show gets better every year as our members learn how to grow and show their beautiful chrysanthemum plants, blooms, and designs.

**Chester Unciano** was our top winner. Chester is a grower you may want to emulate when it comes to growing mums. He has quickly learned the art of pinching, fertilizing, and nurturing cuttings from small pots to large disbudded blooms. Chester won the following awards: Best Incurve, *Stockton*; Best Decorative, *Seaton's Je'Dore*; Best Anemone, *Seaton's Ruby*; Best Spider, *Evening Glow*; Best Brush and Thistle, *Wisp of Pink*; Best 3 Blooms, *Stockton*; Best 5 disbudded blooms, *Lavender Ostrich*;



At the 2023 Bay Area C.S. Chapter Show Todd Hirozawa won Best Novice disbudded bloom entry and Bowersox Trust Award for his bloom of *Evan's Dream*.

an excellent NCS Terminal Spray, *Orinoco Purple*; and Runner-up Sweepstakes Award with 117 points.

**Kalpana Shyam** was busy perfecting her growing and showing skills this past year. She entered almost every possible section of the show: Disbuds, Container-Grown, Fukusuke, Bonsai, Multiple Blooms, and Artistic Design. For her outstanding showmanship, Kalpana was awarded Best Reflex, *Symbol*; Best Intermediate Incurve, *Molly Lambert*; Best Fukusuke, *Primrose Mt. Shasta*; Section K, Best Seedling or Sport, #2023-17, which is a promising-looking purple reflex with good color retention; and Best Bonsai with an intriguing bronze seedling. Kalpana Shyam won Sweepstakes with 188 points.

**Roy and Donna Oku** from Stockton, California, entered several blooms and won Best Pompon, *Kelvin Mandarin*; and Best Single/Semi-Double, *Domingo*.

**Jeff MacDonald** won Best Quill and King of Show (Best Disbudded Bloom of Show) with *Seaton's Coffee*; and Best Exotic or Unclassified with *Ring of Fire*.

**Ava Wollman** won Best Artistically Trained to Wood plant with button mum, *Baby*; and Best Garden cultivar, 3 stems of evenly matched *Kelvin Mandarin*.

**Tiffany Gao** won for Best Irregular Incurve, *Elizabeth Shoemith*.

**Zach Toh** won Best Spoon with *Oriental Knight*.

**Chrysanthemum Huynh** won Best Basket and Queen of Show with 16 almost identical pompoms of *Kelvin Mandarin*. Congratulations to Chrys on growing pompoms with such perfection.

**Ken Wong** won Best Container-Grown plant with a spectacular entry of a rarely seen bronze quill of



At the 2023 Bay Area C.S. Chapter Show, (top) Jeff MacDonald won Best Quill, King of Show and the NCS Bronze Medal with *Seaton's Coffee*. Photo by Jeff MacDonald. (Above) Chester Unciano won Best NCS Terminal Spray and the NCS Bronze Medal for *Orinoco Purple*. Photo by Eileen Halcrow.

*Western Voodoo*. Blooms were equal in height, size, color, and form! It was the most requested cultivar from visitors and members alike.

**Lakshmi Myneni** won Novice Sweepstakes with 23 points.

**Todd Hirozawa** won Best Novice disbudded bloom entry and Bow-

Continued on next page...

## 2023 CHAPTER SHOW REPORTS

ercox Trust Award for his bloom of *Evan's Dream*.

Congratulations to all our winners and members who entered and supported the show with their beautiful blooms and plants! NCS Medal Awards were presented as follows: Silver Medal Certificate for Sweepstakes, **Kalpana Shyam**; Bronze Medal awards to **Jeff MacDonald**, Best Disbud Division, *Seaton's Coffee*; **Ken Wong**, Best Container-Grown Plant, *Western Voodoo*; **Chrysanthemum Huynh**, Best Multiple Blooms, *Kelvin Mandarin*, basket, and **Chester Unciano**, *Orinoco Purple*, Best NCS Terminal Spray.

The Design Section was filled with 24 designs by 8 designers. Best Petite Design and Best Design of the show was won by **Aarathi Raghu**. Her *Wee Bits of Magic* design used a miniature pumpkin as well as bent and twisted New Zealand flax, which created perfect space, rhythm, and

contrast for the yellow and red mums, and asparagus fern. It was under 4" in height and in perfect scale. Best standard design was won by **Jeff MacDonald** for his design *Magical Duet*. The design used two containers with dried palm spath, ti leaves, and pale bronze mums with a deep rust background. Jeff's two container design appeared to be levitating off the table with the second, upper design being elevated with clear plastic rods lifting and giving the illusion of the design floating. **Diane Wang** won the People's Choice Award for her *Wee Bits of Magic* design. She used a very usual ball-like container lined with moss and mums.

Shows do not just happen. They need planning, leaders, and members to keep tasks and jobs running smoothly. A huge thank you goes to our Show Co-Chairs, **Grace Keng** and **Esin Demirlioglu**, for spearheading the show. We are also grateful



Kalpana Shyam was Sweepstakes winner at the 2023 Bay Area C.S. Chapter Show with awards including Best Bonsai with this intriguing bronze seedling. Photo by Eileen Halcrow.

to our many wonderful committee chairs and BACS members who helped transport supplies, set up/dismantle the show floor, staff the show floor, and answer questions from the public.

Our flower market was a big success due to all the members who



BACS member Charline Duke poses in the welcome photo-op display. Photo by Kalpana Shyam.

### BAY AREA CHRYSANTHEMUM SOCIETY 2023 SHOW PHOTO-OP TABLE

By Kalpana Shyam, Co-Vice President, Bay Area C. S.

A welcome photo-op table greeted the visitors at the entrance to the Bay Area C. S. Chapter Show for the first time this year. It was a simple, but effective, way to allow visitors to take a picture showing that they visited the show.

Many of these photos were posted to social media. The display was simple: a few wooden craft boxes, bottles, flowers, and a colorful banner, all displayed on a small portable table. It was wonderful to see the children inspecting the flowers on the floor since they were able to look at them closely. It wasn't obvious that guests were supposed to pose behind the table, but that was part of the charm because it evoked the curiosity of young and old. It brought smiles to the visitors.

This was a group effort by enthusiastic members who donated flowers, created the mechanics, and assembled the arrangements as more flowers came in before the show opened. The arrangement held up very well for three days.



donated flowers, grew potted plants, and made small arrangements and decorative pumpkins with small succulents and flowers. Small take-home designs were made as needed. They were popular and sold well.

Thanks to our judges: **Eileen Halcrow** from Southern California; Permanent Master Judges **Roy and Donna Oku** of Stockton, California; and local judges **Kalpana Shyam, Jane Jordan,** and **Jeff MacDonald.** Their knowledge of judging and upholding the standards of quality blooms was evident!

We look forward to our 2024 BACS Show, and it is hoped that all NCS members will be able to participate and support the National Chrysanthemum Society Show in Las Vegas -- November, 2024.

## Central Carolina C.S.

By **Cindy Kaye Cook**

On a beautiful sunny weekend, November 2 - 6, the Central Carolina Chrysanthemum Society (CCCS), Sarah P. Duke Gardens, and Raleigh Garden Club jointly presented *A Festival of Fabulous Mums*. On hiatus during the COVID years, the festival returned to the Doris Duke Center in 2023 and included the COVID years' outdoor display of cut blooms in the Japanese Tea House Garden to complement the display of potted plants grown and displayed by Duke Gardens staff in the Culberson Asiatic Arboretum.

Held during Parents Weekend at Duke University, the event drew approximately 2,000 people into the to Doris Duke Center, based on the number of people who voted for the People's Choice Awards. For many years these were the only awards given as a part of the festival, but in 2023 CCCS held our first NCS judged

show, which included both a horticulture and design division.

Our general co-chairs, **Joan Matthews** and **Anita Wharton,** headed up the horticulture division show while **Anita Kuehne** headed up the design division, an amazing feat, exceptionally well done!

Along with 25 devoted CCCS volunteers who chaired sub-committees and manned the events, the weekend of activities was filled with excitement. Displays of cut-blooms of the 13 classes of chrysanthemums within the Japanese Tea Garden, chaired by **Allison Donnelly** and **Michelle Rawlins,** introduced many more visitors to the world of growing exhibition mums. Families and students of all ages learned about mums in a room filled with youth activities, chaired by **Sue Carter,** such as a scavenger hunt throughout the show, coloring pages, and making a pinecone bird seed feeder.

One of our two fundraisers of the year, the raffle of donated mum-themed items and the mug-of-mums sale, chaired by **Penny Amato,** raised \$1,642 (confirmed by our chair of finances, **Cindy Richards**). And we gained four new members over the weekend. A post-judging awards reception and catered dinner, chaired by **Cindy Kaye Cook** and catered by *The Original Q-Shack* of Durham NC with authentic eastern style Carolina



The show display at the 2023 Central Carolina C. S Chapter Show, the chapter's first NCS-judged show. Photo by Carol Dukes.

BBQ, brisket, and all the traditional sides, gave everyone in attendance a chance to catch-up and mingle among the mums on display.

Of course, none of this would have happened without the work of our advertising committee, **Anita Wharton** and **Lillian Jones,** and the ornate posters and bookmarks hung, handed out, and posted on social media sites. A cliché perhaps, but "A Good Time Was Had by All!"

With our utmost thanks for their guidance, patience, and understanding, the judges evaluated mums from 20 exhibitors in the horticulture and 9 exhibitors in the design divisions, handing out a total of 192 ribbons in addition to the awards mentioned in this article. We may well have had one of the biggest novice sections in recent horticulture show times with

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novice entries filling three 8-ft tables!

Head Horticulture Judge **Dan Schadler** along with his team of accredited judges; **Charles Blewett** (NJSCS), **John Capobianco** (LICS), **Camilla Ng** (ODCS) and our own CCCS candidate judges, **Joan Matthews** and **Lillian Jones**, formed two judging teams aided by clerks **Margie Case**, **George Desser**, **Chris Maxwell**, and **Anita Warton**. The design division was judged by **Kimberly Cruz**, **Diane Bauman**, and **Ging McCay**, attended by clerks **Patti Bright** and **Carol Rodgers**.

We learned so much from them!!!! The notes on the back of our entry cards really helped and their positive comments on the quality of our blooms was so encouraging. I can't help but say, the ribbons were so beautiful, too! I personally now know exactly what a terminal spray is and maybe the next time I enter one, it will actually be one! LOL!. I created my very first juried show design, too. As our past president, **Joan Matthews**, adds to her email signature: "Working together, wonderful things." So true!

So, here are our official results. Starting with Division I - Horticulture awards, the big winner was **John Capobianco**. John won both the CCCS Sweepstakes and the NCS Silver Medal Certificate (Sweepstake Winner) winning 15 blue, 12 red, and 4 yellow ribbons. He won two NCS Bronze Medal Certificates; one for Best Container Grown, Artistically Trained Plant - cultivars *Joan Corbisiero* and *Tsukomo* and one for Best Educational Exhibit, *Making Chrysanthemum Bonsai*. This exhibit inspired many visitors with bonsai of cultivars including *Estelle Abrams*, *Debbie Simon*, *Tsukomo*, *Joan Corbisiero*, and PW seedling. He won Best in Section N (Artistically Trained Plant) with cultivars *Joan Corbisiero* and *Tsukomo* grown on wood, and Best in Section K1 (Seedling/Sport developed by Exhibitor) for his unnamed seedling. John also took second place in the CCCS People's Choice Awards for Artistically Trained Plant with cultivars *Joan Corbisiero* and *Tsukomo*.

Other NCS Bronze Medal Certificate winners were Best Single Disbud: **Lillian Jones** for *Gua Hua Sheng*



Central Carolina C. S. Chapter Show Sweepstakes winner John Capobianco won Best in Section N (Artistically Trained Plant) with cultivars *Joan Corbisiero* and *Tsukomo* grown on wood. Photo by Carol Dukes.


*Xie* and Best Multi-bloom: **Michelle Rawlins** for 3 blooms of *Mt. Rainier Sport*. Michelle additionally won Best in Section A (Single Disbuds) (Gold Ribbon) for *John Wingfield*, along with Best Irregular Incurve (Class 1) for *River City*, Best Reflex (Class 2) for *John Wingfield*, and Best of Exotic/Unclassified (Class 13) for *Satin Ribbon*. Michelle also took the remaining two People's Choice Awards, 1st Place for 3 Blooms of *Bola de Oro* and 3rd Place for 3 Blooms of *White Out*. Without question, Michelle's huge Irregular Incurves, also displayed as container plants in the Culberson Asiatic Arboretum, are fan favorites every year.

**Lillian Jones**, CCCS propagation Chair and expert, additionally won Section A (Single Disbuds) Best Regular Incurve (Class 3) for *Golden Gate*, and Section J (Judges) Best in Section and Best Irregular Incurve (Class 1) for *Gua Hua Sheng Xie*. A sport developed from Lillian's *Mt. Ranier* pink/white chimera plant won

*A Passion Worth Pursuing*

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Novice grower **Harry Livesay, Jr.**, won Best in Section G (Novice), Best Container Grown, and the Ray McVay Best Novice award, along with the Novice Bowersox Trust Award for his container grown *Pink Splendor* (Class 11) at the Central Carolina C. S. Chapter Show. Photo by Cindy Kaye Cook.

Best in Section K2 (Seedling/Sport with Origin from Other Grower) for **Cindy Kaye Cook**. The final Best in Section Award Section O (Bonsai) went to **Camilla Ng** for Slanting form of cultivar *Pumpkin*.

Other Bests in Section A (Single Disbuds) were Best Decorative (Class 4) to **Janice Chen** for *Annie Girl*. **Joan Matthews** won Best Pompon (Class 6) for *Kelvin Mandarin*, Best Quill (Class 10) for *Pittsburgh Purple*, and Best Brush or Thistle (Class 12) for *Cisco*.

Best Exotic/Unclassified (Class 13) went to **Dan Schadler** for *Satin Ribbon*.

The two Bowersox Trust Awards went to **Nathaniel Gjeluçi** and **Harry Livesay, Jr.** Nathaniel (age 11) won the NCS Youth Bronze Medal Certificate, Best in Section H (Youth) and Best in Sub-section C (age under

13) for *Purple Light* (Class 8) in addition to the Bowersox Trust Award for youth. Harry, a Novice grower won Best in Section G (Novice) (Gold Ribbon), Best Container Grown, and the Ray McVay Best Novice award, along with the Novice Bowersox Trust Award for his container grown *Pink Splendor* (Class 11).

Up and coming **Margie Case** did well in Section G (Novice) with wins in Best Irregular Incurve (Class 1) for *Luxor*, Best Intermediate Incurve (Class 5) for *Alexis*, Best Brush or Thistle (Class 12) for *Wisp of Pink*, and Best Exotic/Unclassified (Class 13) for *Satin Ribbon*.

Best Multi-bloom went to **Stephen Stanko** for 3 *Fleur de Lis* (Class 11), Best Decorative (Class 4) went to **Adela Whitten** for *Chelsea*, Best Anemone (Class 8) to **Cindy Richards** for *Purple Light*, Best Quill (Class 10) to **Carol Dukes** for *Lola*, and Best Spider (Class 11) to **Ying Hsu** for *Seaton's Galaxy*.

Now on to Division II – Design, which was equally as stunning and

such a wonderful addition to our *Festival of Fabulous Mums!* Such ingenious use of materials and incredibly creative approaches to each Class. The National Garden Club Tricolor Award (Best in Section A – Standard Designs) went to **Bess Treadwell** for her Class 2 "Octoberfest" (Low-Profile Design) 1st Place winning exhibit.

Other ribbons in Class 2 went to 2nd - **Kathy Spaulding**, 3rd - **Judy Albers**, and Honorable Mention - **Anita Kuehne**. For Class 1: "Kiku Matsuri" (Grouped Mass Design) winners were 1st - **Catherine Phelps**, 2nd - **Joyce Moses**, 3rd - **Cindy Kaye Cook** and Honorable Mention - **Renee Tunstall**. Class 3: "Chinese New Year, Fireworks and Dragon Dances Celebrating a New Beginning" (Creative Line Design) went to 1st - **Vicki Thompson**, 2nd - **Anita Kuehne**, 3rd - **Bess Treadwell**, and Honorable Mention - **Kathy Spaulding**.

**Congratulation to all on your ribbons and awards!** The success of this festival and CCCS's First NCS

Continued on next page...

**At the Long Island C. S. Chapter Show John Finocchio** won the Novice Sweepstakes award, which requires a minimum of three blue ribbons. He also won the inaugural Bowersox Trust Award of \$100.00, presented here by Chapter President John Capobianco.





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judged show was a remarkable accomplishment!!

I would be remiss if I did not shout out to **Penny Amato** and **Anita Kuehne** who wrote the Schedule. Then **Tina Certo** took on Entries Chair for horticulture and Penny headed up Classification with **Cindy Richards** in Placement. Anita Kuehne chaired design entries with **Bess Treadwell** covering Classification and Placement. **Dan Schadler** and **Kim Blatz** took great care of the judges while **Margie Case** and **Vandy Bradow** tended to the clerks. And then Anita Kuehne and **Galen Goss** served as Awards Chairs. Phew!!! What a job, what a job well done!!! Hands in the air, clapping loudly! Standing Ovation to you all.

## Long Island C.S.

By **John Capobianco**

The Long Island Chrysanthemum Society held its 68th Annual Show at Starkie Bros. Garden Center in

New Jersey State C. S. members at their 2023 Chapter Show: (l - r) Judy Snow, Cindy Hedin, Karen Mastromano, Diane Sniffen, Steve Avallone, Margaret Blewett, WingYee Pavlosky, Chuck Blewett and Chuck Turner.



Farmingdale, Long Island, NY, October 28-29, 2023.

Throughout the course of the year **John Capobianco** and **Rita Rover** delivered a number of lectures to garden clubs and John hosted a series of Beginner Grower Workshops in coordination with Village of Farmingdale's Cultural Arts Committee. While many of the participants from the workshops didn't have their blooms in time for the show, they were happy to have blooms for their

Thanksgiving table.

With many of our growers having retired from active mum cultivation we were again anxious about the size of our show. We shouldn't have been, we had 9 exhibitors with 94 entries.

**John Finocchio**, one of our newest members, dazzled the veteran growers with his Novice entries. He had 5 entries in the Novice section and received 5 blue ribbons. The judges didn't cut him any slack for being a novice and his hard work paid off as he received the Novice Sweepstakes award, which requires a minimum of 3 blue ribbons. He also won the inaugural Bowersox Trust Award of \$100.00.

The NCS Silver Medal Certificate for Sweepstakes was awarded to John Capobianco, with 135 points. Rita Rover was runner-up in sweepstakes.

The NCS Bronze Medal Certificates were awarded as follows:

**John Capobianco** was awarded Best Container-Grown in Show, Trained to wood, *Joan Corbisiero* and *Kotoi No Kaori* and Best NCS Terminal Spray in Show, *Yellow Vesuvio*.

**Rita Rover/Marty Cohen** received Best Disbud in Show, *Louisiana*, Best Multiple Disbuds in Show for two *Louisiana* and one *Cream Jesse Habgood*.



At the Long Island C. S. Chapter Show: (l - r) *Louisiana* grown by Rita Rover and Marty Cohen won Best Disbud in Show; John Capobianco won Best NCS Terminal Spray with *Yellow Vesuvio*. Photos by Rita Rover and John Capobianco.



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At the New Jersey State C. S. 2023 Chapter Show: (l - r) Sweepstakes Runner-Up Chuck Blewett and Sweepstakes Winner, Steve Avallone.

mandated that we move from Frelinghuysen. Thanks to the tireless efforts of **Margaret and Chuck Blewett**, we relocated to a better venue for the size and scope of our 2023 mum show. All in all, the show was a success.

We were delighted to welcome new and returning past exhibitors and judges who travelled to our new venue. A total of 58 blooms graced the Disbud tables (Sections A-C), plus 17 entries sparkling in the bonsai area brought the total entries to 75 provided by 9 growers.

**Stephen J. Avallone** entered 25 entries and carried home the Sweepstakes with 14 blue ribbons, with 5 winning Best in Group: Best in Section A and Best Single/Semi Double with *Don't Start*, Best Irregular In-

Continued on next page...

The trophy winners were: **Rita Rover/Marty Cohen** received the awards for: Best Disbud in Show, *Louisiana*; Best Multiple Disbuds in Show, for two *Louisiana* and one *Cream Jesse Habgood*; Best Disbud, Section A, *Louisian*; Best Incurve, *Rita Rover*; Best Reflex, *Louisiana*; Best Quill/Spider, *Coral Reef*; Best Three-Bloom entry, Section B, *Louisiana* and *Cream Jessie Habgood*.

**John Capobianco** received the trophy for Best Container-Grown Tree, Bush or Artistically Grown, Trained to wood, *Joan Corbisiero* and *Kotoi No Kaori* and Best Single/Anemone/Spoon, *Edith Mechen*; Best Bonsai, Tanuki style (Phoenix Graft) for *Joan Corbisiero*.

**Steve Avallone** received the trophy for Best Judges Entry, *Crimson Tide* (Disbud).

Rita Rover presented the Ivor Mace Affiliated Societies Bronze Medal to our Vice President, **Bob Tobias** for his efforts this year as Membership Chair and for contributing his hard work and many blooms for our chapter show this year.

Rita also presented the Ivor Mace Affiliated Societies Silver Medal to **John Capobianco** for all his work this year to make the LICS show a success.

## New Jersey State C.S.

By Cindy Hedin & Karen Mastromano

The New Jersey State Chrysanthemum Society held its 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Show at the Laurelwood Arboretum, in Wayne, New Jersey, October 14 - 15, 2023. Attendance on Saturday

was very good due to the lovely weather drawing many people to the Arboretum, who then added a visit to our show to their day. A rainy Sunday did not encourage casual visitors.

Laurelwood was a new venue for NJSCS. For 30 years the show was in Morristown at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. Almost everything is blamed on the COVID-19 pandemic, but it truly was the reason we had to find a new location. New rules, facility regulations, and costs

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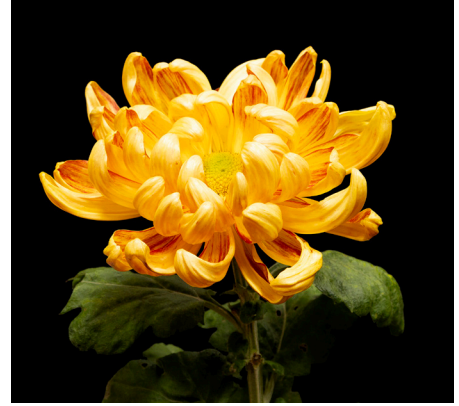
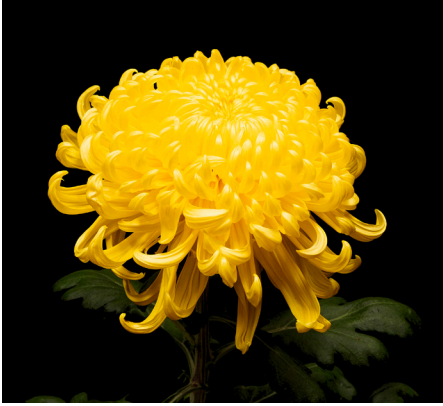
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## 2023 CHAPTER SHOW REPORTS



At the 2023 Orange County C. S. Chapter Show, (l - r) the Best Irregular Incurve, King of Show and Bronze Medal Certificate winner for the Best One Bloom Disbud went to cultivar, *Houston*, entered by Eileen Halcrow; Samuel P. won the Bowersox Trust Award for the Best Youth Entry for his *Pink Mt. Ranier*; Best Exotic, *Shizu Aki* was won by Sweepstakes winner Bruce W. Zisterer. Photos by Eileen Halcrow.

curve *Houston*, Best Regular Incurve Derek Bircumshaw, Best Spoon *Kimi*, and Best Spray Lynn Anderton.

**Chuck Blewett** had 12 entries and was Sweepstakes Runner-Up with 7 blues including 3 Best in Group: Best Anemone *Seaton's Ruby*, Best Quill *Oriental Knight*, and Best Spider *Flair*.

**Chuck Turner** brought in 10 entries and won 3 Best in Group: Best Pompon *Moonbeam*, Best Three Irregular Incurves *Mt. Rainer*, Best Vase 5 Blooms *Season's Je'Dore*.

**John Capobianco** (from the Long Island NY chapter) entered a spectacular display of 17 bonsai entries which attracted many visitors and drew many admiring comments. His *Kotoi No Kaori* won Best in Group and Best in section. The Best Artistic Grown entry was also *Kotoi No Kaori*.

We wish to express our appreciation to the Long Island judges **Dick Murcott** and **Rita Rover**, and **Camilla Ng** from the Old Dominion C. S. for making the trip to Wayne, New Jersey, to evaluate the entries. Laurelwood Arboretum volunteers were extremely cordial and helpful, a pleasure to work with in our new home. We also wish to thank the members of NJSCS for their work

before, during and after the show. We all are looking forward to a great growing season and show in 2024.

### Orange County C. S.

**By Irene C. Bernal, Show Chair**

The Orange County Chrysanthemum Society (OCCS) held its 23rd annual show and sale on October 28 - 29, 2023 at our regular venue, Sherman Library and Gardens, in the California beach city of Corona del Mar. Our show theme this year was "Autumn Splendor".

Mother Nature was almost nice to us this year. She started off the month of October with some cool days that delighted our mums and then switched to some hot days which delayed the opening of blooms. Days before our scheduled show date, weather forecasters predicted winds and rain; fortunately, they were wrong -- as usual. Orange County did get some very light sprinkles and the wind slightly ruffled a few blooms. Happily, the weather was mild and sunny during our show weekend -- there were some windy gusts early Sunday but they were gone before noon. However, they did leave behind some electrical problems which kept

our showroom slightly shady for the rest of the day. Fortunately, the light from the windows provided enough light to keep the doors open.

This year we again provided Sherman Gardens with two programs: **Renee Wherley** gave a lecture on "The 13 Classes of Chrysanthemums" on Saturday. Then on Sunday a new member, **Haiou Yang**, gave a floral arrangement demonstration. Both programs were well received by arboretum visitors.

When compared to last year's total lack of show-worthy blooms, this year's show was absolutely stupendous but the number of entries submitted was below average. Five of our OCCS members still managed to deliver a total of 96 bloom entries - earning their growers 46 blue ribbons. We also had one novice submit her first entry. Youth entries were also submitted: from the under 13 set we had 5 entries and from the 14-18 group, we welcomed another 8 entries.

For the first time ever, OCCS had a tie in the Sweepstakes race. The entries from two growers earned them the same number of total points. In the end, the grower with the most purple ribbons was selected as the



## 2023 CHAPTER SHOW REPORTS

Sweepstakes winner. Congratulations to **Bruce W. Zisterer**! Bruce's list of winners earned him the NCS Silver Medal Certificate for Sweepstakes in the Horticulture Division. His winning entries included the following: Best Reflex: *Flame Symbol*; Best Decorative: *Zembla Lime*; Best Anemone: *Polar Anderton*; Best Exotic: *Shizu Aki* and Best Vase of 5-9: *Sweet Peaches*. Bruce's *Royal Burgundy* entry won for Best NCS Spray and earned him a Bronze Medal Certificate for the Best NCS Terminal Spray. Last, but definitely not least, Bruce's outstanding basket of *Zisterer's Ovation* won both the Best Basket award and the Queen of Show title plus earned him a second Bronze Medal Certificate for Best Multiple Bloom Disbuds entry. Bruce also provided an entry for Section U, *Gyokkouin*, which won a blue ribbon. This is a special category for Supported Blooms, not eligible for an award higher than a blue ribbon but I mention it in our show report because this cultivar attracted a lot of attention from visitors because of its unusual form.

**Renee Wherley** was this year's Sweepstakes Runner-Up. Her winning entries were in the following categories: Best Pompon: *Lakeside*; Best Spoon: *Redwing* and Best Quill: *Pittsburg Purple*.

The Best Irregular Incurve award went to a stunning example of the cultivar, *Houston*, entered by **Eileen Halcrow**; this same entry also claimed the **King of Show** title which earned Eileen a Bronze Medal Certificate for the Best One Bloom Disbud category. **Norm Nakanishi**, a non-member, won the Best Spider award with his *Coral Reef* entry. **Faye Pengra**, won Best Novice with her Bush entry, *Pumpkin*.

Regarding the Youth Awards, for

growers under the age of 13, the winner was **Samuel P.** for his entry *Pink Mt. Ranier*. Samuel was also awarded the Bowersox Trust Award for the Best Youth Entry. For growers in the 14-18 range, the winner was **Hannah P.** for her 3-Blooms Disbudded entry, *Lavender Pixie*.

We were once again privileged to have members from the floral group, **Las Artistas de Flores**, provide chrysanthemum-themed arrangements as an added attraction for show visitors. Floral arrangers, **Donna Villasenor** and **Keith Moore** each created several arrangements that drew a great deal of attention from attendees. This year, one of Keith's creations was chosen as the "Fan Favorite."

We wish to extend our thanks and gratitude to the judges who travelled both near and far to participate in our judging panels. **Dale Wisniewski** drove in from Las Vegas, Nevada. Local judges were **Eileen Halcrow**, **Renee Wherley**, **Irene C. Bernal** and Master Judge, **Bruce W. Zisterer**. We applaud and thank all these great judges for their continued support.

We were very happy with the attendance and the enthusiasm shown by many of the visitors at this year's

show. Four of these visitors even joined our chapter at the show!

We are very thankful to the mum growers who donated their time, skill, knowledge and effort to make this show and sale happen. We also want to offer our appreciation to all the members, friends and family who supported, clerked, set up, tore down and otherwise contributed greatly to the success of this year's show.

### Phoenix C. S.

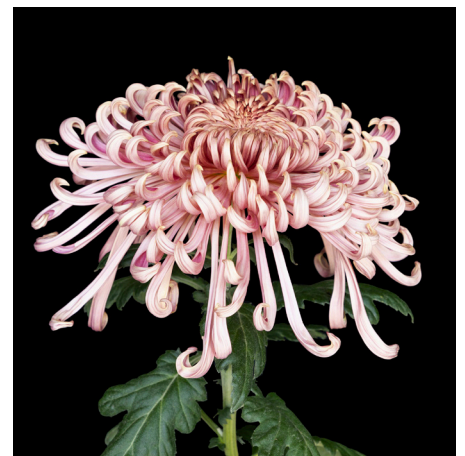
By **Wayne Wight**

The Phoenix Chrysanthemum Society's 47th Annual Show, "*The Artful Mum*", was held November 18 - 19, 2023, at the Valley Garden Center in Phoenix. We had 15 exhibitors who entered 109 horticulture entries, down from 177 entries in 2019, the most recent show held in Phoenix.

Great support for the Phoenix show was provided by California chapters of NCS, including a Nevada member of a California chapter. The California members together provided 75% of the entire show's entries. Thank you all out of state exhibitors!

The Horticulture winners included **Yu-Kun "David" Chiao**: Queen

Continued on next page...



(L- R) *Angel*, grown by Yu-Kun "David" Chiao, won Best NCS Terminal Cut Spray at the 2023 Phoenix C. S. Chapter Show, and Dale Wisniewski won Best Spider with *Evening Glow*, Photos by Eileen Halcrow.

# Mums Across the Pond: On Judging: UK vs. US

By Ivor Mace and Rita Rover

*Ed. Note: Ivor Mace is an award-winning chrysanthemum grower, exhibitor and breeder in the U.K. British spellings and terms are left as submitted. Products and services mentioned may not be available in the United States.*

We asked Ivor Mace for a general discussion about the differences between mum show judging in the UK and the US. Then we asked NCS Judges Schools and Credentials Committee Co-Chair, Rita Rover, to provide a US perspective on the various topics he brought up.

**IVOR MACE:** The basic difference between the US and the UK judging systems is that, in the US, judging is based on the US NCS standard of excellence. In your judging standards, and in the judge's

mind, you have an idea of what a blue ribbon entry should be, and if the exhibit meets this standard then you award the blue ribbon. If it doesn't, you can award a lesser ribbon, if deserved, depending on what judging scale the entry is.

In the UK we award the best entry first prize, the next best entry gets second prize and the next third prize. All other entries get nothing irrespective of how good they are. Having said that, if a class has very poor entries, the judge has the right to award second and/or third only. Or nothing at all if they are all deemed to be very poor. There is a point scale for judging but it's immaterial whether an entry is awarded 60 points or 100 points. The highest scored bloom gets the first, next highest gets second, and next down gets third. In contrast, in the US, all blooms that

meet the required points are awarded a blue ribbon.

In the UK we have one Silver and one Bronze Medal per show, awarded at the judge's discretion. These are for the best and second-best entries in the show. Sometimes a judge might think that a three-vase entry with three very good vases, that one of these blooms could be awarded the Silver Medal. I've seen a 3-vase entry get the Bronze Medal and one of the vases from that same entry (the best vase) get the Silver Medal, so both medals went to just one entry.

**RITA ROVER:** As Ivor mentions, judging in the US is very different when it comes to awarding the three ribbons, blue, red and yellow. It appears much easier to just select the best entry as they do in the UK rather than to hold it up to a standard. However, on this side of the pond, blooms

## 2023 CHAPTER SHOW REPORTS

### Phoenix C. S., cont...



At the 2023 Phoenix C. S. Chapter Show, Avery M-W won NCS Youth Bronze Medal Certificate over 13 for *Desert Sand* and the Best Youth Bowersox Award. Photo by Eileen Halcrow.

of the Show - *Primrose Mt. Shasta*, Best Disbudded Bloom - *Primrose Mt. Shasta*, Best Container Grown - *Angel*, Best NCS Terminal Cut Spray - *Angel*, Best Irregular Incurve - *Primrose Mt. Shasta* NCS Bronze Medal Certificate - Best Disbudded Cut Bloom - *Primrose Mt. Shasta*, NCS Bronze Medal Certificate - Best NCS Terminal Cut Spray - *Angel*.

**Dale Wisniewski:** Best Decorative - *Zemba Lime*, Best Pompon - *Kelvin Mandarin*, Best Single or Semi Double - *Domingo*, Best Anemone - *Yellow Flying Saucer*, Best Quill - *Oberlin*, Best Spider - *Evening Glow*, Best Unclassified or Exotic - *Satin Ribbon*, NCS Silver Medal Certificate - Sweepstakes, NCS Bronze Medal Certificate - Best Multiple Cut Blooms - *Domingo*.

**Bruce W. Zisterer :** Best Artisti-

cally Trained - *Seizan*, NCS Bronze Medal Certificate - Best Container Grown - *Seizan*.

**Anne and George Chi:** Best Club Challenge.

**Hailey S.:** NCS Youth Bronze Medal Certificate under 13 - *Luxor*.

**Avery M.-W.:** NCS Youth Bronze Medal Certificate over 13 - *Desert Sand*, Best Youth Bowersox Award - *Desert Sand*.

**Marta Smiech:** Best Novice - *Resomee Purple*, Best Novice Bowersox Award - *Resomee Purple*.

Many thanks to our judges who traveled from California and Nevada for our show.

Also thanks to the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs for co-sponsoring the show and also providing a design division with wonderful chrysanthemum artistic designs.



are evaluated against a standard and a bloom must rate at least 90 points in order to merit a blue ribbon, 85 points for red and 80 points for yellow. This prevents a poor bloom from getting a blue ribbon even (as in the UK) if it's the best in its class. Point scoring is used in special instances, for example, if a judges' panel is not in agreement, they will point score starting at 100 and take points off for any faults. Often judges will state, "I can't see taking a full 10 points off this bloom, so it gets a blue ribbon."

**IVOR MACE:** We must remember that judging is a mixture of interpreting our mum society's rules and judging standards, but also using the judge's experience as a long-standing exhibitor -- let's say, a mixture of science and art. Because a team of judges at a show are all judging to the same standard, we mostly agree with the other judges on the awards. But in very close competition, sometimes a judge may award a prize or ribbon that another judge may think, "Well I disagree with this, I prefer the second prize entry." In this case, judges (and exhibitors!) should just accept the first judge's decision. After all, the judges have no vested interest, and their reputation is at stake. Remember it's only a matter of opinion!

Judges must take into consideration the type of show are we judging. In the UK we have the National Show, below this we have Group Shows (these are area shows), then we have Affiliated Society Shows, then mixed gardening club shows. I might withhold a prize at a National show but would be reluctant to do so at a gardening club show. Similarly, in novice classes we can't be as strict awarding prizes.

**RITA ROVER:** US judges are also encouraged to do the same for novice or youth or for a small chapter show.

However, while we may look at novice entries a little bit more kindly than on the open floor, a judge needs to keep in mind that once a blue ribbon is awarded, the novice will have to enter into competition with experienced growers in future years. It's really not fair to the novice to force an "early entrance" into open competition UNTIL the novice is ready for it. So an easy blue for a novice may not be doing that novice any favor. We are also advised to evaluate the quality of any show as a whole and take into account the possible effect of a challenging growing season, thereby slightly lowering our standards accordingly.

**IVOR MACE:** One thing a judge cannot do is award prizes when a vase or bloom is entered in the wrong class. In the UK there is no flexibility with this. In the UK the only section where a vase can be entered in another section is Intermediate Decoratives. These can be entered as incurves if they fit the criteria, but the exhibitor must leave a note for the judge: "please judge as an incurve." One such cultivar is *Rita Fox*. It's registered as an October-flowering Medium Intermediate 15b. At our 2023 early-flowering National Show, one vase of *Rita Fox* was awarded best Medium Intermediate. Another vase of *Rita Fox* was awarded best Medium Incurve; and several vases were shown at our late National Show (You need this cultivar in the US -- it's very good and easy to manipulate, timing-wise.) I don't know if this would be allowed in the US.

**RITA ROVER:** Yes, Ivor, we do allow it. For example, *Lili Gallon* is classified as class 13/2.



*Rita Fox* (Medium Intermediate/Medium Incurve) at a UK late flowering show in November, 2023.

**IVOR MACE:** In the UK early-flowering registered cultivars cannot be entered in late shows and vice versa. However, October-registered cultivars can be shown in both early and late shows. This means that a judge must carry a register listing the cultivars, plus all the supplements. This is not as odious as it might seem because exhibitors tend to grow the well-tried and tested cultivars that most judges are familiar with.

**RITA ROVER:** In the US we do not have separate shows for early and late cultivars. In order to bring late blooming cultivars into peak bloom in time for a show, we use shading (called blacking-out in the UK) to take advantage of the photoperiodic effect of shorter nights.

**IVOR MACE:** As strange as it might seem, when I show carnations (there are only about 12 qualified carnation judges in the UK), I'm quite happy with a chrysanthemum or dahlia judge, because form, colour, uniformity, and freshness are just as important with all of them.

**RITA ROVER:** Similarly, in the point scoring system of the US *NCS Judges Handbook*, in most categories, judging is based on form, color, size, and freshness.

However, when it comes to judging, while I am not familiar with the

Continued on next page...

## Judging, UK vs. US, cont...

judging rules of the dahlia society, I do not think any US NCS-sponsored show would accept a dahlia judge for one of our shows. A judge has to be very familiar with the merits and faults of a particular mum class and also of a particular cultivar. They would have to know the minute details of what we are looking for in terms of form, etc. For example, they would not have the information on even something as simple as size as expected for a particular cultivar. Since size can have an effect on the overall evaluation of a bloom, it could mean the difference between a blue or a lower ribbon or none at all.

**IVOR MACE:** I've exhibited every year since 1975 at the UK Late National show except in 2020 when the show was cancelled due to the pandemic. I've entered the 18-bloom Large Exhibition class most years, earning 25 first prizes and 16 second prizes. Only twice have I felt that my second place entry should have won first in the class. I didn't say a word about it on either occasion because it was very close and the judges gave an honest opinion. I couldn't change the result, and anyway, who's to say

I was right and they were wrong? I woke up the following morning and I was still alive and so were the judges. It's not life or death, and the older you get the more you realise this is the case. If I exhibited in the US, I think I'd expect the judge to observe the standards and I'd be embarrassed to receive a blue ribbon for a bloom if I thought I should not get it. As judges, we should all observe where other judges are awarding blue ribbons, because there's a lot less controversy when we're all singing off the same hymn sheet.

About five years ago at our national show there were only two entries in the Richardson Trophy class, calling for three large exhibition blooms. The judges only awarded second and third prizes. The exhibitor who was placed second complained. Generally, the judge's decision is final; however the show manager asked me and another experienced judge to look at it. We did and concluded that the judges were correct and if anything, they had been generous. The exhibits were very poor. When you look at the history of this class, it goes back to the 1800s and

you think of the many superb entries that had been in this class for over a century, how could we give a first and the trophy to such a poor entry?

**RITA ROVER:** In US shows, judges' decisions are final. Complaints from entrants are discouraged.

**IVOR MACE:** Looking back at chrysanthemum exhibiting in the UK, I notice that the very old trophies at our national show go back more than a century. From the late 1800s until World War II, these trophies were won by wealthy people employing gardeners -- you can see this by the engravings on the trophies. After World War II, people like me began winning the trophies. We can only conclude that the average home grower had more disposable income after WWII. And long gone were the head gardeners judging our blooms, just picking what took their fancy. Since the NCS adopted set standards and held judges examinations, judging has become standardized with more uniformity between one judge and another.

More recently our numbers (judges and growers) have declined. It seems few younger people are taking up growing mums. We do get older retired people who take up growing and showing but often, they don't have the time to gain experience and sit the judging exam before they soon get too old to take part. We only have three judges left in Wales right now. Our national membership was 8,200 when I joined in 1972, it was 800 in 2015, and it now stands at 400! It's very important to hold judging tutorials and examinations, because without standardised judging, our shows will be at threat.

**RITA ROVER:** With a country as large as ours, we need a number of accredited judges available in each

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# Mums Across the Pond: Propagating from Stolons or Rooted Cuttings

By Ivor Mace

First, let's look at the differences between a stolon and a cutting. Chrysanthemums are half-hardy herbaceous perennials. After the growing season has passed and the winter kills the top growth, the plant regenerates in the spring from stolons produced in the second half of their first season.

If these stolons appear early in the first season's growth and we are going to compete with our blooms, we will not want a thicket of growth from the base of the plant, robbing it of water and nutrients so we cut the stolons back. The following spring, we will need these to produce our cuttings so we shouldn't rip them off or destroy them, but simply pinch them back, leaving the base of the stolon to shoot from the leaf joints to give us the cuttings we require.

In simple terms, the original shoot is a stolon. It's usually quite thick and when pinched (stopped) or cut back, it produces shoots from the leaf joints which are used as cuttings.

If you give your plants a long season, from rooting in January/February until November blooming, it's unlikely that you will have stolons in the spring because you would have pinched them back in the summer and all you would get is cuttings.

Here is a stool of a Charrn (Mound) called *Red Breast*, it has several stolons that could be carefully removed and potted, or the stool can generate cuttings.

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However, from short season plants, the stolons might not arrive until much later. If they don't arrive until the end of the season, you could allow them to stay in place through the winter, providing you are not living in an area where frosts might kill them.

All the UK would come into this category. Here we lift the stools and box them up or if they are pot-grown, lift the pots into a frost-free greenhouse. In some US states I presume this would also be the case, but in others they could be left outdoors. When I visited New Zealand, I saw that growers in the North Island kept their stools outdoors, but South Island growers, nearer the South Pole, protected their stools like we do in the UK.

Stolons, because they have long continuous growth coming from the base of last year's plants, have roots at the base where shoots were pushing up through soil. These could be broken off along with a few roots to form a new plant.

So -- pros and cons. A stolon



produces just one plant, but a stolon cut back the previous autumn might shoot out three to six cuttings. A grower growing a small number of plants with no propagation facilities would likely grow from stolons while a grower who wants lots of plants would set up a propagation bench and grow from rooted cuttings. Certainly, a nurseryman would be rooting cuttings -- one stool might give you 3-4 stolons but a stool with cut back stolons might give you 20 cuttings over a period of two months.

When I take a cutting, I like to leave a pair of leaves behind on the old stolon; these can re-shoot in three to four weeks into another two cuttings.

So while stolons only need to be potted up and protected for a while until they start growing vigorously, cuttings on the other hand need a bit more care to get them going. A propagation bench with undersoil heating at 60° - 68°F, trays of potting compost (potting medium), some shading on warm days. Maybe spraying over with clean water, and a layer of white polythene to keep the humidity in, to stop dehydration. This care needs to

Continued on next page...

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## Judging, UK vs. US, cont...

sector and we are having the same problem as in the UK. Members are strongly encouraged to become judges by our Judges Schools and Credentials Committee which submits detailed articles to *The Chrysanthemum* journal with examples of exam questions and a list of the requirements. We include compelling statements explaining how important

it is for members to consider becoming judges. When members apply to become candidate judges, we give them support in terms of listing specific references to study and sample exams. We also suggest finding an instructor to help with preparation for the exam. The committee is very appreciative of the many judges who have volunteered for this role.

# New Introductions Available

## From Oregon Chrysanthemums

By Barry Baertline

I am glad to share some news about three new varieties. You may have heard of these names before. What makes this news is that now they are commercially available and that changes things for NCS.

*Belgium Purple* is a Class 4 Decorative with a Size C bloom. It is a strong grower that produces many blooms that come on very early the season. This a low maintenance garden mum that grows into a mound that is 2 feet tall. The strength and wonderful color make this a great choice.

*Green Flash* is a Class 11 Spider with a Size A bloom. The striking chartreuse color makes for an eye catching spider that has tight "hooks" at the tips. You will want to disbud this beauty and keep in mind that it has a late response. The unique color is a great reason for adding this one to your collection.

*Nao* (pronounced NOW) is a Class 8 Anemone with a Size C



Clockwise from above: *Belgium Purple*, *Green Flash* and *Nao*, all from Oregon Chrysanthemums and Hostas. *Green Flash* photo by Alinna Lee.

bloom. It's an introduction from Japan that is great for bonsai styling (gnome). This one looks similar to *Chidori*, but *Nao* grows a bit stronger. The blooms last an incredibly long time.

## From Crown Mums

By Tamara Bliley

In honoring our late friend and NCS President, Sharon Peterson, who sadly passed from pancreatic cancer, I have named a new mum after her: *Sharon Peterson*, 3B, Bronze. Proceeds of its sale will be donated



in her name to pancreatic cancer research.

There will be a display of these unusual blooms at the National Convention and Show in Las Vegas, November 11-14. Crown Mums will be selling this and several other new cultivars as well as many large English Exhibition cultivars this spring on a limited basis.

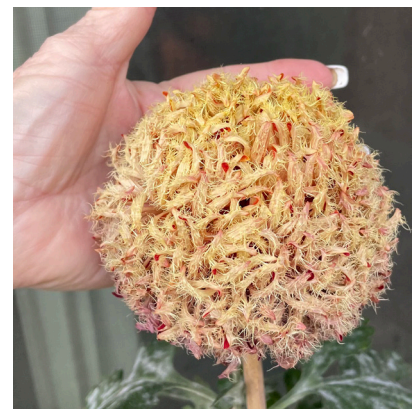
## Stolons or Rooted Cuttings, cont...

be for about three weeks until they produce enough roots -- they need a few weeks weaning and hardening up before the young plants are potted individually.

Stolons are a more unreliable source of young plants because it's difficult to get them as an even batch, exactly when you want them. However, for someone who just wants a few plants without much fuss, it's a good way of propagating in small numbers.

Whether you intend potting up stolons or rooting cuttings, sterilised potting medium is always best. Young plants under stress can succumb to

fungal diseases. If the cuttings were sprayed with a fungicide when they were on the stools and the compost is not harbouring any pathogens, then rooting cuttings or potting stolons should be straightforward. If conditions are poor or fungal diseases like botrytis are a problem. In that case, there are fungicides we can drench the compost with before rooting. I'm reluctant to state only trade names because they vary from country to country. The most popular fungicide for drenching potting medium here in the UK is *propamocarb hydrochloride*.



New Class 3B, Bronze introduction, *Sharon Peterson*, from Crown Mums.



# Examination for Candidate Judges June or July, 2024

If you are an NCS member and eligible to take the Candidate Judges Exam, please strongly consider beginning the process of becoming an NCS Accredited Judge in 2024. NCS needs more Judges in all parts of the country, but particularly on the West and East Coasts.

The Candidate Examination (sometimes referred to as Course 1 Exam) can be taken either month: June 29-30, 2024, OR July 27-28, 2024. (All members or individuals of the same chapter must decide on one date in either June or July. This should give everyone interested in taking the exam plenty of lead time to prepare.) It is helpful, although not absolutely necessary, for chapters to provide an instructor to help the candidate students.

A local chairperson is required to organize the chapter school. This local chair may be one of the students taking the exam. A local proctor is required to administer the exam. The proctor does not have to be a NCS member.

Sample tests are available from Judges Schools and Credentials Committee Co-Chairs Rita Rover or Jeff MacDonald (see last paragraph), but remember that questions will now be taken from the *NCS Show and Judges Handbook*, Seventh Revision 2019 Edition, *Beginner's Handbook*, *Advanced Growers Handbook*, and *Handbook on Chrysanthemum Classification*.

The minimum requirements to take the exam are:

- NCS membership paid for 2023 and 2024.
- Evidence of having grown and exhibited in an NCS-approved show for both 2022 and 2023. (Due to COVID and the canceling of some shows, the JSCC may allow some

flexibility of past show dates.)

- Three blue ribbons (cut garden cultivar stems, garden competition, novice ribbons, educational, and youth ribbons are NOT eligible) won in the Horticulture Division of an NCS Chapter or National Show judged by NCS Judges.
- Evidence of service to a chapter, region, or national show committee prior to application.

Those who are interested should refer to the *NCS Show and Judges Handbook*, 2019 Revised Seventh Edition, pp. 58-61, for complete applicant and candidate requirements and should ask their local chapters to be of assistance to them. They can get a head start by studying the current *NCS Beginner's Handbook* and *NCS Advanced Growers Handbook* (revised 2001 editions are available from Ways and Means Chair Sharon King, address listed on the back cover) as well as the current *NCS Show and Judges' Handbook*. All handbooks can be ordered on the NCS website.

The deadline is May 15, 2024, for setting up the June exam or June 15, 2024, for setting up the July exam. It is best done well in advance of these deadlines so instructional materials can be sent and used to advantage. Fee is \$10.00 per candidate, check made out to NCS and sent with application.

For a school form with Candidate Applications to be sent promptly, either via postal service or by email, contact:

Rita Rover 311 Asharoken Avenue  
Northport, NY 11768-1168; telephone:  
631-261-8386 Email: Rita.Rover@  
mums.org; or

Jeff MacDonald, 385 Loreto  
Street, Mountain View, CA 94041-  
2239; telephone: 650-961-3461;  
Email: Jeff.MacDonald@mums.org.

## JUDGES' PAGE

By Rita Rover & Jeff MacDonald--  
Judges Schools and Credentials  
Committee Co-Chairs

### NCS MASTER JUDGES EXAM

Accreditation of NCS Master Judges, including the administering of exams, is under discussion by the Judges Schools and Credentials Committee. Further information regarding this subject will be announced in the June and September issues of *The Chrysanthemum*.

### HANDBOOK ON CHRYSANTHEMUM CLASSIFICATION 2024

**Deadline:** June 1, 2024

By Jeff MacDonald, Classification  
Committee Chair

Just a reminder that copies of the 2023 *Handbook on Chrysanthemum Classification* are still available from the Ways and Means Committee. Contact Sharon King at [sharon.king@mums.org](mailto:sharon.king@mums.org) or the NCS website for ordering information. The *Handbook on Chrysanthemum Classification* is valuable to judges and non-judges alike. Nurseries that may have cultivars you are looking for are listed there.

The Classification Committee would like to remind you that June 1, 2024 is the deadline to send corrections as well as new and unlisted cultivars to be listed in the 2024 edition and in a supplemental insert in the September issue of *The Chrysanthemum*.

# Mum Growing Guide by Region: January - May

## General Rooting and Growing Instructions for All Regions

To take your own cuttings, watch your mother plants for good stolon growth, generally once nighttime temperatures reach 60° or more. Water your mother plants and give them a fertilizer such as Miracle Gro™ to encourage lush healthy growth. Take cuttings 4 to 6 inches long and dip the cut ends of the dry cuttings in Rootone® or other rooting hormone. Place cuttings into your favorite medium. You can use a 50/50 mix of peat moss and perlite, 100% damp sand or damp vermiculite. Make sure it is moist, but not overly wet as that will encourage the stem to rot. Do not allow leaves to touch or overlap as the cuttings need good air space to prevent damping off. Some growers prefer to leave the leaves on and some prefer to remove all but the growing tip. Mums root easily in 10 days to 4 weeks, depending on how closely the temperature is kept to 65-70° F.

Do not place cuttings in direct sun. Be sure to put name tags on each cutting. Once cuttings have healthy roots, transfer them either directly to their final growing spot or into individual 4-inch pots to continue growing. They may be transferred from their 4-inch pots after 3 weeks or so into their final growing location. Chrysanthemums like a well drained soil and a pH of 6.0 - 6.5.

Mums prefer full sun but will do well with a minimum of five or six hours of direct sun each day. In selecting a site for a bed or pots make sure that it is away from windows, street lights or other sources of light as night light will keep them from blooming. The plants will not produce flower buds until the days get short enough so that there are only 14 ½ hours or less of daylight.

Mums are heavy feeders so use plenty of your favorite fertilizer. NCS recommends the use of a high phosphate fertilizer early in the season to



Top: Chrysanthemum cuttings being rooted in vermiculite under continuous lighting at 72° F.

Above: Rooted chrysanthemum cutting of the cultivar *Dragon* produced in three weeks under the conditions described in the photo above.

encourage strong root growth, switching to one with high nitrogen during the period where you should get a lot of vegetative growth but cutting back down to a 20-20-20 formula during the bud set period. The extra addition of sulfate of potash during the last stages of bloom development will help strengthen the stems.

## Central Ohio

We encourage Central Ohio Society members to order early in January and February to get the cultivars that are wanted. In your order, include your club's special show disbud and garden

mum for the yearly club show competition.

## MARCH & APRIL

Wash your used pots, then rinse with a weak solution of bleach. Purchase potting soil without water retention beads. Use perlite, peat moss or fine pine bark and any other desired additives, such as Osmocote® or gypsum.

## MAY

Pot up mums very soon after they arrive in May - make sure the rooted cuttings stay

moist and turgid while they are waiting to be potted. Place in moistened potting soil mix, water well, provide for good drainage. Place in smaller pots for easier care until growing well, then transfer to larger pots.

## Georgia

**BED LOCATION:** Use a well-drained area, free from competing roots with at least 6 hours of sun; the more sun, the better.

**BED PREPARATION:** The bed should be prepared about 3 weeks before planting. A fertilizer such as 10-10-10 at the rate of 3 pounds per 100 square feet and superphosphate (0-20-0) at the rate of 3 pounds per 100 square feet should be broadcast over the bed. Ground limestone (dolomitic, if possible) may be added to maintain a pH of 6.0 to 7.0. Incorporation of about a 2 inch layer of compost, well-rotted manure, or leaf mold is beneficial. The bed should now be turned over to a depth of ten inches.

**PLANTING:** When placing the cuttings in the bed, do not plant them any deeper than they were in the rooting media. Give them some shade for a few days to prevent wilting. After 2 weeks, pinch out the top; this will start your plant to branch. When each new shoot is 5 to 6 inches long, pinch again. Continue pinching until July 15.

**FEEDING:** Dry fertilizer, 10-10-10, is excellent, as is Miracle Gro™ for tomatoes, mixed half strength with 3 tablespoonfuls of fish emulsion per gallon added. Feed every 2 weeks starting about July



1; stop feeding when you see color in the buds.

**WATERING:** Mums like water but not wet feet. Give them about 1 inch of water per week.

**MULCHING:** Mums like cool roots so it is good to mulch your plants.

## San Francisco Bay Area

The Bay Area has many microclimates and covers a very diverse region, from the very cool city of San Francisco to the hot inland valleys of the East Bay and Salinas. Temperatures can be at times a 30° spread within 50 miles. Growers who live in the far East Bay and hot inland valleys should follow the growing instructions for Sacramento. Modifications will need to be made the closer you are to the bay and ocean locations due to the cooler growing climate. Please contact BayArea@mums.org for suggested growing advice for your particular location.

The months of December, January and February are time to review cultivars you wish to order or get from fellow growers. Keep your mums watered but not wet, watch for long rainy periods, tip pots on their side to keep from getting over watered. Pinch back early stolon growth; this generates more cuttings.

### MID-JANUARY

Start to feed with a 10-10-10 or similar fertilizer either organic or chemical based. This stimulates new growth. Control for snails, slugs and black aphids; better to prevent than try to control a pest outbreak.

### JANUARY - FEBRUARY

Start preparing your soils by adding organic materials. Addition of gypsum or Dolomite at a rate of about 5 pounds per 100 sq. feet is beneficial. Keep growing areas free of weeds. Make a soft pinch in mid-February to early March for cuttings in April. The English AA sized blooms do well in the cooler areas of Bay Area, but need an early rooting.

### FEBRUARY - MARCH

Cascades and bonsai cuttings should be started. Heating mats or soil cables are recommended when rooting early

cuttings.

### MARCH

Continue feeding and pest control. As weather starts to warm you will see stolon growth start to form below the soil line. Nip or pinch out the top of the stolon growth to help stimulate more cuttings. Never rip or tear out the stolon growth. We prefer stolon cuttings over stem cuttings but if stem cuttings are all you have, you should use them. If you did not start your cascades, bonsai and specimen plants earlier, consider doing so now. Stolon growths can also be used. If you grow the large English AA you will want to start taking your cuttings by mid-February to early-April We recommend a rooting mixture of about two parts perlite, one part peat moss, or straight river sand -- NEVER USE BEACH SAND. We recommend gentle bottom heat with either a soil heat cable or heat mat. (See general directions on rooting cuttings.)The Facebook Pages of the Bay Area Chrysanthemum Society have detailed pictures on taking cuttings. Look under photos and albums for pictures. Consider taking extra cuttings for your chapter's plant sale, giving to neighbors and new members who sign up at your plant sale.

The Bay Area is very environmentally minded. We recommend you control insects with what you feel most friendly to the environment.

### MARCH - MAY

Keep your eye out for slugs, snails, earwigs, and aphids. Take cuttings for your growing needs and your club's plant sale. Cuttings should be new soft growth, not hard and woody. Rooting hormones are recommended; be careful not to use too much. Keep your cuttings out of the sun and wind, and keep misted and moist. Avoid overwatering. Continue to feed your old mother plants with a fertilizer of choice. After successfully rooting your cuttings, either toss your old mother plants or give them to neighbors. Prepare your soil in early April. Suggested you add dolomite lime, at about 3 to 4 pounds per 100 square feet. Gypsum is also recommended. Use a good fertil-

izer like a 10-10-10 or 16-16-16, lightly scratched and watered into the top three or four inches of soil 7 to 10 days before planting out in Mid-May to Mid-June. The addition of animal manure is helpful. You get great blooms and shorter plants with a planting date as late as July 15. If you plan on stopping your plants twice, suggested for all Decorative, Pompons, Single/Semi double, Anemone and Spoons, we suggest stopping dates of May 30 and July 1st. We recommend not stopping of plants after July 15.

## Sacramento

**POTTING MIX RECIPE** - Chrysanthemums do best in a balanced mix that drains well. We prefer a mixture of the following: 2 parts Supersoil®, 3 parts compost, 1 part steer manure, 1 part peat moss, ½ part fine sand, and 1 part perlite. Mix well and moisten thoroughly before potting the mums. Do not add time-release fertilizer as this can burn new plants.

### FEBRUARY

Make sure that your pots are in an area where they can drain properly and not be flooded. The new growth should be sprayed with an insecticide to control aphids and other insects, or you may use a systemic insecticide. Be sure to spread snail and earwig bait around the plants. As the weather warms up and new growth begins, fertilize the plants with liquid fertilizer.

### MARCH & APRIL

Keep after those slugs and earwigs! They can be devastating.

### MAY

Move the plants to 4" pots for 2 to 3 weeks to develop their roots more before putting them into the ground. Feed with fish emulsion. Plant 12-18" apart (depending upon the type of plant). Remember, if they are planted too close together they will reach for the light resulting in a tall, spindly plant. Proper drainage is important if the plants are in the ground. If you have hard clay soil, chrysanthemums will do best in pots. Move plants to one-gallon pots to develop their roots further, and finally into a larger two gallon pot.

Continued on next page...

## Mum Growing Guide, cont...

### New Jersey

#### MARCH

If you ordered plants from a catalog and they arrive early, you have a good chance to make additional cuttings as they grow. As the cuttings grow, start another cutting before your time pinch. Use Promix® HP to root the cuttings. Dip the end of the cutting into Rootone® Hormone Powder to promote good growth. Keep soil moist. When the club cuttings arrive in May plant in ProMix® HP. Water them with ½ strength fertilizer and keep in well lit location for a few days with good air circulation. Use insecticide when needed. Read the label for instructions before use.

#### MAY

Begin cleaning your pots to get ready for the upcoming growing season. Use 1 cup of bleach to 5 gallons of water. Soak pots for a while and brush off excess dirt from last year. After soaking pots, rinse the pots thoroughly with clean water. When ready to plant cuttings, fill pots with Promix® and water the Promix® before planting cuttings. Be sure to put name tags on each cutting. If you are going to be transferring the cuttings to the ground, get soil ready by mixing compost and lime well into the soil before planting the cuttings. The location you choose to grow the mums should have a minimum of 6 hours sun per day. Begin feeding and insect spray after plants are established.

### Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C. Area

#### MARCH

If the grower has mum plants surviving from the previous year and plans to produce rooted cuttings, small applications of fertilizer should be applied to each plant during March and April to encourage vigorous shoot development. Close attention should be given to controlling any insect, slug, or disease problems. Also during either March or April, chrysanthemum beds should be prepared a month ahead of planting when the soil is dry enough

to work. The growing area should receive a 1-2" layer of well rotted manure, compost, leaf mold, or other humus, and 5 pounds of dolomitic limestone, and 4 pounds of a complete fertilizer such as 5-10-5 or 10-10-10 for each 100 square feet of ground. The added materials should be well mixed with the soil. Clumps should be fed at monthly intervals during February, March, and April to provide vigorous shoots from which to obtain propagating material.

#### EARLY APRIL

Chrysanthemum clumps should be divided each year. Dig and remove dirt from the old clump. Select the more vigorous shoots from the outside of the clump for transplanting. Cut each shoot from clump with 1 or 2 inches of root and plant in their permanent place. Most chrysanthemum club members prefer rooted cuttings. They are more disease-free, grow more vigorously, and can be timed to be ready at a specified date. Mums root easily in 10 days to 4 weeks, depending on how closely the temperature is kept to 65° F, anytime from April to mid-July. Most people in the Washington, D.C. area start them in late April to early June. The later dates will generally produce shorter plants.

#### LATE APRIL

Generally shoots from plants growing outside will not be adequate for cuttings until mid- to late April. To take cuttings, see general instructions at the beginning of this article.

#### MAY 1 - 15

After 3-4 weeks, rooted plants can be placed either in containers of choice or in the garden. It is sometimes helpful to cover recently planted plants with a light fabric for a few days. When the plants are no longer wilting, pinch out the top inch or two. This will stimulate branching. Garden hardy chrysanthemums should be set 15 to 18 inches apart. The large flowering disbud types should be about 8 to 12 inches apart. They are all shallow rooted plants and should not have roots planted deeper than 1 to 1½ inches below the surface. They will be given an early start by watering each plant with a pint of solu-

tion made by adding a cupful of 5-10-5 or similar fertilizer to 10 quarts of water

#### MAY 15 - 30

Plants should be mulched when first set out to conserve moisture, eliminate need for cultivation, keep the soil cool and open, and to reduce soil-borne disease. A 1- to 2-inch layer of pine needles, buckwheat hulls, ground corncobs, or your favorite mulch may be used. Always be watchful for insect, slug, and disease problems. Generally the pesticides used on other flower crops can be used on mums. Always check the pesticide labels or the Materials Safety Data Sheets for information.

### Central Carolina Area

#### MARCH

A stool is the root system and the remains of the main stem from the plants that were grown the previous year. If the plants were grown in beds those will have been lifted up at the end of the flowering season and boxed (not a closed box) to keep them in light airy conditions over the winter. Some growers wash the soil from the stool, trim the root system and use fresh compost in the boxing process. Usually from January on new growth will emerge from the old stools. These growths are the cuttings for the new growing year. Cuttings may appear from the base or from the stem of the stool. New growths from your mother plants should be more significant in March and you should be careful not to be caught by a hard freeze or frost, which can damage new growth. Start getting prepared for the propagation season. Decide what types of containers are to be used and materials needed. Propagation materials do not require fertilizer and can consist of fine peat, sand, and/or perlite. Some growers choose to mix all three together or use only one. Other growers use soilless composts. You will need seed trays, cells and materials which are available at garden centers. Water materials well the day before starting to take new cuttings. Continue spraying for pests and fungi.



## APRIL

This is the main month to be taking cuttings. See general instructions at the beginning of this article.

## MAY

New plants ordered from vendors will probably arrive this month. Inspect the plants and call or write the vendor if necessary and check to make sure the plants are in water. Leave plants in water for a period of time before potting them into 3-inch pots. Cuttings taken last month should be well-rooted by now and ready to pot up into 3-inch pots. Water all newly rooted cuttings the night before potting. Also make sure the potting mix is thoroughly moist. Continue spraying for pests and fungi.

## Southwest

(Phoenix, Las Vegas)

### MARCH

Control excessive growth of mature mum plants by pinching or cutting off tips of stems. New plants can be started by rooting the stem tips. Pot newly-rooted cuttings started in February. A 4-inch pot per mum plant is sufficient to sustain the new mum until planting in April or May. 4-inch pots require frequent watering (every other day as temperatures rise) and partial shading. Since most soils in the Southwest are heavy clay, alkaline, and easily compact, it is necessary to add plenty of organic matter. Peat moss, forest mulch, compost or well-rotted manure are all good additions.

If planting in pots or in raised beds the following soil mix will work well: Using a 5-gallon pail for measuring: 2 pails forest mulch, 1 pail soil, ¼ pail sand, 1 pail cow manure, 1 lb gypsum, ½ lb superphosphate, 1 pail peat moss, ¼ pail Vermiculite, ¼ pail Perlite, ¼ pail Omni soil conditioner, 1 lb iron sulfate.

### APRIL

Prepare soil in mum beds for new plants. Suggested additions at time of bed preparation per 100 sq. ft. area: humus 8 cu ft, ammonium phosphate 3 lbs, iron sulfate 2.5 lbs, gypsum 10 lbs.

### MAY

Planting time should be before the second week in May as that generally gives the plants a good send-off before the blistering hot weather arrives. In the Southwest, we say they should be in their final resting place by Cinco de Mayo. A good mulch covering the soil by a couple of inches will help keep down weeds, conserve on water and help keep the roots cool. Fertilize your mums every two weeks in the ground or every 10 days in pots. A balanced fertilizer such as 20-20-20 or 10-10-10 can be used. Spray with a general purpose insecticide if insects are encountered. Water more frequently (every other day in containers and every two to three days in beds) as temperatures rise.

## Pacific Northwest

During this time of year in the Pacific Northwest, frost, ice and rain protection strategies should be in place. The stools will probably survive one single or two consecutive frosty days. A third frost might kill many of the stools. Protecting stools from rain (keeping the plants dry) promotes necessary semi-dormancy. When stools are wet there is a much higher risk of frost kill. Additionally, a hard frost will often break clay pots because the wet media expands when it freezes. The stools should be kept in a semi-dormant condition until 20-30 days before you wish to take cuttings. To wake them up and promote shoot growth, feed them moderately with a high nitrogen fertilizer such as a mid-season fertilizer (20-10-20) or Miracle Gro™.

Local chrysanthemum club members currently follow either of two media/methods for starting cuttings:

The first method employs a standard greenhouse cutting/propagating bed where cuttings are placed in rows in the starting media, separated as chosen by the grower. The basic propagating bed material is peat moss and sand or our standard Mums & Roses growing mix (contact the Evergreen Chrysanthemum Association <https://www.clover.com/online-ordering/evergreen-chrysanthemum-burien> for

details). Some growers start cuttings directly in 2½-inch cross bottom propagating cubes. Some use a starting medium consisting of 60% ProEarth #2 Professional Mix™ and 40% Green Mountain Sharp White Sand™. The sharp white sand helps produce more roots as the sharp edges on the particles penetrate to the cambium layer of the cutting and new roots develop where the layer was broken.

The alternative rooting method uses Earth Pots™ as is done by some large-scale commercial propagators. The Earth Pots™ come in trays of 72 starting modules containing the required soilless ingredients. The cuttings are inserted directly into each module. A propagating bed is not required per se but you still need to provide controlled heat under the tray, overhead protection (covers), overhead lighting and frequent overhead misting. Earth Pots™ can be purchased in large quantities from several suppliers but be sure to order them early since they often sell out.

Both methods produce excellent rooted cuttings. The Earth Pots™ are preferred by some growers because they allow a dense starting flat (72 starts per flat). Downsides include additional costs and the need for frequent misting.

The cutting bed has an advantage with the white sand enabling more roots per cutting and the ability to get a good look at the roots when cuttings are taken from the bed. The starting media or the under flat temperature must be controlled (65-69° F) by heating elements such as heat pads, heat coils, general heating of the room, etc.

There are varying opinions about when to start taking cuttings. Different mum cultivars require different starting dates to provide the best chances of getting full flowered blooms. Many commercial propagators note such information in their catalogues or plant lists. For most of the year we concentrate primarily on root development. With that in mind, it is generally recom-

Continued on next page...

## Mum Growing Guide, cont...

mended that plants get into their final pots, (8" or 9" pots, or larger) by the first to the fifteenth of June and that the last pinching be done between July 4 and July 15. This allows sufficient time for the plant to develop strong fully root-bound roots by the time the buds begin to appear.

A basic tenant for pot grown plants in the Pacific Northwest is that the plants seldom bud out until they become root bound. If you are still potting-on into July there isn't sufficient time for roots to develop before buds appear. The result is often late and anemic blooms; pushing them along with additional fertilizer can't really save them. The need for sufficient root development is mostly independent of the planned stopping dates. You will have to decide when to take your cuttings in order to get the best flowers and this may take some experience.

Many growers in the Pacific Northwest have started taking cuttings early because weather conditions in April tend to stall the growth of the plants and we barely get them into the final pots by early June. Some growers who have overshot the desired potting-on dates have resorted to using 8" pots for the final potting in order to get the root system more quickly semi-root bound. Such a strategy works to some extent, but keep in mind that attaining exceptional flowers may be difficult since the smaller pot with a plant with fewer roots significantly limits the potential of the final blooms. Most garden varieties are not affected by the need for roots to become semi-root bound; exhibition class mums are more likely to be. It is better to delay starts to get healthier cuttings than to take them earlier (in January), and have weak cuttings. Another observation is that the shoots tend to be growing faster when cuttings are taken in February and into March and April than earlier in the year.

## IN MEMORIAM

### Dr. Robert K. Howell

Dr. Robert (Bob) K. Howell, 92, passed away on Sunday, December 17, 2023. Bob was born on May 2, 1931, in Stuarts Draft, VA. After serving in the Navy during the Korean conflict, Bob earned a PhD in plant pathology at the University of Maryland, College Park and worked his entire career as a research scientist for the USDA in Beltsville, MD.



Bob was the recipient of the 2011 NCS Gold Medal Award for holding many positions within NCS. He was a director from 1999-2001, 2002-2004, 2011-2013, 2014-2016, and 2017-2019; served on the Nominating Committee from 2019-2023; served as the Product Review Committee Chair from 2004-2011, the Public Relations/Publicity Committee in 2001, Video and Slides Committee Chair in 2006; and Classification Committee member in 1998 and 2011. He wrote numerous scientific and botanical articles for *The Chrysanthemum* and was open to receiving calls and emails from members seeking his vast knowledge. Bob's photographs from chrysanthemum shows were used on the covers and in articles in *The Chrysanthemum*. Bob co-chaired the 2002 National/International Convention and Show in Bethesda, MD. In 2011, Bob was the National Convention and Show's Co-Chair of Division I - Horticulture. Bob was an outstanding NCS Judge and attained the status of Permanent Master Judge. Bob was an NCS Life Member and a member of NCS for 54 years.

Bob's contributions to the Potomac Chapter were legion. Through his leadership, monthly chapter programs significantly improved, summer hands-on teaching programs were established, and community outreach, such as the 4-H club program and area garden club involvement, became a standard for PCS. When PCS gave Bob their President's Award in 1988, the citation said, "He is the best thing that ever happened to PCS." Bob was a mentor to many. He will be missed.



### Amy Goss

Amy (Daniels) Goss, age 81, passed away on Tuesday, November 28, 2023. Amy earned a B.S. in Education from Bloomsburg University and went on to earn her M.Ed. from Ohio University. She worked in higher education administration for Northern Virginia Community College for more than 27 years. Surviving is her loving husband of 51 years, Galen L. Goss. Amy was familiar to many in the chrysanthemum world through Galen's decades of leadership in NCS. Amy also loved sharing the Goss home with friends. She loved hosting parties whether it was a going-away party for a work colleague or a summer picnic for chrysanthemum club members.



# DESIGN DEVELOPMENTS

## Designing with Weathered Wood

By Madeline West

Hello, designers and arrangers! I hope you are getting ready for another year of making designs for your shows. This issue we will talk about using weathered wood -- unique pieces from the beach or found objects from a walk in the forest.

One of the most inexpensive, easiest and most creative art is driftwood art. I have included some photos (*at right and on the back cover*) of designs using weathered wood, driftwood, knarred (knotty or gnarled) wood branches, fresh wood branches and dry wood branches.

Weathered driftwood with holes, shells of mussels or rocks imbedded in wood and barnacles on wood pieces with mottled seaweed are most special; also weather-beaten wood from an old barn or building is good. Round wood disks that have come ashore are nice for painting or etching. Keep looking and you will find amazing things: pieces of wood, debris, branches intertwined like an animal shape -- all are perfect for your sculpture design, low profile design, traditional mass design, and more (remember to check in the show schedule whether a design can include sticks, wood dowels, wooden spoons or wooden chopsticks).

The pieces you select will depend not just on what's available but what you are particularly looking for and what your purpose and intent is.

**CLEANING WOOD** if covered with silt or other clinging soil, wash using a hard wire brush. Some people wash their wood with water and detergent, but this is a matter of personal choice.

**SCRAPING** bark or pitch that is embedded in the wood itself is like a layer of extra skin and should be

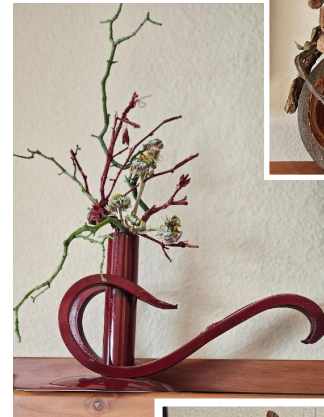
scraped away when the wood is wet. **SANDING WOOD** to achieve a nice surface and to bring out the wood grain.

**POLISHING WOOD** can be accomplished by using a deer's antler. The antler presses the wood fibers and creates a soft sheen, or you can rub your work with wax. Another choice is to use floor polish, shoe polish or car polish like Simoniz. Check online for polishes made especially for driftwood. Here is a homemade recipe you can try:

**Olive Oil Polish:** Mix 1 ½ cups olive oil, ½ cup white vinegar, 30 drops lemon essential oil together; spray on a piece of wood, wipe down with a microfiber cloth for a clean, shiny surface.

**COLORING OR PAINTING WOOD** depends on whether you want a natural look or one with color. A good method of achieving color without losing the grain of the wood is to apply a transparent stain of artist's oil, thinned with turpentine, watercolor, or acrylic paints thinned with water to seal the surface.

Three designs by Mary Baughn using wood elements. Photos by Mary Baughn.



Credits: "Creating with Driftwood and Weathered Wood," by Elyse and Mike Sommer; Crown Publishers, Inc. New York. Homemade wood polish: Alexandra Chamberlin.

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# National Chrysanthemum Society USA

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Advanced Grower's Handbook	\$10.00 each	_____	_____
Classification Handbook	\$15.00 each	_____	_____
Bloom Finder	\$10.00 each	_____	_____
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<b>Discount</b> - 5 or more copies mailed to one address	\$16.00 each	_____	_____
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**If you live outside of the United States, your payment must be in U.S. Dollars and your bank check must have a U.S. address printed on the check.** In order for NCS to avoid large bank collection charges, any foreign check that does not meet these criteria will be returned to the sender.

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**4708 Tulane Court**  
**Sacramento, CA 95841-4228**

NCS Form 2 – September 2, 2023



# NCS DIRECTORS

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Youth Members	Graydon Moss	Silver Spring, MD	graydon.moss@mums.org	301-384-8875

# Designs from 2023 Chapter Shows...

From the Bay Area C. S. show (clockwise from top left): Best Standard-Size Design, "Magical Duet," by Jeff MacDonald; Best Petite Design and Best Design of Show, "Wee Things," by Aarathi Raghu. Keith Moore's design won the "Fan Favorite" award at the Orange County C. S. show. At the Central Carolina C. S. show, Bess Treadwell's "Octoberfest" design won The National Garden Club Tricolor Award.



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# Designing with Weathered Wood...

See the Design Developments story inside for tips on designing with weathered wood. (L-R) Creative Line Mass design by Debbie Spiller; two Low Profile designs by Mary Baughn. Photos by Debbie Spiller and Mary Baughn.

