

THE JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL CHRYSANTHEMUM SOCIETY

Chrysanthemum



MARCH 2025



2024 NCS NATIONAL SHOW RESULTS

IS IT TIME TO TOSS MT. RAINIER?

CHAPTER SHOW REPORTS

GROWING NCS SPRAYS

National Chrysanthemum Society

PRESIDENT

Irene C. Bernal
2676 Shadow Lane
Anaheim, CA 92801
irene.bernal@mums.org
714-381-1926

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Joan Matthews
1901 Glenwood Ave
Raleigh, NC 27608
joan.matthews@mums.org
919-623-0144

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Dale Wisniewski
7950 West La Madre Way
Las Vegas, NV, 89149
dale.wisniewski@mums.org
702-378-3270

TREASURER

Leanne Ortega
4724 Kenneth Avenue
Fair Oaks, CA 95628
leanne.ortega@mums.org
916-417-3360

SECRETARY

Anette Lloyd
3325 Oakland Blvd. NW
Roanoke, VA 24012
anette.lloyd@mums.org
540-520-8801

DIRECTOR OF MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Galen Goss
0101 Village Way
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
galen.goss@mums.org
703-887-4378

Visit the NCS website:
www.mums.org

WEBMASTER:

web.master@mums.org



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thoughts for the New Year

Irene C. Bernal, NCS President

Greetings Fellow NCS Members --

It is very hard to believe that my first year as your president has ended and that we are already three months into the start of a new year. Most of us experienced a smooth and uneventful start. The San Gabriel Valley chapter was the exception. So many of their members reside in the Pasadena and Altadena areas and experienced some scary moments but, ultimately, none were affected by the fires, except for temporary power outages.

On the good news side: At the annual Board meeting held during the 2024 NCS Convention and Show, our NCS Secretary, Anette Lloyd, announced that our membership had increased. At the beginning of 2024, we had 456 members and now we have 496. A small step but, nevertheless, it is still a move up the ladder.

This is due, totally, to NCS members who are working to increase the membership in their chapters. Chapter membership is the backbone of the NCS organization and increasing membership at the chapter level can have the most impact. Thank you all for your hard work. I hope we can keep our membership growing in one direction – ALWAYS UPWARDS!

On the other hand, do not forget the new members from last year; we want to make sure we don't lose them. It is very important we retain our core members while adding new ones.

In closing, I'd like to share the following, especially to you newer members who may never have seen this information. These are the goals of the National Chrysanthemum Society developed by our founders, Dr. Ernest L. Scott and Dr. Aleita H. Scott. In my humble opinion, they should be the goals for each NCS chapter and for each NCS member.

- Educate by researching, teaching and disseminating procedures for the propagation and cultivation of the chrysanthemum
- Improve the standard of excellence of the chrysanthemum
- Promote a wider interest in the cultivation of the chrysanthemum
- Encourage a greater use and display of the beautiful blooms of the many cultivars of the chrysanthemum
- Increase the bonds of fellowship among growers of the chrysanthemum

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.



CONTENTS

Volume 81

No. 1

- 4 Mums 2024: Minutes from the 2024 NCS Annual Meeting
- 9 Mums 2024: 2024 NCS National Show Awards
- 10 Mums 2024: Report of the 2024 NCS Awards Banquet
- 11 2024 Chapter Show Reports
- 15 Growing Prize-Winning NCS Sprays (*Reprinted from June, 2013*) by Jesse Terres
- 16 Meet Barry Baertlein of Oregon Mums & Hostas by Barry Baertlein
- 17 "Secret" Tips for Winning at Growing and Showing by Jeff MacDonald
- 18 Is It Time to Say Goodbye to *Mt. Rainier*? by Jeff MacDonald
- 19 Judges Page: How To -- Daruma Dwarf Plants
- 20 Judges Page: Examination for Candidate Judges; Ethics for Exhibitors & Judges
- 22 Showing Off Mums at the Japanese Friendship Garden by Jana DeForest
- 23 Classification Committee Reminders by Jeff MacDonald
- 24 Mum Growing Guide by Region -- January - May
- 28 In Memoriam
- 29 Design Developments by Madeline West
- 30 Ways & Means Form: Products

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EDITOR

Lucy Hackett

233 Circle Drive

Jackson, CA 95642

209-304-5780

lucy.hackett@mums.org

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Dan Schadler

4218 Admiral Drive

Chamblee, GA 30341

770-457-3704

dan.schadler@mums.org

Bruce W. Zisterer

P.O. Box 442

Sierra Madre, CA 91025

818-517-1535

bzisterer@aol.com

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Vacant

ON THE COVER:

Winners from the 2024 NCS National Show: top, *Western Bushfire*, Best Disbudded Cut Bloom in Show and Best Youth Exhibit by Samuel Page; bottom, l-r: Best Decorative, *Zembla Lime*, by Hatsuko Loehle; Best Novice Exhibit, *Garnet King*, by Kenneth Hill; Best Single or Semi-Double, *By Jove*, by Christine Leidelmeyer; Best Reflex and Best Disbudded Cut Bloom in Show Runner-Up, *West Bromwich*, by Tamara Bliley.

NATIONAL CHRYSANTHEMUM SOCIETY, INC., USA

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

NOVEMBER 12, 2024 • LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

By Anette Lloyd, NCS Secretary

The 81st Annual Meeting of the National Chrysanthemum Society, Inc., USA was called to order by President Irene Bernal at 2:21 p.m. on November 12, 2024. She welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced officers, directors, and visitors.

Galen Goss moved to dispense with the reading of the 2023 minutes, as they were published in summary form in the December 2023 issue of *The Chrysanthemum*, and to approve

them as they were published. Dan Schadler seconded the motion and it passed.

Secretary Anette Lloyd stated that the following actions were taken by the Board during the year:

- Elected Dale Wisniewski to the position of Second Vice-President.
- Granted Ivor Mace an honorary life membership to NCS.
- Approved Greg Schwartz as the NCS web designer with payment of \$50 per month for standard main-

tenance and \$50 per hour for additional projects as needed.

▪ Approved creating a standing committee for the Bowersox Trust Awards.

▪ Approved an allotment of no more than \$75 to be used by the Archivist to purchase storage materials.

▪ Approved revisiting eliminating the Master Judges Exam at a future Board of Directors meeting to be held no later than January 1, 2025.

▪ Approved allowing anemones to be accepted at

a size of three inches or greater.

▪ Approved establishing a Bob Howell Memorial Award for Best Fuku-suke.

▪ Approved suspending the Master Judges exam.

Secretary Lloyd also provided the Board action from the Board of Director's meeting that took place the day before the Annual meeting:

▪ Approved a fundraising campaign for 2025 with a goal of \$2,000; the funds would be used to offset the cost for the 2024 National conference.

President Bernal stated that all committee reports would be read in their entirety including the reports for any committee chairs not present.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The report from **Irene Bernal, Archivist**, stated that during the past year as Archivist, she has responded to multiple member requests asking for information contained in issues of *The Chrysanthemum* magazine. She will request the continuation of the \$50 allotment to support archiving costs for 2025.

The report from **Eileen Halcrow, Awards Chair**, provided the following list of expenses for September 19, 2023 to October 21, 2024:

- Mailing. \$50.18
- Printing. \$192.52
- Supplies. \$35.24

TOTAL expenses: \$277.94

Anticipated expenses for next year:

- Print NCS trophy award certificates for NCS show \$90.00
- Mailing (\$6.50 x 10) 65.00
- Printing bronze medal certificates \$50.00

TOTAL 2025 expenses \$305.00

Eileen Halcrow also provided the following notes on committee activity for the year:

- New and renewed 5-year award sponsorships;
- The Board voted to approve offer-

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barry@oregonchrysanthemumsandhostas.com



L-R: The People's Choice design entry at the 2024 NCS National Show, "Star of the Show" by Larri Tarver. Photo by Eileen Halcrow.

A First for NCS and Samuel Page

At the 2024 NCS National Show, there were five Youth exhibitors who entered a total of ten blooms. Five of those entries received blue ribbons and one, *Western Bushfire*, the Best Youth Exhibit entered by 10-year old Samuel Page went on to win Best Disbudded Cut Bloom in Show -- the first time ever a Youth entry has taken the top honors at a NCS National Show.

Samuel is a member of the San Gabriel Valley C.S. Kid's Club and has been participating since he was a toddler. Congratulations to Samuel and to all of the Youth exhibitors and their mentors for a very successful season.

(Samuel's winning *Western Bushfire* bloom is featured on the cover of this issue.)

ing a new award for Best Fukusuke;

- Many thanks to Bruce W. Zisterer for his relentless pursuit of new sponsorships;

- Total income from new and renewed sponsorships was \$1,000.

The report from **Jeff MacDonald, Classification Chair**, stated that the committee reviewed and classified new cultivars from several sources. Several new exhibition cultivars were introduced into the USA by Crown Mums; mainly garden cultivars and pot cultivars are being introduced by the commercial growers. Disbud cultivars new to the USA are planned to be introduced by Crown Mums in the next few years. No new disbud cultivars were introduced. Reported cultivars not commercially available have been reviewed and added.

The committee chair and members (if reappointed) will review and gather information about the current format of the *Handbook on Chrysanthemum Classification*. The goal is to reduce costs, streamline the registered cultivars, and reduce unnecessary and redundant printing of the Handbook.

The committee asked the membership and judges to report culti-

vars not found in the *Handbook on Chrysanthemum Classification* and for errors or omissions to be reported as soon as found for correction.

The report from **Madeline West, Design Developments**, stated that there are many possible topics for Design Dimensions and picking which is the most important to readers is an unknown. If chapter presidents or representatives/show chairs could send pictures of designs from the shows, Ms. West can zero in on a topic; for example, cascade, angular, hanging designs, petites, etc. and write an article on the design from the show. This is a nice way to showcase an arranger's design. Please send pictures of show designs or workshops -- you may just be the next star on your boulevard, with national attention and accolades.

The report from **Galen Goss, Director of Management Services**, stated that during 2024, chapters were queried regarding participation in the NCS insurance program. Eleven chapters joined the program. The cost remained at \$75.00 per chapter to participate. Mr. Goss also answered questions and provided input when asked by NCS leaders

and committee chairs.

The report from **Lucy Hackett, Editor**, thanked NCS for the opportunity to serve as editor of *The Chrysanthemum*. She thanked Dan Schadler, Bruce Zisterer, and Galen Goss for their assistance in developing content, technical review and editing for *The Chrysanthemum*. British grower Ivor Mace has also been a reliable expert contributor to horticultural topics in the journal. Their knowledge of mum culture and the workings of NCS keeps the journal informative and useful to NCS members.

Madeline West joined the journal team as Design Developments contributor in 2022, but has yet to receive any chapter design show submissions for her to highlight. If any chapters are planning to hold Design shows (or even workshops or classes) this year, please take photos, and send show schedules and results to Madeline West so they can be showcased in *The Chrysanthemum*.

NCS members are very generous with their time to generate articles for the journal; however the need for articles on mum culture and showing never ends! Suggestions for generat-

Continued on next page...

MUMS 2024

L-R: At the 2024 NCS National Show in Las Vegas, Judges Kalpana Shayam, Irene Bernal, John Capobianco, and Camilla Ng; Master Judges Bruce W. Zisterer and Wayne Wight tally votes for final selections. Photos by Eileen Halcrow.



ing submissions – or re-running past articles of merit are encouraged.

Members are encouraged to provide suggestions for improvement and ideas for journal content any time.

Ms. Hackett appreciates the creative freedom allowed her, as well as the cooperative spirit of the membership in providing materials for the newsletter.

The report from **Tamara Bliley, International Relations Chair**, stated that it has been another successful year of communicating with mum growers internationally and

has yielded many new friends and contacts. She has kept in contact with many Facebook groups in India, Africa, Australia, adding Poland, Ukraine, the Czech Republic and Slovenia, Romania, and Canada. She made personal friends in Belgium, Bulgaria, and Portugal. Tamara has found that this year, with the economy hit hard by inflation, that many growers are looking for ways to reuse and save resources. She continues to ask questions about specific growing operations and cultural interest in mums. In Poland, mums are grown for only one purpose: All Saints Day,

November 1 and on November 2, all mums are composted; they represent the dead. However, she also found that just next door to Poland, mums are used extensively to decorate homes and yards and are used to brighten the gloom of winter. Many growers there and in neighboring countries only grow mound-form mums and rarely see exhibition cultivars. Belgium, Romania, Ukraine and Bulgaria have mostly women-owned businesses, while in Pakistan and India it is primarily men who grow mums. In England, Ivor Mace has stepped back as a provider of the Large English Exhibition cultivars, but there is a new player who has taken up the reins for him. Ms. Bliley is looking forward to another successful year.

The report from **Jeff MacDonald and Rita Rover, Judges Schools and Credentials Co-Chairs**, stated that the committee met in January 2024 and voted unanimously to suspend the Master Judges exam for the present time. On June 15, 2024, a motion based on this decision was passed by the NCS Board of Directors.

A statement by the JSCC was presented to the board indicating their gratitude for the highly respected services of the current accredited Master Judges and our plan to continue to appreciate the level of expertise they

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L-R: At the 2024 NCS National Show in Las Vegas, Best Container-Grown Disbud, *Flame Symbol*, by Bruce W. Zisterer; Best Multiple Disbuds in Show, *Wisp of Pink* by David Trine; Best Quill, *Diane Stoakes* by Norm Nakanishi. Photos by Eileen Halcrow.

have attained. Under consideration by the JSCC is an evaluation of the requirements for Permanent Master Judge based on years and services to NCS.

They further agreed that the committee members should use their time more productively and move forward with an emphasis on enhancing the training and performance of current Accredited Judges by offering webinars, Zoom workshops, and articles. This will allow Accredited Judges to earn a new title such as Senior Judge. The details to accomplish this level of accreditation are under discussion by the JSCC.

Anette Lloyd, Membership Committee Chair presented the following membership data:

Membership Data for 2024:

Membership for 2023	456
Membership for 2024	496
Chapter	420
General	74
Overseas	2
Net gain/loss from 2022 to 2023	+40
Percent change 2022-2023	+9.2%
Regular Members:	461
Life Members:	27
Garden Club Members:	2
Youth Members:	6

Joan Matthews, New Chapters Chair, provided the following activity

report for the committee:

4/11/24- Sent an email to Elyse Presnell Swenson with general information about being a general member of the National Chrysanthemum Society. Also asked her if she would like info on forming a local chapter.

4/12/24- Elyse replied that she would like info on forming a chapter in Michigan.

4/15/24- Sent the Invitation Letter that describes the 2 phase process to Elyse.

10/23/24- Sent an email checking in with Elyse about current status in the process of forming a new chapter.

9/29/24- Received a phone message from Bruce Zisterer regarding forming a new NCS Chapter and asking for general information. Bruce did not specify where this new chapter would be but that he was the contact for this new chapter.

On 9/30/24, I emailed Bruce the Invitation Letter that describes what is involved in the 2-phase process of becoming a NCS chapter.

9/30/24- Bruce left a phone message that he had additional questions and requested a call. It was right after Hurricane Helene hit western North Carolina.

9/30/24- Sent an email to Bruce and apologized that I missed his call and would be calling him the next day.

10/1/24- Bruce sent an email stating no need to call and he would reach out in the next days with any questions.

10/23/24- Sent an email to Bruce checking on his progress with creating a new chapter.

10/23/24- Bruce called and said that the amount of money that is being offered is not enough financial support.

Renee Wherley, Nominating Chair, presented the following slate as Directors for the 2025 - 2027 term:

- **Jana DeForest**, Phoenix CS
- **George MacDonald**, San Gabriel Valley CS
- **Kate McCamish**, General Member

Galen Goss, Show and Convention Chair, stated that throughout the year he provided feedback and advice to the planning committee for the 2024 national convention and show in Las Vegas. He reviewed the contract and after approval from the NCS President, signed the contract with the Santa Fe Station Hotel. Mr. Goss also prepared the show schedule booklet as well as the banquet program.

Galen Goss and Anette Lloyd, Social Media Co-Chairs, stated that at last year's board meeting, the Board approved a maintenance contract with Clouse Designs for \$50

Continued on next page...

MUMS 2024

per month with the added option of additional "special" work at \$50 per hour. Unfortunately, Clouse Designs "ghosted" NCS; he did not respond to phone calls, emails, text messages, or messages left on his webpage. As a result, the committee searched for a replacement. Dan Schadler proffered Gregory Schwartz. Following a telephone interview and a review of his resume, the committee recommended to the board that Mr. Schwartz be retained at the rates of \$50 per month plus \$50 per hour for additional work. Galen Goss advised Mr. Schwartz that the site was not working properly. He quickly discovered a number of issues with the website that were causing the problems. He recommended another firm (Mammoth Solutions) to help with the fixes. The fixes were completed, and the website has functioned properly since then. The Social Media Committee has also maintained the NCS Facebook page.

The committee received a recent suggestion from one of the committee members to add a "Growing Guide" to the website. The information would be similar to what is currently printed in *The Chrysanthemum* each issue. Given all the other needed changes to the site, this addition hasn't been added, however it will be addressed in the coming months.

At this meeting, Mr. Goss and Ms. Lloyd will propose the members of the Social Media Committee for the coming year.

The report from **Sharon King, Ways and Means Chair**, stated that some product lines are not selling well. No ball caps and only 4 t-shirts were sold over the entire year. Mailing costs for the caps are more than the price of the cap. Cloisonné items (pins and tie tacks) do not sell and should be eliminated.



Display Boards at the 2024 NCS National Show. Photo by Eileen Halcrow.

Ms. King thanks Galen Goss for all his help. He continues filling/mailing all orders east of the Mississippi, which cuts down on turnaround time and costs. Galen keeps the website and magazine order forms current and manages reorders on printed matter. In 2022, the committee had 52 sales (39 PayPal) and 233 items ordered; in 2023 there were 58 sales (47 PayPal) with 240 items ordered, and in 2024 35 sales (18 PayPal) with 139 items sold.

Sales: March was the best month for orders, with January and February the slowest. Shipping costs are up, as the media rate increased again in July (from \$3.92 to \$4.63); fees barely cover mailing on each 9x6 envelope and don't if a larger package is required. Selling a \$2 NSC pin exponentially increases the mailing costs because we can't use media mail.

Atypical expenses this year were for award ribbons shipped to Las Vegas for the NCS National Show equaling \$5.15. Ordered 3000 entry cards \$466.56 (sold 1600). Book orders mailed this year include: 9 *Beginner Handbooks*, 9 *Advanced Handbooks* (5 replaced=lost order), 6 *Show and Judges Handbooks*, 27 "Mums the Word," 6 *2024 Classification Guides* (8 of the 2023 CG & 5 Appendix), 1 *Bloom Finder*, 41 booklets, 17 pamphlets (7 to our club), 1 set of note cards. Sales were \$1,984.34. Expenses \$715.91. King's Mums con-

tinues be the main purchaser of NCS publications.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of New Directors-

The following individuals were nominated to the NCS Board of Directors for 2025-2027:

Jana DeForest, Phoenix CS

George MacDonald,
San Gabriel Valley CS

Kate McCamish,
General Member

Hearing no other nominations, the slate was approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dan Schadler informed those present that the plant disease known as "aster yellows" has shown up in chrysanthemums in the state of Oklahoma. It is spread by an insect. Symptoms appear as though the plant is suffering from a virus, however it is actually caused by a phytoplasma, a bacteria-like organism. There is no cure for this; if you acquire a plant that has symptoms of aster yellows, put it in a plastic bag and place in the garbage. Symptoms of aster yellows include discoloration of the plant, stunted growth, and deformed flowers. Mr. Schadler hopes to have an article about this in the December issue of *The Chrysanthemum*. While the origin is unknown, it is very contagious; Mr. Schadler encouraged everyone to remain vigilant.

There was no other business; the meeting adjourned at 2:52 pm.

2024 National Show Awards

DIVISION I: HORTICULTURE

EXHIBITOR	AWARD	CULTIVAR	NCS AWARD/SPONSOR
Renee Wherley	Sweepstakes	108 points	James Hackett Memorial Award
	Best Irregular Incurve	<i>Giant Betsy Ross</i>	David Eigenbrode Memorial Award
	Best Pompon	<i>Carillon</i>	Herb Lehman Memorial Award
	Best NCS Terminal Spray, Sect. C	<i>Kelvin Tattoo</i>	Joyce & Eugene Strohkorb Award
	Best NCS Terminal Spray in Show	<i>Kelvin Tattoo</i>	Emlyn Evans Memorial Award
Tamara Bliley	Sweepstakes Runner-Up	76 points	Ethel & Walter Greene Memorial Award
	Best Disbudded Cut Bloom/Runner Up	<i>West Bromwich</i>	Ron Hedin Award
	Best Reflex Award	<i>West Bromwich</i>	Orange County C. S.
	Best Intermediate Incurve Award	<i>St. Tropez</i>	Sacramento C. S.
Christine Leidelmeyer	Best Single or Semi-Double Award	<i>By Jove</i>	Bonnie Mirmak
	Best Anemone	<i>Lynn Anderton</i>	Chuck & Helen Hendry Memorial Award
	Best Spoon	<i>Redwing</i>	Fr. James Diavatis Memorial Award
	Best Bonsai	<i>Chidori</i>	H. Carl Young Memorial Award
	Best Container-Grown in Show	<i>Chidori</i> (Bonsai)	Pat Stockett Johnston Memorial Award
David Trine	Best Spider	<i>Vegas Showgirl</i>	Bert Konzal Memorial Award
	Best Unclassified or Exotic Award	<i>Satin Ribbon</i>	Phoenix C. S.
	Best Disbudded Cut Bloom, Sect. A	<i>Vegas Showgirl</i>	Old Dominion C. S.
	Best 3 Disbudded Cut Blooms, Sect. B	<i>Wisp of Pink</i>	Al & Fran Martin Memorial Award
	Best Multiple Bloom Disbud	<i>Wisp of Pink</i>	Frank Mastromano Memorial Award
Samuel Page	Best Disbudded Cut Bloom in Show	<i>Western Bushfire</i>	Ted King Memorial Award
	Best Youth Exhibit	<i>Western Bushfire</i>	Jay Pengra Memorial Award
Kenneth Hill	Best Novice Exhibit	<i>Garnet King</i>	Wayne Wight Award
Hatsuko Loehle	Best Decorative	<i>Zembla Lime</i>	Orange County C. S.
Norm Nakanishi	Best Quill	<i>Diane Stoakes</i>	Central Carolina C. S.
Bruce W. Zisterer	Best Container-Grown Disbud or Spray	<i>Flame Symbol</i>	Long Island C. S.
Luke Chang	People's Choice, Division I	<i>Moonbeam</i>	

NCS MEDAL CERTIFICATES

Silver	Sweepstakes	Renee Wherley	
Bronze	Best One Bloom Disbud	Samuel Page	<i>Western Bushfire</i>
	Best Multiple Bloom Disbud	David Trine	<i>Wisp of Pink</i>
	Best NCS Terminal Spray	Renee Wherley	<i>Kelvin Tattoo</i>
	Best Container-Grown	Christine Leidelmeyer	<i>Chidori</i> (Bonsai)
Youth Bronze	Best Entry Age 13 and Under	Samuel Page	<i>Western Bushfire</i>
	Best Entry Age 14 to 18	River Wherley	<i>Bola de Oro</i>
Bowersox Trust Award	Best Youth Entry	Samuel Page	<i>Western Bushfire</i>
Bowersox Trust Award	Best Novice Entry	Kenneth Hill	<i>Garnet King</i>

DIVISION II: DESIGN - "Las Vegas Entertainment"

Section A - Standard Designs - "Vegas Show Girls"

Xem Harding	Class 1. "Star of the Show"
Larri Tarver	Class 2. "Chorus Line"
Jean Paul	Class 3. "Magnificent Head Piece," Designer's Choice Award (NGC), Award of Design Excellence (NGC), Dottie Bates Award (NCS)

Section B - Petite Designs - "Vegas Hot Spots"

Judy Stebbins	Class 1. "High Roller," Petite Award (NGC), Petite Award (NCS)
	Class 2. "Stratosphere Tower and Thrills"
Gail Vanderhorst	Class 3. "Bellagio and Dancing Fountains"
Larri Tarver	People's Choice Award, Class 1. "Star of the Show"

NATIONAL CHRYSANTHEMUM SOCIETY, INC., USA

Report of the 2024 Awards Banquet

NOVEMBER 12, 2024 • LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

By Galen Goss

Bruce W. Zisterer opened the annual banquet and awards program at about 6:30 pm on November 14, 2024. He offered a blessing and following a delicious dinner, he welcomed everyone to the event noting how NCS is returning to the "glory days" of NCS annual shows. He also offered a tribute to Sharon Peterson, former president of NCS who inspired a group to come together and plan this convention and show. Unfortunately, Sharon passed away before the event could be held, but she lit the flame.

Mr. Zisterer introduced the current president of NCS, Irene Bernal. Ms. Bernal welcomed everyone and congratulated the planning committee for an excellent job.

Galen Goss, Past President of NCS, substituting for Anette Lloyd

(NCS Secretary), conducted the Roll Call of Chapters. Thirty-nine members from nine chapters were in attendance at the dinner. Two General Members were present as were five guests. A total of 46 enjoyed dinner.

Following the Roll Call, Galen Goss presented the show awards. He was assisted by Eileen Halcrow, NCS Awards Committee Chair. NCS President Irene Bernal congratulated each winner.

The final award of the program was the NCS Gold Medal Award. The 2024 recipient was Tamara Bliley from the Portland chapter (see separate article about the award in the December 2024 issue of *The Chrysanthemum*). She was very moved by the recognition.

Dale Wisniewski offered the final thank you and comments about the

2024 AWARDS BANQUET ROLL CALL

San Gabriel Valley CS – 11
Phoenix CS – 7
Portland CS – 7
Sacramento CS – 5
Bay Area CS – 3
Orange County CS – 2
Old Dominion CS – 2
Long Island CS – 1
Vancouver CS – 1
General Members – 2
Guests – 5

TOTAL – 46

convention and show. He recognized the planning committee and thanked them for their hard work.

Interspersed among the speeches and awards were raffle drawings. Leanne Ortega, NCS Treasurer, drew the numbers. Amazingly, many members won multiple prizes. It made for a fun time.

Dan Schadler, representing the Judges Schools and Credentials Committee, congratulated Bruce W. Zisterer on becoming a Master Judge. He also presented Judges Pins to the newest Accredited Judges: David Trine and Dale Wisniewski.

Mr. Zisterer concluded the banquet and awards program again thanking the attendees and acknowledging the beautiful show.



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Long Island C. S.

By John Capobianco

The Long Island Chrysanthemum Society held its 69th Annual Show at Starkie Bros. Garden Center in Farmingdale, Long Island, NY, November 2-3, 2024

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 the Village of Farmingdale's Cultural Arts Committee and the Queens Botanical Garden, in Flushing, NY. The Farmingdale workshops had 14 people attend, and three entered their blooms in the Novice section. While they didn't win any awards, they learned the basics of how to grow exhibition mums and are likely to improve their skills in coming years. Of the ten participants at the Queens Botanical Garden workshop only one sent pictures of her blooms with an apology for not being brave enough to disbud. (Many of us were there at the beginning of our chrysanthemum growing addiction!)

With many of our growers having retired from active mum cultivation, we were again anxious about the size



L-R: Rita Rover wowed the judges and the crowd at the 2024 Long Island C. S. chapter show with her massive (over 10 inches) bloom of *Louisiana* and her cascade of *Kurume*. Photos by Rita Rover.

of our show. We shouldn't have been worried, we had 13 exhibitors with 111 entries. A special thanks to out of state judges, **Steve Avallone, Chuck Blewett, Chuck Turner, Jimmy Tan and Camilla Ng**.

Corey Lee of Maryland, one of John Capobianco's students, dazzled veteran growers with his Novice entry of an Old Wood Bonsai (started in 2019). He was the sole blue ribbon

recipient in the Novice Section. He also won the Bowersox Trust Award for Novice exhibitors of \$100.00.

Nathaniel Gjeluçi of Virginia won the Best Youth Entry with his spider *Show Girl*. Nathaniel hit the trifecta winning Best Youth Entry in three out of three shows, New Jersey State C.S., Old Dominion C.S. and Long Island C.S.

Rita Rover wowed the judges and the crowd with her massive over 10-inch *Louisiana*. Rita has been perfecting her growing techniques for the giant English cultivars. She would have had a couple more giants but as she was taking them out of her car, the wind kicked up and snapped the head off another giant bloom. Next year she'll have to hold up a wind-shield of some kind to protect them.

The trophy winners are almost a repeat of the 68th Annual show, only a few names of cultivars have changed.

The NCS Silver Medal Certificate
Continued on next page...



At the 2024 Long Island C. S. chapter show, John Capobianco won Best Bonsai with a slab planting of multiple cultivars. Photo by John Capobianco.

2024 CHAPTER SHOW REPORTS

for Sweepstakes was awarded to John Capobianco, with 151 points. Bob Tobias was runner-up in sweepstakes with 76 points.

NCS Bronze Medal Certificates were awarded as follows:

Rita Rover/Marty Cohen: Best Container-Grown in Show, Cascade of *Kurume*; Best Disbud in Show, *Louisiana*; Best Multiple Disbuds in Show, *Bola de Oro*.

John Capobianco: Best NCS Terminal Spray in Show, *Yellow Vesuvio*.

Trophies were awarded to **Rita Rover/Marty Cohen** for Best Disbud, Section A, *Louisiana*; Best Incurve, *Rita Rover*; Best Reflex, *Louisiana*; Best Single/Anemone/Spoon, *Arderton Gold*; Best Quill/Spider, *Senkyo Kenshin*; Best Three-Bloom entry, Section B, *Bola de Oro*; Best Container-Grown Tree, Bush or Artistically Grown, Cascade of *Kurume*.

Steve Avallone won Best Judges Entry, *Crimson Tide* (Disbud).

John Finocchio won Best Container-Grown Disbud/Spray – *Seaton's Ashleigh*.

John Capobianco won Best Bonsai with a slab planting of multiple cultivars.

Nathaniel Gjeluçi won a blue Best Youth Entry ribbon for his spider, *Show Girl*.

Rita Rover presented the Ivor Mace Affiliated Societies Bronze Medal to our Webmaster **Donna Rusinski** for the continued work keeping our website up to date. We know this is a thankless job and appreciate all her efforts in keeping us up to date and on track.

Rita also presented the Ivor Mace Affiliated Societies Silver Medal to **Joan Corbisiero** for all her work this year and years past to make the LICS show a success by chairing the Classification Committee, Awards Committee and Tabulation. All are critical

components of a show and her many years of service and experience benefit all who listen and learn from her vast knowledge on show procedures, reading the Show and Judges Handbook and welcoming all our competitors and visitors with a smile and her knowledge.

Phoenix C.S.

By Wayne Wight

The Phoenix Chrysanthemum Society's 48th Annual Show, "Treasures of the Garden", was held November 22-23, 2024, at the Mountain View Presbyterian Church in Scottsdale, AZ. We had 10 exhibitors who entered 67 horticulture entries, down from 109 entries in 2023.

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 50 percent of the entire show's



The Phoenix C. S. invited guests to their 2024 chapter show with a giant outdoor banner. Photo by Jana DeForest.

entries. Thank you all out-of-state exhibitors!

The Horticulture winners included **Yu-Kun "David" Chiao** - Queen of the Show-*Resomee Purple*, Best Disbudded Bloom - *Resomee Purple*, Best Decorative - *Resomee Purple*, Best Container-Grown - *Lava*, Best Tree or Bush - *Gumdrop*, NCS Bronze Medal Certificate - Best Disbudded Cut Bloom - *Resomee Purple*, NCS Bronze Medal Certificate - Best Container-Grown - *Gumdrop*, Sweepstakes Runner-Up.

Dale Wisniewski won Best Ir-



L-R: Winners at the Phoenix C. S. chapter show included Dale Wisniewski with Best NCS Terminal Cut Spray and NCS Bronze Medal Certificate, *Vesuvio*; Yu-Kun "David" Chiao won Queen of the Show, Best Disbudded Bloom, and Best Decorative with *Resomee Purple*. Photos by Jana DeForest.

2024 CHAPTER SHOW REPORTS

regular Incurve - *King's Pleasure*, Best Single or Semi Double - *Desert Sand*, Best Spider - *Symphony*, Best NCS Terminal Cut Spray - *Vesuvio*, NCS Silver Medal Certificate-Sweepstakes, NCS Bronze Medal Certificate - Best NCS Terminal Spray - *Vesuvio*.

Renee Wherley - Best Reflex - *Leicester*, Best Quill - *Monticello*, Best Brush or Thistle - *Cisco*.

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.

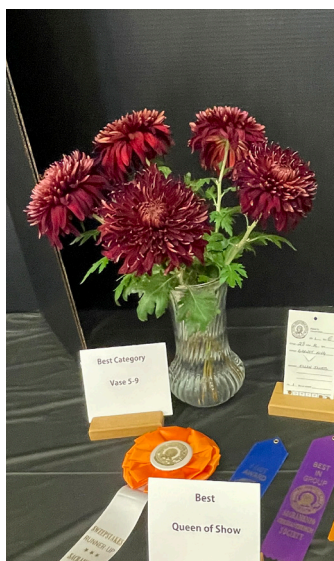
Sacramento C. S.

By Kristia Suutala, President

Sacramento Chrysanthemum Society 77th Annual Show was held November 16-17, 2024, at the Shepard Garden & Art Center, Sacramento, CA. "Falling for Mums" was our theme and Show Chairs were **Jim Relles & Kathryn Tobias**. Judges were **Tamara Bliley** (Head Judge), **Donna Oku**, **Roy Oku**, **Conrad Russell**, **David Trine**.

Our growing season this year had more than the usual bumps with periods of extended heat waves throughout the summer. By August many of us were watering at least twice each day. Three weeks before the show most of our blooms were just beginning to show color and then a windstorm hit! The last week before the show it turned cold and rainy and many blooms were immature. We were cutting and bringing plants indoors to encourage opening.

Our show was well attended by the public and our judges were happy with our blooms! We had a



L-R: At the 2024 Sacramento C.S. chapter show, Ellen James was awarded Queen of Show with *Garnet King*; Kristia Suutala won King of Show with *Ann Hughes*; Best Novice with *Lava* was Teresa Brewster. Photos by Kristia Suutala.

total of 181 entries from 10 exhibitors. Additionally, we had a judges' table where they displayed blooms on their way back from the National Show and Convention in Las Vegas. Special activities included sale of our remaining one-gallon blooming cultivars, and sale of cut blooms that exhibitors didn't wish to take home after the show. We raised a total of \$3218.00 for the club and \$60.00 for NCS membership.

Winning Sweepstakes with 81 points was **Jim Relles**. He won Best Irregular Incurve with *Jefferson Park*. Best Decorative with *Resomee*. Best Pompon with *Kelvin Mandarin*, Best Anemone with *Seaton's Ruby*, Best 3 Blooms with *Red Wing*.

Runner-up Sweepstakes with 54 points was **Ellen James**. She was awarded Queen of Show with *Garnet King*, Best Spider: *Zaryah*, Best Exotic: *Allegra*, Best Vase 5-9 Blooms: *Garnet King*.

Kristia Suutala won King of Show with *Ann Hughes*, Best Quill with *Westland Brandy*, Best Reflex with *Ann Hughes*.

Best Spoon was won by **Sharon**

King with *Oriental Knight* and Best Novice with *Lava* was won by **Teresa Brewster**.

Blue Ribbons by Exhibitor:

Jim Relles won fourteen blues with *Jefferson Park*, *Shizu Aki*, *Kelvin Mandarin*, *Fort Smith*, *Crimson Tide*, *Seaton's Ruby*, *Feeling Green*, *Resomee*, *Red Wing*.

Teresa Brewster won eleven blues with *First Light*, *Kokka Hougiku*, *Seaton's Je'Dore*, *Apricot Alexis*, *Lava*, *Mt. Ranier*, *Evening Glow*, *Bill Holden*, *Fire Wheel*, *Chelsea*, *John Wingfield*.

Ellen James won ten blues with *Primrose Mt. Shasta*, *Allegra*, *Zaryah*, *Chesapeake*, *Icicles*, *Domingo*, *Lili Gallon*, *Garnet King*.

Kristia Suutala won six blues with *Nightingale*, *River City*, *Annie Girl*, *Westland Brandy*, *Ann Hughes*, *Kokka Bunmi*.

Sharon King won five blues with *Oriental Knight*, *Lollipop Red*, *Dream Castle*, *First Light*, *DayBreak*.

Hang Nguyen won three blues: *Zembla Lime*, *Windchime*, *Senkyo Kenshin*.

Brenda Bethely won three blues:

Continued on next page...

2024 CHAPTER SHOW REPORTS

Satin Ribbon, Shizu Aki, Kelvin Mandarin.

Elle Hifhill won two blues: *Seaton's Coffee, Evan's Dream.*

Rob Weinberger won a blue ribbon with *Desert Magic.*

Vancouver C. S.

By Rose Sedivy & Alice Hisatomi
Vancouver Chrysanthemum Society celebrated our 79th

annual show, "Mum Madness," November 2-3, 2024, at a new venue for us, the H.H. Hall building in Vancouver, WA. We had some challenges with the building's two levels. Ground level featured our Division II Artistic Design Arrangements and the second level featured our Division I Horticulture entries.

Rosettes were awarded for all best entries for Artistic Design and Horticulture. Best Artistic Design was awarded to **Carol Lukowski** for "Awesome Angle" and Miniature Design for "Little By Little."

Youth entry was awarded to **Olivia Sedivy** (age 6) for Best Junior Exhibit "OPTIMums." Another youth award was presented for Best Junior entry by FFA student **Milla Hoesch** for "Mad Hatter." **Steve Lorenz**, local high school horticulture teacher transported 36 FFA design arrangements in the back of his jeep for entry in the show Saturday morning.

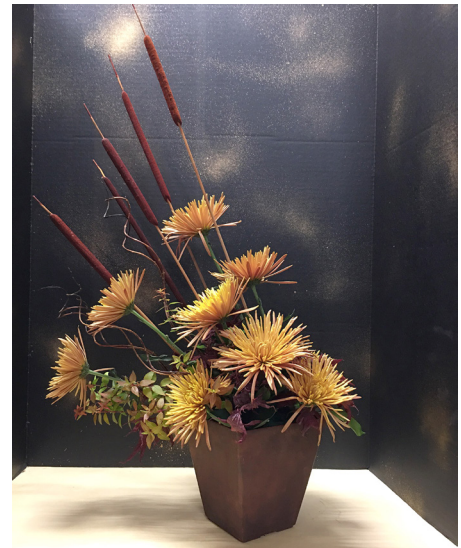
Twenty-seven "Best of" Rosettes were presented for Division 1 Horticulture:

Barry Baertlein was awarded Sweepstakes, Best Bloom of Show: *Houston*, Second Best Bloom of Show: *Nightingale*, Irregular Incurve: *Houston*, Reflex: *Ann Hughes*, Regular Incurve: *Salmon Fairweather*, Decorative: *Peacock*, Intermediate Incurve: *Purple Doreen Hall*, Pompon: *Personality*, Anemone: *Anderton*, Quill: *Oberlin*, Spider: *Nightingale*, Unclassified/Exotic: *Zisterer's Ovation*, Container-Grown Plant (disbud)

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Top: For the 2024 Vancouver C.S. chapter show, high school teacher Steve Lorenz 36 youth design arrangements in the back of his jeep for entry in the show; above, "Mad Hatter," Best Junior entry by FFA student Milla Hoesch. Photos by Steve Lorenz.



Top to bottom: At the 2024 Vancouver C. S. chapter show, Barry Baertlein was awarded Sweepstakes and Best Bloom of Show with *Houston*, photo by Patty Grant; Carol Lukowski won Best Artistic Design for "Awesome Angle," photo by Carol Lukowski; Olivia Sedivy, age 6, won Best Junior Exhibit, "OPTIMums," photo by Jim Sedivy.

It's Not Easy Growing Prize-Winning NCS Sprays!

(Reprint from June 2013)

By Jesse Terres

To grow prize-winning NCS sprays requires the development of a terminal bud, and at least four lateral buds with later bloom dates than the terminal bud. The more laterals the better the spray, but the further down the stem lateral buds are desired, the later will be their bloom dates.

This is one aspect that makes growing sprays so difficult. To accomplish the desired development of the spray requires shading until natural day-length is short enough to continue the bud development on its own. That is 11 hours of darkness or more -- in most areas that is near the middle of September. After that period there is no further need for shading.

The earlier the show, the longer shading will be required; the later the

show, the less shading. To be safe when developing prize winning sprays, I recommend shading to within a couple weeks of your show date. There are not many cultivars (none to my knowledge) that will develop naturally for a selected show date as well as those that have been shaded.

Shading is not an enjoyable task. If you use shade cloths stretched over frame and wires as I do, it requires pulling the cloths on in the evening and off in the morning. If it rained through the night, you have an awful mess on your hands. If you use black poly it can be even worse.

You can skip a night now and then, but it requires three consecutive days of continuous shading to lock in the budding process, otherwise you're starting from scratch.



This spray of *Kelvin Tattoo* by Renee Wherley won Best NCS Terminal Spray in Show at the 2024 NCS National Show. Photo by Eileen Halcrow.

2024 CHAPTER SHOW REPORTS

1 to 5 blooms: *Primrose Supreme*, Container-Grown Plant: Amateur: *Primrose Supreme*, Bloom Amateur: *Houston*. Congratulations Barry for achieving Advanced Amateur!

Rose Sedivy was awarded Best of Rosettes for Spoon: *Paula Red Spoon*, Container-Grown Plant/Novice: *Kotoi no Kaori*, Bloom/Novice: *Paula Red Spoon*, Garden Cultivar Spray: *Santa Claus*, Container-Grown Garden Variety: *Kotoi no Kaori*. Congratulations to Rose for achieving Amateur status!

Alice Hisatomi won Best Vase of 3 Blooms: *Lavender Ostrich*, Bonsai: *Chidori*, Bloom/Advanced Amateur: *Lava*.

Carol Lukowski won Best Cascade or Artistically Grown: *Kotoi no Kaori*.

In Division III non-judged entries, **Carol Lukowski** exhibited a Lego

chrysanthemum arrangement

Stock plants from our greenhouse provided a variety table for the public to select possibilities for next year's mum garden. Special thanks to **I Li Hsiao** for demonstrating floral design arrangements on Sunday. A self-viewed slide show presentation of chrysanthemums in Japan ran continuously throughout the show.

It was a challenge moving to a new venue this year but many thanks to all VCS members for their energy and effort to set up and tear down and for making it a successful year for "Mum Madness!"

IN TRIBUTE AND MEMORY: We miss our long time member, **Gordon Jackman**, for his years of commitment and dedication to the mum society. He was our artistic design expert.

Some folks cover their plants with large cardboard stove or refrigerator boxes. Some grow them in pots and carry them into a shed or a room in their house in the evening and back out in the morning. Some place the pots onto carts or wagons and wheel them into their garage in the evening and back out in the morning. And that's why many NCS members don't grow sprays.

I've been growing sprays for over 60 years and have yet to find an easy method, but as someone said, "The end justifies the means." I just love to grow sprays!

Editor's Note: We asked Tamara Bliley, successful exhibitor of NCS sprays, for currently available cultivars that are good choices for growing sprays. She replied:

"There are several cultivars that are wonderful for making sprays for NCS competition that I can recommend: *Baby 6C*, *Sally 6C*, *Pink Dot 6C*, *Natalie Sarah 7C*, *Alexander 7C*, *Ryski 7C*, *Janet Elizabeth 7C*, *Puma 8C*, *Bronze Fleece 8C*."

Thanks, Tamara!

Meet Barry Baertlein of Oregon Mums and Hostas

By Barry Baertlein

My interest in plants started long before I studied Horticulture at Oregon State University. After completion of my studies there, I started in the industry working at different nurseries. Over the years, I was employed at large operations including Monrovia Nursery, Woodburn Nursery & Azaleas, and A & R Spada Farms.

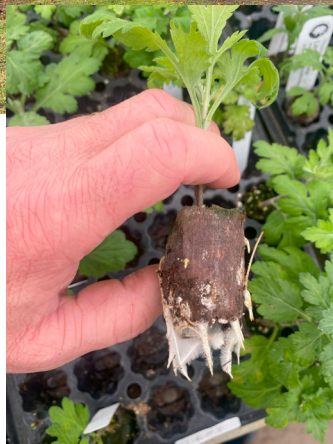
Most of my career was working at Woodburn Nursery and Azaleas as the Propagation Manager. Our team was in charge of sticking millions of cuttings of florist azaleas every year. We also rooted and grew geraniums and other annuals.

At Woodburn Nursery & Azaleas, I continued my education and improved my expertise in greenhouse dynamics and crop protection using traditional and eco-friendly bio-controls. We also applied different plant growth regulators, including B-Nine, a choice commonly used by chrysanthemum growers. During that time, I worked on a successful side hustle with my wife for several years where we grew hostas at our home. (The greenhouses built for the hosta business are now used for propagating cuttings and growing chrysanthemum mother plants.)

Over the years I heard the stories of giant chrysanthemums that the Japanese grew and they seemed more like folklore. Later I learned that chrysanthemums were also grown earlier in China and are part of the culture in much of Asia. Of course, now we know the enthusiasm for mums has spread around the planet.

Some years ago, I saw a banner for a chrysanthemum show. I went inside to see, and I was quite delighted to see all the amazing blooms. I found my first favorite, *Fleur de Lis*.

I started attending meetings with



Clockwise from top: The greenhouse at Oregon Chrysanthemums & Hostas; a typical rooted cutting started in Earth Pots to allow air to get to the roots and boost root growth; humidity domes inside the

greenhouse. Photos by Barry Baertlein.

the Portland Chrysanthemum Society and I was pleased that the group had some focus on education. When I entered to compete in a show for the first time, I successfully earned blue ribbons for Best Novice and Best Decorative showing *Peacock*.

The following year I was thrilled to have won Best in Show. Later I learned that not everyone was in agreement with which of the top two blooms should have won Best in Show. I was thrilled but at the same time did not really care too much because I had brought both of the top two blooms to the show! Several years later, I found myself more involved with the Vancouver Chrysanthemum Society, where I was once again awarded with Best Bloom.

At one time, I saw myself looking toward the future and envisioning a time in the latter part of my life when I would be creating and maintaining bonsai, the way I have for over 30 years.

Unexpectedly, I found myself unemployed. I made a tough decision

to not continue to seek other employment. Maybe I could also make a few bucks selling some chrysanthemum cuttings and dwarf hosta starts that I had saved over the years. It was summer and I knew I only had a little time to create as many mother plants as I could. I was really busy blindly running into the future.

I set up some propagation space and trialed my system and procedures. It was very hectic. At the same time as working on production, I was working with my website developers to get a website that would be ready to go for the first season. There was a need to organize office space and purchase three printers with three different kinds of software. One printer for invoices and packing slips, a second for postage/address labels and a third for plant labels.

I kept most of the small varieties of hostas I had grown in the past and I wanted to include them with the chrysanthemums I was offering. I

Continued on next page...

first believed that propagation would be the bottleneck of the operation. It turns out that getting the cuttings labeled, packaged and shipped requires much more time than expected.

As I was going into the second year of shipping, I realized that I did not have enough propagation space. During the busy shipping season, I spent evenings expanding the propagation spaces. I knew at the end of that year that I would also need more space for growing mother plants. I was able to purchase a greenhouse that was standing in the next county. I was fortunate to have some help to disassemble, transport, and reconstruct the greenhouse before the cold set in last fall.

We developed a quoting process for ordering, which is not really a quote, but a way to control the inventory. It is a simple two-step process where at first customers do not pay. Then a confirmation email is sent with a payment link. The inventory changes fast, and a choice was made not to automate that part of the process. The extra time taken to manually process the orders prevents accidentally over-selling.

Our larger challenge is capacity. There are only so many hours in a day that cuttings can be shipped. The total capacity for shipping is a greater limitation than the capacity of propagating cuttings.

In 2025, Oregon Chrysanthemums and Hostas will be shipping rooted cuttings all over the country for the third year. At first there were about 100 items offered and for 2025 there are over 300 items. We are very pleased that there are three new chrysanthemum categories to choose from on the website. Garden/Hardy, Bonsai/Gnomes and Cascades.

"Secret" Tips for Winning at Growing & Showing

By Jeff MacDonald

People often ask me my secret to how I win so many awards. I started growing and showing chrysanthemums about 1975, when I was just out of high school. There were many fantastic growers who grew excellent chrysanthemums, far better than today. Those old-time growers shared their knowledge and were eager to teach anyone who was willing to learn. I spent many hours visiting and picking up growing tips and listening to their way of growing. All had different thoughts and methods, but all held beliefs in common to have excellent growing practices.

At that time there were a lot of chrysanthemum clubs in Washington State, maybe seven to ten and at least three in the Portland, Oregon and Vancouver, Washington areas. Sadly, they are all gone except the Portland and Vancouver chapters, and the Evergreen C.S. (Washington State) which grows strictly by UK standards and not NCS USA standards.

When I started exhibiting, there were so many growers in the Portland chapter that they had to limit exhibitors to only 35 blooms in their Division 1 (Single Disbuds). You could enter as many three-of-a-kind, vases, NCS sprays, and container-grown plants as you wished. Shows with 500 to 600 blooms were the norm, and judging was on Friday night starting about 7:00 p.m. and ending about 11:00 p.m.

It was rare to have the only bloom of a cultivar; popular cultivars may have had five or more specimens. So, if you wanted to get a blue ribbon, you needed to enter quality blooms over quantity, and you needed to groom and prepare your blooms several days before entering. I spent hours pulling bad petals, washing and trimming leaves, moving petals around

with a small paintbrush or Q-Tip, and staging a bloom so it stood straight and upright in the bottle (we used clear glass bottles, and milk bottles were my favorite).

After the show opened to the public on Saturday morning and if there was time, I would ask a couple of the judges to explain to me why one bloom won over another. I remember to this day Judge Polly Witzel telling me that an incurve should not have a depressed center. She said that you should be able to set a drop of water on the top and the florets hold that drop right at the peak. I learned that singles, semi-doubles, and spoons should have a clean open center with no curled florets in the center or at the edge of the disk. The disk must be slightly green in the middle and yellow with fully yellow with pollen on the first few rows of the disk. If the disk is too dark, old, or too green, judges generally demerit them. Polly and other judges felt it was their mission to teach, and unfortunately I do not often see that happening now. We must teach, share our knowledge, and ensure equal conformity with NCS rules.

I really don't have a special secret to winning, but what I can tell you is: if you have good growing practices such as weekly or biweekly fertilization; if you don't allow your plants to become dry and wilted; if you keep your plants hydrated and well staked and tied; and if you keep weeds and dead plant material removed, half the battle is over! That's the easy part. I feel when you give the plant what it wants and when it is needed, the plant will reward you with a nice bloom.

Of course, you still need to remove unwanted laterals and remove the buds that are not needed. My

Continued on next page...

Is It Time to Say Goodbye to *Mt. Rainier*?

**By Jeff MacDonald, Chair
NCS Classification Committee**

All chrysanthemum growers, whether new or long-time enthusiasts hope to produce a chrysanthemum sport in a new color or hues. (A sport, also known as a break, is a genetic mutation which causes a change in the appearance of a plant. The change usually occurs on one stem or side of the plant showing the color break or change in the flowers.)

Cultivars such as *Mount Shasta 1A*, *West Bromwich 2A*, *John Wingfield 2B*, and *Gigantic 1/2AA* have sported over the years. These are just a few of the many examples. The *NCS Handbook on Chrysanthemum Classification* lists many other examples, grouped as sports by the parent cultivar (i.e., *John Wingfield*, *Pink John Wingfield*, *Peach John Wingfield*, *Cream John Wingfield*, *Bronze John Wingfield*, etc.) for easy reference. Thus, growers and classification committees can see if your sport is new, unknown, or if the cultivar, having already been sported, is named

and is in cultivation somewhere else. If you do not have a copy of the *Handbook on Chrysanthemum Classification*, purchase one from the Ways and Means Committee.

About 25 years ago, a wonderful grower, Father James Diavitis of the Orange County Chrysanthemum Society, found a white and pink break sport of *Mt. Rainier*. It was neither all white nor all pink. It showed a slice of contrasting pink color within the white bloom. If the author's memory is correct, another Orange County grower, Georgia Soles, entered a light lavender/blush bloom of *Mount Shasta* in the Seedling and Sport Section at a National Show in the early 2000s. The blush color was also reported by the Central Carolina Chapter in 2023.

Somewhere in the genetic color coding of the cultivar, it has created an oddity -- a color break or incomplete sport. In other words, the sport was not completely of one color. Currently, we have both *Mt. Rainier* and *Pink Mt. Rainier* listed in the *Hand-*

book on Chrysanthemum Classification. The partial sport, which is both white and pink, has been reported in Australia and New Zealand. Ted King traded cuttings with several growers in those countries. No doubt that some of these cuttings carried the color variation, thus spreading the oddity or color break across the sea.

As your current Classification Committee Chair, I feel it is time to decide about the future of the cultivar. It really has been shown too many times as a sport by multiple growers to still be considered a sport and entered in Section K, Seedlings and Sports. Is it time to name it, or to discourage showing and propagating it? Many growers and judges feel tossing it is best; others believe naming and listing would be better.

Now if it continues to be listed, how do judges award points for uniformity of color? Page 81 in our current *Show and Judges Handbook* says the following about color: "Color may be judged upon the basis of comparison between the exhibit and the color concept of an ideal bloom of the same cultivar. Color should be judged on five qualities: (1) clarity; (2) richness or intensity; (3) brightness (not faded due to age or weather); (4) uniformity in color, bicolor, or color design across all the florets; and (5) typical of the cultivar." How could Judges give points for color based on the ideal color of the same cultivar if the color varies so widely? What is the ideal color?

Let's hear your opinions on the matter. Take the time to write a short response or a longer one if you're so inclined. My opinion is not the only one. Responses may be used in future articles with names kept private. You are also welcome to send a response directly to the editors of *The Chrysanthemum*.

Secret Tips, cont...

goal is to get one big bud per stem, focusing all the energy on a few large blooms rather than many smaller flowers. Many new growers don't know that they can grow both large, disbudded show blooms and flowers for cutting on the same plant. I suggest you try to grow four laterals or branches. Grow two for large blooms and two for cutting. Your disbudded stem blooms might be slightly smaller, but this is not a huge issue.

One last thing: You need to keep records of what specific cultivars you are growing. Record when you start your cuttings. When they are potted into 3" pots and each size in progression, record when you pinch

the tops out as well as when you first see a bud. Also, record when you saved the bud and when it was fully open in addition to making note if the plant was overfed or needed more food. This record will help you to know if you need to adjust when you pinch or if you need to fertilize more or less. Some cultivars hate too much food, and others love food and will consume more plant fertilizer. Also, record how many blooms on the plant you grew.

So why do I win? I think my mindset is to endeavor to only bring blooms that meet the criteria of the *Show and Judges Handbook* in terms of poise and quality of cultivar.

How To: Daruma Dwarf Plants

The Classification and Judges Schools and Credentials Committees are seeking more information and criteria on growing Daruma potted plants.

This form is a three-stemmed disbudded container-grown plant. Stems are manipulated and bent at right angles from the main stem and then grown up and staked. Plants are disbudded and should be the same height. Blooms should be large, equally matched, and have excellent form and color. Foliage should be down to the ground and free from damage.

Although similar in many ways, there are a number of clear differences between the Fukusuke and the Daruma styles of growing dwarf pot chrysanthemums. The main difference is that each plant is grown to produce three identical large blooms in Daruma rather than just a single large bloom as with Fukusuke. Cultivars used should be short-growing, and use of smaller bloom types (such as pompons) is discouraged. It is suggested that a grower master the growing of Fukusuke before growing the more technical and challenging Daruma three-bloom plant.

Daruma are grown in an 8" diameter, short azalea pot. Green color is preferred, but any color is acceptable. Pots can be plastic or terracotta clay. Pot size may vary no more than within 1/2" of 8" in diameter.

Daruma plant height is 24" from tabletop to top of stem, bottom of bloom. One plant centered in pot, growing three stems, each stem with one disbudded bloom. Soil should be light yet hold moisture.

Plants should be started in the same way as for Fukusuke, but earlier, i.e., in the second or third week of June; early July at the latest, depending on show dates.

Vigorous growth is essential, so as soon as the cuttings are rooted, the young plants should be fed with a fertilizer with a high nitrogen content. When the plants have grown sufficiently large enough the tip should be pinched out and three good laterals allowed to grow on. Keeping an extra lateral is suggested in case of breakage.

When the plant's laterals reach a height of about 4" to 5", withhold water until the plant goes limp. The laterals should then be bent at a right angle from the main stem. Using extreme care, the laterals are drawn down and then pinned, with a bent piece of wire looped over the lateral and wire loop pushed down into the soil. At this stage, extreme care must be taken to ensure that laterals are not broken off.

The first branch or lateral should be at least 4 inches from the soil base, but no more than 6 inches. The second and third laterals should be slightly higher up the stem. Care must be taken at this stage of growth; the laterals must be positioned so the three blooms develop close together but are not touching. After the laterals have been positioned, the plant should be watered. As the laterals start growing, they will begin to turn upwards. After a couple or more

JUDGES' PAGE

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

weeks when the laterals begin to grow and harden, then the wire pins may be removed since they have done their job. As soon as the laterals are sufficiently long, they must have a tie on them. Thin, clean, unobtrusive stakes should be inserted in the pot and each lateral checked for equal spacing. From this stage onwards, proceed in the normal Fukusuke method with each stem, to ultimately finish up with the equivalent of three dwarfed plants on one stem. Feed weekly with a high-nitrogen fertilizer. Use of B-Nine is recommended at standard strength every two to three weeks.

Currently there are no judging standards written for Daruma in our *Show and Judges Handbook*, but the JSCC and Classification Committee can and will start if there is widespread interest in growing this style. Changes would also need approval by the NCS Board of Directors and changes made to the approved National Show Schedule.

Please contact any of the JSCC members or Classification Chair with your interest or send your comments to *The Chrysanthemum* Editor.



Daruma, three-stemmed disbudded container-grown plants, are being considered by the NCS Classification and Judges committees for inclusion at NCS shows.

Examination for Candidate Judges: *June or July, 2025*

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 2025. 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 June 21-22 OR July 26-27, 2025. (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 proctor is required to administer the exam. The proctor does not have to be a NCS member. If more than one member of a chapter is taking the exam, a local chairperson is required to organize the chapter school. This local chair may be one of the students taking the exam.

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 2024 and 2025.
- Evidence of having grown and ex-

hibited in an NCS-approved show for both 2023 and 2024. (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 17, 2025, for setting up the June exam or June 7, 2025, 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

Ethics for Exhibitors and Judges

The Judges Schools and Credentials Committee (JSCC) has been contacted to address some issues and has been asked for possible resolution of those issues. The actions we may take have not been decided yet. Please be aware that the JSCC will work together with the NCS Board of Directors to have a fair resolution of any issues being brought to our attention. We must always maintain the highest level of decorum as it relates to other judges, members of NCS, and the public.

Please review what is currently written in our *Show and Judges Handbook*, reprinted below. We need to have STRICT adherence to a code of ethics and the principles of etiquette.

Chapter III ETHICS AND ETIQUETTE FOR THE EXHIBITOR

Text from Show and Judges Handbook 2019, Seventh edition, Page 54

Ethics of amateur exhibitors should be as high as for any kind of sportsmanlike competition. No one should think of doing anything that would be distasteful or embarrassing to the organization or its rules. Of course, an exhibitor should never buy chrysanthemums for exhibition in the Horticulture Division or employ professional help for anything other than turning over the soil in bed preparation. Rules on eligibility requirements for exhibitors, such as permissible protection for blooms, should be noted and followed. In a

Continued on next page...

cultivar show, schedules may restrict exhibitors from making duplicate cultivar entries in more than one section or class of the show. [*Previous sentence under review. Some chapters allow duplicate entries.*] Bonsai entries are exceptions because bonsai is predominantly an art form. Exhibitors should be willing to adhere to these restrictions and should also not enter a specimen or an exhibit for competition in more than one show in any one year.

Etiquette is as important for the exhibitor as it is for the judge. At all times, the exhibitor should be polite, tolerant, helpful, and cheerful, contributing to the success of a show by preparing show entries without aid, confusion, selfishness, or aggressiveness. Show committees appreciate knowledgeable exhibitors assisting others where needed after they complete their own committee obligations and entries.

Chapter IV THE JUDGE

Text from Show and Judges Handbook 2019, Seventh edition, Pages 55-56

In most plant societies, judging is a formalized procedure. A judge makes a decision according to the prescribed rules and regulations given in the show schedule. In reaching this decision, a judge uses discernment, which presupposes knowledge and experience, and discretion, which involves reflection and careful consideration. A judge is chosen for skill and experience in dealing with the subject, adherence to a code of ethics and the principles of etiquette, and the ability and willingness to work with others in reaching a decision.

The main objectives of a chrysanthemum show are to educate the public and to encourage the

growing of chrysanthemums of the highest possible quality. NCS judges should always bear these points in mind when judging. Judging quality depends in large measure on the enthusiasm and cooperation of all those interested in good shows. If the judges and members of NCS continue to grow, exhibit, and study, a high level of competence in judging will be assured.

Additionally, judges are expected to share their knowledge by giving programs on growing, lecturing on judging procedures, helping with the preparation of the show schedule, assisting with classification, and serving on other committees for the chapter show.

ETHICS IN JUDGING

Ethics is the action habitual with an individual and sanctioned by the custom of a society. It refers to the innate character of a person, implying a rigid moral code, and strict conformity to what is in accordance with general human laws. Motives, ethically right or wrong, are based on the principles of abstract right and

wrong. In a plant society, a judge is committed to the use of the finest principles in the discernment of the best in a group of good exhibits. A firm adherence to the rules and regulations of the show schedule should be the basis for motivation. All behavior, before, during, and after judging, should demonstrate proper ethics.

A few examples of ethical practices can be given. A judge never judges the classes in which personal exhibits have been placed. A judge never reveals to other judges the classes in which personal exhibits have been placed. No judge should ever criticize the judging of other judges. A fee is never accepted for judging, although hospitality and travel expenses are permissible at certain times. Judges, like all other exhibitors, never enter a specimen in more than one show in any one year for an award. Plants or blooms intended for competition in a show may not be purchased except as cuttings in the winter or spring.

A judge (and all exhibitors also)

Continued on next page...

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OR CONTACT ON FACEBOOK MESSENGER

Ethics, cont...

must not use professional gardeners for growing chrysanthemums for personal exhibits. The exhibitor must grow, pinch, prune, and disbud all blooms entered competitively.

If, at any time, the NCS Judges Schools and Credentials Committee determines that a judge has falsified records, received or given assistance on an examination, or breached accepted ethics in any way whatsoever, it will remove this individual from the Judges Roster and ask that all the judge's certificates be surrendered.

ETIQUETTE FOR JUDGES

Etiquette indicates the manners that prevail in formal society with special reference to that which is suitable. Etiquette is related to and based on good ethics. Conventional decorum is expected for a judge.

A judge's behavior towards other judges, clerks, and the show management is most important. Firm decisions should be made in an enthusiastic and direct manner. The bearing of a judge should be dignified, sincere, and gracious. Tact and courtesy are essential, particularly where an agreement in judging may call for self-restraint. The judge's voice should be quiet, never loud or argumentative. In a discussion of the relative merits and faults of an exhibit, a judge should be willing to give decisions and reasons for them, but at the same time have respect for the differing opinions of another judge. Levity, arrogance, sarcasm, and disparaging remarks are violations of good conduct.

It is customary for a judge to be well-groomed, conservatively and carefully dressed in a manner befitting the occasion and the time of day. Normal city street attire is appropriate. Judges should not smoke while judging.

Showing Off Mums at the Japanese Friendship Garden

By Jana DeForest

In June 2024, the Phoenix Chrysanthemum Society received an invitation from Eriko Saxon Fujiyoshi, Education Curator of the Japanese Friendship Garden of Phoenix, to exhibit at an annual event, "The International Tea Exhibit," a captivating multicultural celebration of the art of tea to be held at the Japanese Friendship Garden of Phoenix on December 8, 2024.

Keiko Conn and Choo Tay, members of the Japanese Friendship Garden, learned of our group through George and Anne Chi and attended our 2023 show. They also attended our September meeting, delighting us with a history of Japanese and Chinese chrysanthemum exhibitions, the Japanese Friendship Garden and Keiko's desire to further international relations through enjoyment of the chrysanthemum.

In October, Wayne Wight and I along with Keiko and Choo, visited the Japanese Friendship Garden in downtown Phoenix and were given a tour of the beautiful garden by Eriko Saxon Fujiyoshi. We chose a site for our exhibit very near the entrance. The garden provided the pop-up, table and assistance setting up our

exhibit. Because the summer heat delayed most of our blooms we were able to have a very nice display of cut blooms and potted specimens. There were a number of international teas available for sampling and purchase; tea pots, cups and other traditional table settings, plus food to sample and purchase.

The day was cool but sunny, a perfect day to spend time in a beautifully designed garden. There was a stage where traditional music, dance and dress were incorporated into the celebration.

We were provided two opportunities during the day to speak about chrysanthemum culture and our group. I was volunteered for this opportunity and held a *Vegas Show Girl* spider the first time and a large white irregular incurve *Kokka Sonnou* the second time. Attendees were in awe of the blooms' color, size and form and many were curious on how to grow them. We frequently heard, "Can you really grow these here in the desert?" We were able to sign up a couple new members with others interested in joining.

Our participation was a success and we were asked if we would exhibit again next year.



The Phoenix Chrysanthemum Society was featured in a booth at "The International Tea Exhibit," at the Japanese Friendship Garden of Phoenix in December, 2024.
L - R: Wayne Wight, Jana DeForest, Anne Chi. Photo by Rick Lin.

Classification Committee Reminders

By Jeff MacDonald, Classification Chair

Classification Reporting Of Unlisted Cultivars

As your NCS Classification Chair, I would like to remind you that if you are growing or might be obtaining any cultivar or cultivars (from any source) not listed in the *Handbook* to please report them to the committee. By reporting them before July 1, 2025, unlisted cultivars will be considered for classification and for inclusion in the 2025 edition of the *Handbook on Chrysanthemum Classification*.

Every year I receive at least two or three phone calls or emails before an upcoming show stating that a newly obtained cultivar is not listed and asking if it can be shown. In limited cases something can be done to accommodate the exhibitor. It would be easier on everyone just to report unlisted cultivars.

Cultivars not listed and then allowed in the show also create a problem. I would hope that the exhibitor, classification committee, judging teams or all three would report finding such cultivars. Very rarely has this happened.

Exhibitors have a responsibility to make sure cultivars they are growing for show are reported. Over the last few years that I have served as Classification Chair, I have worked diligently to have the most current and up to date handbook for your reference. I will admit to my errors, but not to unlisted cultivars I am unaware of.

Classification Committee Members Needed

Your NCS Classification Committee needs an additional member or members to serve on the committee. We need more committee repre-

sentation from East Coast chapters to address any classification issues specifically on the East Coast.

The job is quite easy and usually involves answering an email or two about cultivars that need more than one person's thoughts a few times a year. A bloom's classification may be correct on the West Coast, but it may not be for East Coast growers. The Classification Committee needs to know that information.

I will continue to make all appropriate revisions, updating the *Handbook on Chrysanthemum Classification* and keeping records. Committee members just need to have good basic knowledge of the different bloom classifications and their form structure; be able to identify cultivars; assist in classifying cultivars as correctly as possible; and be willing to participate in email or Zoom meetings. Interested? Please contact me at jeff.macdonald@mums.org or call me at (650) 961-3461.

Classification Handbooks for 2025

A new edition of the *Handbook on Chrysanthemum Classification*, 2025 edition, is being prepared. If you are growing cultivars not currently listed in the *Handbook*, please send a photo and the cultivar information to the Classification Committee before June 1, 2025, for inclusion in the 2025 edition.

Please purchase your copy or copies through Sharon King, Ways and Means. The cost of the Handbook has not been determined at this time, and the updated cost will be announced when the final cost is known. (Please check the NCS website)

Older editions of the Handbook will always be up to date if you remove the page(s) in the September

issue of *The Chrysanthemum* and insert them into your Handbook. It can be most helpful to growers and to show classification committees to locate the possible name(s) of an unidentified cultivar.

The 2025 edition will only be offered as the *Handbook* without the *Appendix*. The 2002-2024 *Appendix* will be sold separately in the future to reduce printing costs.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please e-mail Jeff MacDonald, Classification Committee Chair, at jeff.macdonald@mums.org; or Classification Committee Members Penny Amato at penny.amato@mums.org; Camilla Ng at camilla.ng@mums.org Tamara Bliley at tamara.bliley@mums.org.

2024 NCS Bloom Finder FREE Copy

Remember to purchase the 2024 *Bloom Finder* through Ways and Means or request a free printable file from the Classification Chair, Jeff MacDonald.

What is the *Bloom Finder*? Simply a list of the most widely grown chrysanthemum cultivars, listed by Class, Color and Alphabetical order. It can be most helpful to growers and Classification Committees to locate the possible name(s) of cultivar. The *Bloom Finder* is only for convenience and does not replace the *NCS Handbook of Chrysanthemum Classification*.



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 fertilizer 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

Here are some suggestions for caring for newly rooted plants that are arriving from vendors:

1. Be sure to have potting mix, pots and labels ready before your scheduled delivery of mum plants. Getting these tender young plants off to a good start helps to provide them the opportunity to grow to their optimum beauty.
2. Moisten the potting mix you will be using to pot up the new plants the day before you intend to pot them up. It can take 24 hours for the peat moss in potting mixes to get thoroughly hydrated.
3. Handle your young plants by their leaves when possible (and not their stems). Immediately upon arrival, open the box, upright your plants and carefully inspect the plants for any damage (broken stems, pests or disease). Contact the vendor immediately with any concerns. After potting up, it is wise to quarantine new plants for 2 weeks if they have not come from a commercial grower.
4. Be sure to keep the correct label with your young plant as you pot it up.
5. After inspecting your new plants, pot them into 3" pots with the already dampened (not dripping water) potting mix. Cuttings taken last month should be well-rooted by now and ready to pot up into 3 inch pots.
6. Water all newly potted up plants with a root stimulating fertilizer that is diluted to ¼ strength. Look for a water soluble fertilizer with a higher middle number (N-P-K). P (phosphorus) helps to stimulate root growth. Mums grow better with drier potting mix because it causes the roots to stretch to reach the moisture. Overwatering is the main cause of new plants dying off from root rot.
7. Harden off these newly potted up plants for 4 days by placing them in a location sheltered from the wind where they will only receive morning sun for 2-3 hours.
8. Pot up mums to a 6" pot when their roots entirely fill the 3" pots.

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

Continued on next page...

Mum Growing Guide, cont...

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 recommended 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

Clair Kidd



Clair Kidd passed away July 2, 2024 at the age of 92. Clair was a painter and wall-paper contractor and worked together with his wife, Sharon. He was an expert golfer, winning golf championships in Oregon and Texas. In his early 40s he was introduced to growing dahlias. After attending a chrysanthemum show, Clair was again hooked. From that moment on, Clair grew the most beautiful flowers ever grown! One year Clair grew over 900 dahlias and over 400 chrysanthemums.

Clair was the Portland C.S. chapter president for many years. He kept a large inventory of cultivars, and taught members how to make cuttings, grow, groom, and show mums. He was an NCS Accredited Judge for many years, active in Portland, Oregon, Vancouver, Washington and Lewiston, Idaho. He won Best in Show many times.

Sharon's wish is that Clair is somewhere in heaven on a golf course or working in his flower garden with his dog, Buddy, alongside him.

DESIGN DEVELOPMENTS

Design Types at the Sacramento C. S. Chapter Show

By Madeline West

Photos by Kristia Suutala

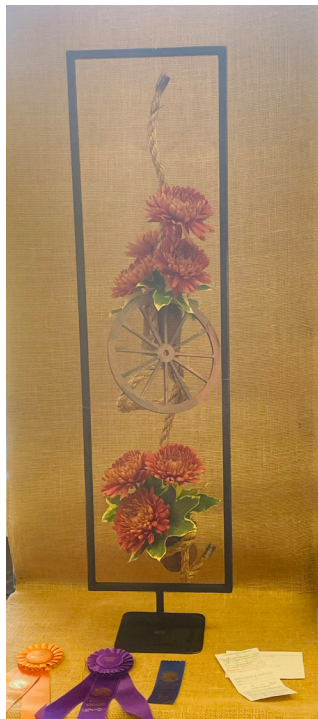
The 77th Annual Sacramento Chrysanthemum Society "Falling for Fall" Show was held in November, 2024 and included a design section with the theme "Old West Mums." There were 24 design entries. Six section winners were awarded blue ribbons, some of which are shown here.

Design #1 is a 'Framed Spatial' by **Cherry Hoover**, winning the Designer's Choice Award and Award of Design Excellence. A Framed Spatial is organized as a single unit suspended in a frame or frame-like structure. No actual movement is permitted but motion is implied. The height and width of the design are defined by the frame. It does not exceed the height and width of the frame but may exceed the depth of the frame.

Design #2 is a "Creative Design" by **Christina Benion** winning the Tri-color Award. A Creative design is an acknowledged art form introduced in the 1950s to American Flower Shows. These designs are not traditional patterns or styles but borrow from different styles or periods to create new concepts and forms.

Design #3 is a "Multi-rhythmic" design by **Ramesh Sinaee** winning the People's Choice Award. This design has emphasis on two or more rhythms in the design with one rhythm dominating. The award is chosen or voted on by the public.

Design #4 is a "Low Profile" design, also by **Christina Benion**. This design is a three-dimensional design incorporating three or more design techniques not limited to one container. Techniques can be color blocking, pave, pillowing, weaving, juxtaposing colors, textures and forms. Height of the completed design must not exceed one-quarter the length or one-quarter the width of the completed design. Length or width refers to horizontal measurements. The design is Judged and viewed from above the design. The goal is to create visual depth, push-pull, gaps, colors, techniques that express



Clockwise from top left: a Framed Spatial design by Cherry Hoover, winning the Designer's Choice Award and Award of Design Excellence; a Creative Design by Christina Benion, Tri-color Award; A Multi-rhythmic design by Ramesh Sinaee, People's Choice Award; A Low Profile design by Christina Benion, winning the blue ribbon.

rhythm, repetition of color, shapes and design techniques. The design has no minimum or maximum limit on the length or width except for schedule requirements.

The Sacramento Floral Design Guild was founded in 1951 by Ivy Gard Shepard as a non-profit club with the

aspirations of floral designs aligning with the NGC, California Garden Clubs and Sacramento River District.

The club meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of months September through May of a given year. Way to Go, Sacramento!

National Chrysanthemum Society USA

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Design Developments	Madeline West	Seabeck, WA	madeline.west@mums.org	360-271-3527
Finance & Budget	Jana DeForest	Payson, AZ	jana.deforest@mums.org	941-779-3380
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Ways & Means	Sharon King	Sacramento, CA	sharon.king@mums.org	916-496-5807
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It's So Hard to Say Goodbye ...

Photographer Margie Case, Central Carolina C.S., took these photos in her garden at the end of the season and says, "Unlike the subjects of most other mum photos, the flowers aren't in their prime, but they have a different kind of beauty."



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Top Designs from Las Vegas ...

Winning entries from the 2024 NCS National Show, Division II Design Section. The theme: "Las Vegas Entertainment." L-R: Class 3. "Magnificent Head Piece" (Standard Designs - "Vegas Show Girls") by Jean Paul, winner of the Designer's Choice Award (NGC), Award of Design Excellence (NGC), and Dottie Bates Award (NCS); Class 1. "High Roller," (Petite Designs - "Vegas Hot Spots") by Judy Stebbins, winner of the Petite Award (NGC), and Petite Award (NCS); Class 2. "Stratosphere Tower and Thrills" (10" Petite) by Judy Stebbins.