

## Fall Gardening, Part 2

By Karen Neill, NCSU Agriculture Extension

Nothing says Fall to me like chrysanthemums or "mums". I love those red, yellow and bronze hues, they are the true colors of fall. There are numerous varieties of mums available today that if selected carefully will bloom from late summer through the entire Fall. You can also find mums in intense lavender to the purest of white. In fact, many new varieties of chrysanthemums are being developed each year which differ greatly from their common ancestors in color, size and form. The form can vary tremendously from the more common decorative (a flattened full bloom -large to medium large blooms), pompon (mass of small-blooms, small miniature buttons to large ball shaped flowers) and anemone (daisy-like spray but with a more pronounced center) to the more exotic like the spoon (a daisy-like flower with spoon-like ends to florets) or the spider (the most exotic with thin threadlike florets, tubular ends are coiled).

The genus chrysanthemum belongs to the daisy family and consists of more than two hundred species including annuals, perennials and small shrubs. Native to the Far East, chrysanthemums became a part of America's floriculture in the late 1700's when they were first introduced. By the early 1900's hardier varieties were being grown and the Korean hybrids were introduced. It's the Korean hybrids which are the breeding stock for much of today's hardy chrysanthemums.

Garden mums, being well stocked by garden centers now, are vigorous clump-type plants with strong, upright or sprawling stems which can often become fairly woody. There are many places where chrysanthemums can be enjoyed in the garden. Because of their shallow rooting habit, plants can be dug with a spading fork and easily moved to new locations. This has a particular advantage because mums can be grown for most of the season in a sunny location, then after they have developed flower buds, moved to partially shaded border areas where they will come into full bloom. Those potted mums you buy at garden centers this fall can be transplanted to the garden where you can enjoy them for years to come.

Chrysanthemums require well-drained soil, unlike some of those areas I was working in my garden this past weekend. Oh how I hate red clay. In areas like ours with high clay, the addition of organic matter including composted leaves, rotted manure compost or fine pine bark mulch will improve the drainage and aeration. Mums also need full sunlight to grow and bloom successfully. This means generally six hours of sunlight or more each day during the summer period. Plants grown with less light will become weak, spindly and produce

few flowers. Plants also become tall and leggy when they are not properly pinched.

Pinching is the removal of about an inch of the tip of each branch or shoot. This is simply snapped out with the thumb and index finger. The first pinching should be done when the plant is 6 to 8 inches tall and repeated when new branches become 6 inches tall. The timing of the last pinch is the most critical. For early flowering varieties which bloom in mid September the last pinch should be around the middle of June. Varieties which flower in early October should be pinched for the last time the week of July 4th. Generally, about three months is required between the last pinch and blooming.

After drainage has been improved and you've purchased just the right color, be careful to plant your chrysanthemums at just the same depth at which they were grown in their container. Chrysanthemums being shallow rooted plants do best if planted high. Planting, too deep will promote a lack of root aeration and root rot caused by fungal pathogens. If planting several to create quite a splash of color this fall, you'll want to space them about 18 inches apart. By avoiding overcrowding you will help reduce the incidence of diseases such as leaf spot and powdery mildew. It's insects, however, that can be more of a problem. Carefully examine your mums before you purchase. Aphids are often brought into the garden as hitchhikers. Other insects include caterpillars and spider mites.

Mums will require fertilization several times during the spring and summer to stimulate good growth, produce thick stems and maintain a healthy green color. You do not, however, need to fertilize those you are setting out now although one of the root stimulating fertilizers high in phosphorous may not be a bad idea. As a general rule, chrysanthemums are not heavy feeders. A diluted fertilizer, several times before bud set is really all you need. Too much nitrogen and you'll get lots of vegetative growth with very few flowers.

After the plants have flowered this Fall, you will want to cut the stems close to the ground. Leaf, flower and stem debris should be collected and -composted provided they are not disease or insect injected. A layer of mulch material should also be applied after planting. Mulch will help conserve and regulate moisture to these shallow rooted plants while at the same time preventing beds from erosion compaction and helping to retard weeds.

Chrysanthemums also do well planted in containers and since I haven't yet corrected my soggy soil situation it looks like those I buy this weekend will be planted in pots on the deck.

## Can You Place The Place Names?

By Bill White

Who's McNeil?

That's the question that popped up last month when we were preparing *The Shoreline's* article on the dedication of the new McNeil Inlet bridge. Just who, we asked ourselves, were the inlet and the adjoining park named for? After a bit of research, we came up with the conclusion that the inlet and the park were named for George H. McNeil, an attorney for the Roosevelt Family Partnership which launched the development of Pine Knoll Shores. Furthermore, we concluded, the other entrance to the Pine Knoll Waterway, Hoffman Inlet, was named for Alice Green Hoffman, wealthy New York socialite who once owned



much of Bogue Banks and who left her holdings to her niece Eleanor, wife of Brigadier Gen. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.

Okay. But what about all the other place names associated with Pine Knoll Shores. For instance, for whom was Brock Basin named? Or Hall Haven, King's Corner, Garner Park, and Davis Landing.

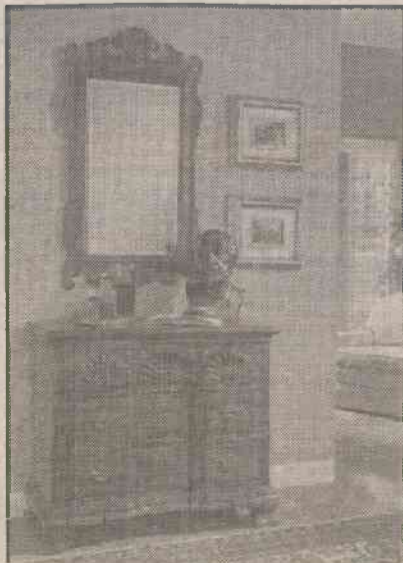
Not to mention Hearth's Cove, Morgan P. Hammer Park and Hopper's Hideaway.

We've done some more investigating and we think we've come pretty close to identifying some of the others who played a significant enough role in bringing Pine Knoll Shores into being that they've had a piece of the real estate named for them.

But we'd like to hear from you out there as to what you know, or think you know. Some of the identifications are easy, some obscure. If you have some thoughts on the subject, we'd love to hear from you. E-mail your comments to us at: [shoreline@townofpks.com](mailto:shoreline@townofpks.com)

## WELLS WAYSIDE

"Quality Furniture at Guaranteed Lowest Prices"



### WELLS WAYSIDE FURNITURE

Hwy. 70 West • Havelock, NC

Since 1952

447-8101

CREDIT TERMS



## A FULL RANGE OF RESOURCES TO SUPPORT YOU ON YOUR FINANCIAL JOURNEY



DAVID L. HARDY, AAMS  
FINANCIAL CONSULTANT



PHILLIP B. NELSON  
SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT  
INVESTMENTS

Stocks • Bonds • Mutual Funds  
CDs • Financial Planning

3326 Bridges St.  
Morehead City, NC 28557  
252-222-4790  
[www.agedwards.com](http://www.agedwards.com)



A.G. EDWARDS.  
FULLY INVESTED IN OUR CLIENTS.

©2004 A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. • Member SIPC

## Fences Unlimited At The Crystal Coast

Over 20 Years Experience



Residential  
Commercial • Industrial

247-6033



FAX 252-240-2842



Raleigh Location (919) 772-7346

[www.fencesunlimited.net](http://www.fencesunlimited.net)

Your Ornamental Fence Source For AMERISTAR® • [www.ameristarfence.com](http://www.ameristarfence.com)