

## **Stop 371 Adult Tour – Mum and Bulb Shows, Cold House**

For two weeks in March, both houses are overflowing with colorful tulips, hyacinths, crocuses and dozens of other spring flowering bulbs, which horticulture students have potted up the previous fall. Thousands of people, ready for winter to be over, come to admire these beautiful blooms and breathe in their sweet scents.

During the summer, preparation begins for the 14-day celebration of Chrysanthemums in November. One of the more striking features of the show is the cascades – the hanging waterfalls of flowers that line the walls of the greenhouse with brilliant color. These mums are trained on wire mesh in a very labor-intensive process that requires weekly tying and pinching of the plants. The mum standards are disbudded to produce enormous blooms in a dazzling array of exotic looking forms. In addition, we display the mum hybrids resulting from the experimental crosses created by Smith horticulture students the year before. Just like their counterparts one hundred years ago, the young women of Smith continue to make their school proud.