

# THE COLORADO GARDEN CONNECTION



Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., 1556 Emerson Street, Denver, CO 80218-1450  
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## President's Message Winter 2014 – 2015



By Trudie Layton, President, CFGC

*Greetings Fellow Gardeners!*

*We have had a busy fall in Colorado, hosting a very successful Rocky Mountain Regional Meeting and a Flower Show School I in the same week. Several of us made the trip to Des Moines, Iowa for the National Garden Clubs Fall Board Meeting where we visited the Better Homes and Gardens Demonstration Gardens and the riverside Botanic Gardens. At this meeting the Board presented the motion to increase dues to members giving increasing costs of administration as the reason. The motion passed after considerable discussion including a wonderfully presented motion to amend for more research by our own Joan Franson. Your representatives to the National Convention will vote on this at the National Convention in May. They are asking to increase the dues from 50 cents to \$1 per member.*

*Soon after returning from this trip, while at a garden club meeting, Joan suffered a stroke and passed away the following day. We will miss her expertise, knowledge and sometimes biting, wit. This brings up an issue in which the Board needs your input. We have lost two former state presidents this year and CFGC would like to honor them in some manner. There is*

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*not a policy or "standing rule" in place for this and we felt this would be a fitting legacy to Joan, our Parliamentarian. There have been monetary donations made in Joan's memory. Please let us know your wishes in this important matter.*

*CFGC again received the \$5000 grant from the Colorado Garden Foundation for the schools. We also had a great response for Colorado Gives Day, better than last year. A big THANK YOU to everyone.*

*Blessings to you and your families this holiday season!*

*"Make a Difference"  
Trudie Layton, CFGC State President  
Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs  
and BeeGAP Speaker*



## The Infamous Nightshades Bunch – 2015 State Convention

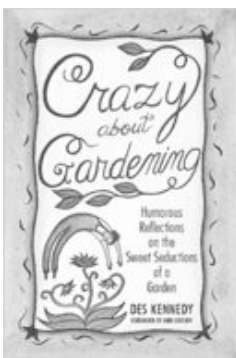


Want to find out more about the “Infamous Nightshades Bunch”, then, plan on attending the 2015 CFGC State Convention scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. The convention will be held at the Holiday Inn Denver Lakewood, located at 7390 West Hampden at Wadsworth. The theme for the convention is “Back To Our Roots”. The planning

committee has been hard at work putting together the agenda for this meeting. Between investigating venues, determining a location, and brainstorming activities, the team has been very busy. A lot of ideas have been bubbled up including a Murder Mystery and a tour of the Molly Brown Summer House with an emphasis on informative and FUN. The next planning committee meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2015; if you are interested in joining the planning committee or have an interest in “acting” in the Murder Mystery, contact Gail Fischer at 303-809-7094. More planning needs to happen, so look for the registration form and information in the Spring Issue, of The Colorado Garden Connection. Put the date on your calendar and the notorious Nightshades Bunch will see you there!

## Book Review – Crazy About Gardening

By Lynn Cleveland, Book Review Chairman



Two decades ago, Canadian author Des Kennedy laid down his spading fork long enough to pick up a pen and consider some of the pleasures and perils of gardening. This book of essays is the thoughtful,

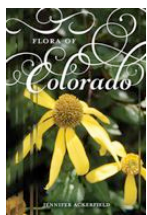
humorous result. Kennedy lives on Vancouver Island, where everything is different from Colorado: climate, soil, plants, plant names, birds, measurements (meters and hectares), and even the weeds! And yet, his themes are universal. We all want what he wants—a productive, color-coordinated, weed-free, fragrant, environmental garden. And we all struggle with the same

challenges that he faces.

But few of us have his way with words. How about this? “Weeding might appear to be the systematic elimination of plants well suited to a site in order that ill-suited exotics might languish there a little longer.” Or this? “Maybe that little clump of mugho pines, hastily parachuted in several years ago to provide ‘structure,’ now resembles a depressing huddle of mourners at a pauper’s funeral.” I was fortunate to receive this book at the 2014 State Convention, and enjoyed every sentence of it. If you are looking for a good read or great gift for your gardening friends during the holidays consider *Crazy About Gardening* and you won’t go wrong.

## Flora of Colorado

By Ed Roland, Southeast Chapter, Colorado Native Plant Society



If you've ever been frustrated attempting to key out a plant (and who hasn't), a solution is on the way! It's the new, soon-to-be-published, **Flora of Colorado** by Jennifer Ackerfield. This is much more than a superior, and easier-to-use key. It certainly is that, but more importantly it's a comprehensive guide to all of the vascular plants of Colorado with detailed descriptions, distribution maps, habitat information, flowering times and elevation ranges for every species. Color photographs are included for about a third of the species, including those most commonly encountered and those most difficult to identify.

Ackerfield teaches plant identification classes at Colorado State University, where she is the Collections Manager for the herbarium. With over 20 years of experience traveling across the state of Colorado studying its plants, she has documented the rich floristic diversity of the state in **Flora of Colorado**. Her primary objective is to make the identification and appreciation of Colorado's native plants accessible to almost anyone. Part of that process has been the field-testing of the pre-published keys by experts and non-experts alike.

Reviews have been universally enthusiastic, especially when it comes to ease-of-use. This guide and related keys avoid the "micro-splitting" of subtle details evident in other keys, while at the same time improving accuracy by using science-based phylogenies. In short, this comprehensive manual of Colorado's native plants, along with the user-friendly keys needed to identify them, will be absolutely essential to those of us who want to know more about Colorado's native plants. This book is large (see spec's on the publisher's website) because it includes the entire state – both

the Eastern and Western slopes – in a single volume. In my view, it's surprisingly affordable at \$65, especially considering all of the color photography.

It's completed and ready to go to print, with availability planned for spring of next year, 2015. Before that can happen, however, the publisher requires a number of pre-orders that will help cover the cost of printing. By buying the book NOW, you can help get it printed and out-the-door, as scheduled. There's a 10% discount on all pre-orders, so the cost of the book comes down to \$58.50, and shipping is only \$4.50. Take a look at the below flyer from CoNPS, and the website, <http://shop.brit.org/products/coloradoflora>. I think you'll agree this is a must-have and will quickly become your essential "go to" source for information on Colorado's native plants.

**CoNPS Fund Raising Campaign**  
for  
**Flora of Colorado**  
by Jennifer Ackerfield




**About the Book:** This book is a comprehensive guide to the vascular plants in Colorado, and contains descriptions, distribution maps, habitat information, flowering times, and elevation ranges for all species. Color photographs for nearly 1/3 of the species are also included. This guide will enable students, researchers, amateur and professional botanists to successfully identify Colorado's flora with confidence.

*Flora of Colorado is the first new manual of Colorado plants since the 1964 publication of Harrington's Manual of the Plants of Colorado. What does that mean? As defined in Walters & Keil's Vascular Plant Taxonomy, 4th ed., "In addition to keys, a manual includes a description for each family, genus, and species, and some manuals provide descriptions for taxa of other ranks as well!"*

**More funding is needed in order to print the book.**

**How can you help? There are 2 ways:**

**Pre-Order a Copy**  
<http://shop.brit.org/products/coloradoflora>  
 The price is \$65 but CoNPS members can receive a 10% discount by using the new code **CONPS-2014**. Don't forget the hyphen between CONPS & 2014. Offer good through 12-31-2014!

**Make a Donation**  
 Your donation is tax deductible:  
 Send to CoNPS -- Flora of Colorado Fund  
 P.O. Box 200, Fort Collins, CO 80522

Jennifer will be donating half of the proceeds from the sales of the book to establish an endowment for the CSU herbarium. CoNPS has contributed \$1,000 toward its publication.

Due to be published Spring 2015



## 2014 Calendar of Events

### January 12, 2015

CFGC Judges Council Meeting  
Emerson House, Denver, CO

### February 7 – 15, 2015

CFGC Flower Show at the Colorado  
Garden & Home Show (entries and  
judging Feb. 6)  
Colorado Convention Center, Denver,  
CO

### March 14, 2015

CFGC Board of Directors Meeting  
Castle Rock, CO

### March 24 – 25, 2015

Flower Show School II  
Emerson House, Denver, CO

### April 13, 2015

CFGC Judges Council Meeting  
Emerson House, Denver, CO

### April 25, 2015

Southern District Annual Meeting

### May 9, 2015

Boulder GC Annual Plant Sale  
Unitarian Church, Boulder, CO

### May 9, 2015

Loveland GC Annual Plant Sale  
All Saints Episcopal Church  
Loveland, CO

### May 15 – 17, 2015

National Garden Clubs Annual  
Convention  
Louisville, KY

### May 16, 2015

Manitou Springs GC Annual Plant  
Sale  
Venue 515, Manitou Springs, CO

### May 29 – 30, 2015

CFGC State Convention  
Holiday Inn Denver Lakewood,  
Lakewood, CO

### May 29 – 30, 2015

CFGC Judges Council Meeting  
Holiday Inn Denver Lakewood,  
Lakewood, CO

### July 13, 2015

CFGC Judges Council Meeting  
Emerson House, Denver, CO

### September 14, 2015

CFGC Judges Council Meeting  
Emerson House, Denver, CO

### October 27 – 28, 2015

Flower Show Symposium  
Emerson House, Denver, CO

### October 29 – 30, 2015

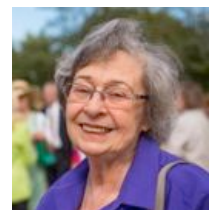
Flower Show School III  
Emerson House, Denver, CO

## Remembering a CFGC Leader – Joan Franson

By Trudie Layton, CFGC State President

Joan Franson was a woman who wanted to know everything about all things. Her desire to learn led her to CFGC. She joined her first Colorado garden club, Hoe and Grow, in the early 1960's. Joan became a certified Flower Show Judge and active designer. Her club merged with another in 1969 and she became the 1<sup>st</sup> president of the new venture, Happy Transplants Garden Club. She moved on to serve as State President and Rocky Mountain Regional Director among other leadership

positions. Her starring role, though, was as CFGC's State parliamentarian. Her goal was making sure that every member had a voice and a vote on each issue. Her list of accomplishments is as remarkable as the woman. Joan's newest role was that of Mason Bee Chairman and she adopted it everything in her. Joan passed away on October 17, 2014 and the void that she has left will be felt for many years.





## Holiday Themed Standard Flower Show

By Audrey Coyle, Landscape Design Schools State Chairman and former CFGC State President

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, the "High Forest Ranch Holidays" Flower Show was held at the community Lodge in High Forest Ranch in Colorado Springs. Presented by Pikes Peak

New Xeriscape educational exhibit that clubs can borrow for meetings; it was the Educational Exhibit winner at our Flower Show.



Exhibition Table Class "Rompin' and Ropin' on the Ranch"

Designers Guild and Cheyenne Mountain GC, it was a great venue and fun event for our Southern District Garden Clubs.

There were beautiful designs including 3 Table Classes portraying the upcoming Holidays and healthy Horticulture exhibits to view. A giant pumpkin was the Horticultural Excellence winner. Our exhibitors enjoyed a delicious soup luncheon with desserts after entering. All top NGC awards were given

and we all went home with a wonderful feeling of Holiday Cheer.



Mary Schmitt entered the giant pumpkin that won for Horticultural Excellence

## Rocky Mountain Regional Roundup Recap

Gardeners from all eight states that make up the Rocky Mountain Region attended the RMR "Roundup" 2015 Annual Convention in Colorado Springs on September 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>. The event started with the states participating in a Flower Show. You can see the wonderful floral arrangements and other photos from the Convention on the CFGC Facebook page and Blog page. John Wesley Anderson gave an interesting presentation on "Ute Prayer Trees of the Pikes Peak Region". He is an author of a book by the same name, a retired El Paso County Sheriff, teacher, and historian. After lunch, riding in school

buses that brought a sense of nostalgia, the participants went to the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center to see the Chihuly Rediscovered Exhibit. They then headed over to the Mesa Xeriscape Demonstration Garden at The Conservation and Environmental Center, operated by Colorado Springs Utilities. The tour was ended with a drive through The Garden of the Gods. Finally, back at the Convention, all eight states donated to the RMR Disaster Fund.



**COLORADO FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**Emerson House, Denver, Colorado**  
**November 17, 2014**

**Call to Order** by CFGC President Trudie Layton at 10:46.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America** led by Jeanne Gilbert.

**President's Welcome:**

President Layton introduced Queen of Spades Garden Clubs co-presidents Jeanne Falletta and Lela Kathka and guest Ingrid Little.

It was President Layton's great pleasure to present several Rocky Mountain Regional awards to various Colorado Clubs (complete list to be published in The Colorado Garden Connection).

**The Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on August 25, 2014** were published in The Colorado Garden Connection and approved as published.

Treasurer Kathy Petersen presented the **Financial Report**. The report will be filed. Highlights of the report: 1) 2013 Federal Income Tax Return 990-N ePostcard prepared. 2) Transfer of funds into Vanguard Accounts completed. 3) A 3-year Net Worth comparison of assets shows a steady increase.

**Membership Report** by Assistant Treasure Margie Soileau reflects an increase in membership.

Total of continuing regular members	525
Total new members	53
Total family members	15

**Correspondence not requiring action: 3**

Thank-you for hosting the RMR Convention  
 2 Sympathy cards for CFGC's loss of Joan Franson

**Officers' Reports:**

**President Layton:** National Garden Clubs Fall Board Meeting in Des Moines.

Rocky Mountain Region wants to increase dues to \$1.00. We will vote on it.

Colorado Gives Day is December 9, 2014

CFGC's website has had 4,200 hits from over 20 countries.

**2015 CFGC Convention Chair Gail Fisher:**

Date of Convention: May 29 - 30, 2015 Hosts: North Central District

To be held at the Holiday Inn Denver Lakewood, Hamden at Wadsworth, Lakewood, CO

Theme: "Back to Our Roots"

Friday: Visit Chatfield area

Saturday: Molly Brown's Summer Home, Dinosaur Museum and Tour of Red Rocks possibilities

Saturday Evening: Reception for in-coming president Louise Niekerk. Followed by the banquet.

Menu already established

Costs: Rooms \$99 a night

Banquet \$28.95

Box Lunch \$15.95

Gail engaged and is using Helms-Brisco to keep records. They will help future convention committees negotiate prices, places, etc.

**Executive Committee Motion Recommendations:** Read by Sec. Nancy Daly

1. That a site lock protection for the website domain security be purchased for \$19.99 yearly be ratified.

APPROVED

2. That Blue Host be our web hosting service. APPROVED

3. That CFGC join Grass Roots organization to benefit from their free services for non-profits offered through Blue Host. APPROVED
4. That the registration fee for the 2015 State convention be \$20.00. APPROVED
5. That the Board accepts the Certified Public Accountant review of CFGC 2014 finances. APPROVED
6. That the appointment of Marge Koerner as CFGC's Parliamentarian be approved. APPROVED
7. That the appointment of Jeanne Gilbert of North Central District to serve on the nominating committee be approved. APPROVED
8. That a long-range planning committee be established for CFGC's future direction. This committee will automatically include the CFGC President, CFGC Treasurer, one Trustee and at least two members from the membership. APPROVED It was noted that this committee's purpose, etc., would need to be placed in Procedure By-laws. (new business).

**Unfinished Business:** 1) Two Emerson House trustees positions need to be filled. 2) Nomination Committee still needs to fill Northern District position.

**New Business:** 1) Need an Assistant Parliamentarian. 2) Memorial for Joan Franson. This will be tabled till the March board meeting. Will ask for suggestions in The Colorado Gardener Connection.

**Chairmen Reports:**

**Emerson House:** Lynn Cleveland

New energy-efficient refrigerator reduced Dec. electrical bill. Special rebate of \$35.00 received.

**Southern District:** Lynn Cleveland

South District's annual meeting will be April 25, 2015, Douglas County Garden Club host.

**Organizational Study Committee:** Lynn Cleveland

Manual of Procedure – every club president should have a copy. Changes available on website under "Members." Two updated copies available at Emerson House: one on the desk in the office; the other in the center closet of the powder room.

**Ft Logan:** Mary Fagerberg

Report filed. Dig 'n Dream Garden Club volunteered for October; now only August and September need to be filled.

**RMR 2014 Convention and November Flower Show:** Audrey Coyle

Both successful

**Flower Show:** Audrey Coyle

Date: February 6, 2015 Theme: "What's the Weather" Chair: Joy Kancir  
(February 6<sup>th</sup> Flower Show entries and Judging, open to the public February 7<sup>th</sup>.)

**Announcement:** President Layton

An updated Award Application form has been approved and will be available on line. This may be submitted to Lyn Veretta by email or regular mail.

**Meeting Adjourned at 11:55 A.M.**

Nancy S. Daly, Recording Secretary



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## CFGC is on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Colorado-Federation-of-Garden-Clubs/177497272343002>

### Check it out!



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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

*[www.coloradogardenclubs.org](http://www.coloradogardenclubs.org)*

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**Street Address**  
**City, ST Postal Code**