



WHS December Speaker

Wednesday, December 8, 2010, 6:30 p.m.

Jennifer Dungan, Earth Sciences Division, NASA,
Mountain View, California

“Can You See My Garden From Space?”

By now I'm sure many of you have had the pleasure of playing with Google Earth on the computer, looking to see what your yard or some other earth site looks like from space. Tonight Jennifer will treat us with many images from satellite sensors and will explain the scientific complexities of what we are seeing in those photos.

Jennifer Dungan has had a long career at NASA Ames Research Center where she works in the Earth Science Division analyzing imagery from Earth observing satellite sensors. She has a Ph.D. in physical geography, specializing in the spatial characteristics of optical remote sensing data.

At home in Mountain View, she maintains a small, water-wise, and very diverse garden that includes many perennials, including succulents, grasses, and California natives. She owes her love of horticulture to her mother, Claire, who designed several successful gardens in different climates in the east, midwest and in northern California, thereby, giving Jennifer a nation-wide education in gardening.

MEETING LOCATION Our monthly meetings feature the speakers listed above; usually doors open at 7 p.m. and meetings begin at 7:30 but in December we begin at 6:30 p.m. since we start with the annual Holiday Potluck Party. The location is the Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church, 1040 Border Road, Los Altos, 94024.

Most months we invite everyone to join our speaker for dinner at Chef Chu's at 5:30 p.m. but in December we all get together for the potluck at 6:30 at Christ Episcopal Church. Do think about joining us for dinner at Chef Chu's in other months! It is a terrific opportunity for our members to get to know each other better, and to get to chat with our speakers.

Would you like to sponsor a lecture for the WHS that is of particular interest to you? It would be much appreciated! Please call Pat Knight at 650-941-6136 if you are interested.

Holiday Potluck Party!

Wed, Dec 8 ~ 6:30 p.m.

All members are invited to join us for a celebration of good company and good food ~ details on page 2!

January 2011 Speaker ...

January 12 Andrea Hurd, Mariposa Gardening & Design, Berkeley, CA. “Mallorcan Masonry: Dry Stacked Stone Walls for Beauty and Habitat.”

Commentary on November's Speaker

If you have a hankering for something sweet and flavorful, our November meeting was the place to be. Our speaker, Todd Kennedy of the Arboreum Co., San Francisco, presented the audience with a cornucopia of the best fruits to grow for our area. I found his talk to be very interesting and informative.

Limiting his presentation to deciduous fruits, Mr. Kennedy, a former WHS member, began by explaining the limits to a home orchard – availability, space, time and climate. Eschewing the “Big Box” stores, our speaker suggested garden centers, mail order firms or growing your own as best sources to obtain desired varieties. Space and time, he stressed, were simply “yours or someone else's.” It was climate – that one factor we can't control (or can we?) that presented proper selections biggest challenge.

The most important climatic limitation, as I understood it, was winter chill. The speaker stated that there is no satisfactory scientific formula or definition of winter chill, the old definition being the number of hours between 32 and 45 degrees Fahrenheit. Mr. Kennedy explained to us in further detail about chilling requirements and new, low-chill varieties to be had.

Our speaker devoted the remainder of his presentation to a slide show of a great number of recommended varieties of fruits of all kinds, most of which I have never heard of. There was a tinge of personal sadness when I heard our speaker mention that the Bing cherry – the former king of cherries in the Santa Clara Valley – was no longer recommended because of the lack of chilling hours (global warming?) Yet Kennedy gave us so many names to choose, no gardener should be discouraged. ~Mark McCabe

Western Hort News and Business

Join us for the Holiday Potluck Party on Wednesday, December 8th!

The party starts at 6:30 p.m.! Bring your favorite main dish, salad or desert to share, and bring your plates & cutlery. Western Hort is providing wine and soft drinks, and cups and glasses. We are collecting canned or packaged food for "Second Harvest." Now is your chance to bring guests and introduce them to our Society. There will be an exciting program from Jennifer Dungan from NASA where we can learn the answer to the question "Can You See My Garden From Space?" Again we will be honoring one of our members with The Founders Award. Who will it be this year?

Raffle Table

We had some great plants from members on the November raffle table. Well done, WHS! A special thanks needs to go out to several local nurseries for their donations. Let's support our local nurseries, please consider shopping at *Ladera Garden and Gifts* in Portola Valley (650) 854-3850, *Roger Reynolds Nursery and Carriage Stop* in Menlo Park (650) 323-5612, *SummerWinds Nursery* in Mountain View (650) 967-3154, and *Alluvial Terrace Nursery* (415) 517-7693. ~Nancy Schramm

Representative to Pacific Horticulture Society

Starting in January 2011, Western Hort will have an opening for a new Pacific Horticulture Society representative. If you are interested in serving on the Pacific Horticulture Society Board of Directors as a Western Hort representative, please contact President Richard Tiede, rtiede@pacbell.net or (408) 251-6618, for information about the job description and to apply for the position. Some of the responsibilities include attending 3 board meetings a year, two of which are out of town; participating in various Pacific Horticulture events; promoting the organization and its mission statement; and contributing to the organization and prosperity of the Society. ~Leslie Dean

WHS Board of Directors

Our nominating committee has chosen two members for your election to the board: Rosalie Shepherd and Ann Griese. We are actively looking for two more to join the board. Interested in plant expeditions to Peru? Garden design tours in England? Well, I can't promise you anything like that, but we do have fun at our meetings, and it's a great way to get to know other members better! No experience needed, just a willingness to help out. Contact Nancy Schramm at edgreenthumb@att.net or (408) 847-2313 or any board member for more information. ~Nancy Schramm

News from the Website, westernhort.org

The "Professional Members" page is up and running. We hope it brings additional clients and customers to our colleagues. If you wish to be added, just send me your details. There is no deadline. Look for the link at the bottom of the "Home," "About" or "Join" page to see this new page. On the "Home" page you will notice a new name added to our Partnership Program: Roger Reynolds Nursery in Menlo Park is now offering members 10% off sales. Just in time to find that special gift! Remember to use your membership card. A new page for members' photos has been started. We want members' photos of any unusual or rare plants, small, large, beautiful or just plain weird! Send digital photos to deerproof@yahoo.com. ~Pat Knight

Calendar of Horticultural Events

Holiday Traditions at Filoli, through Sat Dec 4, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. \$25 members/\$30 non-members. 86 Canada Rd., Woodside. See filoli.org.

Edible Landscaping with Rosalind Creasy, Sat Dec 4, 10:30 a.m. – noon. \$25. Proceeds benefit Common Ground. To register, call 650-493-6072 or visit rosilandcreasyediblelandscaping.eventbrite.com. [sic – eventbrite typo!] See commongroundinpaloalto.org for more Common Ground classes and events.

Traditional Japanese Garden, lecture and slide show with landscape contractor Peter Bowyer. Sat Dec 4, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Hakone Estate and Gardens, Saratoga. \$40 with discount for advance registration. To register, contact Peter Bowyer at 510-658-4941, or www.peterthomasbowyer.com.

Heritage Holiday at History San Jose, including popular centerpiece workshops with the Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County. Sat, Dec 4, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. History Park at Kelley Park, History San Jose, 1650 Senter Road, San Jose. \$3/person or \$10/family of four. See historysanjose.org.

Pruning Fruit Trees, a free talk by Master Gardener Allen Buchinski. Sat, Dec 4, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Berryessa Library, 3355 Noble Ave., San Jose 95132. See mastergardeners.org/events for details on other classes in December – including two on **rose pruning**.

See pacifichorticulture.org for an extensive calendar of horticultural events

Plant of the Month: Narrowleaf Mahonia

Leslie Dean went shopping at Cistus Nursery at The Late Show Gardens last year and brought home a winner. *Mahonia eurybracteata* is known as the narrowleaf mahonia, and that's not exaggerating. The leaves reach 8"-12" long, with 9 or 11 leaflets perhaps 5" long and very narrow, for a delicate, refined look. The leaves are an olive-green with a bit of silver sheen to them. A quick glance at the plant can make you think it's a short bamboo, at least if it's not in bloom or berry. The small yellow flowers grow in clusters in late autumn on short spikes and can/should/might be followed by blueish black fruit.



M. eurybracteata is native to Japan, and quite frost hardy, tolerating temperatures at least down to 10 degrees. Leslie grows hers in the front yard where it gets summer shade and winter sun. It is an excellent plant for the woodland garden, and also makes a satisfying focus for a large container since it should top out at 4' tall. It's not super thirsty. Leslie says that this Mahonia would be very effective as a silhouette plant against a wall. Good companions might include *Bergenia* for the contrast in texture, black mondo grass, and the *Lomandra* 'Goldfields Blue' that Leslie and I were both bidding on at the Hot Plant Picks auction last spring. (Leslie got it so she should know!) Plant *Mahonia eurybracteata* for a tropical look without

that tropical temperament. ~Nancy Schramm (Photo: rhrplants on flickr.com)

28 (Plus!) Years Ago

Since Western Hort didn't meet in Dec 1982, let's look back a few more years for this month's historical tidbits. On October 17th, 1977, Anna and Charles Genasci spoke about "Cactus and Succulents From A-Z." They brought samples from their extensive collection to supplement the slide presentation. 1977 also saw the first increase in membership dues (to \$15 for individuals) since the 1963 WHS founding. I don't think we're doing too bad with our current \$35 dues, which includes a subscription to *Pacific Horticulture*! A "double-pleasure field trip" was planned for October 29th, including visits to Saratoga Horticultural Foundation and Cactus Gem Nursery. It's worth mentioning that at that time, the Plant Notes was basically a list, including botanical name, common name, exhibitor, and only a few words (from 3-13) of description. We owe a debt of gratitude to Jackie Doda (and her predecessors) for the quality of information she delivers each month.

~Nancy Schramm

Great Gift Idea!

Looking for a great gift for a family member or friend who loves to garden? A gift subscription to *Pacific Horticulture* magazine will give them a year's worth of gardening ideas, information and inspiration whether they are an armchair gardener, an avid gardener, or just someone who enjoys learning. Why not treat them to something unique? To order, visit our website at pacifichorticulture.org to sign up. ~Leslie Dean

Western Horticultural Society Officers and Board Members

President: Richard Tiede

Vice President: Christine Bate

Recording Secretary: Mark McCabe

Treasurer: Steve Staiger

Other Board Members: Kerry Barrs, Jon Craig, Chris Egan, Abby Garner, Sherry Hall, Daxin Liu, Nancy Schramm, Katie Wong.

To contact us, please send email to info@westernhort.org, or contact Chris Egan at 650-948-4614, or send mail to Western Horticulture Society, PO Box 60507, Palo Alto, CA, 94306.

About membership in Western Hort:

To join or renew, send your name, address, phone number and a check made out to "Western Horticultural Society" to PO Box 620673, Woodside, CA 94062-0673.

Membership Rates: A 1-year membership (Sep-Aug) includes four issues of *Pacific Horticulture* magazine. Regular membership is \$35, Sustaining is \$45, Contributing is \$60 and Plant Lover is \$100+. We have also added a Family membership of \$50 for two or more members at the same address, and a Student rate of \$20.

Please visit our website at westernhort.org for a membership form.

Newsletter Submissions & Address Changes:

Please send submissions for the January newsletter by Dec. 18th to Marianne Mueller, mrm@sonic.net or 650-326-2029.

Please send address changes to grew@pacbell.net or 650-851-5162.

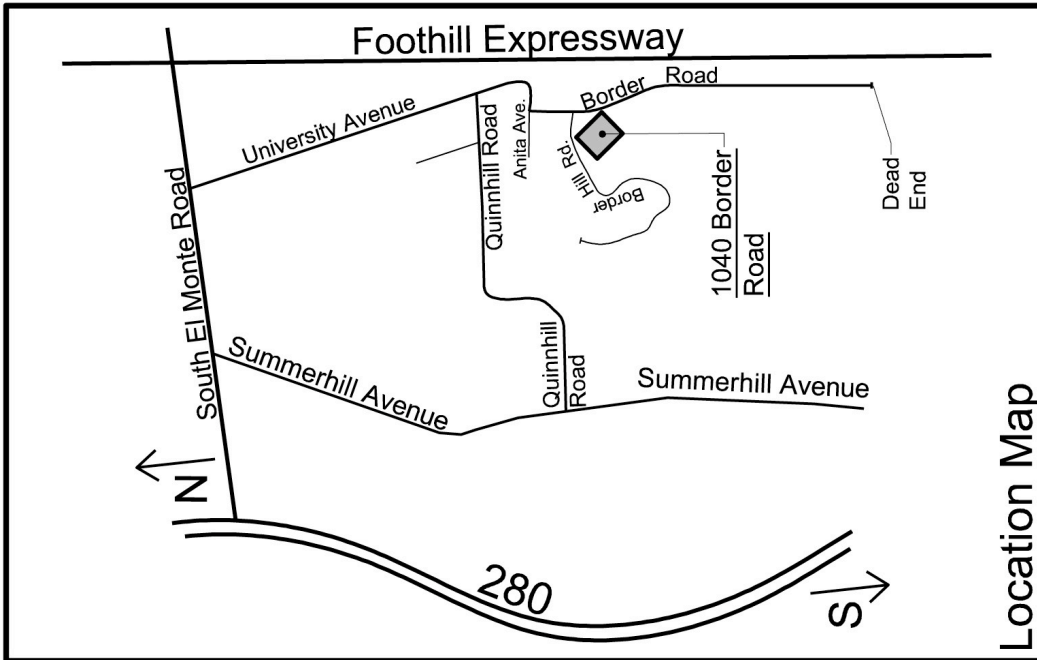


**Western
Horticultural
Society**

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Western Horticultural Society
Monthly Meetings
Christ Episcopal Church
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