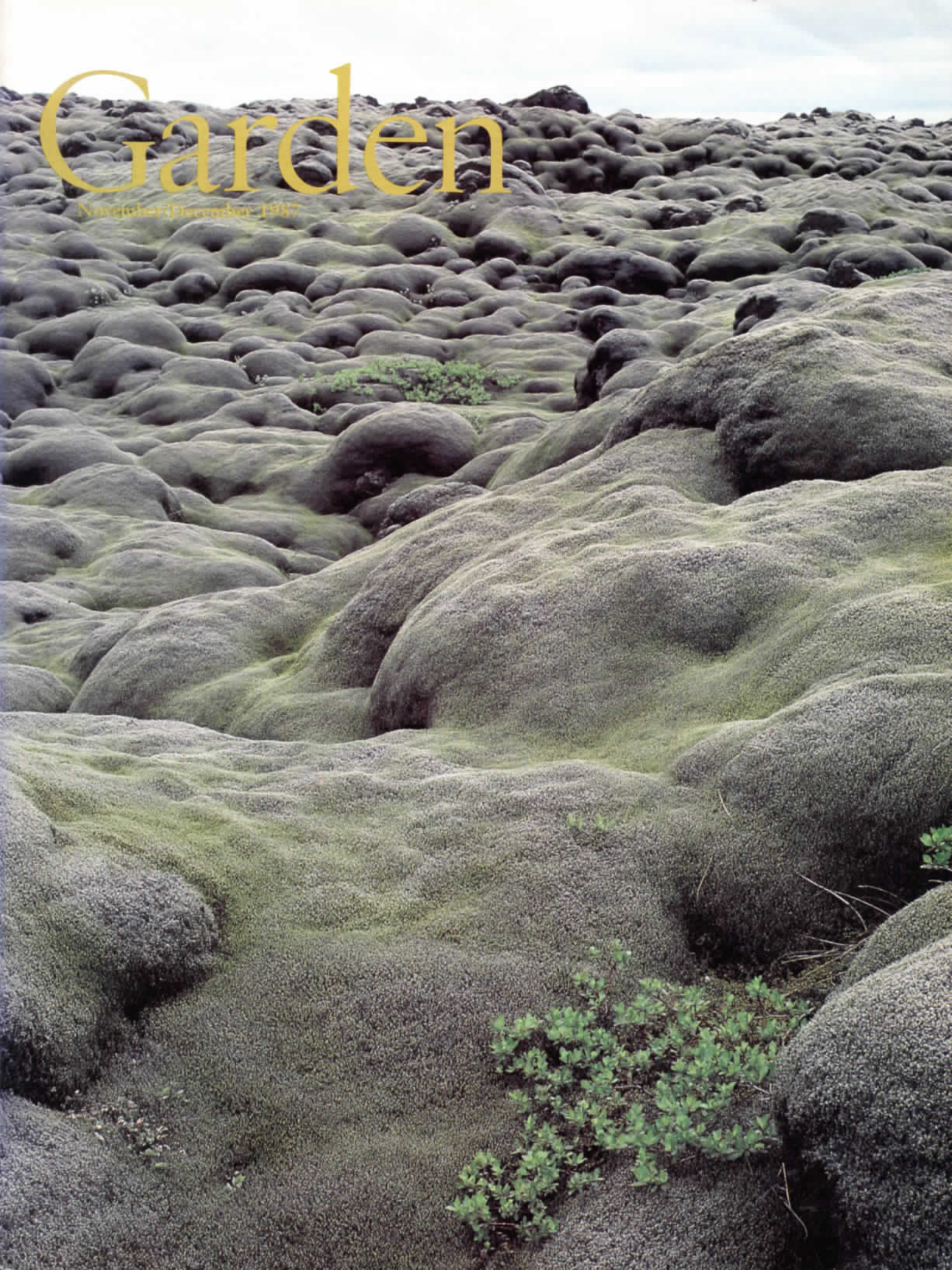


Garden

November/December 1987



LASCA LEAVES



Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens

FOUNDATION SPONSORS SPECIAL JAUNT TO SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

ON JULY 11, 93 California Arboretum Foundation members and guests visited Santa Cruz Island on a private tour hosted by Dr. Carey Stanton.

During the voyage to the island, bonus glimpses of sea life added excitement to the boat ride. Approaching the offshore oil rigs, the boat came close so the group could watch sea lions cavorting around the platforms. Then, just as the boat was ready to dock, a school

of dolphins appeared. Because many people had never seen these mammals in the wild, the captain returned to deep water for a better view as the playful dolphins roiled the surface with their leaping and diving.

Dr. Stanton, who greeted the group when they landed at Prisoner's Harbor, lives on the island where his family has owned a 56,000-acre working cattle ranch for the past 50 years. Since 1978, a conservation partnership has existed between Dr. Stanton and the Nature Conservancy. Photo and vegetation monitoring as well as exotic plant and animal control are a few of the projects the Conservancy conducts on the island.

Public access to the island is very limited, so everyone savored the quiet, peaceful surroundings during the three-mile hike to the ranch. The path curved gently upward between rolling hills, crossing and re-crossing a stream that played peek-a-boo with the hikers; at times it was so wide they had to cross it on stepping stones, then it would vanish underground only to reappear further along.

Distinctive fragrances gave the group clues about the different plant communities as they walked.



Wendy Sekovich

Alice Thomas, left, and Dr. Carey Stanton help a member of the California Arboretum Foundation tour disembark on Santa Cruz Island.

On one section of the trail, fields of wild fennel crowded along the edge of the path, scenting the air with licorice. A short while later, the air was redolent of menthol as the hikers entered a eucalyptus grove.

Nearing the ranch headquarters, the road ran down a lane bordered by crisp white fences. At the end was the final destination, a yellow-trimmed ranch house set on a rise between two ranges of hills. After exploring the buildings, which Dr. Stanton rarely opens to outsiders, everyone settled in the shade of huge old pepper trees to eat their lunches.

In the afternoon, Lyndal Laughrin, a naturalist with the Santa Cruz Island Reserve maintained on the island by the University of California, described the unique features of Santa Cruz Island. The 62,000-acre island supports a rich variety of plants and animals, he said. About 40 plant species are restricted to the Channel Islands, and eight of these occur only on Santa Cruz Island. Notable examples of the endemic plants that the Foundation group saw include the Santa Cruz Island ironwood and the Island oak.

A smooth cruise back across the channel, and everyone disembarked

at the Ventura harbor after a unique jaunt.

The trip to Santa Cruz Island is an example of the exclusive field trips to unusual destinations that Alice Thomas, CAF president, plans to offer Foundation members in the future.

YULE SHOW, TOURS, OPEN HOUSE HIGHLIGHT CHRISTMAS

ONCE AGAIN Christmas cheer overflows at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum with the opening of the Queen Anne Cottage, an open house at the Gift Shop and a three-day Christmas show featuring demonstrations and holiday entertainment.

On Dec. 13, the doors of the Queen Anne Cottage will swing open, allowing everyone a firsthand view of elaborate furnishings and Baldwin family mementos that are usually visible only through the Cottage windows. Antique Christmas cards and ornaments will festoon the parlor and music room. A smaller tree surrounded by antique toys will delight children in the bedroom.

Other historic buildings — Santa Anita Depot, Coach Barn and Hugo Reid Adobe—will also be decorated with period Yuletide ornaments.

An additional \$1 charge for a narrated tour through the Cottage benefits the Historical Preservation Fund at the Arboretum.

Docents will also lead tours through the Santa Anita Depot. The baggage room, not normally open, will be part of the tour. A collection of photographs depicting the chronology of the depot from 1890 to the present will be displayed in this room. The depot kitchen and living quarters furnished with antiques from the 1890s can also be seen. Tours will be led through the Historical Section from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

An open house at the Gift Shop adds to the excitement Dec. 13 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Free demonstrations will continue throughout the day. Gift items from around the world can be purchased. Hot cider and cookies will be served.

At the Christmas show, Dec. 18-20 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., flower arranging and wreath making demonstrations, along with Holiday entertainment will get everyone in the Holiday spirit.

Christmas customs of other countries will be illustrated by exhibits. Holiday craft items and ornaments will also be displayed. Models in Victorian era costumes will circulate through the show area.



Alice Thomas

Lyndal Laughrin, second from left, lectures on Santa Cruz flora.