

Queen Anne Frolic

A FESTIVE FUND RAISING EVENING AT THE
ARBORETUM FOR MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1979
5:30 to 11:00 P.M.

DINNER ENTERTAINMENT SURREY RIDES DANCING

BOAT RIDES ON THE LAGOON HORSELESS CARRIAGE RIDES

TOURS OF THE QUEEN ANNE COTTAGE

LASCA LEAVES



Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens

Baldwin Bonanza IX

SEVERAL THOUSAND PEOPLE were waiting for the Arboretum gates to open for the Baldwin Bonanza plant sale May 6. Once inside, shoppers carrying boxes and baskets dispersed among displays of orchids, vegetables, ferns, houseplants, cycads, palms, and newly introduced plants, many of which are available only at the Arboretum.

Pelargoniums were the biggest attraction again this year, according to Marj Roos, chairman of the ninth annual Bonanza, with the entire supply sold out during the early hours of the event.

A raffle added suspense with hourly drawings for selected plants and a main drawing at the end of the day. Holders of winning tickets for the major prizes took home a color television set, patio furniture, a watercolor, and a greenhouse.

The number of tickets to the Preview Party Saturday evening was limited this year for the first time. Foundation members responded so enthusiastically to the opportunity to make advance plant selections that most of the tickets had been reserved about a week before the party.

Credit for the resounding success of Baldwin Bonanza IX goes to

the California Arboretum Foundation volunteer organization, Las Voluntarias; the Arboretum staff; Bonanza Chairman Marj Roos; and Arboretum Superintendent John

Provine. After the final accounting is completed, the profits from Baldwin Bonanza will go toward support of the Arboretum and its programs.



Warm, clear weather made waiting pleasant for early arrivals anticipating the opening of Baldwin Bonanza IX. Although the number of shoppers was slightly smaller, visitors who came to the annual sale came to buy, because sales were about equal to those of last year.

Photos by William Aplin



Sales were brisk in the fern section where all forms from hanging baskets to small potted types were soon claimed.



The wide selection of fancy pelargonium varieties made it hard for some shoppers to narrow the choice.



Onward! This well organized group came equipped with a dual transport system, a plan for action, and an expedition leader.



Dieffenbachia, philodendrons, and Ficus lyrata form the luxuriant setting for this intense discussion.



The section devoted to Arboretum introductions gives gardeners an opportunity to obtain unusual plants like these gold madallion trees (Cassia leptophylla) before the introductions are widely available in the nursery trade.

Cryptanthus

Ornamental Earth Stars

by TIM LORMAN



COMMON NAMES OF PLANTS, although useless to taxonomists and other scientific types, are helpful to almost everybody else simply because they offer some clue to what a plant looks like, which is why common names evolved in the first place.

Members of the genus *Cryptanthus* are called earth stars, a pretty good descriptive name. They are starlike in shape and symmetry and, unlike other members of the bromeliad family, they are terrestrial, growing in organic, well-drained soil in their native South America.

The leaves of cryptanthus are usually crinkled, mottled, and striped, forming stemless rosettes ranging in size from a few inches to over 30 inches in diameter. Many in Florida are over 36 inches across. They are found in such diverse colors as brown, rose, green, silver, chartrreuse, gray, copper, pink, white, and red.

Earth stars must be grown in containers in our climate. They make excellent houseplants for coffee tables or other low places where their color and symmetry can be viewed from above. These plants are also good in atrium plantings where the light is diffused. They blend well with larger bromeliads in the background and among natural fallen logs or rocks in subtropical gardens. Many hobbyists with greenhouses, as well as commercial growers, find that cryptanthus grow very



well near the ground level of a greenhouse where it is cool, shady, humid, and moist. Curling and browning of leaf tips will occur if cryptanthus do not receive sufficient humidity.

Being acid-loving plants, cryptanthus thrive in a medium consisting of equal parts of Canadian peat moss and #2 perlite. Straight ground sphagnum moss is also good but must never be allowed to dry out or become soggy. Like all members of the Bromeliaceae, cryptanthus prefer adequate air circulation and

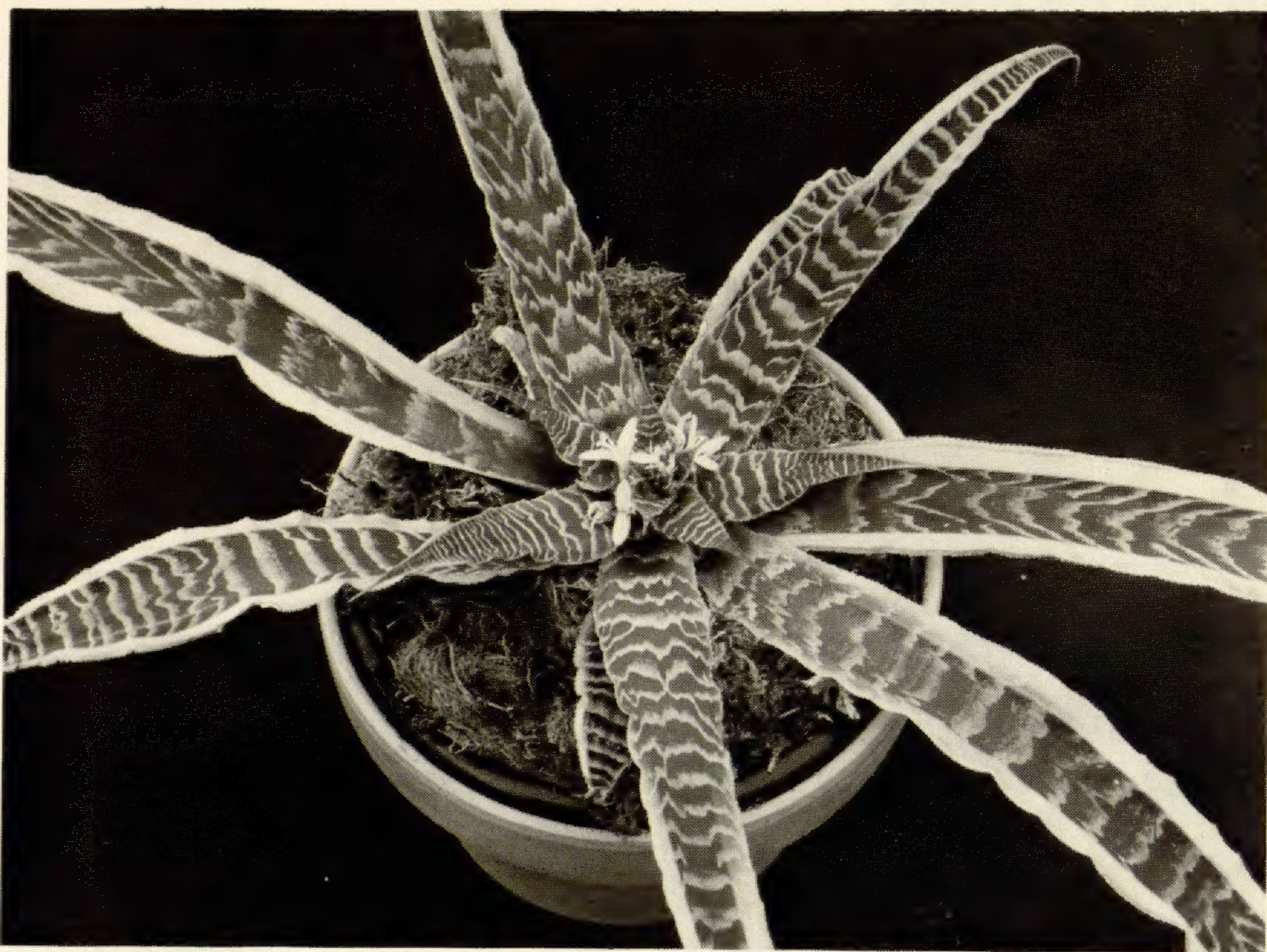
temperatures of 68° - 80° F. for best results.

All but two cryptanthus have small white flowers that last a very short time. The flowers emerge both from the center of the rosette and from the leaf axils, followed later by one to six or more offsets or pups.

Some cryptanthus send out long stolons from the leaf axils with new plants later developing on the ends of the stolons, making attractive hanging basket plants. One cryptanthus especially good as a hanging plant is *C. 'Cascade.'* It

has branching stolons up to three feet long. The main mother plant of *C. 'Cascade'* forms a flat rosette about a foot across. It will remain a glossy green in poor light and turn copper-red in bright light. For a plant that produces an abundance of offsets, try *C. bivittatus minor*. One cryptanthus that can tolerate low humidity is *C. bahianus*.

Bright light is necessary to bring out the best colors of cryptanthus. Reflected bright light is also good, but direct sunlight must be avoided. An interesting feature of the cryptanthus is that an individual species or cultivar will take on a different size, shape, and color depending on the amount of light it receives. Cryptanthus that have characteristic pinkish hues or are variegated will require bright light



Cryptanthus fosterianus 'Elaine.'



Cryptanthus bromelioides 'Tricolor.'

for most of the day to maintain or increase their color.

Cryptanthus store abundant water in their leaves and can be allowed to go somewhat dry between waterings. Dried-out peat moss mixes are very difficult to re-wet and may need heavy watering after going quite dry.

Unless you want maximum size plants, do not fertilize cryptanthus. Many of the most showy colored cryptanthus, like other bromeliads, are not influenced by additions of fertilizer. But, if you prefer, a commercial water soluble fertilizer may be used. This should be a weak strength solution such as one-fourth the recommended combination of 15-30-15 (N-P-K, respectively) used monthly, spring through early fall.

Like other bromeliads, the plant will go into a reproductive stage after it blooms, sending out a number of offsets to replace the slowly declining mother plant. When each of the numerous offsets reaches one-third to one-half the size of the mother plant it can easily be removed by gently moving the offset back and forth until it releases.

Pot young offsets in 2½ - 3 inch plastic or clay pots so the base of the plant is buried to the first set of leaves or until the plant lies barely flat on the soil surface. Unrooted offsets will begin rooting within a few weeks using the peat and perlite mix.

Tim Lorman, Arboretum staff horticulturist, is responsible for the maintenance of the greenhouses and nursery.

Queen Anne Frolic

FOR ONE RARE EVENING the glistening mirrors and stained glass windows of the Queen Anne Cottage will reflect again the gaiety of an earlier era. The cottage, California Historic Landmark #367, can usually be viewed only through the windows, but at the biennial Frolic this authentically restored and furnished example of turn-of-the-century elegance will be seen from a unique perspective. Foundation members and their guests will be able to literally put themselves in Lucky Baldwin's place on special tours of the interior of the cottage during the September 28 event.

The festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. and continue until 11 p.m. Escorted rides in horse drawn surreys, antique cars, and a lagoon boat will fill the twilight hours. Then, after an alfresco dinner, the orchestra will provide music for an evening of dancing in the mall beside the lagoon.

Invitations will be mailed to Foundation members in August. Mrs. John (Elaine) Hoffman, chairman of the Queen Anne Frolic Committee, emphasizes the importance of making prompt reservations. Only a limited number of members can be accommodated, so plan early to attend this fund raising event that will also be a fun evening.

Baldwin Bonanza IX



The excitement of owning a rare plant like this black boy (Xanthorrhoea quadrangulata) seemed to make vision a secondary consideration.



Large, dramatic plants like these cymbidiums (left) and staghorn fern (Platycerium) were among the first to be chosen at the plant sale.

LIVING SCULPTURE



Will it bite? There seems to be some doubt regarding the life form of the Living Sculpture display.



Cattleya orchid fanciers had several hundred different hybrids and size plants from which to choose.

LOS ANGELES STATE AND COUNTY ARBORETUM, Arcadia

June 29, 30, July 1 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cactus and Succulent Show
Presented by Cactus and Succulent Society of America.

July 8 — 10 a.m.

Sunday Morning Walk
Australian Section
Dr. Gary Wallace, Arboretum botanist
Presented by California Arboretum Foundation

July 21, 22 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fern Show
Presented by L.A. International Fern Society

August 11, 12 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

American Begonia Show
Presented by American Begonia Society

August 26 — 10 a.m.

Sunday Morning Walk
"Historical Buildings"
Sandy Snider, Arboretum historian
Presented by California Arboretum Foundation

September 22, 23 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Akebono Bonsai Show
Presented by the Akebono Bonsai Society

September 23 — 10 a.m.

Sunday Morning Walk
Tallac Knoll
Dr. Leonid Enari, Arboretum biologist
Presented by California Arboretum Foundation

September 23 — 2 p.m.

Sunday Afternoon Talk
"Growing Winter Annuals"
Ronald Call, Arboretum education specialist
Presented by California Arboretum Foundation

CALENDAR

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER

September 28 — 5:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Queen Anne Frolic, a fund-raising event
Sponsored by the California Arboretum Foundation

DESCANSO GARDENS, La Canada

July 1 — 2:30 p.m.

Dixieland Band of Pasadena
Grice Axtman, director
Presented by Descanso Gardens Guild

July 8 — 2:30 p.m.

Adult Swing Band
Paul Killian, director, Pasadena City College

July 15 — 2:30 p.m.

Verdugo Hills Chapter of Sweet Adelines
Bobbette Gantz, Jackie Morgan, Bonnie Sherburn, directors

September 15, 16 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Camellia Plant Sale
Presented by Southern California Camellia Council

September 16 — 10 a.m.

Sunday Morning Walk
"Trees of Descanso Gardens"
George Lewis, superintendent
Presented by Descanso Gardens Guild

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN, Palos Verdes Peninsula

July 8 — 2 p.m.

Demonstration
"Geranium Culture"

Susan Tusenkian

Geranium Society

July 15 — 2 p.m.

Fuchsia—Bloom and Memorabilia Show
Presented by South Coast Fuchsia Society

July 22 — 2 p.m.

Demonstration
"Hydroponic Gardening"
Charles Stevenson, consultant
Presented by South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation

July 29 — 2 p.m.

Demonstration
"Wok Cooking"
Jane Matsuda
Presented by South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation

August 5 — 2 p.m.

Demonstration
"How to Divide and Replant Ferns"
George Henell
International Fern Society

August 12 — 2 p.m.

Demonstration
"How to Divide and Replant Iris"
Duncan Eader, president
Southern California Iris Society

August 18, 19 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Dahlia Show
Presented by Inglewood Dahlia Society

September 9 — 10 a.m.

Sunday Morning Walk
"Fall Flower Color"
Armand Sarinana, superintendent
Presented by South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation

September 29, 30—Sat. 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Sun. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Annual Orchid Show
Presented by South Bay Orchid Society