Goals

Have an easily accessible way to showcase notable plants in every Garden Section (all 11 of them).

Use selected photos and actual Garden Labels so Docents and the Public can locate any of the plants in the Garden.

1/13/2019
Garden Showcase Plant Collages

[Image of an ancient tree with a textured bark and a close-up image of a pine cone]

[Text: Western Bristlecone Pine
Pinus longaeva
84.429 Pinaceae
White Mountains, 10,200’ EL
Inyo County]
In 2015, Bruce Barnes gave a Wayne Roderick lecture on his Android Wildflower Apps, at Bob Case’s invitation.

Understanding how this App was built inspired the idea that if Bart O’Brien could send Bruce a list of all the plants in the Regional Parks Botanic Garden, a ‘Garden App’ could be produced.
Garden Showcase Plant Collages

ANTIOCH PRIMROSE
(RARE AND ENDANGERED)
OENOTHERA DELTOIDES VAR. HOWELLII
0.13 ONAGRACEAE
ANTIOCH DUNES
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
The Friends Board approved the funding needed to complete the additional art work for the grasses, ferns, conifers in the App. Bruce Barnes delivered the Garden App in September, 2016. Rosie Andrews and the Friends Board approved buying four Kindle Fire tablets, with a protective case for each.
Garden Showcase Plant Collages
The Garden App is installed on these tablets, and can be checked out by docents when the Office is staffed.

The Garden App is very useful for keying, self-education, and learning more about plants of interest for tours.

It has 2,397 Garden plant species.
Garden Showcase Plant Collages
Challenges

• ‘Browsing’ in the Garden App is difficult
• The Garden App does not have subspecies
• There is no notion of Sections and Seasons
• A tablet checkout mechanism is still lacking
• Public access is essentially non-existent
• While Bruce Barnes agreed to update the Garden App to address some of these, more graphics and artwork would be required
Garden Showcase Plant Collages
Strategies

• Bart and the Gardeners began to develop a list of ‘Showcase Plants’ for every Garden Section
• For each Section, it was decided to have at least 4 plants for each season, plus 4 ‘Year-Round’ plants
• The Friends Website Committee had developed a Seasonal Guide featuring mostly photos taken in the Garden by John Rusk
• John Rusk gave the Garden permission to use any of his thousands of Garden plant photos
Garden Showcase Plant Collages
Infrastructure Improvements

• The Showcase Plants list for every Garden Section continued to be refined during 2017
• The Garden Wi-Fi coverage was improved substantially in both scope and strength
• By early 2018, with additional Showcase Plant selections from Glenn Keator and others, we had a list of 230 Showcase Plants
• The Website Committee began to think of presenting each Showcase Plant as a Collage
Garden Showcase Plant Collages
Methodologies-1

• The Website Committee settled on a Collage of 4 photos (Plant, Closeup, Detail, Label), in a ‘Golden Ratio’ of a Fibonacci Spiral (2200 x 1360 pixels)
Garden Showcase Plant Collages
Methodologies-2

- Members of the Website Committee began finding John Rusk photos for each of the 230 Showcase Plants, taking/making them for Labels, finding other sources
- The Garden Sections were assigned as follows:
  0 Desert – David Sherertz
  1 Valley/Foothill – David Sherertz
  2 Santa Lucia – Bob Finkel
  3 Channel Islands – Bob Finkel
  4 Franciscan – Anne Olsen
  5 Pacific Rain Forest – Anne Yniguez
  6 Sierran – Anne Olsen
  7 Redwood – Anne Yniguez
  8 Sea Bluff – Linda Blide
  9 Shasta/Klamath – Linda Blide
  10 Canyon – David Sherertz
Garden Showcase Plant Collages
Methodologies-3

- The App FotoJet was selected to make the Showcase Plant Collages
- Due to an anomaly in FotoJet, the Collages have to be made upside down, but once all the photos are chosen, making the Collage takes about a minute
- All taken and selected photos that make up a Collage are retained, as are ‘Extra’ photos for each Showcase Plant
- Eventually, all collages will have a ‘pop-up’ description, including photo credits for each part
- As new and/or better photos are found or taken for a Showcase Plant, a new Collage can be easily made
Garden Showcase Plant Collages

CALIFORNIA FESCUE
FESTUCA CALIFORNICA
83.395 POACEAE
MONTARA MOUNTAIN
SAN MATEO COUNTY
Results

• You have seen interspersed in this talk one Showcase Plant Collage from each of the 11 Garden Sections
• An initial version of the 220 Showcase Plant Collages is up on the nativeplants.org website, using a temporary, private link [https://nativeplants.org/new-about/](https://nativeplants.org/new-about/)
• I am about to give you a handout. After this slideshow, weather permitting, you can go out into the Desert Section, and using the link above on your tablet or smartphone, see if you can find the Showcase Plants
• We are working on a Plant Template to capture docent Plant Talk information and research that goes into the pop-up plant description for each Plant Collage
• Please send feedback to: [ddsherertz@gmail.com](mailto:ddsherertz@gmail.com)