Project Introduction

- Collaborative grant between 15 herbaria, botanical gardens, museums, and universities
- The New York Botanical Garden is the lead institution
- Digitize 2,000,000 herbarium specimens of carnivorous, epiphytic, and succulent plants in 15 families from all global regions
- Host a Ethical Data Sharing Workshop
- Focus appreciation on EF plants and the role of collections in conservation in a general audience, especially youth in underrepresented groups
Synopsis of Year Two

- 52% of the promised specimens were digitized within the first two years of this project across all institutions.
- 32 tours or open houses across the included institutions discussed or otherwise highlighted this TCN (before March 2020).
- 546 online volunteers / citizen scientists helped transcribe specimen records in FY 2019.
- COVID-19 related shutdowns significantly disrupted progress; pivot to georeferencing and online transcription.
840,790 specimens barcoded (76% of total)

By year 2, seven institutions (47%) have met or surpassed their committed specimen totals
715,348 specimens imaged

Imaging has been significantly disrupted by COVID-19

Imaging could not take place for 40% of FY 2109
Lessons Learned

Workflows matter
- barcoding and imaging should occur in tandem: e.g., as you finish barcoding Family A and start barcoding Family B, start imaging Family A

Transcription
- transcription should happen after imaging
- always transcribe from an image, not the physical specimen

The limits of student interns
- including student interns is a critical component of TCNs, however they have limits compared to FTEs (such as lead digitizers): e.g., many universities lost 1-2 months of digitization time, as collections/campuses closed to students earlier than FTEs, due to COVID-19
Outreach

Realizing the full potential of DIGIVOL & Notes from Nature

- 546 online volunteers / citizen scientists helped transcribe specimen records in FY 2019.

- New volunteer opportunities for institutions to engage previously on-site, in person volunteers, during shutdowns.
Rare, endangered species continue to be targeted. We need to find a balance between data access and protection.

'Unfathomable destruction': thousands of rare wildflowers wiped out in Nevada

About 40% of the Tiehm's buckwheat population destroyed, amid fierce dispute over proposed lithium and boron mine nearby

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
mandyä National River & Recreation Area
4564 Leatherwood Road
Oneida, TN 37841

423-569-9778 phone
www.nps.gov/biso

Big South Fork NRRA News Release

Release Date: Immediate, June 25, 2020
Contact: Chris Derman, christopher.derman@nps.gov, 423-569-9778

National Park Service Seeks Information on Theft of Pink Lady Slipper Plants

[Oneida, Tennessee] – Park rangers are seeking information related to the theft of approximately 30 pink lady slipper plants (Cypripedium acaule) along Leatherwood Loop Trail, on or about June 8-9, 2020. On June 11, park staff discovered holes where the plants were known to be present. Flowering and vegetative individuals at the site had been counted by park staff two weeks earlier, on May 28, so an accurate count of how many plants were dug was possible.
Welcome to Endless Forms new PEN: Mare Nazaire at the Herbarium at California Botanic Garden!

“This partnership fills an important gap by adding 70,000 herbarium specimens representing all EF families, some of which are especially diverse (cacti, agave, spurge) in California, a world biodiversity hotspot.”
Thank you!

Melissa Tulig
Kim Watson
Charlie Zimmerman
Lin Li
Elizabeth Rivas