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**A Dandy Day in the Desert**

**A Monday Morning Musing from Mickey the Mercenary Geologist**

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**June 6, 2016**

Recently I spent a day doing what I do, field geology in the high desert of central New Mexico. It was simply a gorgeous day: sunny; blue skies; light breezes; and mild temperatures.

And in mid-May, the spring wildflower bloom was full on.

The more that I looked at more than the rocks the more flowers that I saw. I invite you to view the collage of photos my field assistant took on this very special day in the field.

Let's start with a few cacti; first a common prickly pear in our part of the Southwest:



The ubiquitous cane cholla:



Next a very spiny hedgehog in full glory:



A pencil cholla; they bloom in June:



This club cholla was just ready to bloom:



The creosote bush reaches its northern range about 30 miles south of Albuquerque:



An unidentified shrub:



Now for some flowers that I can identify. First is globe mallow:



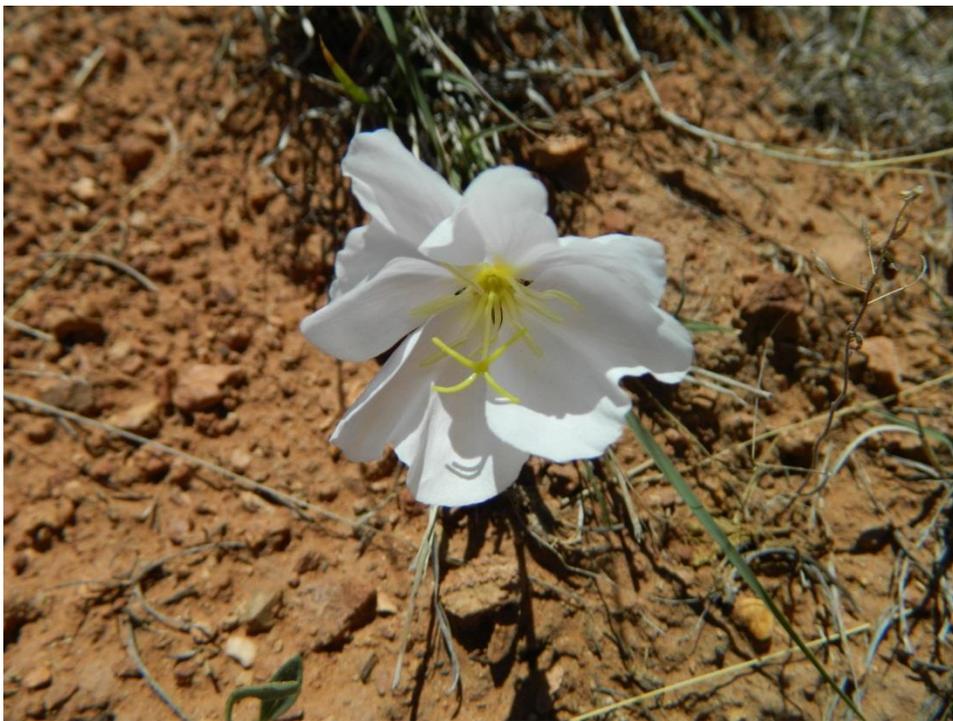
Camphor weed:



Indian paintbrush:



New Mexico evening primrose:



A variety of bladderpod:



Bluebowls:



This is a common daisy in the New Mexico desert; I am unsure of the variety:



Scorpion weed is restricted to gypsum outcrops of Permian age in this part of central New Mexico:



Prairie verbena:



Organ Mountain lockspur:



Here are four that I do not know. If you can help, please email me: [contact@mercenarygeologist.com](mailto:contact@mercenarygeologist.com).

An unknown succulent in bloom:





The endless cerulean skies of the Land of Enchantment seem a fitting end to our pictorial:



I hope you have enjoyed our New Mexico springtime photos as much as we enjoyed a day in the desert.

Ciao for now,

Mickey Fulp  
Mercenary Geologist



**Acknowledgment:** Kirsty B. Hogg is the official photographer of [MercenaryGeologist.com](http://MercenaryGeologist.com). Thanks to subscriber Randy Mudge, who identified three of the wild flowers shown above.

The [Mercenary Geologist Michael S. "Mickey" Fulp](http://MercenaryGeologist.com) is a Certified Professional Geologist with a B.Sc. Earth Sciences with honor from the University of Tulsa, and M.Sc. Geology from the University of New Mexico. Mickey has 35 years experience as an exploration geologist and analyst searching for

economic deposits of base and precious metals, industrial minerals, uranium, coal, oil and gas, and water in North and South America, Europe, and Asia.

Mickey worked for junior explorers, major mining companies, private companies, and investors as a consulting economic geologist for over 20 years, specializing in geological mapping, property evaluation, and business development. In addition to Mickey's professional credentials and experience, he is high-altitude proficient, and is bilingual in English and Spanish. From 2003 to 2006, he made four outcrop ore discoveries in Peru, Nevada, Chile, and British Columbia.

Mickey is well-known and highly respected throughout the mining and exploration community due to his ongoing work as an analyst, writer, and speaker.

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