



## Virtual Wildflower Hike – Part 2

*Check out Friends of Government Canyon's Facebook page to follow along to our virtual wildflower hike video!*

{1} Hi I'm Jennifer. I'm a volunteer with the Activities Committee of the Friends of Government Canyon. Because of social distancing requirements this spring, we haven't been able to have any actual guided hikes. So, we have decided to attempt a virtual guided hike. We will be going on the end **Lytle's Loop** where there are some of the prettiest flowers I've seen.

{2} **Ashe Juniper** (mountain cedar) is one of the species with separate male and female plants. This a female because it has berries. This individual will not make you sneeze; the male, that produces pollen, is what gives people misery.

{3} This is the **White Prickly Poppy**. It has a bright yellow center and large white petals almost like crepe paper. It is very attractive to bees. It's very prickly and the veins have a bluish cast, unlike thistles which are yellowish. This is a bud; it has 3 'horns.'

{4} This is a **Black-eyed Susan**. It is closely related to other coneflowers like the Mexican Hat. It has a dark brown cone and long pointed leaves.

{5} This is called **Nerve Ray**. It has skinny petals, distinct disc flowers (center part), and is generally scrubby looking. It is part of the daisy family.

{6} Panorama

{7} This is **Beggar's Tick**. It is related to carrots and parsley. Some people call any white flowers arranged like this (corymb) Queen Anne's Lace, but this species is Beggar's Tick. It produced fuzzy football-shaped seeds that stick to everything.

{8} This little orange-yellow flower is called **Zexmenia**. It's another composite like daisy. And this one is pretty easy to pick out because it's such a deep color. And it has these little pointed leaves that are just opposite each other. This one is deer resistant if you wanted to plant it in your garden.

{9} Panorama

{10} This is called **Bee Brush** or White Brush. It has spikes of tiny white flowers and is related to verbena. This is one of the woody plants the rangers are trying to get rid of in this area.

{11} This is called **Skeleton Plant**. It is related to dandelions. It has a tall, thin stalk that is almost bare. It also has fluffy seeds.

{12} These spiky plant is called **Grey Vervain**. It is related to verbena, but instead of having flowers arrange in a parasol shape, they are arranged in spikes. It has lots of little hairs that make it look gray.

{13} This is a **Prickly Pear Cactus**. The blooms have lots of anthers and are attractive to insects. This could have been the state flower of Texas, the original 'yellow rose of Texas.' Some of these flowers have already bloomed and will turn into the 'tunas' that some people and many animals like to eat.

{14} This flower is called **Coreopsis**. It is related to daisies.

{15} This red ball is called a **Pin Cushion Daisy**. It is from the daisy family. This particular one almost never has petals. It is also called a perfume ball because it is very sweet smelling.

{16} This is **Texas Mountain Laurel**. In early March it has clusters of purple flowers. Now it's just making seed pods. This is a Mountain Laurel seed. It has a very hard shell that needs to be scarified for the seed to germinate. They are also poisonous.

{17} Bye for now. We're ending our short hike here. If you want to come out and hike the whole Lytle's Loop, be sure to bring at least 2 liters of water per person. Hope to see you soon!