

A PHOTO JOURNEY to BIG BEND



***Photos and Text
by
Peter and Kim
January 2001***

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***All photos were shot in either
Big Bend National Park
or
Big Bend State Natural Area
South Texas***

O U R B I G B E N D



For 6 wonderful weeks in the winter of 2001 we were lucky enough to be able to travel the length and the breadth of one of our nations best kept secrets.....Big Bend National Park.

A FLOWER WALK in BIG BEND



It is February in Big Bend and the renewed warmth of the desert days becomes the invitation to yellows – the asters, the coreopsis and the desert marigolds and of course the yellow primrose that open

both for the morning coolness and the setting sun. At first it appears as a light dusting on the western sides of the foothills, gradually becoming a thick rich carpet before it gives way to the intensifying heat. Among the stones and bleached sand; set in impossibly small, dry forbidding spaces, each flower seems undaunted in its task – blooming beautifully.

Tiny white flowers intersperse the same hillsides, but they cannot stand alone as an independent color in competition with the yellow. Instead, they will give it hue and texture. In some parts of the park, the larger of two varieties of white flowers covers huge expanses – hence it's name, Desert Snow. This "snow," however has a fragrance that holds the air with an intensity that challenges any commercial rival. And then, in a uniquely Texas effort, a familiar blue emerges from soft green clumps and the beloved Bluebonnets announce that it is "really" spring! Slowly purples and pinks emerge and Nature's genius for floral arrangement becomes overwhelmingly evident.



Spring is not long in the desert and everything must show its splendor as quickly and effectively as possible! It is a more bodacious show of jubilation and effusive beauty because of its rugged setting. It is a testament to the indomitable power of life's cycle. It is absolutely beautiful!

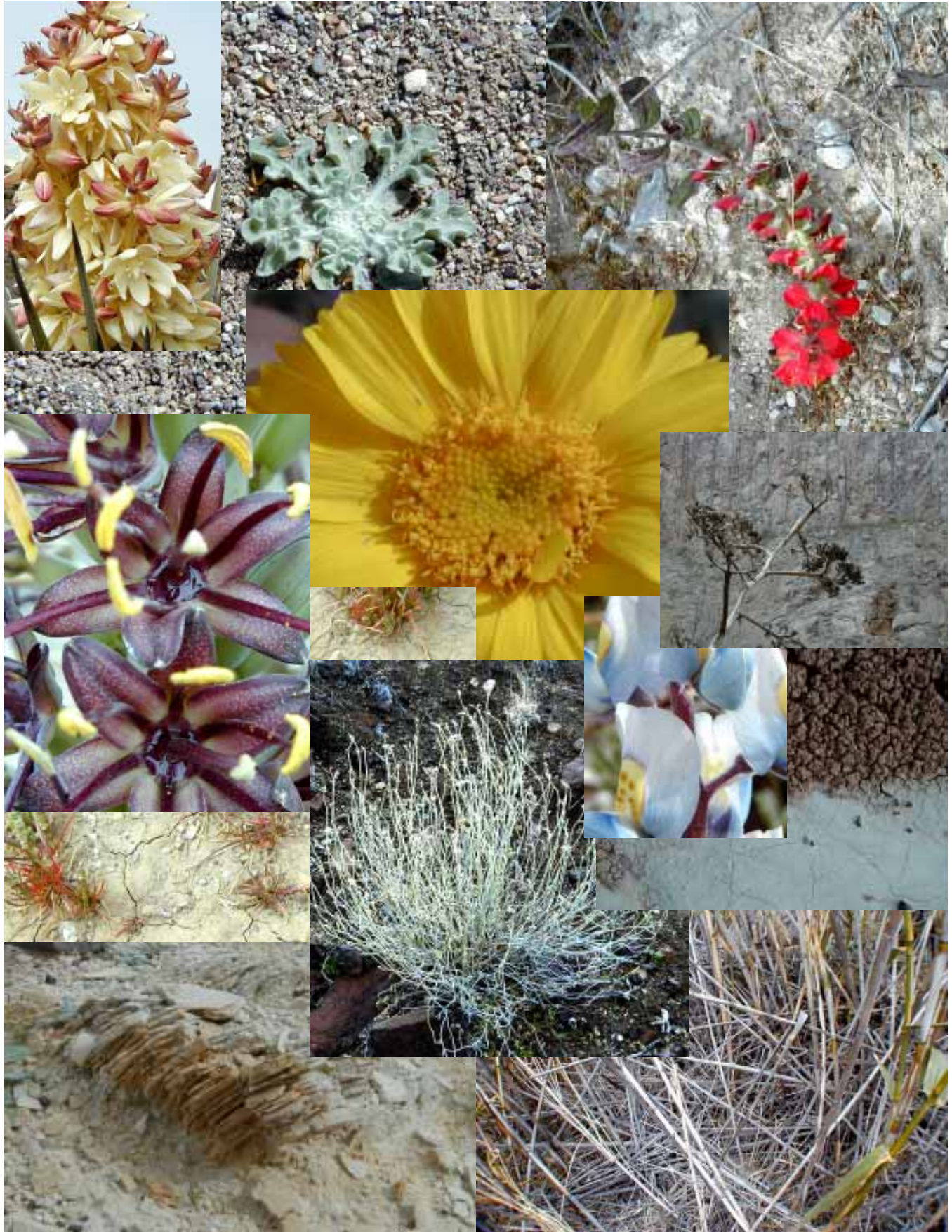
THE CACTUS of BIG BEND



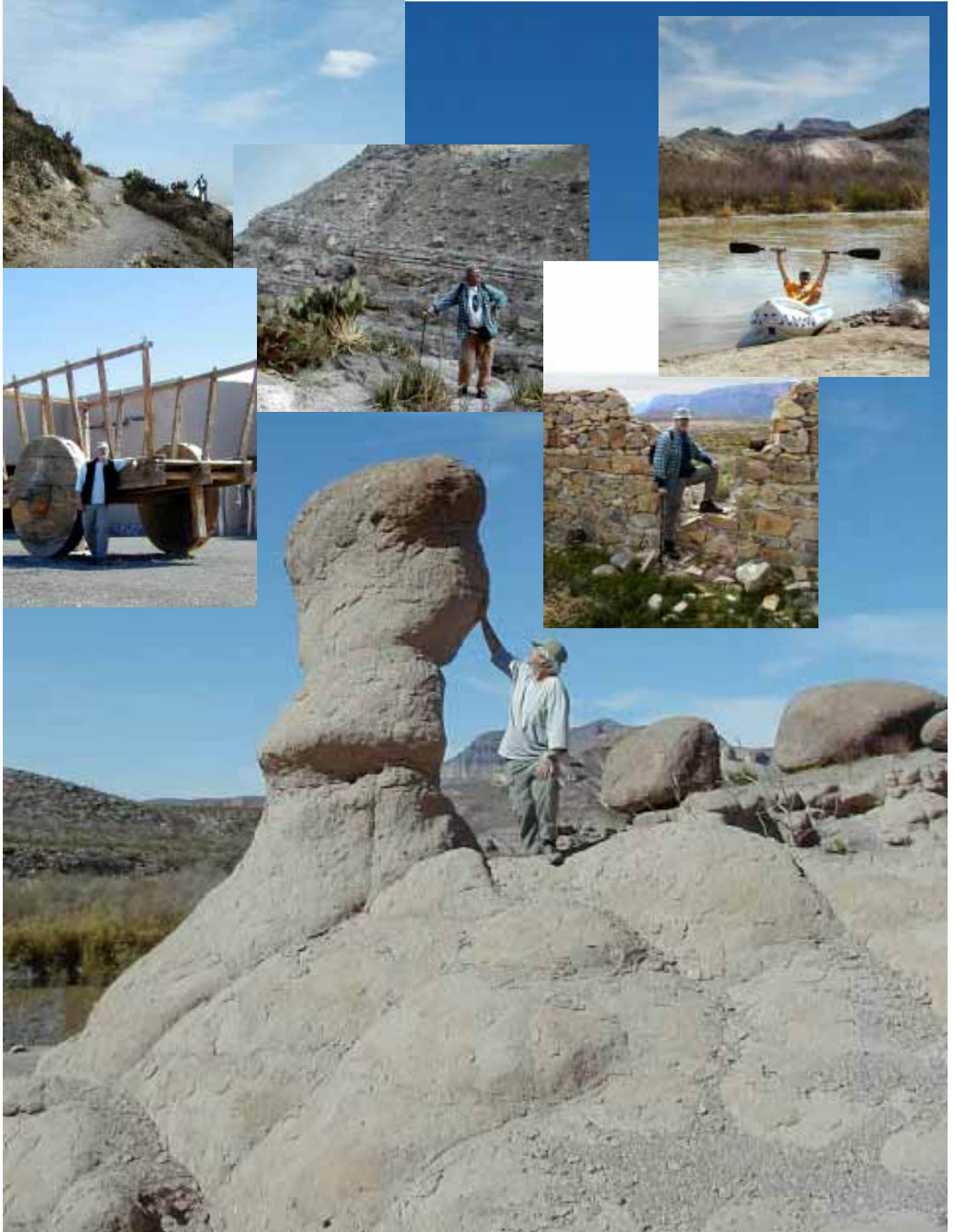
Cactus

A plant with ATTITUDE!
Uniquely able to survive these are plants that suck moisture and hold it long after the remnants of rain are gone and all else has withered. Each one with thorns that defend as well as regulate temperature — some wear them beautifully, some with color and some as if they were about to enter war.

THE TEXTURES of BIG BEND



PETER in BIG BEND



KIM in BIG BEND

