



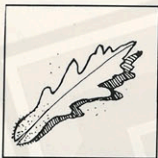
J. DAWSON

May 14, 2004

Dear Ray,

Remember when I got these cards? It was an Acer Pike last summer. It seems that you are always doing nice things for me. Mother's Day luncheon at your house was perfect in every way ~ the food, the fellowship, your lovely home and the resulting family closeness all made it so.

Thank you for wanting to do it and for planning it all. Thank you too for my wonderful bracelet. I am of course enjoying wearing it very much. I am so blessed as a mother and Grandmother. Thanks you for your special love to me by this special express so beautifully. Love you very much. Love, Mother



## INDIAN BLANKET

(*Gaillardia pulchella*)

Legend has it that this wildflower was created by The Great Spirit to honor a particular Indian artisan who had woven the most beautiful burial blanket ever seen. Whatever its origins, the Indian Blanket — also known as the Firewheel — was named for its discoverer, the French botanist Gaillard de Morentino, and belongs to the sunflower family (*Asteraceae*). This annual's range extends from Arizona to Texas, from southeastern Colorado and Nebraska to Mexico. The Indian Blanket is a hardy, drought-resistant plant that grows to two feet (60 cm) in height, thriving in sandy plains, deserts and along roadsides. It has branched stems, leafier towards the base, and it flowers from May through July. Looking like Fourth of July pinwheels, these colorful wildflowers grow to 2–3 in. (5–7.5 cm) wide with reddish-maroon, domed bases and ¼-inch (2 cm) rays which are usually red at their base, tipped with yellow.

*Natural history artist John D. Dawson's works appear in National Geographic magazine. Other commissions include those of The Audubon Society, The National Wildlife Association, The National Park Service and other major nature and wildlife groups and associations throughout the country.*

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