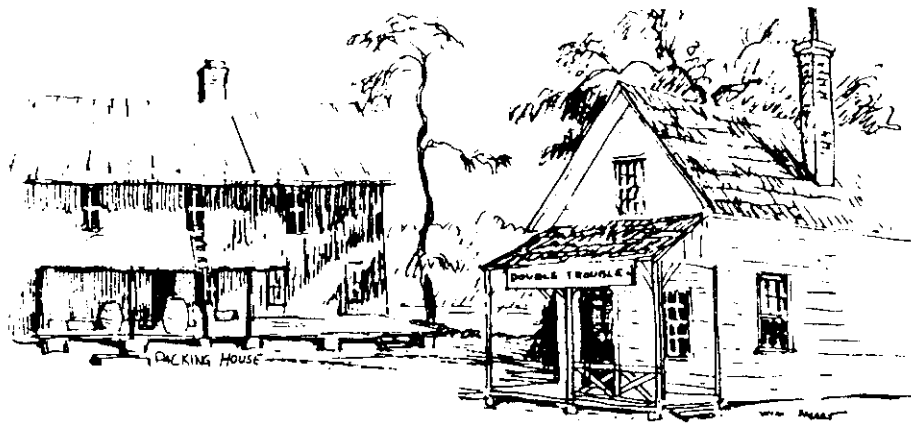
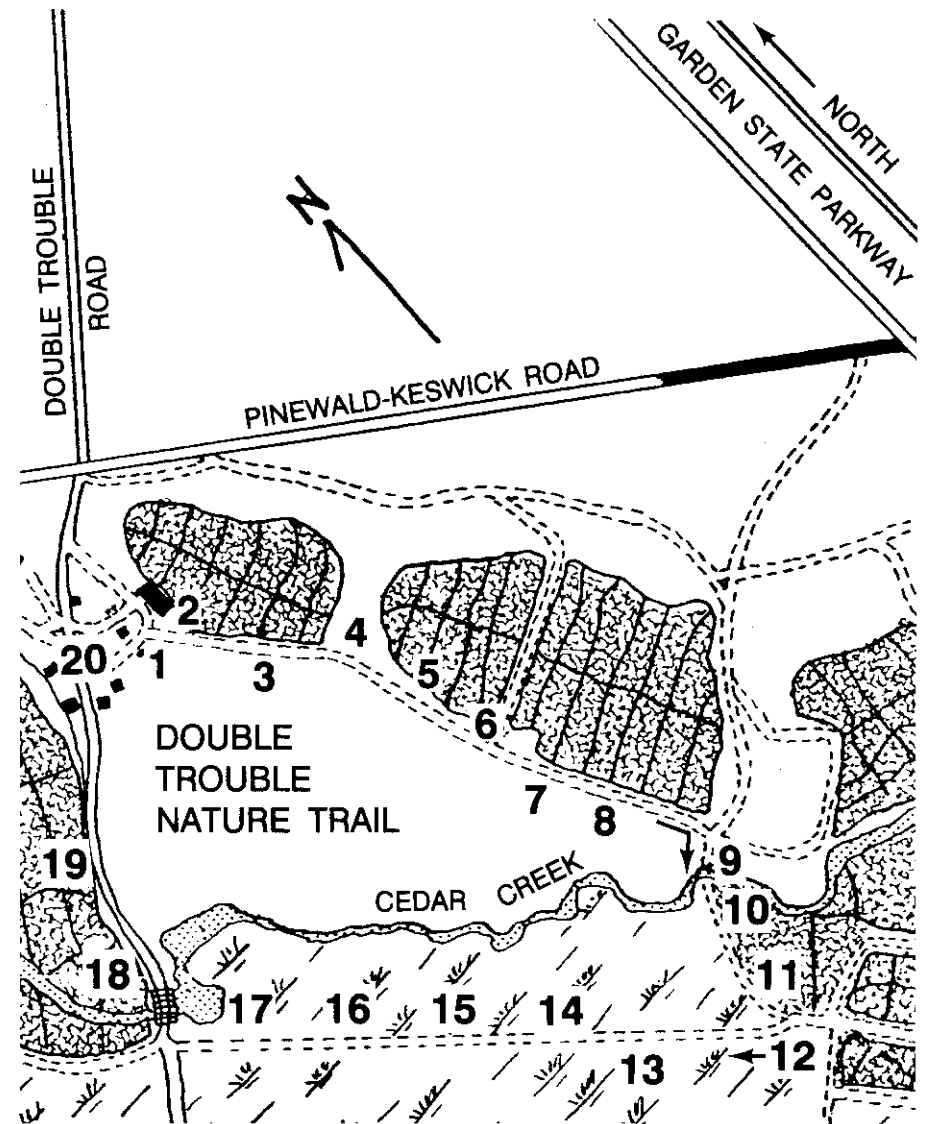


DOUBLE TROUBLE STATE PARK



Nature Trail Guide

NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Parks & Forestry
State Park Service



Trail starts next to the cranberry sorting and packing house on the east side of Double Trouble Village. Restrooms and interpretive center are in the park information building adjacent to village parking area.

Double Trouble State Park

NATURE TRAIL

Welcome to Double Trouble State Park. This area is unique in that it has been a focal point for human activities since the time of the Lenni Lenape Indians. Today, it preserves some of the early industries that have shaped, distinctively, the landscape of the Pine Barrens.

The natural environment of cedar forest and rapidly flowing stream provided both the raw materials and the water power for an extensive sawmill and lumber industry from the 1700's into the early 1900's. As timber was cut, the cleared swampland created bog habitat ideal for the growth of cranberries.

Cranberry farming began before the Civil War; by the twentieth century, under the Double Trouble (Cranberry) Company, some of the largest harvests in the state were coming from the Double Trouble bogs. Today, cranberry cultivation continues in several bogs leased from New Jersey by a private grower.

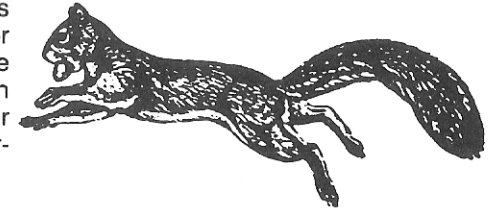
There are conflicting stories about the naming of "Double Trouble", with most of the common legends centered around the dam on Cedar Creek. The earliest story attributes the name to Thomas Potter; who coined the words, "Double Trouble", after spring rains twice washed out the dam. A more colorful legend involves local muskrats who persisted in gnawing at the dam, causing frequent leaking. Such leaks, when discovered, gave rise to the alarm "Here's trouble", upon which workmen would rush to repair the leak. One day two breaks were discovered and one workman overheard the owner shout "Here's double trouble". Whatever the origin of the name, most sources suggest that the unusual title was born with the start of the cranberry industry.

Both natural and historical items of interest are delineated by the twenty numbered posts along the Double Trouble nature trail. This comfortable 1½-mile walk should take thirty to forty minutes to complete. Please follow all posted Park regulations.



WHITETAIL DEER

1. **VIRGINIA PINE**—*Pinus virginiana*. Virginia Pine, referred to as Scrub Pine/Jersey Pine, can be identified by its short, twisted needles in clusters of two. This tree is used for pulpwood and for rough lumber. Notice the numerous pine cones which are a winter food source for animals such as the red squirrel.

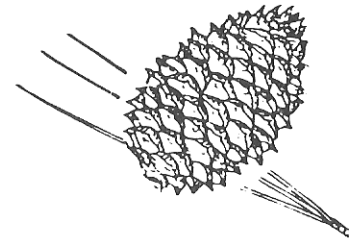


2. **GOWDY BOG**—Directly in front of you is the first in a series of cranberry bogs. It is believed that these early bogs began as depressions resulting from the removal of bog iron ore deposits. With the conversion of the nearby iron forges (Dover Forge, Bamber) into sawmills, these depressions were areas where cranberry farming could be tried. The cleared land and readily available water proved ideal for cranberry production.

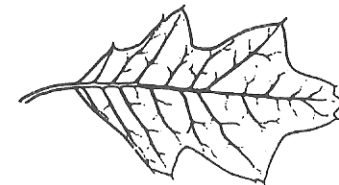
3. **GRAY BIRCH**—*Betula populifolia*. This white barked tree has triangular leaves. A short lived tree (30 yrs.), it is often used for pulpwood and ornamentation. Many people often mistake the gray birch for the white birch.



4. **PITCH PINE**—*Pinus rigida*. This most common evergreen tree of the Pine Barrens has needles in clusters of three and cones with sharp spines. Its characteristic thick bark and scruffy appearance explain the pitch pine's notable ability to survive tree-killing fire; like the scrub oak, it is found in areas of frequent forest fires.



5. **SCRUB OAK**—*Quercus ilicifolia*. Preferring sunny locations and rarely reaching tree size, this oak is often found in areas of frequent forest fires. This shrub-sized oak tree produces acorn crops close to the ground, providing food for white-tailed deer, squirrel, grouse, quail, and other wildlife.

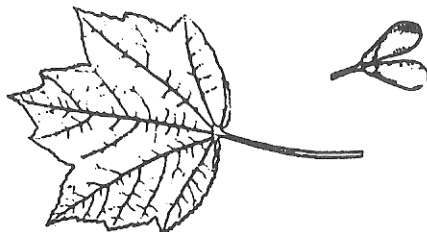


6. **UPPER & LOWER HOOPER BOGS**—Left of the trail are active cranberry bogs. Cranberries need great quantities of clean water; in the winter, the bogs are flooded to protect the cranberry plants from frost. During the fall, water is needed to harvest the berries. These berries, when shaken from the vines, float to the surface of the water, where they can be scooped up, either manually or mechanically. Were you to visit Double Trouble in late September or early October, you would be able to watch the workers harvesting the cranberries.

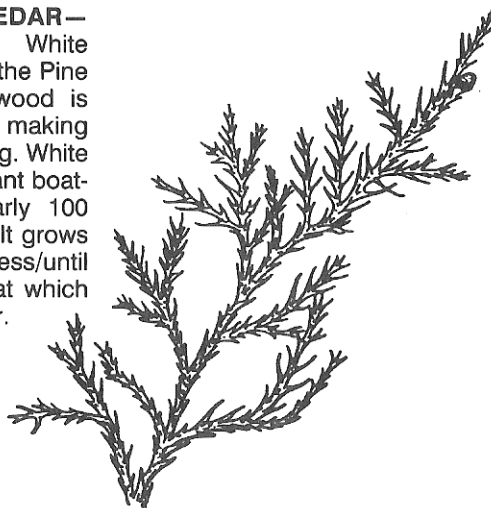


7. **BATTLEFIELD**—In swamp areas of the Pine Barrens, there is often intense competition for sunlight between maples and cedars. Since cedar trees need more sunlight, the maples eventually (within 130-150 yrs.) overtake the cedars; you can observe this process taking place in front of you.

8. **RED MAPLE**—*Acer rubrum*. In the swamp in front of you, the trees with the smooth gray bark are red maples. Sometimes called "Swamp Maple" because of where it often grows, this opposite-branching tree is named for its red spring flowers, red twigs, and its red autumn leaves.



9. **ATLANTIC WHITE CEDAR**—*Chamaecyparis thyoides*. White cedar grows in swamps in the Pine Barrens. Its rot-resistant wood is especially valuable for making shingles, fencing, and siding. White cedar, once a most important boat-building wood, takes nearly 100 yrs. to reach usable size. It grows in almost pure stands unless/until disturbed by fire or man, at which time the maples take over.



To the right is Cedar Creek, named for the white cedars growing along its bank. The water of Cedar Creek is very clean and rated among the purest in the state. Its dark color comes from the tannin in the cedar trees' bark. Water from this creek is diverted for use in the cranberry bogs. Look for otter mud slides along the creeks' banks.



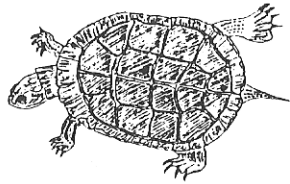
RIVER OTTER SLIDE ON SNOW OR MUD BANK, ABOUT 8 IN. WIDE

10. **ABANDONED BOG TO CEDAR FOREST**—The semi-wooded area in front of you was abandoned as a cranberry bog years ago due to the difficulty in getting enough water to this spot. The six inch tall plants with very small leaves are cranberry plants. Here the trail cuts through a nearly pure stand of cedar. The damp ground and tall straight trees provide a moist, shady spot where mosses and other moisture preferring plants can grow.

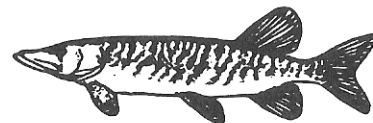


11. **ENDANGERED PLANTS**—The Pine Barrens swamps are home to many endangered species of flora. The numbers of these plants appear to be declining; their ultimate extinction is a very disturbing possibility. Near this numbered post (11) are "pitcher plants", which lure, trap, and digest small insects. Because these plants are an endangered species, we ask that you do *not* walk on, pick or otherwise disturb any plant material in this spot, as well as in the park!

12. **RESERVOIR**—Cranberry production demands maintenance of a ready supply of water. This reservoir provides homes for many types of aquatic wildlife, such as catfish, pickerel, eels, painted turtles, snapping turtles and water snakes.

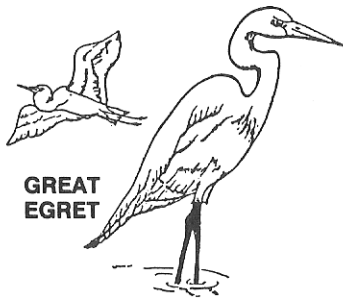


PAINTED TURTLE



PICKEREL

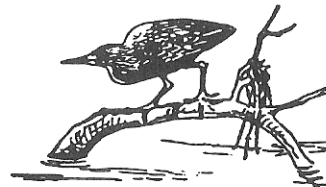
13. **DEAD TREES**—Notice the dead trees in the reservoir. These trees have died because, even though cedar trees grow in wet, swampy areas, too much water drowns them. These dead trees insure nesting sites and stopovers for migratory waterfowl.



GREAT EGRET



GREAT BLUE HERON



GREEN HERON

14. **SWEET BAY MAGNOLIA**—*Magnolia virginiana*. This tree is the only magnolia that grows naturally in New Jersey. Most other kinds of magnolia grow much further south. Although this small tree does hold its leaves longer than do other deciduous trees of this area, it is not an evergreen, even though its southern cousins usually are. Sweet bay magnolia trees, which grow in cedar swamps, have many beautiful white fragrant flowers in June and July.

15. **GREENBRIAR/CATBRIAR**—Notice the green vines with very large stickers, or thorns, climbing these trees and shrubs. These vines grow almost anywhere and become so thick in some areas that nothing else can grow there. The fruit and twigs of the greenbriar assure a winter food supply for grouse, deer, and rabbits. Young shoots of this vine are excellent when cooked like asparagus; the leaves and tendrils can be prepared like spinach or added fresh to salads.

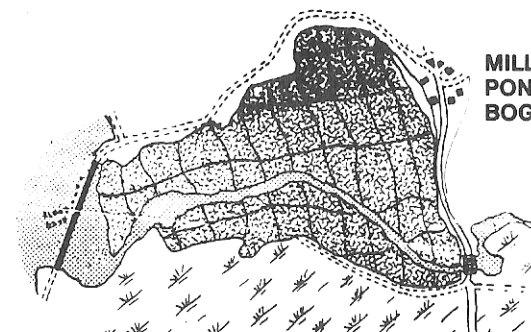


16. **MOUNTAIN LAUREL**—*Kalmia latifolia*. The ten-foot-tall evergreen shrub in the woods in front of you is mountain laurel. Although the state flower of Pennsylvania, mountain laurel is quite common in the Pine Barrens of New Jersey. Its beautiful white-pink flowers can be seen during late May and early June.



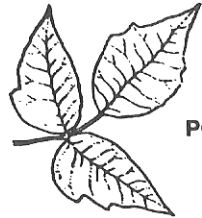
17. **CANOPY**—Above the trail you may notice that trees have formed a canopy overhead. All trees grow in whatever shape is necessary to gain the most sunlight. These trees are reaching out over the trail to obtain maximum sun, providing a bonus of cooling shade for nature trail hikers like you!

18. **MILL POND & SUCCESSION**—Succession, driven by shade tolerance, is the process by which a bare field becomes a mature forest. The end or "climax stage" will vary depending upon the location and climate.

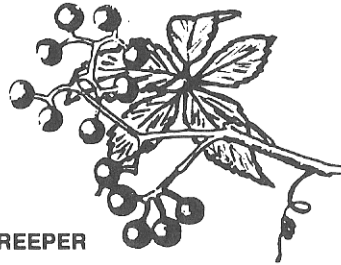


Today successional growth of red maples and Atlantic white cedar trees almost obscures Mill Pond Bog, which, when in operation, covered 55 acres and was the largest in New Jersey.

19. **POISON IVY**—*Toxicodendron radicans*. In this area two different vines tend to confuse people. The vine with the five jagged-tooth-edged leaflets is the Virginia Creeper. Non-poisonous, it is sometimes planted for ornamental purposes. The vine with the three shiny, smooth-sided leaflets is poison ivy. The end leaflet is pointed and longer stalked than the side pair of leaflets. Contact with *any* part of this plant can cause severe skin rash. It is best to keep in mind the old saying: "Leaves of three, let them be."



POISON IVY



VIRGINIA CREEPER

20. **SAWMILL & SASSAFRAS**—*Sassafras albidum*. The old building on the right was the Double Trouble Sawmill. Originally water powered, it was later mechanized; finally being run by a single cylinder gasoline primed, kerosene engine.

Growing behind the fence is a patch of sassafras. This tree is unique in that it has three different kinds of leaves and large, green bud and twig tips. Such leaves, buds and twigs are sometimes used to thicken and flavor soup. More often, the bark of the roots is used to make "sassafras tea". Warning—"Sassafras has been proven to contain a cancer causing chemical in the lab."



In other areas of Double Trouble State Park, you may observe some charred trees. These areas have been exposed to "prescribed burning" during the winter.

PRESCRIBED BURNING is the use of a controlled, cool winter fire to eliminate some undergrowth while not harming the trees. This controlled burning reduces the hazard of wildfire during the annual forest fire season.



**N.J. Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Parks & Forestry**



DOUBLE TROUBLE STATE PARK
P.O. BOX 175
BAYVILLE, NJ 08721

Interpretive Center: 732-341-4098
www.njparksandforests.org

As Double Trouble is an active cranberry farm, visitors are asked to use caution on the service roads around the bogs and reservoirs. Leaseholders maintain the bogs and harvest the cranberries each fall. No other vehicles are permitted beyond the parking area except for canoe and kayak access at the White Bridge only; all vehicles must park in the village parking area. Horseback riding and mountain biking are permitted on existing sand roads only. No ATVs or motorized vehicles. Pets must be on a leash at all times and pet owners must clean up after their pets.

