



TRICK FALLS

SELF-GUIDING NATURE TRAIL

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GLACIER NATIONAL PARK



MISSION 66 — WHAT IS IT?

MISSION 66 is a ten-year development program, now in progress, to enable the National Park Service to help you better enjoy and understand the parks and monuments and, at the same time, to preserve their scenic and scientific values for your children and for future generations.



Don't Be A Litterbug

TRICK FALLS TRAIL

A delightful walk of approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile through a forest community noted for its variety of flowering plants, shrubs and trees — terminating at Trick Falls, one of nature's rare geological oddities.

This leaflet is designed to aid you in a greater enjoyment and appreciation of the Park. The numbers along the margin of the text correspond to numbered markers along the trail.

Please! Help keep the Park clean! — Don't scatter these leaflets. You may use this leaflet for learning about things along this trail and return it to this box as you leave—or—if you wish to keep the leaflet for future reference, you may do so. For each leaflet retained, please deposit 10c in the coin slot in the leaflet supply box to cover the cost of printing. THANK YOU!



RED TWINBERRY

No. 1 Two species of Twinberry grow here side by side. The BEARBERRY HONEYSUCKLE or BLACK TWINBERRY (*Lonicera involucrata*) is easily recognized by the presence of two red leaf-bracts enclosing the fruits—two black glistening berries.

UTAH HONEYSUCKLE or RED TWINBERRY (*Lonicera utahensis*) also has a double berry, bright red, the pair connected, one generally larger than the other, growing on a one-inch stem from the leaf axils. The fruits of both species are inedible.

No. 2 Two species of ALDER grow in the Park but rarely attain tree size. The species common at lower elevations along stream banks is THINLEAF ALDER (*Alnus tenuifolia*) and seldom reaches over 15 feet in height. The fruit, like that of the birches, is a small woody cone, greenish when mature, later turning deep brown.

No. 3 BANEBERRY (*Actaea rubra*) is quite showy when in fruit, during mid- and late summer. The fruit is a cluster of either bright-red or china-white berries, that always attract attention. The flowers are small and greenish white.



BANEBERRY



WESTERN THIMBLEBERRY

No. 4 WESTERN MEADOWRUE (*Thalictrum occidentale*) has handsome foliage that resembles the leaves of both maidenhair fern and yellow columbine. The flowers are small, greenish, and of two kinds, each growing on separate plants.

WESTERN THIMBLEBERRY (*Rubus parviflorus*) has large, thin, maple-like leaves. The flowers are white, 1 to 2 inches broad. The fruit is red, resembling a large raspberry, but not quite as palatable. Plants often grow 2- to 4-feet high and are quite prominent along this trail.

No. 5 LEANING TREE. This tree, a Douglas-fir, leans at an extreme angle over the trail and demonstrates the efficient root system which anchors it in place. It appears to defy the law of gravity as most of the tree is without visible support. Trees which have been bent over by snow or other causes, as this one, develop a strong, one-sided root system to prevent their being uprooted.

No. 6 A common shrub along this trail is SITKA MOUNTAIN-ASH (*Sorbus sitchensis*), of large size, 3- to 12-feet high, with leaves composed of from 3 to 13 leaflets, each about 2-inches long with finely toothed margins. The flowers are white and fragrant, forming a flat to convex-shaped cluster. The fruit is a large cluster of berries, changing from green to orange, then ripening to a bright red in late summer. They are not edible.



SITKA MOUNTAIN-ASH

No. 7 SASKATOON SERVICEBERRY (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) blooms late in June and early July. The blossoms are white, less than an inch broad, and straggly

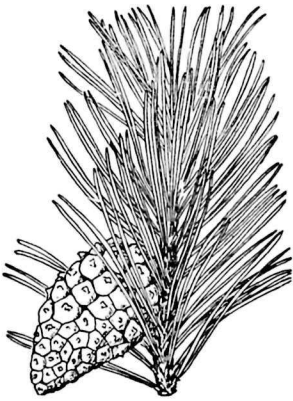
in appearance. The fruit is dark purple, containing about 10 seeds, otherwise plump, juicy and edible. The dried berries were used by local Indians for winter food.



DOUGLAS-FIR

No. 8 The bark of the mature DOUGLAS-FIR (*Pseudotsuga menziesii glauca*) ranges in color from dark gray-brown to reddish brown and is deeply furrowed and corky. The cones, with their characteristic 3-pointed bracts, hang from the branches, whereas cones of the true firs stand erect. A dead tree of this species, about 20 feet to the right of the trail, has numerous holes made by woodpeckers in search of grubs and borers that work in dead wood.

No. 9 The DOUGLAS or MOUNTAIN MAPLE (*Acer glabrum douglasii*) can be identified by its typical 3- to 5-lobed leaves, growing in opposite pairs on the twig. It is the only maple in the Park and seldom reaches tree size.



LOGEPOLE PINE

along the South, which it not a moss but a member of the Pineapple Family.

No. 11 Several species of RIBES, (wild gooseberries and currants) grow along this trail. They serve as the alternate host of the White Pine Blister Rust, which destroys the white (five-needled) pines. This fungus disease is easily spread by the wind and it has been necessary to eradicate the Ribes in certain areas of the Park to protect and preserve specimen stands of White Pine. Look for the roadside exhibit near the Two Medicine Lake Boat Dock; it tells the complete story on Blister Rust.

No. 12 DRY FORK CREEK empties into Two Medicine Creek a short distance from here. The name is derived from the fact that in dry years the water in the lower reaches of the stream sinks away during late summer, leaving a dry stream bed. Note the varied color of the rocks in the beds of both this and the main stream. The gray rocks are limestones while the red and green are argillites (mudstones very similar to shales and slates). The red and green coloration is due to oxidation of iron minerals.

No. 13 This young ENGELMANN SPRUCE (*Picea engelmannii*) has needles superficially similar to those of Douglas-firs and true firs, but the needles are very sharp pointed. Grasping the foliage tightly in your hand will demonstrate this characteristic. Another distinguishing feature is that these needles are square in cross section. Rolling a needle between the fingers will illustrate this. These two characteristics serve to distinguish this tree from any of its associates in the Park.

No. 10 LODGEPOLE PINE (*Pinus contorta*) is the only two-needled pine in the Park, the needles growing in bundles of two each and seldom over 2½ inches in length. The Indians used the slender trunks of smaller trees for the framework of their tepees or lodges. The chartreuse-colored hanging plant attached to the lodgepole pine is a fruticose lichen. Lichens (pronounced like-ens) are composed of certain fungi and algae living together. These primitive plants grow and survive in a great diversity of habitats as well as under extremes of temperatures and weather conditions. They are not parasites. This species is said to resemble the Spanish



ENGELMANN SPRUCE



SUBALPINE FIR

general similarity of the flowers to the eastern variety of Queen Anne's Lace.

No. 16 The BLACK COTTONWOOD (*Populus trichocarpa*) is easily recognized by the deep, roughly furrowed, gray bark on mature trees such as this one. The large, broad, ovate leaf is also characteristic. Black cottonwoods grow to tremendous size and are among the largest trees in the Park.



BIG WHORTLEBERRY

No. 18 SNOWBERRY (*Symphoricarpos albus*) is one of several similar species widely distributed throughout the United States. This one is often cultivated as an ornamental shrub. The plants remain in flower a long time, and flowers and ripe fruit often may be found on the same shrub. The fruit is white in color when ripe and is juicy but not edible.

No. 14 This young SUBALPINE FIR (*Abies lasiocarpa*) lacks the sharp-pointed needles characteristic of spruces. Note the great number of galls along the trunk of this particular tree. Probably they are caused by insect damage.

No. 15 COWPARSNIP (*Heracleum lanatum*) with its white, umbrella-like flower cluster 4- to 8-inches broad, is a common plant nearby. The stems are stout, often 6-feet tall, and covered with fine silky hairs. The leaves are in threes, very broad, with margins lobed and toothed. It is a member of the Parsley Family, hence the gen-



COWPARSNIP

No. 17 WHORTLEBERRY (*Vaccinium sp.*), locally called HUCKLEBERRY, is a common western member of the sub-family group comprised of huckleberries, whortleberries and blueberries. The juicy blue or red fruit of this family is much sought after as food by both humans and wild animals. The species illustrated here is the Big Whortleberry (*Vaccinium membranaceum*) which is the most sought after berry in the Park. This particular species has the largest fruit and is easier to pick because of its greater height. Five species are recorded for the Park.

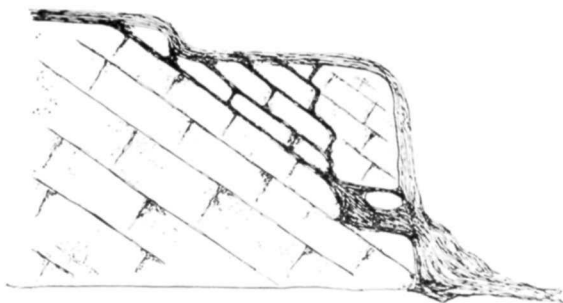
TRICK FALLS furnishes a thrilling climax to this self-guiding nature trail. Visitors in spring or early summer will see the 98-foot waterfall in full volume, as shown in the picture to the right.

The explanation of the "Trick" in Trick Falls is given in the Trailside Exhibit at this location, although the nature of the "Two-in-One" falls is readily apparent to the visitor in late summer or fall. The text of the "Two Waterfalls in One" label and the accompanying diagram are reproduced here for the benefit of those who would like to take the information back home with them.



Trick Falls is so named because of the nature of Two Medicine Creek in this locality. The light-colored rock at the site of the falls is Altyn limestone, which during mountain-building processes developed many cracks and

THE REASON



DIAGRAMMATIC SECTION SHOWING NATURE OF WATERCOURSE

forms a prominent upper fall which screens most of the lower one. As the dry season progresses, the volume of the upper fall decreases rapidly, exposing the lower fall which maintains a fairly constant year-round flow.

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fissures. Some of the water which flowed over the rocks seeped into fissures and dissolved a channel parallel to, but below, the main course of the stream. The underground channel emerged below the crest of the falls and water following this channel shoots out as a second fall below the upper one.

In late spring and early summer when runoff is the greatest, the excess water follows the surface channel and

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The GLACIER NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION is a non-profit organization pledged to aid in the preservation and interpretation of the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of Glacier National Park for the benefit and enjoyment of its visitors.

The Association lists for sale a number of interesting and authentic publications dealing with the Park and natural history, conservation, and national park subjects in general. Revenues derived from the sale of these items are used to publish additional interpretive materials on Park subjects. The following special items published by the Association are now available:

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Other Nature Trails in the Park:

Swiftcurrent Lake Many Glacier Area
Trail of the Cedars Avalanche Campground
Water Ouzel Trail Sun Point—Baring Falls Area