The State Amphibian



Photo courtesy of the Department of Natural Resources—Joey Pruzier

Spotted Salamander

The Spotted Salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*) was designated as the official State Amphibian by Act No. 79 in 1999. It is a stout-bodied species of 150 to 249 millimeters in length, identified by bright yellow round spots in two irregular rows on a dark background. The specie inhabits deciduous forests with semipermanent pools about one meter deep. The Spotted Salamander is the only amphibian indigenous to the whole State and survives by avoiding bottomlands subject to regular flooding and permanent ponds containing fish.

The State Folk Art and Crafts Center



South Carolina Artisans Center

The General Assembly designated the South Carolina Artisans Center, a nonprofit organization, located in Walterboro as the official folk art and crafts center of the State of South Carolina by Act No. 256 in 2000. The Center's sole purpose is to interpret, market, preserve, and perpetuate the folk art and fine craftsmanship of South Carolina artisans, while it creates a better understanding of the rich and diverse cultural heritage of the Palmetto State.

The State Spider

The Carolina Wolf Spider (*Hogna carolinensis*) was designated the official State Spider by Act No. 389 in 2000.



Carolina Wolf Spider

The State Tapestry

"From the Mountains to the Sea" was designated as the official State Tapestry by Act No. 354 of 2000. The tapestry was custom designed and authorized by the South Carolina Cotton Museum. The tapestry is woven of one hundred percent cotton and the overall size is fifty-four inches wide by seventy-two inches long. It represents all regions of the Palmetto State from the mountains to the sea and displays many of the state's symbols and emblems.



State Tapestry

The State Waltz



Richardson Waltz

The Richardson Waltz was designated as the official State Waltz by Act No. 389 of 2000. This waltz, a beautiful and soulful melody, is a memento of the musical tradition of the Richardson family, descendants of General Richard Richardson, and has for many generations played an unofficial but important role in the musical history of South Carolina.

The State Rural Drama Theater



Abbeville Opera House

The historic Abbeville Opera House in Abbeville, South Carolina was designated the official State Rural Drama Theater by Act No. 48 of 2001. The Abbeville Opera House was built in 1908 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The State Military Academy

Camden Military Academy was designated as the official State Military Academy of the State by Act No. 56 of 2001. Founded in 1958, the Academy educates boys into men of character and integrity in grades seven through twelve.



Camden Military Academy

The Opera of the State

Porgy and Bess was designated the official Opera of the State by the General Assembly by Act No. 94 of 2001.

The State Grass

Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) was designated as the official Grass of the State by Act No. 94 of 2001. The General Assembly recognizes Indian Grass as a native, nonnoxious plant, with a historical, continuing, widespread, and beneficial existence in South Carolina.



State Grass

The State Hall of Fame



South Carolina Hall of Fame

The South Carolina Hall of Fame located in Myrtle Beach was designated as the official State Hall of Fame by Act No. 107 of 2001. The South Carolina Hall of Fame, dedicated on February 11, 1973, by Governor John C. West, was created to recognize and honor those contemporary and past citizens who have made outstanding contributions to South Carolina's heritage and progress.

The State Tartan



Carolina Tartan

The Carolina Tartan was designated as the official Tartan of the State of South Carolina by Act No. 303 of 2002. The Carolina Tartan is a variation of tartan associated with King Charles II who made the grant of land in 1663 which resulted in the creation of the Carolina proprietary colony.

The State Wildflower

The Goldenrod (*Solidago altissima*) was designated as the official State Wildflower by Act No. 31 of 2003. The General Assembly recognizes that the Goldenrod is a strong fibrous perennial found in meadows, fields, and along roadsides, which grows in full sun to part shade needing only average moisture, making it a very tough and durable plant.



Goldenrod

The State Tobacco Museum



South Carolina Tobacco Museum

The General Assembly designated the South Carolina Tobacco Museum in Mullins, South Carolina as the official Tobacco Museum of the State of S.C. by Act No. 222 of 2004. The museum opened its doors in 1998 with an impressive collection of artifacts from the area and in 1999 was recognized by being presented the South Carolina Heritage Tourism Award.

The State Lowcountry Handcraft



Photo courtesy of the Charleston Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

Sweetgrass Baskets

The General Assembly designated the sweetgrass basket as the official State Lowcountry Handcraft by Act No. 234 of 2006. Famed for their intricacy and beautiful patterns, sweetgrass baskets of the South Carolina Sea Islands have become collectors novelties. Sweetgrass basket making, a family art, is more than three hundred years old and is one of the oldest art forms of African origin in the United States. These baskets are made from sweetgrass (*Muhlenbergia filipes*) because of its pleasant fragrance and were historically used as breadbaskets, fruit baskets, sewing baskets, and for clothes storage.

The State Snack



Boiled Peanuts

The General Assembly designated the boiled peanut as the official State Snack by Act No. 270 of 2006. Boiled peanuts are a delicious and popular snack food that are found both in stores and at roadside stands across the State. The Act defined this unique snack food "as peanuts that are immersed in boiling water for at least an hour while still in the shell."

The State Color

The General Assembly designated the color indigo blue as the official State Color of South Carolina by Act No. 200 of 2008. This color was worn on the uniform of Colonel William Moultrie's soldiers and adopted as the background of the South Carolina State Flag.



Indigo Blue

The Home of the Beach Music Hall of Fame

The General Assembly by Concurrent Resolution 3960 of 2009, designated Coastal Carolina University as the official Home of the Beach Music Hall of Fame. Beach music is a type of music indigenous to South Carolina. Thousands of South Carolinians of all ages have enjoyed the sounds of beach music throughout the years, especially along the coast of South Carolina where its name was born.

Beach Music Hall of Fame

The State Duck

The General Assembly, by Act No. 58 of 2009, designated the wood duck (*Aix sponsa*), also known as the summer duck and the Carolina duck, as the Official State Duck.

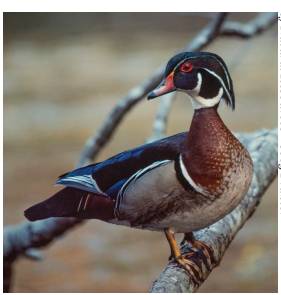


Photo courtesy of the Department of Natural Resources—Joey Fenzier

Wood Duck

The State Marine Mammal



Photo courtesy of the Department of Natural Resources—Joey Frazier

Bottlenose Dolphin

The General Assembly, by Act No. 58 of 2009, designated the bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) as the Official State Marine Mammal.

The State Migratory Marine Mammal



Photo courtesy of Wildlife Trust (under permit issued by NOAA Fisheries Service)

Northern Right Whale

The General Assembly, by Act No. 58 of 2009, designated the northern right whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*) as the Official State Migratory Marine Mammal.

The State Heritage Horse



Photo courtesy of Dustin D. Snyder, photographer

Marsh Tacky

The General Assembly, by Act No. 240 of 2010, designated the marsh tacky (*Equus caballus*), as the Official State Heritage Horse.

The State Heritage Work Horse



Courtesy of Donna Ingram, photographer S.C. Donkey and Mule Association

Mule

The General Assembly, by Act No. 240 of 2010, designated the mule (*Equus caballus x Equus assinus*), as the Official State Heritage Work Horse.

The State Vegetable



Photo courtesy of S. Cory Tanner, Clemson Extension

Collard Green

The General Assembly, by Act No. 38 of 2011, designated the collard green as the Official State Vegetable.

The State Pecan Festival

SOUTH CAROLINA PECAN FESTIVAL

Pecan Festival

The General Assembly, by Act No. 9 of 2011, designated the South Carolina Pecan Festival in Florence County as the Official State Pecan Festival.

The State Emblem of Service and Sacrifice



Honor and Remember Flag

The General Assembly, by Act No. 237 of 2012, designated the Honor and Remember Flag as the Official State Emblem of Service and Sacrifice by those in the United States Armed Forces who have given their lives in the line of duty.

Official State Picnic Cuisine

The General Assembly, by Act No. 231 of 2014, designated barbecue as the Official State Picnic Cuisine. Although any meat may be "barbecued," reference to "barbecue" usually means pork. South Carolina is the only state where you will find all four barbecue finishing sauces: vinegar and pepper, mustard, light tomato, and heavy tomato.



Photo courtesy of SCPRT

Barbecue

The State Fossil



Photo by Dave Smith, 2002, mounted mammoth at The Mammoth Site, Hot Springs, South Dakota Courtesy Univ. of California Museum of Paleontology

Columbian Mammoth

By Act No. 177 of 2014, the Columbian Mammoth was designated the official State Fossil. Scientists have identified the fossils of about six hundred and fifty species of vertebrates in this State. It has been recognized that fossilized mammoth teeth were discovered in a swamp in South Carolina in 1725. The discovery has been credited as the first scientific identification of a North American vertebrate fossil.

The State Carnivorous Plant



Photo courtesy of S.C. Wildlife Magazine

Venus flytrap

The Venus flytrap, a small flowering perennial plant, is federally designated as an At-Risk Species. South Carolina is one of two places in the world where the Venus flytrap is native. The General Assembly, by Act No. 11 of 2023, designated the Venus flytrap (*Dionaea Muscipula*) as the official carnivorous plant of the State.

The Official State Poultry Festival



Photo courtesy of S.C. Poultry Festival

South Carolina Poultry Festival

The General Assembly, by Act 107 of 2024, designated the South Carolina Poultry Festival in Lexington County as the Official State Poultry Festival.

The Official State Seabird

By Act No. 186 of 2024, the General Assembly designated the Eastern Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) as the official Seabird of the State. Known for its long bill and underlying throat pouch, the Eastern Brown Pelican is the only pelican in the world that is not entirely white. In South Carolina, the brown pelican's feathers on its head and neck are white and fade to brown during the non-breeding season. However, the head and neck turn bright yellow and white during the breeding season.



Photo courtesy of Susan Trogdon

Eastern Brown Pelican

The Official State Migratory Bird

The Prothonotary Warbler (Protonotaria citrea), a strikingly beautiful, golden-yellow songbird that migrates annually between South Carolina and its wintering grounds in Central and South America, was designated the Official State Migratory Bird by Act No. 98 of 2026. The warbler is an indicator species, meaning its presence reflects the health of South Carolina's wetland ecosystems. Protecting its habitat benefits not only the Prothonotary Warbler but also a diverse array of wildlife, including other migratory birds, amphibians, fish, and invertebrates that rely on these environments.



Photo courtesy of Don Wuori.

Prothonotary Warbler

State House Exterior Railings



© Sam Holland

Iron Railings

The exterior railings at the entrances of the Governor's Office and the Lt. Governor's wings were added during the 1996–1998 Capitol renovations. The railings, fabricated by Robinson Ornamental Iron Corporation, are made of cast iron from a custom pattern produced exclusively for the South Carolina State Capitol. The pattern incorporates the iconic Palmetto tree in celebration of the official nickname of our great State.

South Carolina State House



© Sam Holland

State House

First . . . a geographic center between Up Country and Low Country, a natural gateway to all sections, Columbia was created for its destiny . . . to be the capital of the State and to provide the setting for the heart of its government, the State House. (*Adapted from "The State House of South Carolina—An Illustrated Historic Guide".*)