Most Recognized Symbols

State Bird - The Cardinal (1943, c. 595)

State Colors - Red and Blue. The shades appearing in the North Carolina State Flag and the American Flag as the official State colors. (1885, c. 291)

State Flower - Dogwood. We often see our state bird resting in the arms of these beautiful flowering trees in spring. (1941, c. 289)

Elaine F. Marshall
Secretary of State

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Art Medium - Clay. Clay continues to be an important art medium contributing to the State's cultural, social, and economic prosperity. Naming Seagrove as the birthplace of NC pottery (2013-189, s. 1)

Marsupial - Virginia Opossum. The Virginia Opossum is one of the oldest and most primitive species of mammal found in North America. (2013-189, s. 1)

Salamander - Marbled Salamander. The Marbled Salamander is a member of the ‘mole’ salamander family and can grow to be from 9 to 11 centimeters. (2013-189, s. 1)

Frog - Pine Barrens Tree Frog. The Pine Barrens Tree Frog is dying out due to loss of habitat, and is considered “significantly rare” - NC Natural Heritage Program. (2013-189, s. 1)

Saltwater Fish - Channel Bass. AKA “Red Drum” are usually found in large numbers along the coastal waters. Some have been discovered to weigh up to 75 pounds. (1971, c. 274)

Fossil - Megalodon Shark Teeth. The Megalodon went extinct about 2 million years ago, or Miocene era. Possibly it was unable to adapt to changing ocean conditions. (2012-29, s. 1)

Butterfly - Eastern Tiger Swallowtail. Selected because it can be found in all 100 counties of NC and is easy to locate and recognize. (2012-29, s. 1)

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Freshwater Trout - Southern Appalachian Brook. Mostly restricted to small headwater streams in our NC mountains. (2005-387, s. 2)

Christmas Tree - Fraser Fir. This symbol is the result of the hard work of eighth grade students at Harris Middle School in Spruce Pine. (2005, c. 387, s. 1)

Mineral - Gold. Discovered by a 12 year old boy in 1799 in Cabarrus County, started North Carolina’s gold rush. His name was Conrad Reed, of Reeds Gold Mine. (2011-233, s. 1)

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Fruit - Scuppernong Grape. This variety of muscadine grape has the distinction of being the first grape ever actively cultivated in the U.S. (2001-486, s. 1.)

Precious Stone - Emerald. Highlly prized. First found in Alexander Co. (1874), later in Mitchell Co. (1890), and Cleveland Co. (1897). (1973: c.136, s. 1.)

Insect - Honeybee. Vital as pollinators of several major cash crops, court records indicate the presence of bees in the Ahermarie region as early as 1697. (1973: c.55)

Mammal - Gray Squirrel. Being so adaptable and omnivorous, squirrels can flourish in hardwood forests and suburban woodlands. (1969: c.1207)

Shrimp Festival. Sneads Ferry (2011-45, s. 1.)

Tree - Pine. Eight species native to NC, the 1963 legislature decided not to favor one at the expense of the other seven. (1963: c. 41)

Other Official Adoptions

State Military Academy - Oak Ridge Military Academy. (1991: c.728, s. 1.)

Official Community Theater - Thalian Association of Wilmington. (2007-88, s. 1.)

State Aviation Hall of Fame and Museum, and State Museum of Aviation - The Asheboro Municipal Airport. Designated as the official location of the NC Aviation Hall of Fame and the NC Aviation Museum. (2003-363, s. 1.)

State Honor and Remember Flag. Created by Honor and Remember, Inc., to honor and recognize members of the Armed Forces. (2010-91, s. 4; 2011-83, s. 10)

State Tartan - The Carolina Tartan. (1991: c. 85, s. 1.)

State Folk Art - Whirligigs. Created by Valdis Simpson. (2013:189, s. 1.)

State Birthplace of Traditional Pottery. Seagrove (2005-78, s. 1; 2006-264, s. 70)

State Veterans Day Parade - Town of Warsaw. (2016-23, s. 1)

State Fish Flying Museum - Bryson City, Swain Co. (2018-11, s. 1.)

North Carolina State Festivals:
International Folknoot USA. (2003-315, s. 1.)
Collard Festival. Ayden. (2007-28, s. 1.)
Outdoor Festival. Montgomery Co. (2018-11, s. 2)

State Adopted Plants

Blueberry - Blueberry. According to the USDA, NC produces the 3rd most blueberries in the country (2016). (2001-488, s. 1.)

Red Berry - Strawberry. According to the USDA, NC produces the 3rd most strawberries in the country (2016). (2001-488, s. 1.)

Carnivorous Plant - Venus Flytrap. The only plant that moves to entrap its prey “One of the most wonderful plants in the world.” Charles Darwin. (2004-74, s. 1.)

Beach - Shad Boat. First built in the 1870s by George W. Creel, who combined traditional eight-knot techniques with conventional plank-on-frame construction. (1987: c.366)

Boat - Shad Boat. First built in the 1870s by George W. Creel, who combined traditional eight-knot techniques with conventional plank-on-frame construction. (1987: c.366)

Beverage - Milk. Became law on June 12, 1875, when NC cows produced 179 million gallons of milk a year, earning approximately $4,800 per cow. (1987: c.347)

Rock - Granite. The granite in North Carolina is described as first in quality in the southeastern states and second in quantity to that of Georgia. (1979: c.906, s. 1.)