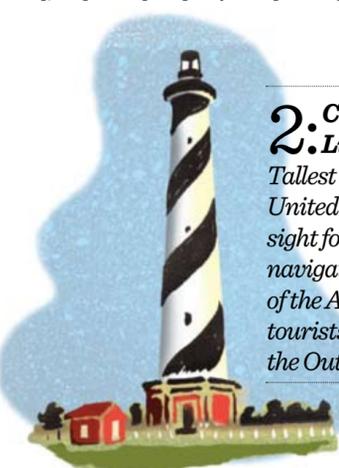


100

North Carolina Icons

Written by Michael Graff • Illustrations by John S. Dykes

1. Blue Ridge Parkway From the depths of the Great Depression, the New Deal gave us the high road. Still today, the parkway is a path for the positive power of hope.



2. Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Tallest lighthouse in the United States. A welcome sight for ships trying to navigate the Graveyard of the Atlantic and to tourists vacationing on the Outer Banks.

3. Cheerwine Two presidents have tasted Salisbury's finest fizz. Dwight Eisenhower exclaimed, "The likes!" As for George Bush Sr.'s opinion, we could just read his red lips.

4. Mast General Store Is it a candy store? Is it a clothing store? Is it a western store? Nope, just generally general.

5. Cape Fear River At the Chatham-Lee County line, a water drop starts rolling south. By the time it reaches Bald Head Island, 202 miles away, it has plenty of water-drop pals, all N.C. born and raised. Look out, ocean.



6. Appalachian Trail Have you ever walked in your neighborhood on a clear, warm evening and thought, "What a lovely night for a stroll"?... Yeah, this is better than that.

7. Grandfather Mountain Our beloved mountain almost saw Icon No. 1 run right through it. But beloved owner Hugh Morton made sure the road went around — much to the delight of Mildred, the mountain's beloved bear.



8. Interstate 40 From Wilmington, we have 420 miles and 176 exits to see. Anything beyond that, we can't touch for.



9. Loggerhead Sea Turtles Why we must save them: They help water quality by mining the sea floor; their shells provide habitat for other plants and animals; and they're so cute.

10. Biltmore House In cities all around the state, we have "tour of homes" weekends. At America's largest private residence, they do it bigger.



11. Fontana Dam 480 feet high; 2,365 feet long; and 376 feet thick of reinforced concrete. Think it'll hold?

12. Thomas Wolfe Notorious for writing manuscripts of 60,000 words or more. Remembered mostly for five words exactly: "You can't go home again."

13. Wright Brothers They came from Ohio and made the first flight in N.C. Both states lay claim to the birth of aviation with slogans on license plates — which go on cars.



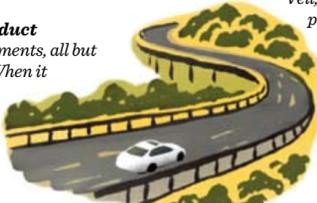
14. Pinehurst No. 2 N.C. has nearly 700 golf courses. The average course sees about 30,000 rounds a year. The average golfer hits 95 shots a round. That's 21 million shots hit here every year. How many of us would trade them all for just one shot at No. 2?

15. Charles Kuralt Birthplace: Wilmington. Occupation: Journalist. Likes: Traveling back roads and seeing real people. Dislikes: Our No. 8 Icon.

16. Moravian Cookies So thin we could almost wrap our Christmas presents in them. So good we wrap them as Christmas presents.

17. Tweetsie Railroad On some of the most rugged terrain in the state, brave men built the tracks for a train on which people can hear the engine go "tweet-tweet."

18. Linn Cove Viaduct Made in 153 segments, all but one of which is curved. When it was finished in 1987, it completed the marriage between Icon No. 1 and Icon No. 7.



19. Belk William Henry Belk used \$750 in savings to open the first store in Monroe in 1888. That'd still get him a watch and a handbag from a Belk today.

20. Daniel Boone When the most famous frontiersman of all time married and settled down in Rowan County, Boone said, "All you need for happiness is a good gun, a good horse, and a good wife."

21. Pepsi Founded in New Bern, it's one of our biggest commercial successes. Its most famous Super Bowl ad included Cindy Crawford. Rival Coke's most famous Super Bowl ad included Mean Joe Greene. We win.



22. Blackbeard All around the waters of eastern N.C., he row, row, rowed his boat.

23. Seagrove Pottery Stressed? Come here and watch one of the more than 100 potters here work the wheel, one rhythmic spin at a time. Trust us.

24. Mount Olive Pickles The pickle plant, literally, is at the corner of Cucumber and Vine streets.

25. Uwharries Millions of years ago, this mountain range butted up with the coast. The coast backed down.

26. Tobacco Barns Where once we built our economy, now places of memory.

27. Shagging May help you understand beach music better.

28. Muscadine Wine May help you shag better.



29. Carolina Style Mustard + slaw + chili + onions = Our hamburger. No offense to No. 24 on our list.

30. Battleship N.C. Our heroes fought aboard this ship in the Pacific Theatre in World War II. Now, the ship is docked in Wilmington, and we'll never forget.

31. Sandhills Southern Pines is the horse capital of N.C., Pinehurst is the golf capital, and Candor is the peach capital. This ancient coastline has done some serious rebranding after it lost the beach crowd 25 million years ago.



32. Norfolk Southern Railway Its predecessor was Southern Railway, owned by Samuel Spencer, whose name is on the town of Spencer, where we now have the North Carolina Transportation Museum.

33. Neese's Sausage Putting round pigs into rectangle blocks since 1917.



34. Krispy Kreme We hear some folks at the State Fair concocted something called a Krispy Kreme burger. We're still not sure why.

35. Intracoastal Waterway Cutting through 300 miles of sounds, rivers, creeks, and marshes, this is easily one of the most amazing things the Corps of Engineers has ever done. And they're engineers.

36. Asheville A different kind of place. Unless you're a little different yourself. And aren't we all?

37. Barrier Islands They protect us. We should protect them, too.

38. Live Oaks Look at one from the outside, you'll see a portrait of the South. Sit beneath the branches awhile, you'll see the back of your eyelids.

39. Hanes In the late 1800s, the Hanes brothers owned a tobacco business. In 1900, our Icon No. 96 bought that tobacco business from them, so they started making socks.



40. N.C. Zoo On 1,500 acres near Asheboro, one of the largest natural-habitat zoos in the country makes animals from all over the world feel at home.

41. Lake Mattamuskeet Largest natural lake in N.C., spanning 30,000 acres. The deepest point is five feet, so you can still touch bottom anywhere, unless you're short.



42. Mt. Mitchell Yes, it's the highest point in the eastern U.S. Yes, it's 6,684 feet above sea level. No, you can't see your house from here.

43. The Presidents Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, and Andrew Johnson were all born here.

44. Bull Durham "Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. And sometimes, it rains. Think about it."

45. Andy Griffith Graham Atkinson is the name of the real Surry County sheriff today. Same initials on the badge, just flipped.

46. Richard Petty Left turn. Left turn. Left turn. Left turn.



47. Furniture An industry built from hardwoods that were grown right from our soil.

48. Wachovia The name of a tract of land where Moravians settled. Then, a bank which honored that heritage.

49. Billy Graham Some people have a fear of public speaking. And some people overcome it.

50. Wild Horses In Corolla and Shackleford Banks, wild Spanish mustangs draw hundreds of thousands of tourists a year. We beg you, please don't feed the animals.



51. Doc Watson A good guy to have around if you find yourself sitting by a campfire.

52. Waterfalls We have many different ones with many different names — Linville, Elk, Bridal Veil, and so on. But they all follow the same basic principle: gravity.

53. Jockey's Ridge Ecologically speaking: the tallest active sand dune system on the East Coast. Barefoot-ologically speaking: Ooh, Ooh, Hot! Hot! Hot!

54. Calabash Seafood Just inside the state line, the Seafood Capital of the World is right here in N.C.

55. Black Bears The state population is back up to about 11,000, and they're all more afraid of you than you are them.



56. John Coltrane Born in Hamlet, grew up in High Point, shared his jazz saxophone with the world.

57. "Carolina in My Mind" The word "Carolina" appears in this song 13 times. A baker's dozen. Great, now doughnuts are in our mind. Icon No. 34, anyone?



58. Dean Smith Why'd we choose him and not any others? He's a great coach and ambassador for N.C., and his name is easier to spell than Krzyzewski.

59. N.C. Museum of Art The first art museum in the country established with state funds.

60. Pilot Mountain "The Andy Griffith Show" included a town named Pilot. Rumor is, Pilot Mountain was the inspiration for the name.

61. Fraser Firs It just wouldn't be Christmas if we didn't cut our own.

62. N.C. State Fair We can look at top-quality beef cattle and top-quality vegetables while eating a funnel cake.

63. Earl Scruggs Before the devil went down to Georgia with a fiddle, we like to think he considered coming here with a banjo, but he decided better.



64. Research Triangle Park To anyone from anywhere else who's ever said we're just backwoods down here, we'll call your bet and raise you an IBM and GlaxoSmithKline.

65. 82nd Airborne They jump every day at Fort Bragg. They jumped in Normandy. They jumped in Panama. And they'll jump wherever we need them to jump. Thanks, boys.

66. ACC Basketball There have been 59 ACC tournaments, and between Duke (19), UNC (17), State (10), and Wake (4), we've won 50 of them.

67. Barbecue

Oh, hey! Sorry! Mama taught us not to talk with our mouths full.



68. Cherokee Indians A key piece of our cultural heritage, in many ways shamefully so. But a proud people, in many ways inspiringly so.

69. Azaleas Every April, we welcome spring with these flowers, and Wilmington welcomes everyone with the North Carolina Azalea Festival.



70. Moonshine Some say it tastes like gasoline, which is fitting, considering it fueled the birth of NASCAR.

71. Graveyard of the Atlantic The Labrador current and Gulf Stream meet just off Cape Hatteras, and lots of ships met their end here, despite the best efforts of Icon No. 2.

72. The Kennedy Rocker JFK's favorite chair came from P&P Chair Company in Asheville.

73. Red Clay Not so good for crops, but we work it anyway. Excellent, though, at being part of the lithosphere and keeping us separated from the earth's 10,000-degree core. Works for us.

74. Texas Pete "Pass the Pete."

75. The Sounds Crickets? Whip-poor-wills? No. 63 on the banjo? Oh, not those sounds. The Sounds. Where fresh water and salt water meet.

76. Brown Mountain Lights Burke County's unexplained lights still show at random times, especially in the fall, leaving us in the glow of mystery.

77. Dale Earnhardt Now a decade after he died on the racetrack, some folks still count one-two-Earnhardt-four.



78. Venus Flytrap The only place where this plant grows naturally is within about a 60-mile radius of Wilmington. And if anyone else tries to claim it, we'll bite you.

79. Bob Timberlake Paints pictures that sell in the millions. Makes furniture that sells in the billions. Still favors \$6 Lexington barbecue.

80. Great Dismal Swamp With 112,000 acres of forested wetlands, it was wild when George Washington bought it, and it's still wild today.

81. Dolley Madison A modest Quaker girl from Guilford County became the first lady.

82. The Outer Banks All around the country, we find stickers on cars to take us back here to the OBX.

83. Sweet Tea The only ingredients you'll ever need are sugar, tea bags, and water. Yet everybody's tastes a little different.



84. The Greensboro Four Franklin McCain. Ezell Blair. Joseph McNeil. David Richmond. They changed the world, just by sitting down.

85. Yadkin Valley Wine Along the same latitude as Spain and Italy, we grow grapes, too.

86. Dogwoods The daisy was the state flower from 1917-1941, then this one slid right in and took over. Whoops-a-...

87. Flat Rock Playhouse The State Theatre of North Carolina. Now playing for 60 years.

88. Old Salem A Moravian settlement at the bottom of a big hill wound up on the right side of a little hyphen.

89. Lance Makes the Toastchee cracker. Put six together, and you have a pack of Nabs.

90. Biscuitville Everyone in the South makes biscuits. Some make a lot.

91. Virginia Dare First English child born in the U.S. Never could shake that label.

92. White Squirrels The legend goes like this: In 1949, a carnival truck overturns; a man picks up some white squirrels and gives them to someone from Brevard. The stork brought more squirrels.

93. Duke Chapel Gothic-style, volcanic stone outside. Three organs, 12,000 pipes inside.



94. Longleaf Pine Grows naturally in all 100 counties, and rolls off the tongue as the first line of the state toast: "Here's to the land of the longleaf pine."

95. Sweet Potatoes For parents everywhere who struggle to get their kids to eat their vegetables, our state vegetable goes down a little sweeter.

96. RJR One of the largest players in what was our largest industry, now working on transforming tobacco.

97. Carolina Panthers Still a new team to most of us. But the roar is spreading among the next generation.

98. Hardee's Born in Greenville in 1960, nearly 2,000 franchises worldwide now.

99. Our Southern Accents Many, many different accents in this state. From Murphy to Manteo, we all talk different.

100. Our State Magazine Down home in North Carolina, we're proud of who we are.

