

**Account:** South Carolina State Parks

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## South Carolina State Parks

at 12:00:01 on 5/20/2014 UTC

TIDBIT! One of the most intimidating species of reptiles encountered during spring is the Common Snapping Turtle. May is the time when females wander from water to lay a clutch of about 20-30 eggs which are often eaten by raccoon or skunks. Young turtles face many dangers from mammals, birds, fish, snakes and other turtles but once they grow past the juvenile stage, snappers have few enemies. Quick and powerful jaws are an effective defense. Outside of egg-laying, these prehistoric-looking turtles rarely leave their aquatic habitat. They prefer the calmer waters of ponds, lakes, and larger rivers with muddy or sandy bottoms. The diet of Snapping Turtles consists of a variety of small animals and aquatic plants but they do not have a harmful impact on natural fish or waterfowl populations. They also consume carrion, providing an aquatic clean-up service like vultures do on land.



**Sandie Larkin Anglin** wonder if that was a snapping turtle that was hanging around the house last week...I sure thought so!!

at 12:10:43 on 5/20/2014 UTC



**Paddy Huff** Found one laying eggs in my raised bed years ago and protected them ... So cute when they hatched ... Almost the size of your thumb nail !!!!

at 13:17:28 on 5/20/2014 UTC



**Sheila Norwood** Protect those sweet buggers!

at 13:34:37 on 5/20/2014 UTC



**Cindy Ondek Maloney** Turtles just rock!

at 14:45:19 on 5/20/2014 UTC