



## PEARL FRYAR

### Topiary artist, Bishopville

He just wanted his yard to look good. It was the early 1980s, and Pearl Fryar was integrating his new neighborhood in Bishopville. He was hit with an ugly stereotype about African American homeowners, the one about blacks neglecting their yards. Fryar took his pride and his electric hedge trimmers to that stereotype, dismantling it with a menagerie of shrubs he handcrafted into art pieces that caught the attention of his neighbors. In the process, a career was launched. Fryar's yard off Interstate 20 is now a tourist attraction. His work in the topiary arts has been displayed in museums across the South and on television shows like "Oprah" and "Good Morning America." Not a bad outcome for a guy who simply wanted to win Yard of the Month.

# 2006

## SOUTH CAROLINA AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY CALENDAR

# APRIL

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

						<b>1 April Fool's Day</b> Hampton Institute opened in 1868.
<b>2</b> John Thompson became the first African American coach to win NCAA basketball tournament, 1984.	<b>3</b> Carter G. Woodson, the father of African American history, died in 1950.	<b>4</b> Maya Angelou, author and poet, was born in 1928.	<b>5</b> Colin Powell was born in 1937.	<b>6</b> Robert E. Perry and Matthew Henson reached the North Pole in 1909.	<b>7</b> Billie Holliday, blues singer, was born in 1917.	<b>8</b> Hank Aaron hit his 715th home run in 1974.
<b>9</b> Civil Rights Bill granting citizenship passed in 1866.	<b>10</b> Richard Allen was made Bishop of the AME Church in 1916.	<b>11</b> Spelman College was founded in 1881.	<b>12</b> Free African Society organized in 1787.	<b>13</b> Thomas Jefferson's birthday	<b>14 Good Friday</b> The first abolition society in the U.S. was founded in Pennsylvania, 1775.	<b>15</b> Jackie Robinson made his Major League debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947.
<b>16 Easter Sunday</b> Founding of Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee in 1960.	<b>17</b> Rev. Ralph David Abernathy died in 1990.	<b>18</b> Alex Haley won the Pulitzer Prize for Roots, 1977.	<b>19</b> Cheyney State College, one of the oldest Black colleges in the U.S., was founded in 1837.	<b>20</b> Harriet Tubman started working on the Underground Railroad, 1853.	<b>21</b> Pvt. Milton L. Olive, III, was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1966.	<b>22</b> Charles Mingus, bassist, composer, pianist and bandleader, was born in 1922.
<b>23</b> Granville T. Woods, inventor of over 40 products, was born in 1856.	<b>24</b> The United Negro College Fund was established in 1944.	<b>25</b> Ella Fitzgerald, singer, was born in 1917.	<b>26</b> William "Count" Basie, jazz pianist and musician, died in 1984.	<b>27</b> Coretta Scott King, activist and wife of Martin Luther King, was born in 1927.	<b>28</b> Samuel L. Gravely became first African American admiral in the U.S. Navy in 1962.	<b>29</b> "Duke" Ellington, musician and composer, was born in 1899.
<b>30</b> Wallace Saunders wrote the song "Casey Jones" in 1900.						   