



# when ordinary becomes extraordinary

By Joy Hulse

Just off of Interstate 20, settled between Columbia and Florence, is the little town of Bishopville—a regular small town where nothing seems out of the ordinary. But one ride down Broad Acres Road and you'll realize the extraordinary here.



Low-lying bushes in the shape of 1-6-5 proudly announce the address of Pearl Fryar's Topiary Garden (the address is actually 145 Broad Acres Road, changed 14 years after Pearl had installed the original address sculpture). At first glance, it's a Pablo Picasso painting come to life through a canvas of greenery. Dense shrubs dance circles around each other, a giant fishbone stands erect atop a Cypress and a Cyclops winks at those who pass. With 40 species of plants, the three acres are full of round and rumped, short and angular, tall and twisted sculptures, bringing new meaning to the phrase "perfectly manicured lawn."

Homeowner Pearl Fryar is the "Dr. Seuss meets Edward Scissorhands" of this surreal landscape. It all started with a three-minute topiary lesson from the local nursery owner and the dream of winning the Yard of the Month that inspired him to apply this newfound know-how to his own yard. After years of constant pruning and manipulating, his masterpiece of a garden is now an international spectacle, attracting tourists from across the U.S., Europe and Asia.

Pearl is constantly giving to others as he shares his life-learned lessons with the community through a topiary club for high school students, an artist-in-residency program at Coker College, numerous tours and presentations, and the inspirational documentary film, *A Man Named Pearl* ([amannamedpearl.com](http://amannamedpearl.com)), now on DVD. The film beautifully tells the story of his life, passion and extraordinary garden, and how his sculptures have spread the explicitly engraved theme of his garden—Love, Peace & Goodwill—to all who visit. †



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