



About Charleston

Wednesday March 28, 2007 10:13 A.M.

News

Top Ads

---

[More Top Ads](#)



Click for 15-day forecast  
Sponsored by:

- Sections**
- [Front Page](#)
  - [Archives](#)
  - [Church Directory](#)
  - [Classifieds](#)
  - [Contact Us](#)
  - [Entertainment](#)
  - [Food](#)
  - [Guestbook](#)
  - [Health](#)
  - [History](#)
  - [Jobs](#)
  - [News](#)
  - [Sports](#)
  - [Obituaries](#)
  - [Stocks](#)

- Submissions**
- [Engagement](#)
  - [Anniversary](#)
  - [Wedding](#)
  - [Subscription](#)
  - [Classified Line Ad](#)

- Special Sections**
- [View Index](#)

- News Links**
- [Alma Journal](#)
  - [Greenwood Democrat](#)
  - [Booneville Democrat](#)
  - [Van Buren County Democrat](#)
  - [Van Buren Press](#)
  - [Argus-Courier](#)
  - [Paris Express](#)

- Quick Links**
- [Arkansas News Burea](#)

## April Fools' - A Day for Pranks

*Tuesday, March 27, 2007 4:14 PM CDT*

Sunday, April 1, 2007

APRIL FOOL'S DAY, a time for pulling harmless pranks on gullible victims, is universally popular. These hoaxes range from subtle stunts pulled on unknowing victims by family and friends to false stories being spread by media organizations in print, on the air, and on the Internet. On this one day of the year, everyone and anyone is considered fair game.

According to The Old Farmer's Almanac, the history behind April Fools' Day is a little gray, although many people agree that the tradition began in 1582 when France switched to the Gregorian calendar and moved New Year's Day from March 25 back to January 1. Prior to this change, the New Year's celebration had lasted a full week, from March 25 to April 1. Those who were unaware of the change were called April fools. In France, the tradition is for children to secretly stick paper fishes on the backs of victims and shout "Poisson d'Avril!" ("April Fish!"). Scots call the holiday "Huntigowk Day" and send people to "hunt the gowk another mile" -- a wild goose chase. Worldwide, people seem to dream up mischief on April 1.

In New York City, there has been an April Fools' Day Parade on Fifth Avenue every year since 1986. Media hoaxer Joey Skaggs sends out press releases detailing each year's theme, and a bevy of camera crews and spectators arrive on the scene to secure a spot. Of course, there's no parade.

In celebration of the jests and jesters everywhere, The 2007 Old Farmer's Almanac reports on some of the most famous pranks played over the years. Here are a few:

### Cave of the Treasures

In the mid-1800s, an April Fools' Day article in the Boston Post reported that workmen removing trees from the Boston Common had uncovered a hidden trapdoor leading to a cave filled with treasure. Treasure seekers flocked to the Common, but, alas, no door was found.

### See the Spaghetti Grow

In 1957, the BCC aired a newsreel explaining how the mild winter had produced a higher-than-normal harvest for Swiss spaghetti farmers. Swiss women were shown plucking stands of pasta from trees, while a well-known

[Washington News Bureau](#)  
[Arkansas Press Association](#)  
[State of Arkansas \(government\)](#)

broadcaster noted that the disappearance of the "spaghetti weevil" had also boosted growth. The broadcaster noted that years of careful cultivation had allowed the spaghetti to grow to a uniform length. Viewers were so intrigued that they called the BBC and asked where they might buy their own spaghetti bushes.

#### Internet Spring Cleaning

#### Online Poll

A flurry of e-mails warned that the Internet would be out of service for cleaning for 24 hours between March 31 and April 2, 1997. Users were advised to disconnect all devices. This was an updated version of an old phone joke, in which customers were instructed to place bags over phone receivers to catch dust blown out during phone line cleaning.

#### Search the Web

 

- [Web Directory](#)
- [Yellow Pages](#)
- [White Pages](#)
- [Meet Someone](#)
- [My Page](#)
- [City Guide](#)
- [Lottery Results](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Movie Listings](#)
- [Maps/Directions](#)
- [Horoscope](#)
- [Greeting Cards](#)

The Old Farmer's Almanac is one of several publications published by Yankee Publishing of Dublin, New Hampshire. The Almanac family of products also includes several themed calendars for 2007. Folks who can't find The 2007 Old Farmer's Almanac where books and magazines are sold can order individual copies or subscriptions at [Almanac.com](#) (where you can also find articles on a variety of Almanac topics, recipes, trivia, and a unique home-page personalization option) or by calling 800-223-3166.

 [printable version](#)  [e-mail this story](#)

#### Market Watch



Mar 28, 2007 11:10 AM ET  
ComStock 20 min.  
delayed

powered by  
**Stockgroup**

**Copyright © 2007 Charleston Express**  
A [Stephens Media Group](#) subsidiary

[Click here for Privacy Policy](#)