

DELMARVA ALMANAC

July 2009

Between The Shore Lines

Celebrating Independent Shores

July is the heart of tourist season here on Delmarva. People flock to our shores to experience that which is unique to our region: the wild horses of Assateague Island, Skipjacks sailing the Chesapeake, and of course our very own gourmet delicacy: steamed crabs.

Our nation's capitol is just a few hours to our west. Most people here like that it's a few hours away. Like most Americans we don't care for the culture of conflict that seems to be there. We do like the things it is supposed to stand for – not just apple pie and baseball, but ideals like freedom, equality, and justice.

People from Delmarva have demonstrated that, serving in every war our country has fought since its beginning. While there have been a few naval battles in surrounding waters, there has not been a full fledged military battle fought on land here since General Cornwallis and the British defeated George Washington's troops at Cooch's Bridge in Newark, Delaware in 1777. That is said by some to be the first time that the stars and stripes were flown in battle.

Since we won our freedom from British rule, we have become a people proud of our independent spirit. Yet we are not afraid to be dependent on each other – our families and our neighbors. Through time we have learned that true freedom does not come from needing no one. It comes from the willing choice to live among others peacefully and productively. And that is certainly worth celebrating.

Delmarva History This Month

July 1776 - USS Delaware was launched commanded by Captain C. Alexander to served in the Delaware River.

July 1-2, 1776 - Caesar Rodney makes his heroic overnight ride from Dover to Philadelphia to cast the vote that put Delaware on the side of independence.

July 24, 1913 - The Delaware flag was adopted.

July 1925 - The first Chincoteague Pony Penning was held on the last consecutive Wednesday and Thursday becoming an annual tradition that continues today benefitting the local fire company.

July 29, 1939 - 171 white marlin were caught in the Atlantic off Ocean City at the Jack Spot. It was the largest single days catch ever recorded and the news of this led to Ocean City becoming tagged as the "White Marlin Capital of the World."

July 30, 1952 - The Eastbound span of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge opened.

The Garden Of Good Living

Secrets Of Warm Weather Watering

by Pat Hendrickson

It's July, and time to sit back and enjoy the benefits of all your hard work in the garden! There may still be other chores to do in the garden, but your primary concern will be to make sure there is plenty of water for your plants.

During the summer months, it's most important to water thoroughly and deeply each time, and to allow the soil to dry out before watering again. Deep watering causes the plant's roots to travel deeper, making it less likely for the roots to dry out and anchoring the plant more strongly.

Watering plants too lightly actually wastes water, because the water never actually reaches the root zone of the plant, and the moisture rapidly evaporates from the top inch of soil.

To see if your plants are receiving enough water, dig down a few inches into the soil. If the soil is moist 3 to 4 inches below the surface, water is probably reaching the roots and you're good to go.

If you planted drought resistant plants in your garden, you won't need to water as often, but the principal of deep watering still applies.

As the weather gets hotter, container plants will need extra attention. Check the soil daily, and water the container until the water runs through the drainage holes.

As a final note, it's best to water plants during the morning hours so that the leaves can dry off a bit before the hot sun hits them. Watering during evening hours can be a problem if the foliage doesn't have a chance to dry before the temperature drops at night, creating the perfect conditions for susceptibility to fungus and disease.

If you get the chance to get away this summer, visit some botanical gardens in your area!

In the Delmarva Area:

Delaware Center for Horticulture	http://www.dehort.org
University of Delaware Botanical Gardens	http://ag.udel.edu/udbg/
Mt. Cuba Center, Hockessin, DE	http://www.mtcubacenter.org
Winterthur Museum & Country Estate, Wilmington, DE	http://www.winterthur.org
Adkins Arboretum, Ridgely, MD	http://www.adkinsarboretum.org
Salisbury University Arboretum, Salisbury MD	http://www.salisbury.edu/arboretum/

Easy Day Trips:

Ladew Topiary Gardens, Monkton, MD	http://www.ladewgardens.com
Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA	http://www.longwoodgardens.org
The Norfolk Botanical Garden, Norfolk, VA	http://www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org
The U. S. Botanic Garden, Washington, DC	http://www.usbg.gov
United States National Arboretum, Washington, DC	http://www.usna.usda.gov

Rhythms' & Tides

Outdoors This Month

Birding is pretty good right now. Brown pelicans can be seen along bayside sand bars and cruising the surf for fish. I recently spotted a blue grosbeak in Nasswango south of Snow Hill, Maryland and this Green Heron in West Ocean City. There are lots of birds that are still very young right now like rails (also known as marsh hens) and cormorants. I also recently saw a young hawk with a fresh catch, and an immature blue warbler – which someone will have to help me identify. You can also see more snakes like hog nose and black racers as they come out to sun themselves.

It's All About Being Out On The Water

Though it seems to be the dream of most anglers, not everyone can afford to go offshore in search of the big billfish. In fact most people don't consider it to be "settling for less" to fish from party boats and small skiff rentals. That's because if you want to do your fishing from your own boat, you have to be prepared to spend a lot of money or learn to fix it yourself.

You also shouldn't be afraid to get wet. It's all part of the fun. If the fish aren't biting there's always clams to be had. Actually no boat is necessary to catch your dinner. There are plenty of beaches, bridges, and docks available, to fish for flounder, sea bass, trout, and of course crabs.

Here are some online fishing report resources:

Coastal Fisherman:

<http://www.coastal-fisherman.com/>

Tidal Fish:

<http://www.tidalfish.com/>

Chesapeake Angler:

<http://www.chesapeake-angler.com/>

Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife - Fishing Report:

<http://www.fw.delaware.gov/Fisheries/Pages/FishingReport.aspx>

Maryland DNR Chesapeake Bay & Tributaries Fishing Report:

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/fishingreport/chesapeake.asp>

Maryland DNR Freshwater Report:

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/fishingreport/freshwater.asp>

Maryland DNR Ocean Report:

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/fishingreport/ocean.asp>

Virginia DNR - Saltwater Review:

<http://www.mrc.virginia.gov/swr/saltwaterreview.shtm>

Sunrise & Sunset

Sunrise at the beginning of the month: 5:43 am
Sunrise at the end of the month: 6:04 am
Sunset at the beginning of the month: 8:30 pm
Sunset at the end of the month: 8:13 pm

Moon Phases

July 7 - Full Moon
July 22 - New Moon
Some Names For This Full Moon: Hay Moon,
Wart Moon, Moon of Claiming, Blessing Moon,
& Thunder Moon

Other Sky Events

July 7 - Penumbral lunar eclipse (will be too slight to see)
July 16 - Omicron Draconids - slow-moving meteors seen very high in northern skies
July 22 - Total solar eclipse (only seen in India, China, and a few Pacific islands)
July 27-28 - Delta Aquarids - Face south and look for meteors overhead. Begin your observing about 11 p.m. on the 27th and continue into the dawn of the 28th.
July 23-30 - Capricornids - Bright yellow meteors with many fireballs! South of overhead for mid-northern latitudes by midnight. Best chance for viewing will be after about 1:30 a.m.

Celestial Navigation

This Month's Horoscope

by Valerie Morrissey

Were you born on the cusp? People born around the 19th-23rd of the month, on the cusp of two signs, should check an ephemeris to see when the sun changes signs, for the timing is not precise. You could be an Aries but have qualities of both Aries and Taurus, etc. If you have several planets in a different sign, you would certainly take after that sign. If you have the Sun and ascendant or the Sun and moon in the same sign, say Leo for example, some astrologers say you are a double Leo. If all three are in Leo, you are a triple Leo.

Generally I don't refer to any one as a double anything. Many people don't look or act like their sign, because they have a different ascendant or several planets in other signs, so they have a combination. For example, I know a man born in Aries with a Cancer ascendant. He is childlike, impulsive and temperamental like Aries, but has the moon face and tendency to plumpness of a Cancer. He loves to eat, cook, keep house and fuss over his friends. When you see him coming you'd think right away he is a Cancer.

This month begins with the sun in Cancer. A feminine sign, you are sensitive, kindly, a devoted mother/father. You love your home, love to cook and take care of your family. Cancers prefer to own their own house and a piece of property. If you have no children you probably have pets or nieces/nephews that get all this attention.

Cancers are moody and tend to brood or worry too much. Cancer men can be quite cranky and difficult. Their wives just have to be patient and ride it out. Give them a little "Aw, poor baby" stuff. The women usually withdraw for a short while, when they feel down, or cook a big dinner to snap themselves out of it. Cancers are good at saving money and at times hold on to it too tightly. They are smart businessmen/women and make shrewd decisions. Like a crab they move sideways or backwards, keeping their adversaries confused as to their intentions.

Aries (Born between March 21 - April 19)

You might see more of your neighbors this month, particularly seeing as how the summer weather brings everyone out to cut the grass and talk over the fence. This is a good time to get to know them better and have a barbeque or something. You will hear news or gossip. This is also a good time to take short trips, to the shore or museums. At the full moon on the 7th your boss may recognize you for a good job well done.

Taurus (Born between April 20 - May 19)

With Jupiter and Neptune retrograding in your career house, some of you will experience job changes, if not now then in the coming months. Some will find their positions eliminated, as the economy is in upheaval. But don't be afraid, for everyone has to move on to new experiences. Keep your eyes open for opportunities. Save your money. Reinventing yourself, while a well-worn phrase by now, is still a good idea.

Gemini (Born between May 20 - June 20)

Venus and Mars are here, but moving apart from each other. Venus is speeding up. There will be lots of flirtation and social activities, and creativity will flourish. This benefits writers, speakers and anyone in communications, similar to last month. The internet will see more activity than usual. Road blocks and confusion appear at the end of the month in relationships, but it will all blow over quickly if you are patient.

Cancer (Born between June 21 - July 22)

The moon is new in Cancer again on the 22nd so you have sort of a second chance if you false-started last month. Some may resume an old project once thought finished or abandoned. Mercury flies through Cancer from the 3rd to the 17th. You should catch up on emails, phone calls and paperwork piling up. This is a good time to get in touch with people. Family gatherings of all kinds are on the agenda.

Leo (Born between July 23 - August 21)

The crescent new moon, sun and Mercury come together in Leo for a quick rendezvous on the 22nd-24th. Your social life will get a jump-start, as Leos are big party animals. This is a good time to make calls and arrangements for anything coming up in the following weeks. This is also great for artists and musicians who paint or perform in grandiose style. Much colorful and inspired work can come out of this period.

Virgo (Born between August 22 - September 22)

From the middle of the month on Venus and Mars will be in a difficult aspect with first Saturn then Uranus, so you may have problems with your significant other or with a friend. This could be anything, from illness to disagreement to a break for freedom. You may be too controlling of your partner or it could be the other way around. Give them space for a while. You may not be communicating well, and you'll need to talk things over.

Libra (Born between September 23 - October 22)

Venus will come into trine on the 27th with the Jupiter-Neptune conjunction and this will be very nice for your social life. You could meet someone very romantic and seductive. Vacations are favored. Enjoy the experience, but keep your eyes open and both feet on the ground. Also you could spread the love around a bit and do some volunteer work. Get out of yourself and share your time with others, you'll be a better person for it.

Scorpio (Born between October 23 - November 21)

Even though this is summertime you may have to put vacation and recreation on hold for a bit. You may have more responsibilities than usual, especially if you have kids. Best time for planning any trips is before the 22nd. However, some of you should plan some time to stay home. Since Scorpios can be intensely driven in their labors of love, you would benefit from relaxing and doing nothing. Recharge those batteries.

Sagittarius (Born between November 22 - December 21)

With the confrontations between Venus, Mars, Saturn and Uranus, Archers are bound to lose their tempers, especially near the end of the month. You may have a long honey-do list, and things will come at you all at once. Some of you are moving to a new residence or doing renovations. There may be hold-ups in what you are trying to accomplish. Take one thing at a time and prioritize. You've only got two hands.

Capricorn (Born between December 22 - January 20)

Things are calm this month, and probably nothing of any great impact will happen. You are moving along smoothly in your affairs, and the full moon on the 7th should bring results in some way. A project you've been working on will work out nicely. Whatever you are doing should work out to your satisfaction. Around the 16th you may get an important message, great idea or flash of intuition. Write everything down!

Aquarius (Born between January 21 - February 19)

As with Libra, another air sign, the Venus trine to Jupiter and Uranus may bring romance or at least a nice, warm, fuzzy feeling in general. You will want to get out with friends, get to the beach or do something stress-free and relaxing. You're probably overdue. This is a wonderful aspect for creativity. Paint, draw, write poetry and go to concerts. Put your troubles behind you and think good thoughts for the future.

Pisces (Born between February 20 - March 20)

There may be disagreement with marriage partners, as with Virgo. You probably just don't see eye-eye right now. It's nothing serious, it will work itself out. Things are confusing and vague which happens a lot with Pisces folks. At the new moon on the 22nd you can make a fresh start or change direction. The good influence of Mercury will make communications go more harmoniously after the 3rd.

Holidays & Observances This Month

July 2 - Salvation Army Founders Day

This Month's Flower - Larkspur, Water Lily

July 4 - US Independence Day

This Month's Birthstone - Ruby

July 12 - Parent's Day

July 15 - National Ice Cream Day

July 20 - Moon Day commemorates landing on the moon by Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin in 1969.

July 23 - National Hot Dog Day

July 30 - Father-in-Law Day, Tisha B'Av - Day of Mourning (Judaism) & Lailat al Miraj - Ascension of the Prophet (Islam)

Be sure to visit Delmarva Almanac online for an extensive community calendar which covers the entire peninsula, tide tables, original photography and much more: Delmarva-almanac.com

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