

DELMARVA ALMANAC

February 2009

Delmarva History This Month

This is Black History Month.
February 2, 1781 - Maryland became the 13th state to approve the ratification of the Articles of Confederation
February 10, 1972 - Earth tremor at Wilmington, Delaware, felt as far as Elkton, Maryland.
February 14, 1818 - Abolitionist Frederick Douglass was born a slave at Holmes Hill Farm, near Easton, Maryland
February 16, 1669 - Dorchester County, Maryland established
February 18, 1662 - Talbot County, Maryland established
February 21, 1882 - Sloop Dauntless wrecked near Chincoteague, Virginia in foul weather
February 22, 1892 - Spanish steamship San Albano ran aground on the outer shoals of Hog Island, Virginia

Holidays & Observances This Month

February 1 - Imbolic (Celtic)
February 2 - Groundhog Day, Candlemas (Christian)
February 8 - Boy Scout Day
February 9 - Tu B'Shevat/New Year of Trees (Jewish)
February 12 - Lincoln's Birthday
February 14 - St. Valentine's Day
February 15 - Parinirvana (Buddhist)
February 17 - National Public Science Day
February 17 - Random Acts of Kindness Day
February 22 - George Washington's Birthday
February 23 - Presidents' Day
February 24 - Carnival/Mardi Gras (Christian)
February 25 - Ash Wednesday (Christian)

Between The Shore Lines

Refuge & Resilience

February is a month of contradictions. It is the month with the fewest days. But they are colder and there is less sunlight. That makes this a tougher month to pass. It feels longer than all the others. It would seem a good time to stay inside where it is warm, yet I am drawn outside to experience winter's stark beauty.

I have come to think of outside as a refuge. When I was nine my sister and I shared a room. Though it was nice having a roommate, sometimes I really just wanted to be alone.

I came to enjoy the solitude of my favorite nearby getaway where I could sit at the root of a tree next to a stream. There I could sing little songs, and day dream to my heart's content. And when I had gotten into some sort of scrape, which seemed to happen a lot, I could go there to sort out my problems.

Since then I have always felt closest to God when I am outdoors. There the cares of the day are washed away. I am drawn into the beauty of the scene, and my thoughts become a prayer of observation.

There is so much to learn from the natural world. During winter I am always impressed by those dried plants which stand resolute against the harsh weather waiting to deposit their seeds in spring. The wind bends but does not break them. Yet contrary to logic, if you tried to pick them they would fall apart in your hands. They are fragile yet resilient in their purpose.

So too are the birds this time of year. Residents and migratory birds alike here on Delmarva endure times of sub zero temperatures through a combination of evolution and community. Alone they are small and vulnerable. Together they find warmth and food. Their adaptable instincts help them prevail in a sometimes brutal environment.

These attributes are the key to their survival and probably to ours as well. When we have purpose in our lives we find untapped strength to withstand challenging circumstances. We bend, not break, as we stand against the winds of change.

The Garden Of Good Living by Pat Hendrickson

Indeed February is a cold month to be outside in the yard working. But our resident gardening expert reminds us of these things you can be doing this month.

Gardener's Tips

1. Propagate Fig Trees - 6 to 8 inch cuttings should be taken from the younger growth on the tree while the tree is dormant. Other easy plants to propagate are: Forsythia, Willow, Honeysuckle, Poplar, Grape, Camellia, Cherry Laurel.
2. Winter Blooms - Cut some Forsythia branches, put in warm water, and watch the blooms appear.
3. Some seeds for annuals and vegetables will need to be started now - help for scheduling can be found at <http://gardeningtips.org/February/feature.shtml>
4. Prune Roses and fruit trees. Trim back vines such as grapes, honeysuckle, clematis and wisteria
5. Apply the final Dormant Spray application for Roses, fruit trees and shrubs.
6. Pot up those tubers and corms like Irises, Dahlias, Begonias and Cannas that you so carefully squirreled away last season.

Plant Recommendations

Consider Native Plants for your garden this Spring. Because they are adapted to your local area, they need less attention. Once established, they need little water or fertilizer and attract native species of birds and insects which can be beneficial to your plants. If you'd like to add winter interest to your garden, consider these native shrubs:

Red Osier Dogwood *cornus sericea*

http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/factsheets/shrubs/cornus_sericeastolonifera.html

Cranberrybush *Viburnum viburnum trilobum*

http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/factsheets/shrubs/viburnum_trilobum.html

Red Chokeberry *aronia arbutifolia*

http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/factsheets/shrubs/aronia_arbutifolia.html

Winged Sumac *rhus copallina*

http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/factsheets/shrubs/rhus_copallina.html

American Beautyberry *callicarpa americana*

http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/factsheets/shrubs/callicarpa_americana.html

Fishing & Hunting

February is probably the coldest month on the peninsula. You have to really love fishing to go out on area waters this time of year. If you do, be safe and always let someone know where you are going.

According to fishing expert Dale Timmons, this month is very much like January. You can find white and yellow perch in the rivers and brackish waters of the northern Chesapeake region as well as in places out of the wind along the Pocomoke River and Pitts Creek, where a few crappie can also be found. And for the toughest anglers, rock fish (striped bass) can also be caught in the Atlantic surf on those few warm days.

Sunrise & Sunset

Sunrise at the beginning of February will be at 7:13am

Sunrise at the end of February will be at 6:40am

Sunset at the beginning of February will be at 5:27pm

Sunset at the end of February will be at 5:58pm

Moon Phases

February 2 - First Quarter Moon

February 9 - Full Moon called the Snow Moon, Hunger Moon or Wolf Moon

February 16 - Last Quarter Moon

February 25 - New Moon

Other Sky Events

February 22 - Conjunction of Jupiter, Mercury, and Mars in a 5-degree circle. Look to the east about half an hour before sunrise with binoculars
February 23 - Comet Lulin near its peak brightness visible in late evening with binoculars near Saturn

Outdoors This Month You Can See

Heron, ducks & mergansers in bays & marshes
Juncos & Sparrows at feeders
Snow Geese, starlings, kestrel in fields
It's National Wild Bird-Feeding Month!

Celestial Navigation by Valerie Morrissey

If you know your moon sign and ascendant (rising sign) it will be helpful to read the forecasts for those zodiac signs as well. You can consult an ephemeris for the moon and planets, which can be found on the internet, or have your chart set up by a competent astrologer.

The actual movements of the planets are called transits. Each sign has a ruling planet (sometimes two co-rulers) and sometimes events reflect on where your ruling planet is transiting. The New Moon and Full Moon are often referred to as lunations, and frequently they set off events or milestones when transiting through the signs. Sometimes nothing happens, but if an important event or new acquaintance comes into your life, it's possible that a lunation has occurred in your sign. When the moon is new, it is the best time to make wishes. Start projects, make beginnings of all kinds. When the moon is full, things come to fulfillment. Any difficult conditions come to a head and either explode or are resolved. Projects can be finished or presented at this time.

You will notice that some signs have no planets there at this time, but they still have their influences. Also, most people are a combination of signs, not just their Sun signs. After you have considered what I wrote for your sign, no matter what your life situation is, remember that you have free will and can make your own choices.

Capricorn (Born between December 22 - January 20)

You continue to push aggressively in business, if so inclined. Or, if you are the more passive sort, you may feel the heat. Your boss is demanding more of you, or everything just seems to be piling up in general. Hang in there, be patient and quietly stack up the brownie points. It will pay off in large measure eventually.

Aquarius (Born between January 21 - February 19)

Energies run very high this month because Mars is moving in for a while. Make sure you don't step on other people's toes. Find a project to work on. You have great opportunity to expand your world, go in new directions, try new things. If you have been blue until now, cheer up and open your eyes. The world is your oyster this month!

Pisces (Born between February 20 - March 20)

With the New Moon here on the 25th, now is the time to make a fresh start. You will have a new outlook on things. This is the best time all year to do something just for yourself. New hairdo, new diet, new workout. Break an old habit. New relationships are possible, and an older person could enter your life who would be a guide to you.

Aries (Born between March 21 - April 19)

Loving Venus enters here on the 3rd. After a brief period of difficulty for some of you due to Pluto's energies, it should be a pleasant, even stimulating time for all relationships. Don't be possessive or controlling of your loved ones early in the month. Creative activities and recreation, such as winter sports, are favored.

Taurus (Born between April 20 - May 19)

This month could involve a combination of both home and career projects. Some of you might be reorganizing or renovating at home. Others are seeking the limelight. You might have a promising job opportunity or a presentation to make. Either way you will be busy and life will be very interesting. Change is in the wind.

Gemini (Born between May 20 - June 20)

At the New Moon on the 25th it will be a favorable time to plan a change of career direction. You might have to think fast. A big decision could fall in your lap. Start thinking about what you really want to do with your life if your present situation is not satisfying. There will be opportunities to travel this month, or news from afar.

Cancer (Born between June 21 - July 22)

This will be a quiet month. It is a good time to organize finances, especially those that involve your partner. Sit down and talk with your partner about any old issues. Secrets could be revealed or mysteries solved. You may feel introspective and need to get away for a bit. A change of scene would do you good. Go up the country.

Leo (Born between July 23 - August 21)

At the Full Moon on the 9th you may get special attention. You may feel particularly extravagant and want to take risks. You want to spend money and have a good time. This is not a good time to go to the casinos. If you buck the trends and buy stocks or property, do a good background check. You could be taken for a ride.

Virgo (Born between August 22 - September 22)

You are working hard and probably pushing your energy to the max. Make sure you get enough rest. Your partner may want more attention. Also new relationships are possible with the New Moon on the 25th. There could be some changes in the work place, new management or more responsibilities expected of you in general.

Libra (Born between September 23 - October 22)

Your social calendar is busy, and with Jupiter in your house of leisure and romance all year, joined by Mars, you can expect a lot of action. You are more attractive than usual to new partners. You may get invited to a wedding or sporting event. A great Super Bowl party, for example. If you have kids, they will involve you in their activities.

Scorpio (Born between October 23 - November 21)

Your career is highlighted at the Full Moon on the 9th. Or you might just get your picture in the paper. You might make a presentation or represent your company at a meeting. You may be called to account for something. Be smart and cover all the bases. Keep your eyes open, as there may be something sneaky going on behind the scenes.

Sagittarius (Born between November 22 - December 21)

You may take a trip this month. Around the 9th is a good day to go, if this is on your agenda. With Venus in your house of love affairs, you should plan quality time with your lover, or get out and socialize. If unattached, this is a good time to meet new people, so put on your glad rags and smile when you go out, because you never know...

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