

DELMARVA ALMANAC

March 2009

Delmarva History This Month

March 25, 1634 - The English ship the Ark and the Dove landed with English immigrants on St. Clement's Island in southern Maryland. The day commemorated by the state as Maryland Day.

March 1, 1781 - The Articles of Confederation took effect with Maryland's ratification.

March 21, 1783 - The Revolution's last naval action took place in Chesapeake Bay

March 12, 1786 - Mt. Vernon Compact, an agreement on navigation and fishing in the tidewaters of the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay was ratified.

March 11, 1888 - Blizzard causes wreck of three ships: the Belden, the Enock Turley, and the William G. Bartlett on Cape Henlopen, Delaware

March 3, 1889 - The schooner the William B. Woods wrecks on Wallop's Beach, Virginia

March 12, 1912 - The schooner John W. Hall wrecks on the beach at Ocean City.

March 6-8, 1962 - Nor'easter ravages Delmarva Coast with tides five feet above normal in Ocean City, Maryland.

Holidays & Observances This Month

This is Women's History Month

March 1 - National Pig Day

March 3 - National Anthem Day

March 7 - Peace Corps Day

March 9 - Mouloud (Islam - Birth of the Prophet)

March 10 - Harriet Tubman Day

March 10-11 - Purim

March 12 - Employee Day

March 12 - Girl Scout Day

March 14 - Pi Day

March 14 - Sikh New Year

March 16 - Freedom of Information Day

March 17 - Camp Fire Boys & Girls Founders Day

March 17 - St. Patrick's Day (Christian)

March 20 - Vernal Equinox - Spring Begins

March 21 - Hola Mohalla (Sikh)

March 25 - Maryland Day

March 30 - Doctor's Day

Between The Shore Lines

Lioness & Lamb Of The Shore

March is Women's History month. So, Harriet Tubman a lioness of American history comes to mind. Born a slave in about 1820, here on the Eastern Shore, she is now known as the "Moses" of her people because she helped so many others escape to freedom.

For most people the wilderness would be a frightening place to travel while being chased. To her it was home, because she had been raised working with her father on enslaved lumber crews in the forests near Blackwater River. Her knowledge of the rhythms of the earth and sky gave her confidence. This, along with friends on the Under Ground Railroad, made it possible for her to both get away and to come back for many others.

Like the month of March, Harriet's was an experience of great extremes. Once free she fought courageously to end slavery and then for women's suffrage – going from obscure poverty to great celebrity. At the same time she was also a compassionate lamb. She served as a nurse during the Civil War and helped to endow a home for the aged in Auburn, New York.

We have to own our heritage – both the good and the bad – both the lingering wound of slavery and the redemptive promise of freedom. I suspect if she were alive today Harriet Tubman would remind us that positive change only comes with hard work and sacrifice.

I think she would want people to have a greater knowledge and connection to the environment. Her knowledge of the wild places of Delmarva enabled her to survive and prevail. It is fitting that that a

monument is being created in her honor near the Blackwater Refuge close to where she and her family lived off the land.

She would tell us it takes courage and a strong faith to know when to be the lion and when to be the lamb. But most of all she would tell us to leave NO ONE behind. She would tell us to keep going back until everyone is saved. Because as it is often said, no one is truly free until everyone is free.

"I had crossed de line of which I had so long been dreaming. I was free; but dere was no one to welcome me to de land of freedom. I was a stranger in a strange land, and my home after all was down in de old cabin quarter, wid de ole folks, and my brudders and sisters. But to dis solemn resolution I came; I was free, and dey should be free also; I would make a home for dem in de North, and de Lord helping me, I would bring dem all dere." ~ Harriet Tubman

The Garden Of Good Living

by Dana Kester-McCabe

March is another one of those months when the weather does not always cooperate. Maryland Cooperative Extension offers the following tips for the month of March. Visit their website for a comprehensive site with tips for gardening in our area:

<http://www.hgic.umd.edu/>

Gardener's Tips

1. When it stops snowing or raining you can start cleaning up beds of dead stuff from last season. Pick up branches, sticks. Trim branches and twigs that have been damaged by winter weather.
2. Borrow or rent a chipper if you do not have one and process sticks, twigs and small branches to add along with leaves to your compost pile. (Be sure to turn it in so the compost is ready for use in a month or so.)
3. March is good time to get your soil tested. Purchase a commercial kit at your garden center or contact your local Cooperative Extension for advice.
4. Move or plant trees and shrubs during the last two weeks. They are mostly dormant and the soil is soft from recent precipitation. Be sure to protect any new plantings from freezing temperatures as overnight frost is still probable through early April.
5. Cut back roses and woody shrubs like butterfly bushes, but resist trimming spring blooming shrubs to enjoy their natural blooming cycle.
6. March is probably your last chance to get your birdhouses up if you want to provide a place for birds to nest.

Plant Recommendations

Get a list of native plants from the Maryland Coastal Bays Program

<http://www.mdcoastalbays.org/plants/>

Fishing & Hunting

Chesapeake Bay & Upper Shore Derrickson's Creek in Delaware – Shad (Catch & release only)

Atlantic Ocean & Coastal Bays – Mackerel & in the surf and along jetties - stripers

Sunrise & Sunset

Sunrise at the beginning of March will be at 6:39 AM

Sunrise at the end of March will be at 6:52 AM

Sunset at the beginning of March will be at 5:59 PM

Sunset at the end of March will be at 7:30 PM

Moon Phases

March 11 - Full Moon

March 26 - New Moon

Names for the March Moons include: Lenten Moon, Plow Moon, Renewal Month, Sap Moon, Seed Moon, Worm Moon

Other Sky Events

March 8 - Saturn will be at its closest approach to Earth making it a good time to view and photograph the ringed planet and its moons.

March 20 - Vernal Equinox - Spring Begins - There will be equal amounts of day and night.

March 25 - Venus as both a morning and evening star peaks. The planet Venus will be visible at both dusk and dawn on the same day. This rare event occurs only once every eight years.

Outdoors This Month You Can See

Harbingers of spring include snow drops, crocus and early daffodils. Robins, osprey, laughing gulls and of course the snowies are still here through much of the month. By the end of the month the spring peepers (frogs) can be heard every evening.

Celestial Navigation by Valerie Morrissey

Aries (Born between March 21 - April 19)

This month the New Moon on the 26th in Aries, also joined by Mercury, is square to Pluto in Capricorn, which in simple terms means a power play, with an accent on communications. The four cardinal signs, Aries, Cancer, Libra and Capricorn will all be affected. There may be new beginnings but with a struggle attached. Employers or people just plain bigger than you might stand in your way. You will have challenges but meet them with great determination.

Taurus (Born between April 20 - May 19)

You will continue to work on your career, and early in the month there will be chances for growth and just a lot going on in general. Mars and Jupiter together in your career house can really whip things up. Make the most of social connections. If there are charity functions coming up, be sure to attend or contribute.

Gemini (Born between May 20 - June 20)

At the Full Moon on the 11th there will be events at home. You want to do renovation on your house, and it may take longer than you thought. Or you might have a wild and crazy idea. Gemini has a short attention span and tends to have several things going on at once. Plan ahead and don't take on more than you can handle.

Cancer (Born between June 21 - July 22)

Read about Aries. Some of you may be looking for new employment. You will have a strong desire for change. At the New Moon it will be a good time for interviews and making a good impression on anyone in authority. Put away your shell, get out your black suit and power tie. Be confident in your ability and experience.

Leo (Born between July 23 - August 21)

This is a good time for Leos to go on vacation, most likely at the end of the month, and some of you may find romance abroad. First, early in the month, make sure your finances involving your partner are in good order. It is, after all, tax time. It doesn't mean money trouble, it just means it's a good time to get it all sorted out.

Virgo (Born between August 22 - September 22)

The Full Moon in Virgo on the 11th will be joined by Saturn, opposed by Uranus, so there could be lots of excitement. Don't make any big plans, for they could change at the last minute. Some of you may be late for a big date or meeting, but it's for a reason. Keep a positive outlook, because you could still end up having a great time.

Libra (Born between September 23 - October 22)

Marriage or one-to-one relationships will be highlighted this month. If married there might be strain, a battle of the wills. Libra hates that. If single, you could be attracted to a very dynamic person who makes a big impression on you. Stay grounded, keep your eyes open, you could learn from this person.

Scorpio (Born between October 23 - November 21)

Mars, Jupiter and Neptune are doing the dance in your house of domestic affairs. If you are looking to move, you could find a good deal on a house. Trust your instincts. You might even want to relocate. If not, it's a great time to expand, or buy new furniture and appliances. Scorpio loves nice things, so go for it!

Sagittarius (Born between November 22 - December 21)

Similar to Gemini, there could be happenings at home, as well at work. Parents will need some attention. You might have plumbing work done. A project could be completed at the Full Moon. You have more work handed to you but you could also get a raise or title change, something you have earned. Congratulations!

Capricorn (Born between December 22 - January 20)

Things will work out for the best if you are patient and listen to the other fellow's point of view. Give the matter plenty of time. In negotiations, do your homework and know the facts. If someone is trying to control a situation, let him, but keep your integrity. There is hidden power in the passive approach.

Aquarius (Born between January 21 - February 19)

High energies continue from last month from Mars and Jupiter. Subtle Neptune adds a dash of intuition. Some of you may do great works or join humanitarian groups. Religious feelings are strong, and you could have a personal revelation. It is best to use this energy to get outside of yourself and do things for others.

Pisces (Born between February 20 - March 20)

Read about Virgo, this may apply to you. You could learn something. You may have more work shoved at you. The Sun and Uranus are in your sign, so there could be unexpected events. You may have a lot of nervous energy, especially when Mars comes in on the 15th. Find constructive things to do and try not to be too sensitive.

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