

DELMARVA ALMANAC

August 2009

Between The Shore Lines **Speaking For Delmarva's Trees** By Dana Kester-McCabe

Delmarva is usually described by scenes of water and salt marshes. But most of those wetlands are ringed by trees. It may be hard to get people excited about our Delmarva woodlands, because they do not seem as dramatic as old growth forests which were logged out here a long, long time ago.

Let's face it our woodlands are not terribly hospitable this time of year as they are also home to some really voracious mosquitoes and ticks. Yet now is the time when our trees are most green and full and to be appreciated for their beauty and shade.

Note the elegant "bald cypress" with their lovely little knees. Our Delmarva swamps are home to the northern most stands of this ancient variety who are to be admired for their ability to survive in soil too wet for other trees.

Most states require that any trees removed from critical areas be replaced. Yet logging, development, and pollution clearly stress our forests. We humans seem to find all kinds of reasons to take down trees. Their stumps are monuments to our loss. Some take on the look of ancient monoliths as if to remind us that the earth is constantly trying to reclaim what we have taken.

Our remaining wilderness is host to a diverse neighborhood of animal and plant life. Who knows what we have lost so far, or will soon, if we do not protect our woodland areas? Just as our marshes do, forests filter our air and water. Preserving these habitats should be as high a priority as keeping our waterways clean. They are an important member of our community of life. And just as we would not want to have summer here without time on the water, so too would this season be very sad without a drive under a sun dappled canopy of beautiful trees.

Delmarva History This Month

August 9 1815 - Berlin, Maryland native, Captain Stephen Decatur concludes treaty for U.S. with Tripoli

August 1, 1859 - First lighting of the Fenwick Island Lighthouse

August 4, 1861 - Several parties of armed Secessionists on the Eastern Shore of Virginia were dispersed by Union troops.

August 20, 1866 - A detachment of troops were sent to Drummondtown, Virginia on the eastern shore of Virginia, to suppress violence between the whites and blacks.

August 21, 1888 - A tornado swarm occurred in Maryland and Delaware with many waterspouts seen over the Chesapeake Bay.

August 23, 1933 - A hurricane destroyed much of downtown Ocean City and created a new inlet at South Second Street.

August 15, 1951 - The Delaware Memorial Bridge opened to traffic connecting New Castle, Delaware, and Pennsville, New Jersey.

August 11, 1974 - 54 boats competed in the first White Marlin Open was held. Wince Sorenson of Bowie, Maryland was its first place winner earning a prize of \$5,000.

The Garden Of Good Living **Working Out The Bugs In Our Gardens** by Dana Kester-McCabe

Anyone who lives on Delmarva knows that mosquitoes can make being outside unbearable particularly at this time of year. With the higher temperatures and all the rain we have been having, now is a good time to be extra vigilant about denying mosquitoes a place to lay eggs.

Things you can empty collected water from, which create mosquito breeding grounds are:

<i>Used tires</i>	<i>Canoes, small boats & bilges</i>
<i>Playground equipment</i>	<i>Garbage cans & lids</i>
<i>Plastic wading pools</i>	<i>Wheelbarrows</i>
<i>Trash, cans, cups, discarded toys etc.</i>	<i>Clogged rain gutters</i>
<i>Tarps used to cover boats, pools, etc.</i>	<i>Tree holes</i>

Once or twice a week you can also change the water in bird baths, ornamental ponds (that don't have bubblers or mosquito eating fish), planter trays, pet dishes, and livestock water troughs.

If you notice drainage ditches are clogged and holding stagnant water for longer than a week they should be reported to your county mosquito control office. They may be protected by wetland regulations so you should not try to clear them on your own.

Now is also a time that gardeners are battling a variety of plant diseases and critters. Extreme weather stresses plants making them more susceptible. Birds can steal a crop. We have an amazing resource in our local Cooperative Extension offices which not only provide very thorough websites, but if you call them they can provide helpful solutions for whatever ails your garden.

University of Maryland

Plant Diagnostic Center: <http://plantdiagnostics.umd.edu/>
Cecil County Cooperative Extension Office - 410-996-5280
Kent County Cooperative Extension Office - 410-778-1661
Queen Anne's County Cooperative Extension Office - 410-758-0166
Caroline County Cooperative Extension Office - 410-479-4030
Talbot County Cooperative Extension Office - 410-822-1244
Dorchester County Cooperative Extension Office - 410-228-8800
Wicomico County Cooperative Extension Office - 410-749-6141
Worcester County Cooperative Extension Office - 410-632-1972
Somerset County Cooperative Extension Office - 410-651-1350

University of Delaware

Plant Diagnostic Clinic: <http://ag.udel.edu/extension/pdc/>
Kent County Cooperative Extension Office - 302-730-4000
New Castle County Cooperative Extension Office - 302-831-2506
Sussex County Cooperative Extension Office - 302-856-7303

Virginia Tech Department of Horticulture

Diagnosing Plant Problems: <http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-714/426-714.html>
Accomack County Cooperative Extension Office - 757-787-136
Northampton County Cooperative Extension Office - 757-678-7946

There is often an organic solution to garden problems including beneficial bugs and nontoxic treatments. Visit these sites to find out more:

Organic Pest and Disease Management Guide - Cornell University
<http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/pp/resourceguide>

Organic Pest Control Strategies
http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/organic_ipm.html

You Bet Your Garden
<http://www.whyy.org/91FM/ybyg/>

Rhythms & Tides

August Heats Up For Fishing & Storms

In August both fishing and the weather heats up. This is tournament season when anglers compete for the biggest fish. But it is also thunderstorm season. Though hurricane season officially began in June, now is when storms typically start to appear. The Gulf Stream (ocean current) shifts closer to shore bringing with it both the bigger fish and the chance for storms.

From it comes increased tropical humidity. As the land mass heats up during the day, it clashes with the airborne moisture and energy builds in the atmosphere over the peninsula. This is the recipe for afternoon thundershowers which are common this time of year. If you are going out on the water it is always good to check the local forecast on the television, radio, or internet. Weathercasters cannot predict every storm, but they can let you know when conditions are right for squalls to develop.

Watch for wind that increases or suddenly changes direction, and clouds that seem to be growing taller and darker. When the sky takes on a yellow cast (not sunset) you can be sure that something heavy is brewing. Lightning is a serious danger so if you hear thunder you should play it safe and get off the water and into shelter.

Outdoors This Month

Thistles on roadsides and field edges provide great feeding for finches and other song birds like this Eastern king bird. On the water, skimmers are always fun to watch. It is exciting to see a bald eagle. They have been making a steady come back here on the Shore. And now is also a great time to see monarch butterflies and dragon flies.

Sunrise & Sunset

Sunrise at the beginning of the month: 6:05am

Sunrise at the end of the month: 6:31am

Sunset at the beginning of the month: 8:12pm

Sunset at the end of the month: 7:34pm

Moon Phases

Full Moon: August 6

New Moon: August 20

Other Sky Events

August 1 - Alpha Capricornids Meteor Shower Peak

August 6 - Weak penumbral lunar eclipse

August 6 - Southern Iota Aquarids Meteor Shower Peak

August 12 - Perseids Meteor shower Peak

August 25 - Northern Iota Aquarids Meteor Shower Peak

Celestial Navigation

by Valerie Morrissey

This month the sun is in his own place, Leo, until the 22nd. Leos are like the Sun, they are shiny, happy people who love attention. They love glamour, fame, money, elaborate entertainment, and many actors and models are Leos. They enjoy being in the spotlight. They love children but may have only one, or none of their own. Even though this is a creative sign, it is considered barren in the fertility department.

Also a fixed sign, they can be stubborn and set in their ways. They like to be in charge, give orders and be waited on. They are vain, and like make-up, expensive clothes and jewelry. Even though this is a masculine, active sign, Leos tend to sit around and be lazy. Even the less fancy Leos like to be pampered and enjoy a comfortable life. They may lose their temper at times but have a cheery disposition, forgive easily and are friendly and very generous.

Aries (Born between March 21 - April 19)

Because of Venus and Mars opposing Pluto there may be a power play or direct challenge by authority this month, particularly around the 25th. It affects your home life as well as your career and public image. You are more emotional than usual. Your partner will demand more of you at the

beginning, or you may be the one who wants more attention, and later when Mars comes into aspect, Aries tempers will flare up.

Taurus (Born between April 20 - May 19)

Throughout the month you may see more of your neighbors or close relatives. You may get more emails or phone calls. Things should look harmonious on the home front, particularly after the 26th. At this time you can redecorate or buy new things. If you are going through a career change, there may be an opportunity close to home, so pay attention. Check your connections to the past, such as old classmates or childhood pals.

Gemini (Born between May 20 - June 20)

Mars is here until the 25th, and forming a T-square with Saturn and Uranus from about the 11th to the 18th. This aspect tends to create challenges or obstruction, and will affect the four mutable signs, which include Virgo, Sagittarius and Pisces. During this period your patience will be tested in some way. Unexpected events are popping up all over, so be prepared to dodge bullets. Even if nothing specific happens, you may feel frustrated or temperamental somehow. You may change your mind about something. You should have Plan B ready in case your original intentions don't work out

Cancer (Born between June 21 - July 22)

Venus is here on the 2nd, staying for most of the month. By itself, this is a nice, warm and fuzzy aspect, good for friendships, love affairs and creative activities. But with Pluto in opposition, emotions could get more intense. Cancer is very sensitive. Learn how to toughen up. Relationships heat up even more when Mars arrives on the 25th. Don't let yourself be pushed around. If you are the one doing the pushing, then behave yourself!

Leo (Born between July 23 - August 21)

With the Sun here this month, you will get lots of attention, which Leo thrives upon. This is a good time to make impressions on important people, such as in presentations or job interviews, especially at the Full Moon, and when Venus arrives on the 26th. Even if you are not working on a move or job change, it is still a good time to rack up brownie points. Take very opportunity to be a gracious host/hostess, and bestow favors if asked.

Virgo (Born between August 22 - September 22)

Read about Gemini, for it will apply to you. Your ruling planet Mercury is here from the 2nd to the 25th, which will be good for advancing communications and all hands-on projects. I'm talking about repairs, building projects, crafts, sewing, cooking and organization, all Virgo stuff. Around the 17th Mercury meets up with Saturn. Your plans may be delayed or changed altogether. Get as much done as you can before that date.

Libra (Born between September 23 - October 22)

As with Aries, your relationships may go through some troubled waters. Libra hates to fight, and actually, being an air sign, is not easy to pin down. If your partner is acting difficult, you will just have to be calm and patient, and kill him/her with sweetness. Also, Venus helps you with your career this month. Get dressed up. There will be interviews, social affairs and chance meetings that will lead to new employment.

Scorpio (Born between October 23 - November 21)

There will be a lot of coming and going this month, especially if you are in a high-powered corporate position. Both the Full Moon on the 6th and New Moon on the 20th will have some impact. You want to start new projects, plus wrap up old ones. You want to build banks, open branch offices and give charity balls. But if your life is much simpler than this, it's still a good time to send out your resume and visualize your future!

Sagittarius (Born between November 22 - December 21)

The T-square of Mars to Saturn and Uranus which I mentioned under Gemini will most likely affect your relationships. Some of you have been busy moving to a new home at the same time as trying to develop a relationship. You may have too many irons in the fire and this limits your quality time together. Make plenty of time for rest and relaxation, and don't get stressed out over stuff that really isn't important.

Capricorn (Born between December 22 - January 20)

Venus and Mars will have an influence on your relationships this month. If someone new comes into your life, proceed with caution and consideration, and don't expect too much of them. People are fragile and just want a little tenderness. Whether you are in a new romance or an established one, watch that you are not critical of them. Accept them as unique and wonderful. At the 25th, there could be clashes with authority.

Aquarius (Born between January 21 - February 19)

The Full Moon falls in your sign this month on the 6th. Any projects involving your spouse or business partner should work out well at this time. With Jupiter, Neptune and Chiron doing the dance here, you are often thinking of breaking out of the mold. It may only be a dream now. Spiritual and mystical studies, humanitarian and environmental causes appeal to you and this will lead eventually to a career change.

Pisces (Born between February 20 - March 20)

Domestic and family issues are prominent now. Some of you have aging parents who need to be looked after. Read about Gemini. Since Mercury joins Saturn in Virgo for most of the month, you have a lot to discuss with your partner. Your partner may also have a health problem or set-back. You have to help him/her get through it. On a happier note, the position of Venus is good for travel, so take a break, go to the shore and relax!

Holidays & Observances This Month

August 1 - Lughnasadh (Celtic Festival of Light)

August 2 - International Friendship Day

August 5 - Sister's Day

August 6 - Atomic Bomb Dropped on Hiroshima

August 9 - Smokey Bear's Birthday (Only You Can Prevent Forest Fires)

August 14 - Victory in Japan Day (WWII)

August 15 - Assumption Day (Christian)

August 19 - National Aviation Day

August 20 - National Homeless Animals Day

August 22 - Ramadan Fasting Begins (Islam)

August 26 - Women's Equality Day

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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