

DELMARVA ALMANAC

October 2009

Between The Shore Lines

Celebrating The Fall Transformation

It is said that change is the only constant in life. Fall on the Eastern Shore is a celebration of just that. The breezes pick up. They switch from the tropical south to the arctic north. This creates an interesting contradiction. The chilly breezes heat up the colors of the landscape from cool hues of green to warm golds and reds.

The harvest begins in earnest now. That brings up another contradiction. In many parts of Delmarva tourist traffic is now replaced by farm traffic. For better or worse both are essential to the collective livelihood of our region. People come here because they love the wide open rural spaces. Once they get here they don't like the cost of that beauty. Farming is hard work that doesn't always sound or smell so pretty. But among other things, without the farms our spaces would not be open. And so, just as we adjust our clothing to the dropping temperatures, we can adjust to what may be for some seasonal unpleasantness.

Fall is a good time to learn how to live with change in general. We know there will be changes in our lives. Yet, we cannot ever fully anticipate exactly when they will happen or what impact they will have. So much energy can be lost when we try to resist change rather than figuring out how to make it work for us.

Gandhi said that we should try to be the change we wish to see. It's good advice. As the winds of change begin to blow, we can either look for the opportunities they bring, or curse the cold. Each change holds the promise of an unexpected gift if only we will look for it. Delmarva's fall landscape is evidence of this. No two days are alike. There is great splendor in the continuing transformation taking place here - outside and inside.

Delmarva History This Month

October 4, 1638 - Lord Baltimore forbid all citizens of Virginia and Maryland from trading with the native peoples of the lower Eastern Shore.

October 1, 1664 - Dutch & Swedish settlers in the Delaware region agree to swear allegiance to British King Charles II.

October 27, 1682 - William Penn landed in America for the first time near New Castle Delaware's Battery Park.

October 22, 1722 - A Peace Treaty was signed between the Assateague & Pocomoke Indians, & Lord Charles Calvert, Governor of Maryland.

October 24, 1787 - Two petitions were brought before the Delaware General Assembly. One supported the ratification of the new U.S. Constitution. The other sought to establish the United States capitol in Delaware.

October 16, 1798 - Warner Mifflin died. He was an early American legislator from Delaware who petitioned the U.S. Congress to have slavery made illegal in the new Constitution.

October 28, 1850 - The Brandywine Lighthouse, located seven miles off shore from Lewes, Delaware, was lit for the first time.

October 10, 1891 - Six seamen were killed when President Benjamin Harrison's official yacht, the Despatch, was wrecked in a storm off of Assateague Island.

October 26, 1899 - Birth date of William Julius "Judy" Johnson, the first Delawarean elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

October 8-10, 1903 - A tropical storm ravaged Ocean City, Maryland destroying several properties including two hotels.

October 8, 1916 - The first boat went through the Lewes & Rehoboth Canal authorized by U.S. River and Harbor Act of 1912. Digging began on 5 Nov. 1913.

October 17, 1964 - Cape Henlopen State Park was dedicated.

October 1996 - Fish with deep, bloody lesions were first reported in the Pocomoke River. This was later identified as Pfiesteria a toxic disease said to affect fish, humans, and other animals.

October 14, 2008 - The historic lightship Overfalls was towed from Lewes, Delaware, north through the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal and then south again through the bay to be repaired in Norfolk, Virginia.

The Garden Of Good Living
There's Plenty To Do & Enjoy In The Fall Garden
by Pat Hendrickson

Fall is a time to enjoy great color the Delmarva garden. It's also a very busy time preparing the garden for both winter and next spring.

- If you're using pruners on infected materials, be sure to clean them before moving on to the next plant. Dip them in a solution of one part bleach to nine parts water.
- If there is no disease present, leaves and small twigs can be used to build up your compost. Leaves of perennials and trees are perfect for building up a really rich compost to mix into your flower beds come springtime.
- When cutting back many of your woody perennials, leave a stem of at least six inches so that you know where they are in the early spring. For all other perennials, mark them with stakes.
- Add a 3" layer of mulch to those parts of your garden that are particularly exposed to the harsh winter elements. This will help keep winter weeds down and possibly bring back some of those plants that might not normally winter over.
- Pull summer annuals, collecting seeds if possible.
- Plant Spring bulbs, peonies, poppies and irises.
- Dig up and store tender bulbs such as elephant ears, begonias and caladium.
- Divide and transplant perennials and ground covers.
- Plant bare-root trees, shrubs, ground covers and vines
- Stop cutting roses. Good time to transplant roses and/or plant bare-root roses.

In my world, there is a lot of confusion about when to fertilize in the garden. The following links give a clear picture of how fertilizing works and why it is beneficial to trees and shrubs:

http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/fertilize_woody.html

<http://www.thisoldhouse.com/toh/article/0,,198603.00.html>

Great shrubs for a colorful Fall:

Burning Bush

Red Chokeberry

Viking Black Chokeberry

Sumac

Virginia Creeper

Blue Mist Shrub (Caryopteris)

Fothergilla

Oakleaf Hydrangea

Witch Hazel (hamamelis virginiana)

'Tor' Spirea

Blackhaw Viburnum

Virginia Sweetpire

Rhythms' & Tides

Delmarva's Crisp Beautiful Fall Weather

Fishing begins to calm – though rock fish (stripers) can still be had in a variety of places from coastal inlets to just north of Kiptopeke on the Chesapeake Bay. Deer season for bow hunters is well under way.

Outdoors there is much to see. Butterflies are still enjoying fall flowers. The marsh is alive with the red of the Virginia Glasswort plant (also locally called chicken's feet) and the Lady's Thumb sport pink buds with bright red stems. Look for the usual birds like Blue Heron and gulls. But remember, not all sea birds are the same breed. At first glance the Forseter's Terns below look like gulls. In woods and along field keep your eyes peeled for wild turkey. After all the wet weather we've had it seems there are plenty of mushrooms. Even if they are ruining your yard they are cool to look at.

Sunrise & Sunset

Sunrise at the beginning of the month: 6:57am

Sunrise at the end of the month: 7:29am

Sunset at the beginning of the month: 6:43pm

Sunset at the end of the month: 5:59pm

Moon Phases

October 4 - Full Moon

October 18 - New Moon

Names for the Moon - Blood Moon, Falling Leaf Moon, Moon of the Changing Season

Other Sky Events

October 13 - Venus and Saturn will appear very close together in the early morning sky.

October 20-24 - Orionids Meteor Shower: These can best be seen in the east after midnight.

November 1 - Daylight Savings Time Ends - Fall Back 1 Hour at 2am.

Celestial Navigation

by Valerie Morrissey

This month's sign, Libra is a masculine sign, but very refined, and ruled by Venus. They like art, poetry, dance and music, and their homes are beautifully decorated. At some time in life they study painting, sculpture, choral or instrumental music or dance. They enjoy going to the movies, the theatre and museums.

They are gentle, easy-going and a little bit flakey. Some of them come across as "airheads," which is appropriate since this is an air sign. The flower children of the sixties are very much like the archetypal Libra. They like peace and harmony and want everyone to get along. They don't lose their tempers very often and are usually calm and laid back people. They can't deal with tantrums or any kind of disagreement.

Librans weigh everything carefully before making a choice or judgment. Some of them take a long time to make up their minds because they like everything to be perfect, whether it's a choice of paint colors or a business decision. They sometimes find themselves caught in the middle, helping people work out their differences. They make good counselors, mediators, lawyers and judges. Finding the balance is a recurring theme throughout the life of a Libra.

REMINDER: These character delineations might not necessarily describe you Librans to the letter, and the same advice goes for all the zodiac signs. If you have say, Scorpio rising for example, you may have a much more scorpion-like take on things. Or you might have a different, more detached emotional nature if you have an Aquarius moon. This is why it's a good idea to have your chart drawn up correctly. It's interesting to see where certain sign characteristics show up in your own unique personality.

Aries (Born between March 21 - April 19)

Scroll down and read about Libra! The aspects of Mercury, Venus, Saturn and Pluto will affect relationships and have an influence over Aries, Cancer and Capricorn. You will be impatient and frustrated for a few days. With Mars moving into Leo, however, this will be very good for creative outlets. Put your energy into a big project or sports activity. The day of the Full moon, the 4th, could be a very productive day for you.

Taurus (Born between April 20 - May 19)

Some of you will enjoy visits and social events, even romance, because of Mercury and Venus in your house of romance during the first half of the month. Later, because of Mars, there will be an increase in activities around the home, such as repairs, yard work or planning an open house, with Halloween coming and an atmosphere of celebration. Your life will be centered around tending to the home fires now.

Gemini (Born between May 20 - June 20)

With various planets going through Libra, you may be invited to parties or football games starting at the middle of the month. Others may look up to you for your experience and original ideas. Children's activities are highlighted and you may be asked to coach or take charge. Plan a Halloween party. Get out your Elvira wig. Decorate, make food, help with the costumes, really get into the festive, creative aspect of it.

Cancer (Born between June 21 - July 22)

Mars is here until the 16th, so take advantage of the energy rush and get as much done as you can. Later with the planets in Libra, memories of the distant past will be brought to mind. There could be a family reunion or gathering of childhood friends. You might be asked to look after a parent or relative. Old issues can be settled now. Cycles will come to an end. The New moon on the 18th is a good day to move into a new home.

Leo (Born between July 23 - August 21)

With Mars arriving this month, you are in for an interesting eight month period. Yes! Because of an upcoming retrograde, Mars will be here until early next June! So you will have lots of creative energy. Start gearing up for long-term projects requiring imagination, ingenuity and hard work. This will be very exciting for anyone in the arts, children's activities, sports or entertainment areas. Also very good for fertility, for Leos, so if you are hoping to expand your family, plan for a new little arrival.

Virgo (Born between August 22 - September 22)

Saturn is winding down his visit to your sign, and you will feel a sense of relief this month. Certain things which have weighed you down will lift now, and you can breathe easier. Others will come to your aid and take over some of the responsibility. During the first half the month you can relax a little, take a short vacation, go on a romantic date or spend some time with friends. Take better care of yourself now.

Libra (Born between September 23 - October 22)

Mercury and Venus come in this month, followed by Saturn later on the 29th. They move into a square with Pluto so things could be difficult for some people, for about a week. Normally this should be a happy time. Relationships will be affected, mainly around the 11th-17th, with misunderstandings and control issues. Don't try to press your partner into doing something he/she doesn't want. When Saturn arrives for a two-year visit, at the end of the month, there may be pressure from authority, new responsibilities and developments bringing irreversible change. But Saturn is exalted here, and this may bring a capacity to sustain relationships, commitment and loyalty.

Scorpio (Born between October 23 - November 21)

Because Mars is moving into your career house, Leo, you will have a strong urge to exalt yourself or push for change in your status. It might be a simple matter of a promotion with added responsibilities. You may have come to this position because you earned it, or it's time for a change and the grass looks greener somewhere else. Also others may challenge you or try to compete, so be on the lookout for those coyotes.

Sagittarius (Born between November 22 - December 21)

Some of you may see changes in your circle of friends. Groups or clubs you belong to may disband, or some people will move away. Because of Mars, you may have a chance to travel, so go for it. You will have the wanderlust. Also this is a very good time to go back to school or take up a new hobby. Learn how to speak a new language or take flying lessons. Opportunities, grants or financial aid may come your way.

Capricorn (Born between December 22 - January 20)

You may be under pressure from your partner or your friends, or you may want to have your own way about something. Be reasonable. This feeling will only last about a week, luckily. Saturn entering Libra on the 29th brings a new kind of pressure. Don't be discouraged by this, Goats can handle this transit better than anyone else and can accomplish a great deal under its influence. This is how diamonds are made!

Aquarius (Born between January 21 - February 19)

Jupiter is sitting pretty at 17° of Aquarius all month, and begins his direct motion on the 13th. Some Water bearers are very comfortable at this time, all affairs going well in their favor. There is still a dreamy, idealistic feeling in the air because of Neptune, but this is fine. You should keep writing down your dreams, any unusual inspirations, for they could burst into flower later on and lead to great accomplishments.

Pisces (Born between February 20 - March 20)

Uranus has slowed down to almost a standstill here. Continue to develop new ideas and inventions. Get ready for things to pick up tempo in the next few months. During the first half of the month, things are looking good for business negotiations, as well as marriage and romance. You might meet nice Virgo partners now. This is the best time to plan a wedding or a romantic getaway, if that's what you have in mind.

Holidays & Observances This Month

October 2 - World Farm Animals Day

October 3 - World Temperance Day

October 3 to October 9 - Sukkot (Judaism)

October 5 - World Teacher's Day

October 10 - World Mental Health Day

- Shmini Atzeret (Judaism)

October 11 - Simkhat Torah (Judaism)

- National Coming Out Day

October 14 - Peace Corps Birthday

October 17 - International Day to End Poverty

Deepavali (Hindu Festival of Light)

October 24 - United Nations Day

October 29 - International Internet Day

October 31 - Halloween

November 1 - Daylight Savings Time Ends

Fall Back 1 Hour

This Month's Flower - Calendula, Cosmos

This Month's Birthstone - Opal or Tourmaline

This is:

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month

National Breast Cancer Month

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](http://delmarva-almanac.com)

Resources for some of the information contained in this publication include:

<http://www.archive.org>

<http://archives.delaware.gov>

<http://en.wikipedia.org>

<http://www.msa.md.gov>

<http://www.e-referencedesk.com>

<http://www.loc.gov>

<http://www.vahistorical.org>

<http://www.historiclewes.org>

<http://www.ocmuseum.org>

<http://www.noaa.gov>

<http://www.earthcalendar.net>

<http://article.archive.nytimes.com>

<http://www.skyandtelescope.com>

<http://www.seasky.org>

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