

DELMARVA ALMANAC

November 2009

Between The Shore Lines

Ending Up In A Place Called Gratitude

About this time last year, I had just committed myself to starting this publication. One of its missions was to celebrate the beautiful Delmarva landscape: north from Wilmington, west to the Chesapeake, east to the Atlantic, and south to Cape Charles.

At the time, the current financial crisis was just beginning. We were in the midst of a difficult though ultimately historic national election. And, I had just become aware that one more person I cared about, among several, was facing a serious illness. I was beginning to question whether it was a good time to begin a new business venture.

None the less I found myself headed west one day, to get pictures of Fall on the Chesapeake. I drove around to a number of spots until I ended up in a tiny little place I had never heard of before. It was called Gratitude. I only took a couple of decent pictures there because I was a little overwhelmed by the realization that I had found myself - completely unintentionally - in such a poetic and strangely coincidental place to be. God was reminding me to be grateful for the beautiful world I live in and *any* time I had with people I love.

I also took it to be a sign not be afraid to risk sailing the uncharted waters of a new endeavor. Indeed the last year has been a struggle personally and professionally. But there have been successes, and I have been lucky enough to experience many beautiful moments along the way.

I keep learning that the journey in itself is a blessing.

So, I will keep going back to that place called Gratitude - no matter where I am.

Delmarva History This Month

November 3, 1686 - Property for Askiminikonsen Indian reservation on the Pocomoke River west of Snow Hill, Maryland was surveyed but not recorded officially so it would not legally belong to the Indians.

November 1704 - The first Assembly of Delaware's counties was convened in New Castle.

November 2, 1732 - Birth date of John Dickinson in Talbot County, Maryland. Dickinson was elected President of Delaware in 1781. He initially objected to American Independence but he was eventually one of the framers of the Constitution.

November 30, 1782 - Volunteers from Onancock attacked British ships off Hog Island, Virginia in order to stop the plundering of American ships and the local fishing fleet.

November 1855 - Death of Kitty Knight who single handedly convinced British troops not to burn homes in Georgetown, Maryland during the War of 1812.

November 19, 1861 - New York Times reported that 4,000 troops arrived in Accomack, Virginia, from Newtown in Worcester County, Maryland to put down rebel insurgents.

November 1, 1864 - Maryland slaves were emancipated by State Constitution of 1864

November 13, 1904 - During a late season hurricane the schooner Robert J. Poulson went down one-half mile southwest of Hog Island, Virginia.

November 13, 1926 - Harry Hughes, Maryland governor (1979-1987) was born in Easton.

November 1933 - A white mob lynched a black prisoner in Princess Anne, Maryland.

The Garden Of Good Living

Winter Preparations For The Eastern Shore Garden

by Pat Hendrickson

Here we are in the midst of the beautiful autumn months where weather is uncertain and changes abound. Annuals are giving up to mums, asters, golden rod and ornamental grasses, while trees are starting to show their amazing colors and birds begin their migration to places south.

I have some wonderful fall blooming flowers: Beautyberry bush (*callicarpa Americana*), Hardy Ageratum (*eupatorium coelestinum*), and Obedient plant (*physostegia virginiana*) that survived the blow from those

little Nor'easters we've had in the past couple of months, but the two deciduous trees we have will not be treating us to the surprise of fall colors. What leaves have been left behind are torn to shreds.

Fortunately, the buds on the Magnolia 'Anne' have set, but I'm not sure about the Redbud we planted this past spring to mark the new gravesite of our sweet dog Rudy. Because the Redbud is new to the neighborhood, I'll worry until spring about whether it will survive.

The best I can do is put down a generous layer of Leafgro and pine needles to protect the roots from extreme temperature fluctuations that cause damage through constant thaw and freeze cycles. Whether using pine needles, wood chip, or mulch, 3 to 4 inches around the base of the tree or shrub should get them through a long, cold winter. Be sure to keep the mulch/chip from touching the base of the tree or shrub. This can very easily cause fungus to grow, and eventually creep underneath the bark.

Because the thaw and freeze cycle can also cause young bark to split, I will be dressing my Redbud with burlap to protect it from the possibility of extreme weather temperatures and severe winds. The bark and cambium heat up and expand during the warm, sunny hours of the day and contract with the drop in temperature at night, which can cause the tissue in young trees to split. To avoid this, buy a roll of tree wrap or burlap and, starting from the base of the tree, wrap the material around the trunk, overlapping by a half inch or more, until you reach the lower branches of your sapling. To keep the material in place, use loose twine.

Gardeners seem to have a soft spot for birds, and are always willing to help them along their way south, or to help those that stay through the winter. For homemade birdfeeders, visit:

http://www.essortment.com/all/homemadebirdfe_rtbv.htm
<http://familyfun.go.com/crafts/make-recycled-bird-feeder-710474/>
<http://www.motherearthnews.com/Nature-Community/2006-03-01/Make-a-Homemade-Bird-Feeder.aspx>

You get the idea. I know there are two sides to the argument about putting out bird feeders when there are pet cats around. But I've been told by birders and bird rescuers alike that if you put the feeder up high, the birds should be safe. It's the seed that drops on the ground that can prove to be the bird's final meal. So, a wire mesh barrier below the feeder will help to keep the predator away from the bird, as suggested in the following article, Bird Feeding Basics, at <http://www.umext.maine.edu/onlinepubs/htmlpubs/7124.htm>

Rhythms' & Tides

November Brings Wild Fowl & Nor'Easters

November brings Nor'easters. They are usually a three day blow with lots of wind, rain, and high tides. It also brings ducks, Canada geese, and by the end of the month their pals the snowies. There are still plenty of good boating days. Fishing is light but oysters can now be harvested in most bays.

Deer will be in mating season this month culminating with the annual rifle season at month's end. That means they will be all over our roads. Be careful hiking this time of year. Avoid posted hunting areas and wear bright colored clothes.

A recent trip to the southernmost reaches of the peninsula I was rewarded with the site of this Merlin falcon. I went hoping to see flocks of migrating Monarchs - which can be seen in October. But I only saw just this one and this old and scruffy Red spotted purple butterfly.

Another interesting site among the usual fall color are these wild persimmons which are native to the area. Also closer to home, this heron must be getting used to me as this is the closest I have gotten to him.

Sunrise & Sunset

Sunrise at the beginning of the month: 6:35am
Sunrise at the end of the month: 7:06am
Sunset at the beginning of the month: 5:05pm
Sunset at the end of the month: 4:44pm

Moon Phases

November 2 - Full Moon
November 16 - New Moon
Names for the Moon - Dark Moon, Fog Moon, Beaver Moon, Moon of Storms

Delmarva Sky Events This Month

November 12 – Northern Taurids meteor shower peak

November 17 - Leonids meteor shower peak

Celestial Navigation

by Valerie Morrissey

November is the month of Scorpio, symbolized by the scorpion, who has a stinger in his tail. This is a fixed, feminine water sign, ruled by Pluto, and in ancient tradition, Mars. Scorpions are subtle and secretive in their approach to things, and like to remain in the shadows. They don't let the rest of the world know their business, and tend to be quiet or anti-social. If you want to keep a secret, it will be safe with a Scorpio. If he is in a bad humor, he will snap at you, and you will definitely feel the sting.

But Scorpions are not as scary as they seem. They are sincere, loyal and consistent in their efforts. You will always have a steadfast friend in Scorpio if you are on the level with them. They make good detectives, spies, researchers, psychoanalysts, archaeologists and geologists.

Scorpions are noted for being strongly passionate lovers. They also have an unsavory reputation for revenge. They are magnetic, intense, powerful, profound, calm but with a volcano beneath the surface. They like to have tight control over their affairs.

A Scorpio's passion can be expressed in different ways. A man can become either a playboy or a priest. Both men and women have the power to seduce, but if committed to a vow, they will remain staunchly celibate.

If he has revenge on his mind, he saves it for another time when the intended recipient will get the full impact, which includes the element of surprise. He can hold a grudge for years if he has a good reason. He must overcome this urge and cultivate forgiveness. If Scorpio can direct his passion into the right channels he can accomplish great things.

Aries (Born between March 21 - April 19)

You will be preoccupied with relationships this month. Some will be out prowling, looking for love, since the adventurer Mars is in your house of love affairs. There is a lot of socializing going on for you. Others are setting up housekeeping or thinking about serious commitment. It's all good. This month is a good time to get engaged. You will have the urge to settle down and start a family, over the next two years.

Taurus (Born between April 20 - May 19)

Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Neptune are shaking things up and different areas of your life may be affected. There may be a conflict between your home life and your career. Your family might need you at home but you have to work late, for example. Also, keep an eye on what your colleagues are doing and make sure they are honest. Add to that the Scorpio New Moon on the 16th, which will make the whole picture change considerably.

Gemini (Born between May 20 - June 20)

Since Saturn has moved into your house of children, some may become new parents in the next two years. You will be more involved with your children, such as in directing and attending sports activities. Young people in your life will ask you for advice. If you are in a creative field, this will be a good time for organizing and laying the groundwork for something big. Later, some will focus on their marriages or partnerships.

Cancer (Born between June 21 - July 22)

Because of Saturn, more projects in the house, or more responsibilities. These are things you want to check off the honey-do list. Life takes on a more serious hue now. But you get great satisfaction out of seeing a task completed, so this will not be a bleak period. With both Full and New Moons in Scorpio, you may see more action in the romance dept. Aspects to Uranus in your travel house could mean an invitation to travel.

Leo (Born between July 23 - August 21)

You are entering an active creative period and good ideas come easily to you. Successful projects can be initiated now. Mars moves into opposition to Jupiter/Neptune at month's end, briefly squared by Venus.

You are susceptible to shady schemes. Look before you leap in everything. You are enthusiastic, reckless and impulsive. Some Leos could meet a soul mate, or a lover who is not all he makes himself out to be, so beware.

Virgo (Born between August 22 - September 22)

You should have a nice, quiet, relaxing month. If you have recently lived under great stress, since Saturn was here, you should be feeling much lighter now, and in a more cheery mood. You may devote some attention to your finances, such as reviewing your accounts and setting up new ones, but of course, on your own terms. Neighborhood gatherings are on the agenda. Go out and have some fun, you're long overdue.

Libra (Born between September 23 - October 22)

While Venus is here early in the month, try to find the beauty in life. Explore your creative selves, paint, play music, go to museums or on nature walks. Do whatever makes you feel good, also nurture your relationships. With Saturn here, some of you will have issues with authorities or feel the weight of life hard on your shoulders. Don't be too discouraged, you will learn a lot during this period. Be strong, be patient, have faith.

Scorpio (Born between October 23 - November 21)

Since this is your month to shine, with the Sun here, you will get more attention. This is your busiest time of year. Your friends come calling, and new relationships will develop. There will be new business contacts, romance, creative brilliance, etc. There will be excitement and intrigue, with Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Neptune added to the mix. Note the Full Moon Nov. 2 and the New Moon Nov.16, these will be high energy days.

Sagittarius (Born between November 22 - December 21)

With Mercury and the Sun here in the last week of the month, you will see an increase in communications of all kinds. Letters, calls, emails, many people will want to talk to you. It will be great for business and favors travel for sales, meetings, deliveries and so forth, especially with Mars in your travel house. In fact, travel for pleasure and adventure is also favored. These aspects are also good for discovery, study and research.

Capricorn (Born between December 22 - January 20)

Now that Saturn and Pluto are in a compromising position, you may feel like you are between a rock and a hard place. Get ready for some serious hard work. Your labors are long and you get home late at night. There is pressure from employers or authorities. However, fear not! You have drive and determination. Goats thrive in this condition. They are the toughest sign of the zodiac and never lose sight of their goals.

Aquarius (Born between January 21 - February 19)

Mars in Leo is giving you a run for your money in the coming weeks. You tend to clash with people, particularly with spouses or anyone who doesn't go for your way of doing things. Plan on defending your ideas, be as outspoken as you want, and also check out your opponents to see if they are being straight with you. Even though it is a challenging time, it could be very exciting and your vision for the future could bear fruit.

Pisces (Born between February 20 - March 20)

Uranus is stationary/direct on the 30th. This may not affect everyone, but it could stimulate great excitement, sudden events and sweeping changes. You may get a feeling of release, that your affairs may now move forward, if you had problems progressing before. Some of you will have very important dreams or psychic visions. Write them down. Because of Venus, you may travel for romance and pleasure this month. Hmm!

Holidays & Observances This Month

November 1 - Samhain (Celtic)
November-1 - All Saints' Day (Christian)
November 2 - All Souls' Day (Christian)
November 11 - Matinmas (Christian-Celtic)
November 11 - Veterans Day
November 15 - America Recycles Day
November 22 - National Stop the Violence Day
November 26 - Thanksgiving Day
November-26 - Day of the Covenant (Baha'i)
November 30 - St. Andrew's Day (Christian)

This is:
American Indian Heritage Month
Addiction Awareness Month
Alzheimer's Awareness Month
Diabetes Awareness Month
Epilepsy Awareness Month
Great American Smokeout Month
Hospice Month
America Recycles Month

This Month's Flower - Chrysanthemum
This Month's Birthstone - Topaz, Citrine

*The 3rd Week of November is
American Education Week*

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://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.noaa.gov>
<http://www.earthcalendar.net>
<http://www.skyandtelescope.com>
<http://www.seasky.org>

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