

DELMARVA ALMANAC

January 2010

Between The Shore Lines

There's No Place Like Home On Delmarva

by Dana Kester-McCabe

"...if I ever go looking for my heart's desire again, I won't look any further than my own back yard.

Because if it isn't there, I never really lost it to begin with!"

~ Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz by Frank L. Baum

I am the first to tell you that Delmarva is a great place to get out and explore. But during January when temperatures and energy are low I really appreciate my own back yard.

The field behind my house is such a simple thing. I look out my window at it every day. At first glance there isn't much to see. It isn't very large. There isn't a body of water within view. But looking at that field is never boring. The changes each season brings make it beautiful all year long.

Where I live, I don't have to drive very far to enjoy the views of the ocean and inland bays. But here from the comfort of my office there are many treasures just outside my back door. Even when tree branches and the ground itself are bare, there is much to see.

Rabbits come out to enjoy the farmer's efforts. Fox and hawks hunt them and other small creatures. Deer hover timidly along the forest's edge. Turkey also linger where they can make a safe retreat.

At this time of year, between the house and the field, the feeder attracts finches while flickers watch from above. Flowers in spring and the lush greenery of summer are something to look forward from the warmth of indoors.

Just about every evening as the sun sets behind the woods, the sky provides a magnificent show. And when night has fallen and I go out to greet the moon and stars, I look up into a great sparkling emptiness. It is not a lonely place. This simple field is a place of peace where I can feel truly connected to the universe.

None of us need really travel very far to find this tranquility. If we only look out our own window, or perhaps even simply in our own heart, there is a place like this for each of us. It costs nothing to look, but the view is priceless.

Delmarva History This Month

January 4, 1650 - Henry Norwood and eleven others were left ashore near Fenwick Island, Delaware, by the sailing vessel The Virginia Merchant

January 1, 1808 - Importation of slaves into America is banned by the US Constitution

January 16 1877 - Maryland-Virginia boundary in lower Chesapeake Bay demarcated by Black-Jenkins Award which was upheld as late as 2003 by the US Supreme Court.

January 7, 1789 - George Washington was elected as the first President

January 7, 1883 - The Albert Dailey Smith wrecked off Smith Island Station, Virginia in a dense fog

January 10, 1883 - Fifty Rescued at Green Run Inlet, on Assateague Island when the Sallie W.

Kaye wrecked off of Ocean City, Maryland

January 20, 1915 - US Coast Guard created

The Garden Of Good Living

Taking Stock For A New Year Of Gardening

by Dana Kester-McCabe

Miss Pat became a first time grandmother this past month so she is taking some time off to enjoy the new young'un. She'll be back next month. And since there is not too much to do outside right now, this time around we will rely on online experts to learn about what went wrong in last year's garden.

Anyone who has a garden or is trying to learn to garden knows which of their plants did not make it last season. Something that looked lush and lovely in the catalog or garden center simply did not survive in our little patch of earth. The trick is to figure out where we went wrong.

1. Where did your plant come from?

Some gardeners avoid big box stores which bring in plants from all over. Specimens from larger growers can come with almost no root stock. Whatever their method is, it looks good in the store, but it is sometimes difficult to keep these plants alive. So what's a gardener to do? Believe it or not many chain stores are trying to provide locally grown annuals and perennials. As with anything else check the labels.

At least once a year search out a local nursery and buy direct from them. They can tell you more than what those little plastic stakes say about the care and feeding of their merchandise. And they are more likely to have native plants which will do better in your garden anyway. And don't forget that many Eastern Shore environmental groups have native plant sales in early May.

2. What are some questions I should ask when seeking help for my plant's problem?

- Is this plant simply not meant to grow in my area?
- Is the soil in my garden right for this plant, and how can I improve it?
- How much watering does this plant usually need?
- Would this plant do better in a pot or in the ground?
- How much sun does this plant need?
- Does this plant need to be fertilized?
- What diseases and pests is this plant prone to - and how can I address them?

3. What resources are available to solve my plants' problems?

At the links below you can find information about disease and special care for garden plants. If that does not help, you can always get help from local growers, master gardeners, or friends. Before going to the nursery, logging onto an online forum, or calling a radio show, it helps to have the following information:

- a. Name of the plant
- b. Location of your garden (and its hardiness zone)
- c. Amount of sun and wind your plant got
- d. Description of the soil conditions
- e. Description of the plant's symptoms or problems

Educational Links

- Dave's Garden
<http://davesgarden.com>
- Delaware Master Gardener
<http://delawaremastergardener.blogspot.com>
- Delmarva Hardiness Zones
<http://delmarva-almanac.com/index.php/site/gardenmap/>
- Garden Guides
<http://www.gardenguides.com>
- The Garden Helper
<http://www.thegardenhelper.com>
- Herb Gardening Guide
<http://herbgardening.com>
- Lower Shore Land Conservancy Native Plant List
<http://delmarva-almanac.com/printables2009/NativeMDPlants-LSLT4-29-09.pdf>
- Lower Eastern Shore Master Gardener Program Coordinator: Ginny Rosenkranz
Phone: 410-749-6141 - E-mail: rosnkrnz@umd.edu
- Maryland Cooperative Extension - Plant Diagnostics
<http://plantdiagnostics.umd.edu/>
- Questions Answered by Mike McGrath of NPR's You Bet Your Garden Show
http://www.gardensalive.com/article_mcgrath.asp?ai=4&bhcd2=1262264100
- Virginia Master Gardeners

<http://www.vmqa.net>

Commercial Sites With Extensive Information On Plants & Plant Care

- Burpee Seeds and Plants
<http://www.burpee.com>
- Easy Bloom
<http://easybloom.com>
- Jackson and Perkins
<http://www.JacksonandPerkins.com>
- Spring Hill Nursery
<http://springhillnursery.com>
- Territorial Seed Company
<http://www.territorialseed.com>

Rhythms' & Tides

Oooo Baby It's Cold Outside!!

You must be either very well prepared or very tough or both, to enjoy birding, hunting, or fishing during January on the Shore. Rockfish continue to lure anglers onto the water. Just the other day in Worcester County duck hunters and kayakers could be seen out breaking the ice. Brrrrr....

More ducks have arrived including these widgeons and gadwalls. Buffleheads are very common. Swans can often be seen year round across the Shore. These were spotted recently in Neavitt, Maryland.

Kingfishers working the local waters, and killdeer are common sights and fun to watch. And of course the ubiquitous great Blue heron still looks grand on these snow covered branches.

Sunrise & Sunset

Sunrise at the beginning of the month: 7:20am

Sunset at the beginning of the month: 4:53pm

Sunrise at the end of the month: 7:08am

Sunset at the end of the month: 5:24pm

Moon Phases

Moon rise at the beginning of the month: 6:09pm

Moon set at the beginning of the month: 8:03am

Moon rise at the end of the month: 7:31pm

Moon set at the end of the month: 7:49am

January 15 - New Moon

Names for the Moon - Chaste Moon, Cold Moon,

January 30 - Full Moon

Moon of Little Winter, Quiet Moon, Snow Moon, Wolf Moon

Other Sky Events

January 1-5 - Quadrantids Meteor Shower. Peaks on the 3rd & 4th, best seen after midnight radiating from the constellation Bootes.

January 29 - Mars will be at its closest to Earth and fully illuminated by the Sun making this is the best time to view and photograph Mars.

Celestial Navigation

by Valerie Morrissey

This month our featured sign is Capricorn. A feminine earth sign ruled by Saturn, the Goat is reserved, plain and prefers to be the power behind the throne. Although he is not showy or flashy, he is a force to be reckoned with, and enjoys the limelight when that day comes. Quiet determination is the best phrase to describe this sign. The Goat, although passive in nature, is very ambitious. He or she will start at the bottom and work hard for years to reach CEO or build a profitable business.

Success and achievement usually come later in life. Even a Capricorn woman, if raising a family, will work a part time job in her preferred field and eventually rise to rule it. Or she will work to exalt her husband, if he is in high corporate circles or politics.

It is typical for a Capricorn to have few resources but go a long way with what he has been dealt. These people know how to endure. In love, they are picky, and choose lovers and partners very carefully. They don't mess around with casual relationships. In health matters, they are prone to broken bones or bad teeth, but are resilient and can live to a ripe old age even with handicaps.

They are conservative, patient, practical and don't require much of a fancy lifestyle. When they have achieved their goals and a life of comfort, they prefer dark, earthy colors, sensible furniture and lots of real estate. After all, this is an earth sign. They would rather have a 200 acre horse farm and L.L. Bean, than a penthouse suite and Saks Fifth Avenue. Some Goats also enjoy gardening and have a real green thumb. Realtors, stockbrokers, mathematicians, retail merchandisers, politicians, architects, office managers and mountain climbers are found under Capricorn.

Aries (Born between March 21 - April 19)

Because of all the activity in Capricorn most of you are focused on careers and new directions. Communications may be confusing or slow, but this is for a good reason. Be patient, for good things will happen in due time. Now is when you do your homework, make plans, listen to people around you, understand the prevailing winds of change. Watch the 14th or 15th, you can make more progress after that time.

Taurus (Born between April 20 - May 19)

You may have business abroad. Or a winter vacation is in the plans. Travel is favored during the first half of the month, or if you aren't going anywhere, news and communications from the other side of the country. This is also a good time to take college courses, and discover a new hobby or field of interest, if you are looking to make a change. Something that will open your eyes and transform your world in some way.

Gemini (Born between May 20 - June 20)

Money and property issues need to be addressed, especially if you are married and have shared assets. Start a little early this year with your tax return, it will be to your advantage. With retrograde Mercury, go through your papers, sort out, get organized. Some may see an unexpected promotion or transfer in your job. Some may receive help or kind favors from a older person or teacher. Gemini girls may date older men.

Cancer (Born between June 21 - July 22)

Around the 14th, some projects may slow down or be put on hold. This is not a bad thing, for readjustments may be necessary. Jupiter moves into Pisces on the 18th, and this will be very helpful to Moon children. In the next year, opportunities to study or travel will present themselves, and financial aid will be there if you need it. If you are in difficulty, Jupiter will ease the situation. Your health will improve.

Leo (Born between July 23 - August 21)

Mars is retrograde here until March, so plan on staying inside and taking inventory this winter. This is a good time to go over unfinished business or projects from the back burner and decide whether to dispense with them. You can also figure out better ways to conserve your energies and get more done. Practice meditation. For some of you, a little self-analysis couldn't hurt and old aggressive behaviors can tamed and transformed.

Virgo (Born between August 22 - September 22)

Many of you could see changes in the marriage department next year. If you are in an unhappy relationship, you might get the urge to move out and seek new adventures. Or you may be away from home more, perhaps traveling for work. Or your partner may be the one. Both of you will have to be flexible and understanding. If unattached, you could meet and marry an exciting new partner, and possibly on impulse. Look before you leap!

Libra (Born between September 23 - October 22)

Because Saturn goes retrograde on the 14th, life will be rather slow and quiet now, and you might be bogged down in work or some care giving situation. You'll be at home a lot or otherwise stuck in one place. It's not a glamorous time, but you can accomplish so much that matters in the greater scheme of things. Give of yourself to others, it will come back to you multi-fold. After the 15th, a little fun, socializing and romance will come along to liven things up, so don't get discouraged. Relax and enjoy yourself!

Scorpio (Born between October 23 - November 21)

To some extent, you will have continued challenges from last month in your career, with Mars doing the moon walk in Leo. Frustration, irritation and annoying sycophants at work. You will be short on patience.

Scorpio hates schmoozing and ineptitude. Keep your plans secret. At the Full Moon on the 30th, there could be a break or a new development, which will serve your interests, so keep your cool until then.

Sagittarius (Born between November 22 - December 21)

Things are quieter now since last month's hectic agenda. In various areas progress will slow down, to a more normal pace. As with Leo, for example, you could use this time to reorganize your priorities, discard projects that didn't work out, change your plans. If you're a student, you might take a semester off or change your major. Some Sag people will consider a change in residence during the coming year.

Capricorn (Born between December 22 - January 20)

Check out Libra's forecast, the Saturn retrograde will apply to you. But with the Sun and Venus here during the first half, things should not be completely dismal. This month, you get more attention so put on your best outfit and a smile when you go out. Any recognition or approval you have coming to you should happen now. Be respectful and cooperative with superiors, no matter how oppressive they are. This works in your favor in the long run. With the New Moon on the 15th, you may be able to turn the page.

Aquarius (Born between January 21 - February 19)

Sun and Venus come marching in from the 18th on, then the Full Moon on the 30th, so it will be your turn to shine. Mars might cause some ripples or friction in relationships, but it will blow over quickly. Social events, romance, charities and group activities are favored and you will get more calls and emails. You will make new friends and be more attractive to the opposite sex. If you need a loan, this is a good time to ask.

Pisces (Born between February 20 - March 20)

Jupiter arrives on the 18th for the next year. In ancient tradition, he ruled this sign and so is very much at home here. The slings and arrows of Mars and Saturn won't do you much damage. No matter what other difficult aspects develop, Fishies should have helping hands when needed, and generally a cheerful, optimistic outlook on things, as well as spiritual inspiration. Enjoy life, spread the wealth, and be moderate in all things.

Holidays & Observances This Month

January 1 - New Year's Day - World Peace Day
January 4 - World Braille Day
January 5 - Twelfth Night of Christmas (Christian)
January 6 - Epiphany (Christian)
January 7 - Eastern Orthodox Christmas Day (Christian)

January 11 - International Thank You Day
January 15 - Tu B'Shevat New Year for Trees (Judaism)
January 16 - Religious Freedom Day
January 18 - Martin Luther King Day
January 19 - Eastern Orthodox Epiphany (Christian)

This is:

National Birth Defects Prevention Month
National Volunteer Blood Donor Month
National Book Month

This Month's Flower - Carnation, Snowdrop
This Month's Birthstone - Garnet

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

<http://archives.delaware.gov>
<http://www.earthcalendar.net>
<http://edsitement.neh.gov>
<http://en.wikipedia.org>
<http://www.e-referencedesk.com>
<http://www.historiclewes.org>
<http://www.holidaysmart.com>
<http://www.msa.md.gov>

<http://www.loc.gov>
<http://www.noaa.gov>
<http://www.ocmuseum.org>
<http://www.skyandtelescope.com>
<http://www.seasky.org>
<http://www.vahistorical.org>
<http://www.when-is.com>
<http://en.wikipedia.org>

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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