

DELMARVA ALMANAC

March 2010

Between The Shore Lines

Jonquil Anticipation

We can be sure that though March begins with remnants of snow still on the ground, there will be daffodils by month's end. And since we have had such a long and snowy winter, looking at last year's pictures of daffodils is definitely helping me to endure the wait for Spring's approach.

As an eternal optimist I enjoy Delmarva's landscape even at its most grey. During this time of year I also love those harbingers of spring: budding trees and tiny delicate wild flowers. But I am ready for some real color. Of course, the lovely crocus usually gets all the credit for announcing the warm weather. But you really know Spring is here with the arrival of daffodils along our countryside by the end of March

In Princess Anne, Maryland every year there is a Spring Daffodil Show. Local gardeners show their prize blooms. They come in all sizes and a host of golden hues. Each is a masterpiece in their own right. Daffodils (also known as the Jonquil or Narcissus) have been cultivated since ancient times and are valued in many countries. They are not native to our shores. They probably came to this country along with other bulbs carried by European settlers as early as the 17th or 18th century.

Now they can be seen across the region growing in gardens and wild places alike. It is most likely that those found in woods or along roadsides did not get there on their own. They are likely refugees from long forgotten garden beds or Easter gifts tossed aside once their blooms had faded.

So Daffodils like most of Delmarva's residents are immigrants - "come-here's." And like the daffodil we grow and thrive despite harsh conditions we might sometimes experience. It is a testament to our community that so many varieties bloom here. Like the daffodil each "variety" should be valued as a prize winning blossom with our own particular characteristics. Whether displayed in a sophisticated arrangement or dancing gently among the weeds and sticks we are all looking forward toward Spring's warm embrace.

Delmarva History This Month

March is Women's History Month.

March 25, 1634 - Maryland Day - The English ship the Ark and the Dove landed with English immigrants on St. Clements Island in southern Maryland.

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

March 28, 1785 - Mt. Vernon Compact was signed by Maryland & Virginia Commissioners creating an agreement on navigation and fishing in the tidewaters of the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay

March 24, 1820 - Berlin, Maryland native Commodore Stephen Decatur dies after losing a duel

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 10, 1913 - Dorchester County, Maryland native and abolitionist Harriet Tubman died. Tubman escaped slavery on Delmarva and was responsible for guiding many other slaves to freedom.

March 29, 1941 - Maryland ratified the Nineteenth Amendment granting women the right to vote, a symbolic gesture since though Maryland had rejected it women had enjoyed the right to vote since the US Constitution's 19th amendment passage in August of 1920.

March 6-8, 1962 - A Nor'easter ravaged the Delmarva Coast with tides five feet above normal in Ocean City, Maryland causing extensive damage along the coast.

The Garden Of Good Living:
Delmarva Landscape Essentials: The Bayberry
by Pat Hendrickson

During the last two days, I've noticed many Bayberries crushed, bent, and broken all along the roadsides, in peoples' yards, and in the woods. Fortunately, the Bayberry is a resilient native to our eastern shore area, and given time, will come back beautiful and bushy.

When we first built our home here, 27 years ago, we had an entire bank of Bayberry shrubs in our back yard. A lot of them were dug up in order to install our bulkhead and dock. I didn't think much of it at the time. I didn't know anything about what they were or how the birds depend on them, or that I could take the berries and release their rich fragrance throughout my home during the cold winter months.

It didn't take long for the Bayberry shrubs that remained to send out new growth from the roots, forming more shrubs that eventually became trees. Each week we would travel from the D. C. area to our weekend retreat. Over time, we noticed that our neighbor's elderly father would sit in amongst the Bayberries pruning them. He would methodically trim the lower branches from each of the shrubs, leaving a main trunk with a perfectly formed canopy. Today, we have Bayberry trees throughout our back yard that are 15 and 20 feet tall. We trim the tops every other year to keep them at the height we prefer, and to enjoy their full canopy of leaves.

Those trees have given us so much enjoyment. They are easily shaped to whatever needs we have - shade, an anchor for our hammock, nooks and crannies for bird boxes, food for the birds, and privacy from other houses.

If you have damaged Bayberry shrubs or trees, simply prune them back to below the damaged area, and watch them sprout in the spring. Thick trunks will take longer to come back to their previous shape, but they will come back.

If you don't own any Bayberries, you might want to try one or two in your yard. They are tolerant of salt spray, can help to stabilize coastline, make great hedges and woodland borders, provide year round shelter for animals, and are an important energy source for migrating swallows. Even resident birds such as quail, grouse, and songbirds depend on the berries for food. In fact birds that eat the berries don't fully digest - distributing the excremental seeds - helping to propagate the shrubs. The waxy coating on the berries was a favorite of colonial era settlers who used it to make candles.

The bayberry is an icon of the Delmarva landscape and a must in coastal native gardens.

Find out more online about bayberries:

http://efloras.org/florataxon.aspx?flora_id=1&taxon_id=121458

http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=mope6

<http://www.delawarewildflowers.org/plant.php?id=1315&mode=C>

<http://plants.usda.gov/java/nameSearch?mode=sciname&keywordquery=Morella+cerifera>

<http://www.garden.org/search?keyword=bayberry&q=search>

Rhythms' & Tides

As the weather warms in March so the urge grows to get outside for some fishing and birding.

On the Chesapeake Bay, in tributaries on the Upper Shore, and in Derrickson's Creek in Delaware shad is a lot of fun to catch but remember it's protected so it's catch and release only. The mackerel run begins this month on the Atlantic Ocean and Coastal Bays. And in the surf or along jetties look for young stripers. Just remember to watch the length which should be a minimum of 28 inches. Don't forget to register for your salt water fishing permit which is new this year, as well as local fresh water licenses. Check your state's DNR website for more information.

The birding has been very good in the last month in between snow storms. At the Ocean City inlet there is quite a variety of birds including Loons, Ruddy Turnstones, surf scooters and black scooters, loons and of course a variety of gulls. I caught this Oyster Catcher on Assawoman Bay.

Along inland ponds I have seen killdeer, and a number of ducks which I had not seen before including Red Heads and their lookalike cousins the Canvasback. Along with the usual mallards and black ducks can be seen American Widgeons or "Baldpates" and Ringneck ducks which are something new to add to my list.

Sunrise & Sunset

Sunrise at the beginning of the month: 6:34am
Sunrise at the end of the month: 6:49am

Sunset at the beginning of the month: 5:53pm
Sunset at the end of the month: 7:25pm

Moon Phases

March 15 - New Moon
March 31 - Full Moon

Moon rise at the beginning of the month: 7:29pm
Moon rise at the end of the month: 9:41pm

Moon set at the beginning of the month: 6:43am
Moon set at the end of the month: 7:16am

Names for the Moon - Crow Moon, Lenten Moon, Moon of Winds, Plow Moon, Renewal Month, Sap Moon, Seed Moon

Other Sky Events

March 14 - Daylight Saving - Set Clock Ahead 1 Hour

March 16 - Corona-Australid Meteors can be seen just 7 degrees above the horizon in the west. As many as 5-7 meteors can be seen streaking from south to north from it if the skies are clear.

March 22 - March Geminid Meteors should be viewed high overhead once the sky truly gets dark, but bright moonlight may obscure only the brightest.

March 22 - Saturn will be at its closest approach to Earth making it a good view and photograph Saturn and its moons. Unfortunately the angle of Saturn's rings at this time will make them hard to see.

Celestial Navigation

by Valerie Morrissey

Pisces is the star sign this month. This is a feminine water sign, the twelfth and last sign in the zodiac. In ancient tradition this sign was ruled by Jupiter, but is now considered to be ruled by Neptune. It is represented by two fish opposing each other, a double-bodied sign. As a way of illustrating this two-sided sign, these people tend to feel sorry for themselves yet are capable of generous acts of sacrifice and service to others. They get discouraged easily and drink too much or take drugs. They have escapist tendencies. But once they get out of themselves, they are generous, kind and sympathetic to their loved ones. They are sensitive and fall in love at the drop of a hat.

Pisces folks are gentle, dreamy and at times distant from others. They often drift away in thought. They often forget to show up for a date or meeting. They change their minds a lot. In short, like a fish, they are really hard to pin down for any kind of commitment. But they don't mean to be rude or thoughtless. They are naturally affectionate and loyal.

Extremely imaginative, they are creative in many art forms. They are sentimental. They write poems and love stories, enjoy dancing, yoga and going to the movies. Typical vacations include ashrams, religious retreats and water locales. They enjoy sailing, swimming and relaxing on a beach, either at mountain lakes or the ocean. They are very spiritual, as well as psychic. They may be active at a church, but more often, they spend time alone, meditating, praying or communing with God and nature. Nurses, priests, nuns, holistic healers, social workers, sailors, fishermen, people in the shipping and cruise industry, swimming instructors, poets, dancers and filmmakers are ruled by Pisces.

The Yod. A Yod is a configuration between three planets, two planets in sextile, 60°, which form quincunxes, 150°, to a third planet, resembling a Y. Ancient astrologers called it the Finger of God. There were two Yods operating until the middle of February, one with Mars, Saturn and Jupiter, and the other with Pluto, Jupiter and Mars. They overlapped and affected all the signs in some way. For the average person, the influence is subtle and may not be felt or understood. But if your life has been uncertain, and you had to give up something or take a different course from what you planned, it may be because of the Yods. Roll with the punches. Take care of your health, meditate, stand back and keep things in perspective. The picture will become clear soon enough.

Aries (Born between March 21 - April 19)

The Spring Equinox falls on the 20th, and Rams will be especially recharged for the coming year. Venus precedes the arrival of the Sun in Aries on the 7th and Mercury on the 17th, as well, and you will have plenty of people calling you. With the interference of Saturn and Pluto, events could unfold unevenly. Something big wants to happen but might be obstructed. Keep a positive outlook. Communications, meetings, and social activities are favored. You are popular, more attractive to the opposite sex, and can make a good presentation. Energies are high. Plan carefully and don't be reckless.

Taurus (Born between April 20 - May 19)

Because of Saturn, you may have more pressure or problems at work. You may have to postpone a project. When Mars goes direct on the 11th life at home will run more smoothly. Opportunity may come calling through friends, clubs and new acquaintances. You might get involved with humanitarian groups, and this will be very good for your morale. Give something back. Help build a house for Habitat for Humanity for example.

Gemini (Born between May 20 - June 20)

With all the activity in Aries, your friends will be more in touch, and there will be new friends as well. This is a good time to join clubs and organizations, such as the gym, the PTO, networking groups and so forth. You could also meet new romantic partners at these venues. Your services will be needed, and you will bounce from one place to the next. It will be fun. Gemini is a social animal and likes being involved.

Cancer (Born between June 21 - July 22)

You are more ambitious this month. Send resumes, make calls, do networking and make a good impression. Lay the groundwork. New contacts can be made at museums, theatres or artistic events. Women are helpful at this time. A good connection can be made at the Full Moon on the 30th. You can still take that winter vacation to a warm beach down south. An unexpected invitation or free airfares could fall in your lap.

Leo (Born between July 23 - August 21)

With Mars direct after the 10th, your energies will flow more evenly. Progress and movement in your affairs can be made. You will find it easier to get people to do things for you without aggravation. Throughout the month, romance picks up. Everyone will get along better, and relationship problems can be worked out. Kiss and make up. Travel is also favored. From the 20th on, things will be better still and you can start new projects.

Virgo (Born between August 22 - September 22)

At the New Moon on the 15th, and any time during the rest of the month, there could be some interesting or unexpected developments. New opportunities fall in your lap. Some could meet their soul mates and elope. At the very least, romance looks promising. You could meet people from different walks of life and you will travel or pursue new interests. You may inherit money or make good investments at this time.

Libra (Born between September 23 - October 22)

Read about Aries. Life is still plodding along, but with the Spring Equinox followed by the Full Moon on the 30th, the picture will brighten up considerably. Relationships will flourish, and any problems can be worked out. There are more sparks in the air. Communications in general are good. Business partnerships are favored, but make sure you have researched your projects carefully and have solid financial backing.

Scorpio (Born between October 23 - November 21)

Jupiter, Uranus and the New Moon on the 15th are very good for romance and social life. Read about Pisces. You will meet different and charismatic people now. If you have been too buried in your work, get out of the office and have some fun. All work and no play make Scorpios dull and cranky. All leisure activities, sports and children are favored. This is a good time to plan a family, and babies may arrive unexpectedly.

Sagittarius (Born between November 22 - December 21)

Because of Jupiter in Pisces you should be in a pretty good place. You are confident and find it easier to get your point across to people. Your intuition is right on target. Sag is usually generous and charitable,

and if someone needs a favor you will gladly do it. Also this month, creative endeavors, romance and social life in general are favored. You will be invited out to beautiful restaurants, museums and dress-up affairs.

Capricorn (Born between December 22 - January 20)

Continue to carry your responsibilities well, and serve others when asked. Read about Aries. Your patience and perseverance will pay off. Elderly people or those you hold in high esteem figure strongly in your life now. After the 20th, something comes to a climax or takes a new direction. You may get help from neighbors or relatives. Day trips and casual outings are favored, which would definitely give you a welcome break.

Aquarius (Born between January 21 - February 19)

You might have the urge to take off somewhere but this isn't the time. You might run into problems with travel, such as weather delays or the present affliction of airports, security shutdowns. Since it is tax season, you are settling your accounts, and because of Jupiter and Uranus, you could get a bigger refund than usual. You are prone to large impulse purchases, too, so do a careful price check before heading to the mall.

Pisces (Born between February 20 - March 20)

The first half of the month will be the most interesting, because of five heavenly bodies gathering here at once, winding up with the New Moon on the 15th, which will be a good time for starting a creative project, or changing your life in some way. You will be overflowing with creative energies and inspiration. Looking through the rose-colored glasses. Keep your expectations realistic, but there will be no excuse for moping or feeling down in the dumps. Enjoy!

Holidays & Observances This Month

This is: Women's History Month and American Red Cross Month

March's Flower: Jonquil

March's Birthstone: Aquamarine, Bloodstone

March 2 - The Fast of Nineteen Days (Bahai)

March 3 - National Anthem Day

March 7 - Peace Corps Day

March 10 - Harriet Tubman Day

March 12 - Girl Scout Day

March 14 - Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 16 - Freedom of Information Day

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

March 17 - Camp Fire Boys & Girls Founders Day

March 20 - Vernal Equinox (Beginning of Spring)

March 25 - Maryland Day

March 21 - Feast of Naw-Ruz (Bahai New Year)

March 28 - Palm Sunday (Christian)

March 30 - First day of Passover (Judaism)

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://www.arksky.org>

<http://www.earthcalendar.net>

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

<http://en.wikipedia.org>

<http://www.loc.gov>

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

<http://www.ocmuseum.org/>

<http://www.vahistorical.org>

<http://www.noaa.gov>

<http://www.seasky.org>

<http://www.skyandtelescope.com>

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