

DELMARVA ALMANAC

April 2010

Between The Shore Lines

Delmarva's Environmental Balance: Progress & Stewardship

Winter's challenging weather sets the stage for Spring's beautiful flowers. It's such a simple way to show the natural balance between what we must endure and what we will enjoy. The Delmarva environment is starting to recover from this winter's trials. But it still needs our protection from what we who live and visit here put it through.

In April of 1964 the first span of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel opened in Virginia. Its second span was completed April 19, 1999. It has been hailed as one of the 7 modern engineering wonders of the world. It is one of several bridges which connect our quiet rural communities to everyone else on the East Coast, and vice versa. All this connectivity began in coincidentally began in April 1824 when after some false starts construction began in earnest on the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal at the other end of the peninsula.

These engineering feats have brought economic growth, more people, and an irrevocable change to the way of life here on the shore. They have also increased the human toll on Delmarva's environmental condition: more emissions from cars, runoff from more highways, more farms, and more housing developments. Both the benefits and the costs are signs of progress. No one group can claim all the credit for the good or take all the blame for the bad. We are, in fact, all in this together.

On April 12, 1961 the Russian Yuri Gagarin was the first human to go into outer space. His was an achievement of great human progress. A result of his experience was that Gagarin became an advocate for stewardship of our planet. He said: *"Circling the Earth in my orbital spaceship I marveled at the beauty of our planet. People of the world, let us safeguard and enhance this beauty - not destroy it!"*

He knew that it was important to balance the sacrifices we and our environment must endure with the rewards of our expanded knowledge and progress.

There is still a lot to enjoy here on Delmarva. We still have beautiful beaches, woods, and wildlife. But they are not just pretty to look at. They are not just for the privileged few who can get out and see them. They are essential to our health and our economic future. We all should be able to enjoy them. At the same time, we are all responsible for protecting them. This April 20th remember Earth Day. Learn what you can do to support our Delmarva environment.

Delaware Environmental Groups

Delaware Audubon Society - <http://www.delawareaudubon.org>

Delaware Center for the Inland Bays, Inc. - <http://www.inlandbays.org>

Delaware Native Plant Society - <http://www.delawarenativeplants.org>

Delaware Nature Society - <http://www.delawarenaturesociety.org>

Delaware River Keeper Network - <http://www.delawariverkeeper.org>

Delaware Wild Lands, Inc. - <http://www.delawarewildlands.org>

Friends of Prime Hook NWR - <http://www.friendsofprimehook.org>

Friends of White Clay Creek State Park - <http://www.whiteclayfriends.org>

Friends of Wilmington Parks - <http://www.brandywinepark.org>

Green Delaware - <http://www.greendel.org>

Jean Ellen Dupont Audubon Sanctuary - http://www.audubonmddc.org/centers_JEDS.html

Nature Conservancy of Delaware - <http://www.nature.org/wherework/northamerica/states/delaware/>

Partnership for the Delaware Estuary - <http://www.delawareestuary.org>

Rehoboth Bay Foundation - <http://www.rbsa.org>

Sierra Club - Delaware Chapter - <http://delaware.sierraclub.org>

Sussex County - Citizens Coalition, Inc. - <http://www.citizenscoalition.net>

Sussex County Land Trust - <http://www.sclandtrust.org>

Thank You Delaware Bay Program - <http://www.tydb.org>

White Clay Watershed Association - <http://home.ccil.org/~wcwa/>

Maryland Environmental Groups

Adkins Arboretum - <http://www.adkinsarboretum.org>
Assateague Coastal Trust - <http://www.actforbays.org>
Chesapeake Audubon Society - <http://www.chesapeakeaudubon.org>
Chesapeake Bay Foundation - <http://www.cbf.org>
The Chester River Association - <http://www.chesterriverassociation.org>
The Choptank River Heritage Center <http://www.riverheritage.org>
Eastern Shore Land Conservancy - <http://www.eslc.org>
Friends of Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge - <http://www.friendsofblackwater.org/>
Lower Shore Land Trust - <http://www.lowershorelandtrust.org>
Maryland Coastal Bays Program - <http://www.mcbp@mdcoastalbays.org>
Maryland Conservation Council - <http://www.marylandconservationcouncil.net>
Maryland Environmental Trust - <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/met/>
Maryland Native Plant Society - <http://mdflora.org>
The Nanticoke Watershed Alliance - <http://www.nanticokeriver.org>
Nature Conservancy of Maryland - <http://www.nature.org/wherework/northamerica/states/maryland/>
Sassafras River Association - <http://www.sassafrasriver.org>
Wicomico Environmental Trust - <http://www.wicomicoenvironment.org>

Virginia Environmental Groups

Coastal Conservation Association Virginia - <http://www.ccavirginia.org>
Citizens For A Better Eastern Shore - <http://www.cbes.org>
Virginia Eastern Shorekeeper - <http://www.shorekeeper.org>
Nature Conservancy of Virginia - <http://www.nature.org/wherework/northamerica/states/virginia/>

Also check out a web page devoted to Yuri's Night, another Earth Day type celebration in Gagarin's honor: <http://yurisnight.net>

Delmarva History This Month

April 6, 1650 - Maryland General Assembly divided into an upper & lower house.
April 19, 1774 - The last colonial General Assembly was suspended in Maryland.
April 28, 1788 - Maryland Convention was the 7th state to ratify US Constitution
April 10-13, 1877 - Strong coastal storms caused beach erosion.
April 15, 1964 - The Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel opened - named one of the 7 modern engineering wonders of the world.
April 24, 1987 - Thunderstorms dumped up to seven inches of rain in Virginia over three days.
April 17, 1990 - Strong winds associated gusted to 75 mph in the Chesapeake Bay area of Virginia.
April 30, 1990 - Thunderstorms moving over the Chesapeake Bay flooded U.S. Route 50 on Kent Island Maryland, with several inches of water. This caused a seventeen-mile long traffic jam.
April 19, 1999 - The second (parallel) span of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge tunnel opens

The Garden Of Good Living: Springtime Planter Rescue & Renovation by Pat Hendrickson

Well, I did it. . . . I left all my indoor plants outside this Fall. I didn't bring them in before the first snowfall. They sat like lumps on my porches and benches, dotted the back yard like lumps of sugar.

By the time the snow started to melt, I was on to other projects like getting my in-laws beach house ready to rent for the summer; helping to plan a website for my husband's business; learning to be a new grandmamma; thinking about landscaping our Quaker meetinghouse; fleetingly considering the gym.

I've heard from knowledgeable friends that my Hibiscus plants may just survive the winter. Of course, that was in consideration of past winters - fairly mild weather, and as long as the plants are lined up along the south side of the house. But I think I've goofed. I didn't move them to the south side of the house. I left them guarding the canal like some sort of naval support. Some pots have cracked; my favorite (and most

expensive) has shattered. It seems as though I've completely abandoned my need to have color in the house during the winter for things that are completely unrelated.

The first day of spring was March 20, and many of us have been dreaming of the colors that will soon decorate our yards. Along with the clean-up after the snow, we need to think about the pots our annuals and perennials will occupy. I'm sure that I am a minority in leaving my pots out to die. I applaud those of you who conscientiously empty your pots annually and tuck them away into safe places to await warmer weather.

There are so many different types of planters: wood, concrete, stone, terracotta, fiberglass, resin, self-watering. There are also planters you can buy that will withstand below freezing temperatures. We don't often experience such severe weather, but it's nice to have containers that won't crack or break, no matter what!

Take a look at these websites for a more in-depth look at what is available:

<http://backyardsandgardens.com/garden-pots-enhance-garden-decor/>

<http://www.all-about-planters.com/>

I'm hoping that this coming fall will bring a new sense of organization for me so that I will have the motivation to move my pots to a safer spot. Maybe if I spend more time this spring creating new life in those pots, it will give me the new energy I crave to see my project through

Reminder: In April and May many local environmental groups have native plant sales. Please help support them and our environment by growing plants which are meant to live in our climate. They are less invasive and require less fertilizer, pesticide, or water.

Rhythms' & Tides

Crabbing season begins this month and fresh water fishing begins to pick up. At this time of year look for these fish in the following areas:

On the Upper Shore Bays & Streams: Crappy, Yellow Perch, & Shad (which is catch & release)

On the Mid Shore Atlantic Ocean & Bays: Mackerel, Sea Bass, Blue Fish, Tautog, & Rock Fish

On the Mid Shore Chesapeake: Red Drum, Perch & Speckled Trout

And on the Lower Shore Chesapeake bay & Atlantic Ocean: Red & Black Drum

As always be sure to check with your local state natural resources for licensing, seasonal, and size rules.

With hunting season over White Tailed Deer are less shy and can be seen eating the buds off trees.

As sure sign of warmer weather are our year round residents the American Bluebird who look particularly brilliant right now. Crows, Blue Jays and Downy Woodpeckers are common though not always welcome sites because they scare off other birds. In the case of the Woodpeckers, though they eat pesky bugs and are pretty to look at they can do damage to trees and wood work.

A local farmer is probably not too happy to see a bald eagle I spotted recently. He looked magnificent, but apparently is a chicken thief. Osprey's can be seen building nests right now. Other common sites on the water include Terns, Snowy Egret, Great Yellow Legs, and the Glossy Ibis.

The last weekend of this month is the Delmarva Birding Weekend when visiting and local birders can take inexpensive guided tours led by experienced experts. It's great fun so check out their website

<http://Delmarvabirdingweekend.org>

Sunrise & Sunset

Sunrise at the beginning of the month: 6:48am

Sunset at the beginning of the month: 7:26pm

Sunrise at the end of the month: 6:07am

Sunset at the end of the month: 7:53pm

Moon Phases

April 14 - New Moon

April 28 - Full Moon

Moon rise at the beginning of the month: 10:51pm

Moon set at the beginning of the month: 7:53am

Moon rise at the end of the month: 10:39pm

Moon set at the end of the month: 7:13am

Other Sky Events

There are several meteor showers that will be easily seen this month because the moon will not be full until the 28th. So probably any night you go out in the first three weeks, if the sky is clear you have a good chance of seeing meteors.

April 1-7 - Kappa Serpentid Meteors will peak on the 4th can be seen around 8PM just south of due east.

April 7 - Delta Draconid Meteors can be seen between 10 and midnight high in the northern sky.

April 8 - Mercury will at its greatest eastern elongation this year making it easier to see low on the western horizon not long after sunset.

April 1-15 - Virginid Meteors - Seen in the constellation Virgo just south of overhead all evening.

April 14 - The April Fireballs - Beginning on the 14th and lasting two weeks and originating in any part of the sky. They are especially bright with lovely long lasting trails.

April 17 - Sigma Leonid Meteors - Over time these have shifted from the constellation Leo and into Virgo. They can be seen overhead at about 9:30PM.

April 22 - The Lyrid Meteor Shower - one of the best and most dependable showers all year with the best viewing time around midnight look directly overhead.

April 25 - Mu Virginid Meteors - Seen south of overhead around 1AM.

April 28 - Alpha Bootid Meteors will be a little harder to see because of the full moon.

Celestial Navigation

by Valerie Morrissey

This month Aries is in the spotlight. A masculine fire sign, Aries the Ram is the first sign of the Zodiac, and believe me, their motto is, me first! They like to be first in line and get first choice of everything. They are childlike and lose their tempers quickly. Like a ram, they will charge right in and break down walls. They can be loud, obnoxious and tactless. But they are good at getting people to move. They can incite progress as well as riots.

Aries people are great at starting things but not bringing them to completion. They get brilliant ideas and make aggressive plans, then lose interest. Many of their projects end up in the dumpster. It is better if Aries puts the new ideas out there then lines up a solid committee of Cancers, Virgos or Capricorns to execute the projects.

Ruled by Mars, Aries is a high-energy sign, which is often reckless and accident-prone. They have a tendency to head injuries and high fevers, but they heal and recover quickly. The Rams, Ewes and little Lambs love sports. They are enthusiastic and competitive in baseball, football, hockey, wrestling, boxing, track and car races. Typically they have several favorite sports, not just one, that they excel at because they have so much physical energy. They need to be active, and they could never be happy with a quiet life at home reading a book by the fire.

In love, these people are flirtatious, passionate and love the thrill of the chase. Casanova, born under Aries, was a perfect example. They fall in love hard and fast and often their affairs are short-lived. If you're in a relationship with an Aries and want it to last, keep it interesting and full of surprises. Also Aries loves a good fight. Be prepared to yell and scream once in a while. It clears the air, and making up afterwards can be exciting.

REMINDER: These character delineations might not necessarily describe you Aries folks to the letter. If you have say, Cancer as your rising sign (the zodiacal sign that was ascending on the eastern horizon at the time and location of your birth) for example, you may have a more passive, crab-like take on things. It's interesting to see where certain sign characteristics show up in your own unique personality.

Aries (*Born between March 21 - April 19*)

Now that Mars is on the forward move again, your love life will move along as well. You will have more leisure time for socializing and meeting new people. Creative projects of all kinds are favored, as well as children's activities. With the warmer weather you should get outside more and take up sports. The New Moon on the 14th will be a good day for a fresh start. Join a walking group, softball league, swim club or tennis club.

Taurus (Born between April 20 - May 19)

This month, Mercury will retrograde in Taurus on the 18th. This occurs three times a year and is a time when communications get a little confusing. Listen more to others and don't be stubborn. Use this time to sort out files, throw out stuff and make plans. Do not finalize business deals or sign papers yet. Venus is here all month until the 26th, which is nice. It's a good time to get a massage or facial. Buy clothes and jewelry.

Gemini (Born between May 20 - June 20)

You will have a continuing busy schedule with your friends, neighbors and group associations. Now that spring is here, there will be a lot of day trips coming up. With the approaching conjunction of Jupiter and Uranus, there may be some excitement involving your career. Read about Pisces. If you haven't played by the rules you could fall from grace. Or you could get an interesting new job or unexpected promotion.

Cancer (Born between June 21 - July 22)

Now that there is more daylight, Cancers are feeling very well, thank you. This may not be an eventful month but your affairs are humming along nicely. With Jupiter and Uranus in Pisces, you will travel more, study new subjects or take a spiritual journey. Your consciousness is expanding now without any effort. If you don't physically travel then the journey will be in your mind. You will see the whole world in a different way.

Leo (Born between July 23 - August 21)

Mars continues to energize you this month. And with the Aries Sun, you want to charge right in and run everything. Leo likes being the boss. You can accomplish great things and make progress, but make sure you do it with diplomacy and self-control. Don't step on people's toes or push them around. Don't lose your temper. Use your driving passion to inspire and encourage your associates, then you will get the best results.

Virgo (Born between August 22 - September 22)

Saturn retrogrades back into your sign on the 8th, so expect some kind of slow-down in your life. It's not a bad thing. You might need a little rest. Some people will take a sabbatical or retire now. Old projects will be brought to a conclusion. Because of Jupiter and Uranus, you may have a sudden change in your marital situation. If tempted to rush into a new relationship, be careful not to jump from the frying pan into the fire.

Libra (Born between September 23 - October 22)

The New Moon on the 14th will be a good day to get married, if any of you are engaged. With retrograde Saturn, some of you may go on a religious retreat or want to take some time alone for a little while. If asked to serve as a volunteer in a hospital or other institution, or to care for a sick friend or relative, you should do it. It's good karma. After the 18th, hold off on investments and making changes on jointly held finances.

Scorpio (Born between October 23 - November 21)

The Full Moon falls in Scorpio on the 28th, which will make things interesting for relationships. Some of you will bring issues to a conclusion. Anything to do with partnerships and one-to-one relationships will be on your mind. If you have legal matters or lawsuits there will be a delay after the 18th because of Mercury. Don't sign anything. Wait a few weeks and reschedule. Put misunderstandings on the back burner for now.

Sagittarius (Born between November 22 - December 21)

If you have been planning to move, this will be a good time to find the house of your dreams, especially at the end of the month and into May. Relatives or old family friends might give you a lead to available properties or financial aid. You have lots of physical energy this month like the other fire signs so be sure to get outside and hike, camp, play sports or go to the beach. Travel for business or pleasure is favored as well.

Capricorn (Born between December 22 - January 20)

This month you will finish long-standing projects, especially before the 14th. You may have nurtured a plan or dream behind the scenes for a long time. Architectural plans, landscape design, publications and

academic theses are favored. Be sure to make appointments and decisions before the 18th. Pluto will retrograde on the 7th and that at that time you will turn transformational energies inward. Work on changing attitudes.

Aquarius (Born between January 21 - February 19)

There is more going on at home right now. Weather damage may require repairs, or a renovation is being planned. Good deals on house wares and furniture may be found, but go shopping before the 18th. Some family members might not be getting along. Your partner might be giving you some trouble as well and tempers will flare. This is not a favorable time for romance, but it's a short period. Things look brighter in May.

Pisces (Born between February 20 - March 20)

Saturn is backing up in your marriage house. It's not serious. Your partner might need special attention. Jupiter and Uranus are coming together in conjunction in Pisces at month's end and life will take on an interesting twist. Take chances. Be wild and crazy if you feel like it. Buy a lottery ticket. An unusual job offer could come your way. Changes come without warning. You may have psychic experiences or divine inspiration now.

Holidays & Observances This Month

This is: American Cancer Society Month, National Garden Month, Alcohol Awareness Month, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month, National Poetry Month, & Child Abuse Prevention Month

April's Flower: Sweet Pea, Daisy

April's Birthstone: Diamond, White Sapphire

April 1 - April Fool's Day

April 2 - World Autism Awareness Day
- Good Friday (Christian)

April 4 - Easter Sunday (Christian)

April 7 - State Arbor Day in Maryland (White Oak)
- World Health Day

April 6 - Last Day of Passover (Jewish)

April 15 - US Tax Day

April 16 - Librarian Day

April 21 - First day of Ridvan (Baha'i)

- John Muir Day

- Holocaust Memorial Day (Judaism)

April 22 - Earth Day

April 23 - St. George's Day (Christian)

April 29 - Ninth day of Ridvan (Baha'i)

April 30 - State Arbor Day in Virginia (Dogwood)
- State Arbor Day in Delaware (American Holly)

<http://www.arborday.org>

<http://www.cancer.org>

<http://www.garden.org>

<http://www.ncadd.org>

<http://humanesociety.org>

<http://www.poets.org>

<http://www.preventchildabuse.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](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.cbbt.com/history.html>

<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://nasa.gov>

<http://www.noaa.gov>

<http://www.seasky.org>

<http://www.skyandtelescope.com>

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