

DELMARVA ALMANAC

July 2010

Between The Shore Lines

Life On The Edge

Anyone who lives in a rural community can be said to live on the edge of society. That's not the leading or cutting edge, or even the edge between respectability and uncouth behavior. It is the edge between civilization and the natural world. Delmarva is very much on that edge: so close to modern convenience yet so near to the ancient and ongoing wild kingdom.

I love to get in my car and simply drive to edge of the peninsula. As the woodlands meet wetlands often white tail deer can be seen just before swiftly darting into a thicket for safe cover. When I emerge out of the forest canopy, the wide open skies seem to beckon me farther and farther away from the land to the edge, to wherever water meets sand, or rocks, or grass.

While the Atlantic beaches draw millions of visitors, much of Delmarva's waterline may seem rather inhospitable to most. Throughout the summer the air gets heavy and thick with moisture. Until fall arrives with cooler temperatures, mosquitoes and biting flies can make travel through our marsh lands an unpleasant experience.

Yet, these challenges are worth bearing even on the hottest days in July. The salt marsh is a magical place where great emerald carpets stretch out under aquamarine skies. Osprey survey the domain they share with ducks and turtles. Graceful egrets appear like characters in a fairy tale roosting in trees and dancing in shallow pools.

This is a place where fantastic stories and tall tales are born. Adventure and danger seem to be waiting in secret places. Perhaps this because no matter how beautiful it is; the edge is not always a safe place to be. You could fall in or get lost. A sudden summer storm could break out and remind you that you are ultimately powerless against the forces of nature.

I will return, again and again, to the edge. This is where I feel like I am part of a great unfolding creation full of endless possibility. Each time I go, I bring home with me the inspiration which can only come from a place where I can see nature's treasures along the shoreline and where I can imagine those that might be just beyond the horizon.

Delmarva History This Month

July 1776 - USS Delaware was launched commanded by Captain C. Alexander to serve in the Delaware River.

July 1-2, 1776 - Caesar Rodney made his heroic overnight ride from Dover to Philadelphia to cast the vote that put Delaware on the side of independence.

July 4, 1875 - The Atlantic Hotel had its grand opening in Ocean City, Maryland.

July 24, 1913 - The Delaware flag was adopted.

July 1925 - The first Chincoteague Pony Penning was held on the last consecutive Wednesday and Thursday becoming an annual tradition that continues today benefitting the local fire company.

July 29, 1939 - 171 white marlin were caught in the Atlantic off Ocean City at the Jack Spot. It was the largest single days catch ever recorded which led to Ocean City's tag as the "White Marlin Capital of the World."

July 30, 1952 - Eastbound span of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge opened.

July 25, 1967 - Race riots, which began in 1963, erupt again in Cambridge.

July 13, 1975 - A state record of 8.50 inches of rain fell during a 24 hour period in Dover, Delaware.

July 10, 2005 - During practice for an air show two pilots died when their small planes touched wings and crashed into the Delaware Bay.

The Garden Of Good Living

Field Trip!!!!

by Pat Hendrickson

Returning from a recent trip to Colorado, I arrived home to an e-mail from a wonderful friend of mine who I just happen to work for on a part time basis. My friend lives outside of Berlin, Maryland and has a farm called Golden Quarters, which she has been diligently working to bring back to something close to its original state. She and I are always interested in visiting places that give us inspiration and ideas about where our work might lead us. This time, it is River Farm in Alexandria, Virginia, the Washington, D.C. headquarters for the American Horticultural Society.

Located at the south end of Alexandria, right off of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, River Farm is 25 acres of meadows, quiet paths, and simple gardens. Although I was not there alone, I got the feeling that it was a well-hidden neighborhood treasure. Among the several, separate areas of the gardens, there is a beautiful rolling meadow, an orchard, an azalea garden, and a children's garden, to name a few.

The meadow was established in 2004, replacing a vast expanse of lawn with over 100,000 native plants that has become home to families of foxes and a way-station for hungry migrating birds. It took four years to make this conversion from lawn to habitat and, I'm sure, hundreds of volunteer hours. Walking paths trail throughout this wonderful haven overlooking the Potomac. I am visiting in late May, and imagine that mid-June will be amazing with a riot of blooms, butterflies, bugs and birds. I will definitely be visiting again soon.

Wandering out of the meadow, I find a sweet little spot above the Franklinia Grove (trees named in honor of Benjamin Franklin) that isn't marked on my map. It's a simple little path in the shape of a spiral with a planter in the middle. So simple and artful; a little bench off to the side for resting, contemplating, meditation.

Back on the map, I find the Green Garage, open on three sides to show the types of tools that make for a green gardener – a hand mower, a wood chipper/mulcher, a wheelbarrow, hand tools, etc. No fertilizer, no engine powered tools, no chemicals. The simple message that native plants are low maintenance, create habitat, and have year-round interest. While dreaming my way down an arbor path with standard Tardiva Hydrangeas, I hear the voices of two boys offering their moms some fish they've caught on the boat they're sailing on. The boat is in the children's garden; again, a simple setting with very imaginative play structures, some completely out in the open, some somewhat obscured by a cool weeping spruce; an alphabet garden teasing the children (and adults) into finding fun in finding plants.

My stroll takes me through the Calm Garden and back to where I started at the White House gates and the Estate House. The most exciting part of my visit begins; by chance, I meet up with both the volunteer coordinator and the horticulturist of River Farm. This is my chance to ask my questions and see what I can do to help our Berlin farm move forward to what it deserves to be.

Visit the River farm website: http://www.ahs.org/river_farm/

Rhythms' & Tides

Dog Days Of Summer Arrive Early

The heat is on and it feels like the end of July rather than the beginning. It looks like we might be at the beginning of a drought season. But there is no drought in the fishing. The first white marlin of the 2010 season was caught last month on June 8th by Eric VanOrden on the "Bimini 24".

Bill fishing is an expensive sport that is out of reach for most anglers. But if you haven't done it before, don't miss a chance to go to a tournament weigh in at one of the marinas along the Atlantic coast this summer to see some of the amazing fish caught. There's usually a good party going on as well. Through the rest of the summer striped Bass (Rockfish) and flounder are the most sought after fish in all regions around Delmarva. And, don't forget to take a kid fishing this summer. You'll both be glad that you did.

<u>Atlantic Offshore</u>

Yellowfin Tuna, Marlin, Makos, Threshers, & Dolphin

<u>Upper Shore Chesapeake & Delaware Bays</u>

Rock Fish, Flounder, Bluefish, & Shad

<u>Mid Shore Surf & Coastal Bays</u>

Blue Fish, Rock Fish, Shark, & Flounder

<u>Mid Shore Chesapeake Bay </u>

Rock Fish, Bluefish, Spot, Redfish, Black Drum, & White Perch in tributaries

<u>Lower Shore Chesapeake Bay & Atlantic Ocean</u>

Rock Fish, Flounder, Cobia, Spadefish & Croaker

For weekly trends and bait suggestions check these online fishing report resources before you head out:

Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife - Fishing Report:

<http://www.fw.delaware.gov/Fisheries/Pages/FishingReport.aspx>

Maryland DNR Chesapeake Bay & Tributaries Fishing Report:

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/fishingreport/chesapeake.as>

Maryland DNR Freshwater Report:

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/fishingreport/freshwater.asp>

Maryland DNR Ocean Report:

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/fishingreport/ocean.asp>

Virginia DNR - Saltwater Review:

<http://www.mrc.virginia.gov/swr/saltwaterreview.shtm>

Atlantic Anglers

<http://www.atlanticanglers.com>

Coastal Fisherman:

<http://www.coastal-fisherman.com>

Tidal Fish:

<http://www.tidalfish.com>

Chesapeake Angler:

<http://www.chesapeake-angler.com>

Spending time on the water means sightings of sandpipers, night herons, skimmers and terns. And of course there are the song birds like these two which I can't identify past possibly being a thrush, a sparrow, and a blue grosbeak.

All along the countryside butterflies are out in abundance including this lovely White Swallowtail. It also seem like there are an awful lot of dragon flies. They are harmless and don't bite and some are quite beautiful.

Sunrise & Sunset

Sunrise at the beginning of the month: 5:43am

Sunrise at the end of the month: 6:04am

Sunset at the beginning of the month: 8:30pm

Sunset at the end of the month: 8:13pm

Moon Phases

Moon rise at the beginning of the month: 11:20pm

Moon rise at the end of the month: 10:37pm

Moon set at the beginning of the month: 10:33am

Moon set at the end of the month: 11:17am

July 11 - New Moon

July 26 - Full Moon

Some Names For The July Full Moon:

Hay Moon, Wart Moon, Moon of Claiming, Blessing Moon, Thunder Moon

Other Sky Events

Early July - Mercury, Mars, Venus and Saturn as well as the star Regulus will be visible with naked eye in the western sky at dark with Jupiter rising in the early morning hours.

July 11 - Total Solar Eclipse (only visible in the Southern Hemisphere)

July 27-28 - Delta Aquarids (South) - best seen about 2AM facing south and overhead.

July 23-30 - Capricornids - Usually bright yellow meteors with many fireballs, the nearly full moon will make these harder to see. Try about 1:30AM again facing south and overhead

Celestial Navigation

by Valerie Morrissey

This month Cancer is featured and here is an improved version of last year's remarks about this sign. A feminine water sign ruled by the Moon, Cancer is sensitive, kindly and gentle. They are regular homebodies, the mothers and fathers of the zodiac. They like to stick around home as much as possible rather than travel. Cancers prefer to own their own homes and some property, rather than pay rent.

They love food, cooking and making big family dinners, and are prone to weight problems. Most Cancers are a little on the plump side. They are devoted to their children, like the proverbial mother hen, and are loving caregivers. If they have no children then they probably have pets or nieces/nephews that get lots of attention.

Cancers are moody and tend to brood or worry too much. They have a great sense of humor but suffer from depression. Cancer men can be quite cranky and difficult. Their wives just have to be patient and ride it out. Give them sympathy and "Aw, poor baby" stuff. The women usually keep to themselves, when they feel down, or cook a big dinner to snap out of it. Cooking is great therapy for Cancers.

Cancers are good at saving money and at times hold on to it too tightly. They are sentimental and save every letter and souvenir. They are old-fashioned with traditional values. They are smart businessmen/women who make shrewd decisions. Many of the Rockefellers were born under Cancer. Like a crab they move sideways or backwards, keeping their adversaries confused as to their intentions.

A note from the Astrologer: For more of my interesting articles astrology please check out Examiner.com: <http://www.examiner.com/x-45334-Newark-Astrology-Examiner> Enjoy!

Aries (Born between March 21 - April 19)

Mars will join Saturn in Libra in opposition to Jupiter and Uranus in Aries by the end of the month, also square to Pluto. This will affect everyone in some way, particularly Aries, Cancer, Libra and Capricorn. There will be confrontations, interruptions, upheavals or radical change both at home and at work, and in relationships. If something happens at work, it will affect everything else. Aries will want to run roughshod over everything. Fasten your seat belts, but don't panic. Just hang on tight and practice patience, restraint and forbearance. Watch your temper.

Taurus (Born between April 20 - May 19)

You guys will probably be the interested spectators. All sorts of craziness is going on around you but you remain calm. Enjoy the show. Mind the store if you must. You might have to pick up the slack for everyone else at work. With Mars going through your house of romance during most of the month, you'll have a busy social schedule and do more with your children at this time. Take them camping or to the beach.

Gemini (Born between May 20 - June 20)

Mercury is flying through three signs this month so you will likewise run from one thing to another. You're easily distracted but try to concentrate on business as usual. Take care of finances, send emails and make phone calls. This is a good time for home improvement projects. Friends need your attention. You may change your mind about your plans for the future. Something you dreamed of doing may be out of the question.

Cancer (Born between June 21 - July 22)

Read about Aries. All those planets in cardinal signs will impact you especially if you were born right after June 22. Stress and worry will give you an upset stomach so take it easy. Swift changes are afoot. So many different possibilities I don't know where to start. Scandal, corporate upheaval, layoffs, restructuring, changes at home, adult children moving back home unexpectedly, births, etc. On the New Moon of the 11th, set yourself down and meditate, regroup and plan strategies for the future.

Leo (Born between July 23 - August 21)

Relax while you can, Venus is here until the 10th. The Full Moon on the 26th might bring some excitement, maybe even romance. Bring projects to completion around that date, and work out communication issues. Because of Mercury and Neptune some Leos have to deal with confusion,

deception or lack of information, so pay attention. Shady deals could be unexpectedly revealed. Be straight and honest with your associates.

Virgo (Born between August 22 - September 22)

Venus moves into Virgo and catches up with Mars for a week at the end of July. This favors creativity, social life and romance. This is a very busy time for you. You have a lot of work to do and people will ask you for favors or to volunteer in some way. Be gracious and generous with your time. You might need a helping hand yourself, and now you will get it. Don't feel shy about asking for it. Your friends are there for you.

Libra (Born between September 23 - October 22)

Many of you will have more work and responsibility coming your way. You may have lots of energy and specific plans, but because of Saturn something could interfere and slow things down. Figure out ways to do things differently if you must. You should take care of your health. Some may have to look after an elderly parent or spouse who is ill. On the up side, however, you could get a promotion or even a better job.

Scorpio (Born between October 23 - November 21)

This should be a quiet time for most Scorpios, although around the Full Moon on the 26th a few of you could have some excitement in your career. You or your company could be in the news. You could get promoted or receive public accolades for a job well done, if you have worked hard and got it coming to you. Similar to Leo, a scandal could break so make sure you have been honest and played by the rules.

Sagittarius (Born between November 22 - December 21)

There will be lots going on outside of work. Fun and games are on your mind. You will be much more in the mood to go surfing or clubbing instead of to the office. Singles will be out on the prowl and if you're looking for trouble or romance you will surely find it. Have a great time but be careful, you are more accident-prone now and for the next several months. Think twice before taking a risk at anything.

Capricorn (Born between December 22 - January 20)

Similar situations as with Cancer could take place, so be prepared. You may want to force issues or exert your authority. The reverse is possible, with authority coming down hard on you. Stand up for your rights if you must. Your drive and ambition are pumped up at this time. Conserve your energies and finances. If you plan carefully, you are sure to come out on top. On the New Moon of the 11th you can make a fresh start.

Aquarius (Born between January 21 - February 19)

Retrograde Neptune is still stalling in your sign, but by now most of you don't even notice. Spend some time in reflection and meditation and keep a journal. You might come up with ideas that will be useful later. At the Full Moon on the 26th, married couples might have a scuffle. It's just to clear the air, though. The kiss-and-make-up later will be worth it. Some couples will announce their engagement on this date.

Pisces (Born between February 20 - March 20)

Your money and financial affairs are on your mind. Avoid moving your money around at this time. Risky investments are a temptation. If a rollover promising big returns is offered, do some careful research. Fishies can be quite naïve about these things. Make sure you have a reliable financial planner. Towards the end of the month, romance looks very promising, with Venus and Mars together in the partnership house.

Holidays & Observances This Month

July 2 - Salvation Army Founders Day
July 4 - US Independence Day
July 8 - Lailat al Miraj - Ascension of the Prophet (Islam)
July 12 - Parent's Day
July 15 - National Ice Cream Day
July 20 - Moon Day commemorates landing on the moon by Neil Armstrong & Buzz Aldrin in 1969.
Tisha B'Av - Day of Mourning (Judaism)
July 23 - National Hot Dog Day

This Month's Flower - Larkspur, Water Lily
This Month's Birthstones - Ruby
It is National Ice Cream Month & Recreation and Parks Month

Many towns are holding Independence Day celebrations beginning on the 2nd. Check your home town's website or our calendar for an extensive listing of fireworks displays.

There are also a number of popular fairs this month including the Delaware State Fair and Chincoteague Pony Swim. And don't miss this month's Art Stroll at your local arts district.

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.loc.gov
http://www.arksky.org	http://www.noaa.gov
http://www.earthcalendar.net	http://www.ocmuseum.org
http://edsitement.neh.gov	http://www.skyandtelescope.com
http://en.wikipedia.org	http://www.seasky.org
http://www.e-referencedesk.com	http://www.space.com
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