

# DELMARVA ALMANAC

September 2009

## Between The Shore Lines

### The Light Lingers After The Coast Clears

September arrives clearing the beaches of many of our visitors here on Delmarva. For those that remain the coast provides a place of beauty and solitude. Despite temperatures that careen from very warm to very cool, along with frequent storms, our guests treasure this season while they try to reconnect with each other, with nature, and with themselves.

Well, most of them. It is hard to shake free of this stressed out, over committed life we lead. Not everyone is ready to commune with the shore birds. To imagine what it would be like to simply fly away with your friends at a moment's notice. To stand as the gulls do with their faces to the wind defying the elements. Or, to marvel at tiny birds who calmly find sustenance even as large waves crash so close to them.

After the storms of September have blown through, sunshine shimmers through the waves. There seems to be a magical promise of better times hidden in the turmoil of the surf. Afternoon light becomes more golden this time of year. The setting sun has a glow that warms our souls on newly crisp and cool evenings. It is an experience that stays with us in the colder days to come.

As the old song says: *"Deep in December, it's nice to remember, the fire of September that made us mellow."*

## Delmarva History This Month

September 3, 1777 - The Battle of Cooch's Bridge in Newark, was the only battle of the American Revolutionary War fought on Delaware soil, and though the day was lost to the British it was the first time that the Stars and Stripes was flown in battle.

September 12, 1777 - British win the Battle of the Brandywine, capture federation President John McKinly, and occupy Wilmington until mid October.

September 3, 1838 - Tuckahoe, Maryland native Frederick Douglass escaped from his slave owners leaving Baltimore for New York.

September 10 to September 12, 1889 - A great storm wreaked havoc on coastal Delaware damaging property and sinking some ships.

September 19, 1936 - A hurricane hit Ocean City, Maryland destroying much of the oceanfront boardwalk and fishing pier.

## **The Garden Of Good Living: Savoring Summer's Last Days In The Garden by Pat Hendrickson**

Be sure to check hanging baskets and container plants every other day. Push your finger an inch or two into the soil to be sure there is adequate moisture all the way down to the roots. If your containers are annuals, you can use a fertilizer on them every other week, and they will continue to look beautiful. And, although it may go against your instinct, you should give them a little haircut right now if they are looking leggy. Between the fertilizer and the haircut, you'll have beautiful looking container plants right through September.

There are quite a few perennials that will continue to bloom if you take the time to remove the spent flowers. Trimming them back will keep the plants from going into the seed producing stage which causes them to continue flowering longer into the season.

- Container grown perennials, shrubs and trees can be planted this month. Treat them to some of that compost you've been cooking in your side yard!
- Plant Fall blooming Crocus for some great blooms at the end of the perennial season.
- Divide Spring flowering perennials and transplant or swap with your friends. Do this first thing in the morning and give them plenty of water afterwards.
- Prune your hybrid roses in late August to promote the most fall blossoms. Remove about a third of the vigorous growth. Any stems that cross each other should be removed, as well as those that are

in the center of the plant. Weak, spindly canes and any damaged by black spot fungus should be removed. Except in colder regions, roses should be fertilized through the end of September.

- Start your fall and winter vegetables. Plant starters or seeds of green onions, carrots, beets, lettuce, spinach, radishes, and winter cauliflower directly into the garden early this month.
- If you are into lawns, you probably already know that grasses go dormant in times of drought, but will quickly return to life with the fall rains. If a lush green lawn is important to you, and you don't mind mowing, water it regularly, and deeply. If a water shortage is expected, or you hate tending to grass, you may choose to just let your lawn go dormant, and water it as seldom as once a month. It helps to raise the cutting height of the mower because taller grass cools the roots and helps to keep the moisture in the soil longer.

Have you discovered a local garden club or art league in your area? The two often go hand in hand because artists love to paint and sketch gardens and gardeners are natural born artists!

University of Salisbury Arboretum - <http://www.salisbury.edu/arboretum/>

Maryland Native Plant Society - <http://www.mdflora.org/>

Horticultural Society of Maryland - <http://www.mdhorticulture.org/>

### **Rhythms & Tides**

#### Getting Ready For Fall Outdoors

This is a great time for adventurers who ride the wind and surf. It is also a great time to catch stripers and to work the surf for blue fish. These activities are for the most hardy and experienced, as the weather can be very unforgiving. Always go with a buddy and use good common sense.

Hunting season has begun. There are many opportunities to hunt a variety of game in each state including bow season for deer in Delaware. Be sure to check your local DNR site for all the restrictions and licensing regulations.

#### **Outdoors This Month You Can See**

Birds like this immature night heron can easily be seen along our shorelines. There you can also see little blue herons and the ever present white egrets.

The country side provides a lot of beautiful wildflowers this time of year. Get up early to enjoy the morning glories. Goldenrod which vexes the allergic, can be found just about everywhere including our beaches. Many fields have a golden crown of Jerusalem artichokes, the dusty rose of the joe-pye-weed and purple aster. With apples becoming ripe fall color can't be too far away.

#### **Sunrise & Sunset**

Sunrise at the beginning of the month: 6:37am

Sunrise at the end of the month: 7:03am

Sunset at the beginning of the month: 7:38pm

Sunset at the end of the month: 6:52pm

#### **Moon Phases**

September 4 - Full Moon

September 18 - New Moon

Names for the Moon - Harvest Moon, Wine Moon

#### **Other Sky Events**

September 2-3 - Late on this night Jupiter's moons will be behind it making them seem to disappear.

September 17- Uranus will be at its closest approach to Earth though you will still need a very powerful telescope to see it.

September 22 - Fall (Northern Hemisphere) begins with the Autumnal equinox. There will be equal amounts of day and night.

September 22 - Early in the morning the planets Mercury and Saturn will appear very close together.

#### **Celestial Navigation**

by Valerie Morrissey

This month's sun sign Virgo, the Virgin, is symbolized in mythology by a young girl carrying a sheaf of wheat. Ruled by Mercury, these people are the servers of the zodiac. They are nurses, doctors, waiters, maids, teachers, care-givers to the elderly. They like to rescue people, like a knight in shining armor.

This charming quality tends to spill over into relationships, and a Virgo will do everything to take care of his/her partner, out of sheer obligation, even if the honeymoon is over.

Virgos are emotionally inhibited and have high standards when choosing a mate. This sign is not so much about physical virginity, but more of a purity of purpose and moral standards. It takes them a while to come out and say, "I love you." Virgos are not prudish or frigid in the least, and once they have found love, they are quite affectionate.

This is a feminine, passive sign. They usually have some volunteer thing on the side that makes them feel like they are giving something back to society. They are methodical and tend to fuss over details, and even if a Virgo's desk is a mess, he knows where everything is. They are good at crafts, building and fixing things. They are hard-working, loyal and honor their commitments. Virgos are interested in diet and health and can often be found at the nearest natural food store buying vitamins, fresh vegetables, herb teas and such.

#### Virgo (Born between August 22 - September 22)

With the Sun here, you have more responsibility than before and are standing in the spotlight. Things could heat up between the 15th and the 17th. It could be a very stressful time and there could be problems or delays in whatever you are doing. Mercury backs up into Virgo on the 18th as well. Expect the unexpected. But you might be recognized for a job well done and things could work out in your favor.

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

Because of Mars some of you will feel a little cranky and find it hard to get things done. Read about Capricorn. You may be impatient and somewhat accident-prone. You should not expect too much of yourself right now. Give yourself plenty of time and don't set any deadlines. Also with the Mercury retrograde you may have communication issues with your spouse. This is a good time to sort out files, send emails, reorganize the office.

#### Taurus (Born between April 20 - May 19)

This month Taurus folks probably won't have much excitement. It's a quiet time and all your affairs are status quo. Everything should be running smoothly which is just what Taurus likes. Any of you who are thinking about a job change should continue meditating and visualizing the future. Be patient and stay focused. The tide won't turn for a while yet, but if you keep a positive outlook it will pay off.

#### Gemini (Born between May 20 - June 20)

Between the 15th and 17th there might some interesting developments at work or concerning your career, because of Saturn and Uranus. Outside events may affect your situation. Also the Full moon on the 5th could prove interesting. Heads could roll at the management level. Pay attention, and make sure you have been playing by the rules of the game. You might be next in line for promotion or taking over the reins.

#### Cancer (Born between June 21 - July 22)

Mars is here all month. Read about Capricorn. You will have lots of energy, moving in hyper drive. You can get a lot of work done, but be patient with your family or colleagues and not too temperamental. In relationships don't be clingy or needy. Take your time, and get enough rest. Cancers can be accident-prone, moody or difficult under this influence. Think positive and don't let your imagination run away with you.

#### Leo (Born between July 23 - August 21)

Venus is here until the 20th. Many of you will be gearing up for a busy social schedule in the next few weeks. Plan a party or a barbeque. Fun, games and romance will beckon. Leos are flirtatious and hot to trot when Venus makes a stop here. This is the start of a very creative period, so get out your sketchbooks, cameras and so forth. Also now is the best time for beauty treatments, new hairstyles and shopping for clothes.

#### Libra (Born between September 23 - October 22)

Mercury retrograde here during the first half of the month is not as scary as it sounds. It suggests all kinds of communication problems, but this is really not the case. You just have to take a different

approach. Don't make any decisions, but take inventory, clean out cabinets, reorganize things. It is a favorable time for writing and research, especially for future projects. It's behind the scenes work and involves no contracts.

Scorpio (Born between October 23 - November 21)

Because Mars and Pluto are joint rulers of your sign, and they are aspecting each other, you may feel more driven than usual. Find a project you can throw yourself into. If you aren't in an exercise program, then get into one for you will be positively loaded with physical energy. Handle relationships with care and don't be too pushy or controlling. The Full moon in Pisces on the 5th promises passion and romance.

Sagittarius (Born between November 22 - December 21)

The exact opposition of Saturn and Uranus on the 15th means some people's professional affairs will come to a climax. Things could also happen on the 5th with the Full moon as well. The New moon on the 19th brings a fresh start. Since these two planets have opposed each other for a while, you may not see anything momentous, just the usual day-to-day craziness. It's a bit like a surfboard. Ride the waves and hang on tight.

Capricorn (Born between December 22 - January 20)

Pluto will be stationary/direct on the 12th, which means he will have a more powerful transformational influence all month. Some of you may have already noticed an impact since last month. Goats whose birthdays are from December 20-23 should sit up and pay attention, as well as Aries, Cancer and Libra. The opposition of Mars in Cancer will increase the chance of explosive energy, and whatever you say or do will have an irreversible effect. Since Pluto tends to operate beneath the surface, some may not notice anything happening. But like a volcanic eruption, a major argument or event could permanently change your life and outlook. Get ready for an exciting ride.

Aquarius (Born between January 21 - February 19)

Nothing earth-shattering this month is expected, since Jupiter and Neptune are still floating backwards. You are in a daydream and it may be hard to think clearly at this time. However, Venus will be in opposition from the 10th-16th, so during that week, there is a good chance of a romantic encounter. You could meet someone different, charismatic, and have a whirlwind affair. Have fun but don't make any commitments!

Pisces (Born between February 20 - March 20)

Read about Gemini. You are much better at handling the ups and downs of the Saturn-Uranus opposition than the other signs, being changeable and unpredictable yourself. Going with the flow suits you just fine. If something comes to you like a promotion, extra credit projects or a transfer, smile and put your best foot forward. There is a distinct possibility of this at the Full moon on the 5th. You may be in for a surprise.

**Holidays & Observances This Month**

This Month's Flower - Aster

This Month's Birthstone - Sapphire

September 11 - Patriot Day  
September 13 - Grandparents Day  
September 16 - Mayflower Day  
September 16 - Stepfamily Day  
September 17 - Citizenship Day  
September 19 - Talk Like a Pirate Day  
September 19-20 - Rosh Hashanah (Judaism)

September 21 - End of Ramadan(Muslim)  
September 22 - Autumnal Equinox - Fall Begins  
September 22 - American Business Women's Day  
September 25 - National Day of Remembrance  
for Murder Victims  
September 26 - Johnny Appleseed Day  
September 28 - Navaratri (Hindu)

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)