

THE MONTHLY GAZETTE

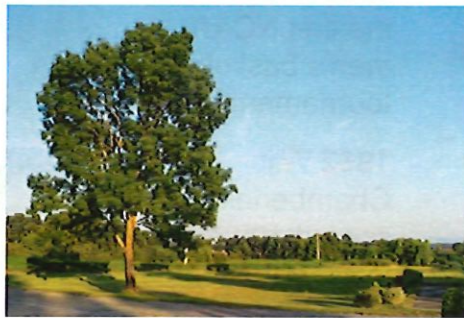
*"March brings breezes, loud and shrill,
to stir the dancing daffodil."*

~ Sara Coleridge



Tree of the Month – Ash

Ash is the common name for Fraxinus trees, which are part of the olive and lilac family. These trees (and the leaves they drop) benefit the soil by raising the pH and making more nutrients available in the ground. Ash trees grow in fertile, moist soil across Europe, Africa, Asia, and North America, in climates as diverse as those of Nova Scotia, Florida, Texas, and Minnesota. They can be identified by their compound leaves, which have five to nine leaflets each. Additionally, ash tree leaflets, branches, and buds always grow opposite one another. Ash wood has a



variety of uses, including for furniture, baseball bats, hockey sticks, and oars. It is not suitable for exterior building projects, as it becomes perishable when exposed to the elements or it is in contact with the ground. In Norse mythology, the ash tree is considered sacred and symbolizes magic, life, strength, wisdom, healing, and balance.

Special Days

**Daylight Saving
Time Begins**
March 10

St. Patrick's Day
March 17

First Day of Spring
March 19

Purim Begins
March 23

**Holi (Hindu
Spring Festival)**
March 25

Easter
March 31

Flower – Daffodil



The cheerful daffodil is associated with spring because it's one of the first flowers to bloom. *Daffodil* is the common name for all members of the genus *narcissus*. In the language of flowers, daffodils symbolize chivalry, respect, modesty, and faithfulness. It is the birth flower for March and represents new beginnings. Most daffodils are yellow, but varieties include pink, lime green, and a mix of yellow and white. They often grow in large clusters, covering lawns and entire hillsides.

Birthstone – Aquamarine



The birthstone for March is the aquamarine. This gorgeous gemstone gets its name from the Latin term *aqua marina*, meaning "sea water." It's an apt name considering the aquamarine's sparkling turquoise color, which ranges from pale to medium blue. Blue aquamarines are the rarest and most valuable. The green stones are sometimes changed to blue by heating them in an electric furnace at 842°F (450°C). Most aquamarines are found in Brazil.

March Firsts in Sports History

Many firsts in sports have taken place in March. Here are just a few of them:

1871 First professional baseball association formed

1875 First organized indoor game of ice hockey played

1894 First Stanley Cup hockey playoff game played

1910 New land speed record of 131.7 mph set

1912 First parachute jump from a moving airplane

1914 First U.S. figure-skating championships held

1924 Bowler rolled two perfect games in succession

1931 First table tennis national championships held

1934 First Masters Golf Tournament held

1936 First stock car race held in Daytona Beach

1939 Oregon won the first NCAA men's basketball tournament

1962 Wilt Chamberlain scored 100 points in a basketball



Riddle Me March

What can be seen in the middle of March and April that can't be seen in the beginning or end of either month?

Answer: The letter *r*



March Zodiacs

Pisces (The Fish)
March 1–20

Aries (The Ram)
March 21–31

March hasn't always been the third month of the year. In fact, it was the first month of the year on the ancient Roman calendar. Beginning the year in March seemed logical because it is when new growth starts after the "dead" of the year. March's name comes from *martius*, meaning "the month of Mars." (Mars was the Roman god of war.) The Anglo-Saxons called the month *hyld monath*, which means "stormy month," and *hraed monath*, meaning "rugged month"—apt names for a month that tends to see a lot of rain and wild weather!

Lucky Leprechauns

Stories of leprechauns go back to eighth-century Celtic legends of water spirits. These magical beings are typically depicted in Irish folklore as short, bearded men wearing a coat and hat. They are known for tending pots of gold, making shoes, enjoying a few (or many!) pints of beer, and generally making mischief.

What's Lucky in March?

Lucky Color: Green

Lucky Animal: Lamb

Lucky Letters: C and R

Lucky Day: Thursday

Lucky Plant: Shamrock



March Birthdays

Javier Bardem (actor) – March 1, 1969

Jackie Joyner-Kersey (sprinter) – March 3, 1962

Knute Rockne (football coach) – March 4, 1888

Eva Mendes (actress) – March 5, 1974

Elizabeth Barrett Browning (poet) – March 6, 1806

Piet Mondrian (artist) – March 7, 1872

Juliette Binoche (actress) – March 9, 1964

Lisa Loeb (musician) – March 11, 1968

Billy Crystal (comedian) – March 14, 1948

Kurt Russell (actor) – March 17, 1951

Spike Lee (director) – March 20, 1957

Aretha Franklin (singer) – March 25, 1942

Gloria Swanson (actress) – March 27, 1899

Eric Clapton (musician) – March 30, 1945