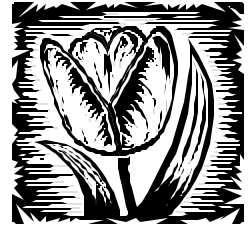




ACON MARYLAND / DELAWARE CHAPTER



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DRY AND COLD AFTER AN APRIL FOOLS DAY

The pre-dawn hours of the 1st was more like winter in Eastern Maryland and Delaware than April like. Snow, which began on March 31st, came to an end during the pre-dawn hours but not until it dumped 8.2" (6.4" on the 1st) at **Paul Schlosser's** station in **Kingsville**, and 7.7" (4.2" on the 1st) at **Gary Gallaher's** station in **Bear, DE**. **Kenny Boggs** measured 1" at **Whaleysville** on the Eastern Shore. This was also the only measurable snow at **Whaleysville**. The following stations reported measurable snow of less than an inch of snow on the 1st: **Marty Sharrow** of **Owings Mills**, **Joe Manfre** of **Baltimore 2SE**, **Bobby Miller** of **Millers 4ENE**, and **Marlene Walchli** of **California**. The snow, which was melted quickly, was short lived. The only other later snow to fall east of the mountains were flurries at **Hagerstown 1E** on the 8th & 9th, **Manchester 1S** on the 9th & 18th, **Millers 4ENE** on the 18th and **Germantown 1.5W** on the 18th.

The warmest air of the month moved into the two state area behind the departing March 31-April 1 northeaster. Temperatures peaked on the 4th in the mid to upper 70's across the area east of the mountains. The warmest temperature observed by an ACON observer was **John Zyla** of **Ridge** who recorded 83. **Peter Gajary** of **Capitol Hill** had 81, **Marlene Walchli** of **California**, **Joe Manfre** of **Baltimore 2SE** and **Dan Hanson** of **Millersville 1SE** each recorded 80. The only other period of 70+ degree temperatures, (warm for this April), occurred on the 29th and 30th at many stations. **Al Krenik** of **Parkton 5SW**, **Marty Sharrow** of **Owings Mills**, **Rebecca Harvey** of **Eagle Rock** and **Bill Hudelson** of **South Bowie** were the only observers to record their monthly maximum temperature then.

Frequent cold frontal passages this month held temperatures as well as precipitation down. The wettest two precipitation events was on the 12th when 4 to 5 tenths of an inch fell across the area, and the 27-28 when upwards of 1.5" of rain fell. Other precipitation that fell

was fairly light which allowed the ground to dry out nice for the farmers and gardeners. The wettest area was east of the Chesapeake Bay and in St. Marys County. All three St. Mary's observers recorded precipitation of more than 3". **Marlene Walchli** of **California** was the only observer to record over 4 inches. **Kenny Boggs** of **Whaleysville**, **Bill Hudelson** of **South Bowie**, and **Gary Gallaher** of **Bear 6WSW DE** were the only other observers to measure over 3" of precipitation. All other amounts were in the 1+" and 2+" ranges.

Thunderstorm activity was minimal. No major outbreaks were observed. Generally thunder was observed on just one day.

Damaging winds were reported on the 1st by **Al Krenik** of **Parkton 5SW**, and **Bobby Miller** of **Millers 4 ENE**.

The coldest air of the month settled in on the night of the 10th. Freezing or below temperatures were recorded by all ACON observers. They ranged from a low of 4 at **Eagle Rock** to 32 at **Capitol Hill**.

MONTHLY EXTREMES

Maximum Temperature

Ridge 83

Capitol Hill 81

Minimum Temperature

Eagle Rock 4

Manchester 1S 22

Smithsburg 22

Warmest Average Temp.

Capitol Hill 56.7

Baltimore 2 SE 56.2

Coldest Average Temp.

Eagle Rock 44.0

Parkton 5 SW 49.1

Maximum Precipitation

California 4.17"

Hollywood 3.87"

Minimum Precipitation

Manchester 1 S 1.24"

Millers 4 ENE 1.31"

Maximum Snowfall

Eagle Rock 6.7"

NOTICE

DEADLINE FOR DATA IS THE 15TH OF THE FOLLOWING MONTH.

For the quickest possible turnaround of the monthly report please mail or fax your report directly to Gary Gallaher. Kevin and I wish to include all data possible. We will wait for your info if notified.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONCERNING
ACON PLEASE CONTACT:

KEVIN SHAW
MD / DE COORDINATOR

APRIL 1997

OBSERVER MONTHLY NOTES

Dan Hanson of Baltimore 4 SW

April 1997 opened with the infamous "April Fool's Snowstorm". While central MD was only grazed by the snowfall, there was enough snow on the 1st to whiten the ground. Freezing temperatures and strong winds made conditions more typical of February than April. Temperatures quickly rebounded though and three days later the thermometer shot up to the upper 70's.

As is typical, the temperatures roller coaster continued throughout the month, however, temps seemed to spend more time at the cool end. No surges of very warm air occurred as evident by the months high temp occurring to the 4th.

Significant dry weather prevailed almost the entire month until a substantial rain on the 27-28th. Only half of the average precipitation fell during April.

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

10th - Freezing temps damages peach and pear buds.

21st - Patchy dense ground fog illuminated by a very bright moon.

This month was abnormally cool and dry.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

1st - Heavy wet snow created a very wintry scene.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2 SE

A mostly cooler and drier than normal month.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

12th - Brush fire in York Co. PA reduced visibility here. Rain helps.

A cool, dry month. Precipitation needed. This was the third driest month this decade. Only Feb. '91 (1.22') and Oct. '94 (1.27") were drier. Early month damaging freeze. Excellent views of comet the 1st week.

Marty Sharrow of Indian Head

April rains occurred mostly in the later half of the month.

Paul Schlosser of Kingsville 1 S

1st - Tremendous late season snow - Temp 30 early Am. Moderate to heavy snow, some blowing, ending about 4 AM. Storm total 8.2" (4.5" on roads). Snow melted rapid and complete during the day with very strong NE winds.

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

A cool and rather dry April, nothing too eventful.

Stan Rossen of Glenmont 1 NNE

April was cool dry month. It ranked as the 6th coolest on record. The average minimum ranked as the 2nd coolest on record. This was the 5th driest April on record. Otherwise it was an "unremarkable" month.

Gary Gallaher of Bear 6 WSW DE

April was the snowiest on record. 7.7" fell 3/31-4/1. Trees were slow and steady to leaf the last half of the month. Frequent cold frontal passages kept the temperature below normal from the 9th to 27th.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

1st - Flurries before dawn

15th & 16th - Morning frost heavier on the 15th.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

First week of April was mild and dry.

10th - Low of 24. Up to 70% damages reported by some area orchards. Winds kept the temperatures from falling into the teens.

20th - Rather heavy frost.

25th - Thunderstorm 3:30 - 4 PM very sharp lightning, brief rain, and a trace of very small hail, smaller than pea size.

COMPILED BY GARY GALLAHER FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM OBSERVERS