

LATE MONTH SUMMER LIKE HEAT

Two distinct temperature patterns occurred this month. Unlike this past winter the first three and a half weeks averaged below normal. The warmest temperatures for this period occurred ahead of a storm system which passed west of the Appalachian Ahead. Behind it the coldest air since New Years Day poured into the area. Below freezing maximum temperatures were observed on the 11th and 12th at some stations west of the I-95/I-83 corridor for the first time since January, more than any other month this past winter.

The last week of the month brought with it summer like temperatures thanks to a strong large Bermuda High which established itself in the western Atlantic. Clear sunny skies along with west to southwest winds brought temperatures in the 80's and a few 90's. All-time station temperature records for the month were set at many stations. Hagerstown broke its 1907 record of 88. Wilmington NWS tied its record of 86. In downtown Baltimore 97 was recorded by the NWS at the Custom House. Along with the high temperatures came with it warm nights. The temperature failed to fall below 60 at many stations for at least one night during the "heat" wave. A few stations recorded a minimum temperature in the 70's.

Rains Continue

Above normal precipitation continued this month. Totals this month were mainly in the 5" to 6" range. All of the precipitation fell during the first three and a half weeks, the cold portion of the month. Four storms accounted for the rainfall. The first one around the 2nd & 3rd, the second the 8th & 9th, the third the 18th & 19th and the final the 20th & 21st. Each one of the events brought at least 1" of rain to some areas.

EXTREME REPORTED BY

ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Baltimore 2 SE	93
Millersville 1 SE	92

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Eagle Rock	0
Thurmont, Middle Mt.	11
Westminster 4 SSE	13

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Baltimore 2 SE	50.1
California	47.4

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Eagle Rock	39.1
Thurmont, Middle Mt.	40.6

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

California	7.02
Millers 4 NE	6.82

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Wilmington 5 NNE	3.99
Eagle Rock	4.16

MAXIMUM SNOW

Eagle Rock	24.7
Manchester 1 SW	13.3

Finally SNOW

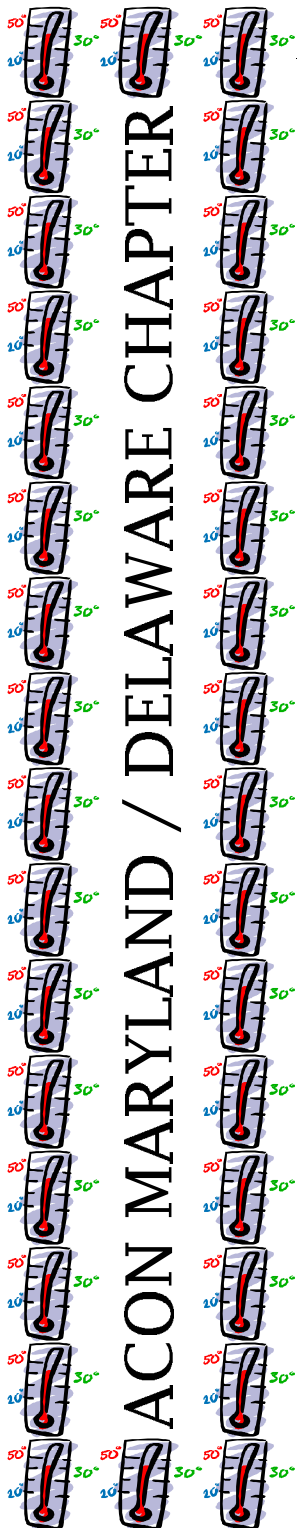
A surprise snowstorm hit the area on the 3rd. Carroll County saw the heaviest snowfall. Totals there ranged from 5" to 8". 8" also fell in Frederick County on top of Middle Mountain.

Snow again fell at the tail end of the 20th-21st storm. This time totals were much less than on the 3rd. The heaviest, almost 5", fell at Manchester in Carroll County.

Eagle Rock, located in Garrett County of Western Maryland, was the only station to have a good amount of snow this season. Through March the season total was 111.2' Maybe next winter Rebecca can share some of it with Kevin!

WELCOME BACK REBECCA HARVEY OF EAGLE ROCK, GARRETT CO, MD

GOOD LUCK JEFF TAYLOR WITH YOUR NEW JOB IN CALIFORNIA!!



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ACON CONTACT:

KEVIN SHAW
ACON MD/DE COORDINATOR
E-MAIL ADDRESS
Kevin_D_Shaw@compuserve.com

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR MARCH 1998

Dan Hanson of Baltimore 4 SW and Millersville 1 SE

March brought its typical wide variety of weather conditions this year. With equally balanced hot and cold spells, the month averaged near "normal" for temperatures. And the wet and stormy pattern continued which contributed to nearly double the average monthly precipitation. The month opened with an unexpected snow on the 3rd which doubled the seasonal snowfall, which wasn't hard to do since that total was only a few inches. A NE bound storm system brought a brief spike in temperatures on the 9th as readings topped 70. This warmth was short-lived though as subfreezing conditions moved in. Baltimore 4SW remained below freezing from the evening of the 10th to the morning of the 13th. Below average temps continued for the next two weeks. More snowfall occurred on the 21st and 22nd. Lightning and thunder also accompanied the snowflakes on the 21st. The total seasonal snowfalls where Baltimore 4SW = 6.2" and Millersville 1 SE = 1.9". A dramatic warm up started on the 27th. Temperatures soared to near 90 for the remaining days of the month, setting all-time March records for both stations.

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

17th - Rainbow at 7:20 AM

20th - Heavy rain and thunder before and after midnight

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

Another wet month with a few wintry episodes. Then, a pronounced "Summer-Like ending.

Herb Close of Manchester 1 S

3rd - Moderate to heavy snow, cold, windy. Some blowing and drifting.

17th - Sun halo and sun dogs at 7:15 AM

22nd - Early morning heavy snow

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

3rd - Heavy surprised snowstorm - very localized. 1"+ per hour all morning.

20th - Spectacular lightning once again.

21st-Snow/sleet at night with lightning and thunder.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 ENE

Precip so far this year is equal to 54% of last years total.

9th - Thunderstorm with pea size hail.

25th - Very heavy frost and rime

30th - 85 tied all time month max temp set 3/14/90

Robert Rickell of Union Mills 1 SE

3rd - Heavy surprise snowstorm with heavy snow falling from 2 AM through 1 PM. 8.2" on ground at 1 PM, however less than an inch fell 10 miles west of this station.

14th-Damaging winds accompanied frontal passage

21st - Heavy overnight thunderstorms. Lightning and thunder continued for 6 hours.

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

30th - 91 station March record. Old record was 85

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

Most of March 1998 was wet and cool. However, a record heat wave from the 26th - 31st caused a skew to this general pattern, turning a significantly cooler than normal month into a warmer than normal month. All measurable precipitation fell during the first 21 days of the month. Snowfall was limited to trace amounts on 5 days, not even being able to help out the anemic seasonal total of only 5.9". Daily record high temperature were set on the 27th of 84, 29th of 86, 31st of 85 and on the 30th, 89 broke the March station record set on 3/30/79. Daily precipitation records were set on the 18th (1.45") and the 20th (1.64")

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

20th - Thunderstorm with heavy rain 2130 - 2200. Another storm began 2250, close lightning, one 20 second long rumble of thunder. A meteorologist friend in Beltsville, about 10 miles ENE of this station reported hail completely covered the ground around 2200 hours.

Gary Gallaher of Bear 6 WSW

The month ended with summer like temperatures. A station record of 88 was set on the 30th. The dry weather, winds, and warm temperatures permitted ground preparation for spring planting at months end.

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie

10th - Lunar halo 2200 hrs

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

A very wet start to 1998 with 23.10" of precipitation, but no measurable rain the last ten days.

Marlene Walchli of California 3 NW

30th - 91 degrees - Clear, sunny, hot!, Real nice day.

John Zyla of Ridge

30th - 70 degrees at midnight!

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

10th - Strong NW winds overnight and colder gusts to 36 mph. Very windy and cold all day with more gusts to 36 mph wind chills in the teens and single digits. Also a few snow flurries today and this evening.

27th - Record high of 85. Old record 83 in 1921

29th - 85 tied record set in 1907

30th - Record high of 89. Old record 86 in 1986. This temperature broke the all-time record high March temperature of 88 of 3/22 & 23/1907.

31st - Record high of 85. Old record 81 in 1986.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg

21st - Training thunderstorms and flooding.

28th - 64 minimum set March record as the maximum minimum. Old record was 53 set 3/2/96

30th - 88 set a new March maximum temperature.

Gary Gallaher

MD/DE ACON Data Collector and Report Writer