

Atlantic Coast Observers Network
MARYLAND / DELAWARE CHAPTER
With Data from Nearby Areas



HOT BEGINNING, DROUGHT EAS- ING RAINS MID TO LATE MONTH

HEAT

August began where July left off, HOT and DRY. The 1st saw temperatures in the mid to upper 90's generally east of Interstate 95. **Ridge**, observer **John Zyla**, and **Jug Bay Wetlands** in **Lothian** were the only two stations to break the 100 degree mark. The 2nd through the 19th saw temperatures generally above normal with 90 degree temperatures occurring at many stations. The only other day this month with extreme temperatures was the 17th. Many areas saw temperatures in the mid to upper 90's. **Greg Keefer** of **Hagerstown 1 E** recorded 100 that afternoon. From the 20th through the 31st only twelve (12) 90 degree readings were observed.

EXTREME DROUGHT

Early in the month the extreme dryness was only getting worse. Crops were severely damaged. Maryland and Delaware were under mandatory water restrictions. **Rob Rickell** of **Hanover 2 S PA** reported that Susquehanna River and other streams in the basin were flowing at record low levels, lowest in 110 years. In northern Delaware, **Gary Gallaher** of **Bear 2 SW** also reported stream flows were at record low levels and below minimum flow rates required to supply drinking water and to maintain the stream environment.

86 MPH WIND GUST

From the report on the 26th of **Bobby Miller** of **Millers 4 NE**, "As described by Al Kreinik, assistant observer, 4:55 PM very dark roll clouds to SW wind increasing. Intense cloud to ground lightning. Distant visibility dropping rapidly. Heavy precipitation appears like fog moving in. 5:05 - 5:08 PM very strong winds / violent rain showers. Pea sized hail fell 5 minutes. 5:09 PM incredible sound of wind / rain against the house. Observed and recorded on Heathkit gust of 86 MPH (5:09:23 PM). Visibility 40 feet max. Wind diminishes 5 to 8 minutes later. Heavy showers through observation (6 PM). Power out for 24 hours." Bobby reported that about 1/4 to 3/8 mile away a dozen or so large oak trees were topped / torn or completely down.

WELCOME RAINS

Monthly rains of 5 inches or more generally the Baltimore / Washington Metropolitan area, St Mary's County and extreme northern Delaware. Heavy showers and thunderstorms hit parts of the area on the 14th and the 20th. A more general heavy rain occurred on the 24th to 26th. **Clinton Bubb** of **Morganza** and **Floyd Abell** of **Hollywood** reported flooded rains of 5.21" and 5.48" on the 25th. **Jim Canavan** of **Wilmington 4 NNE** reported 2.12" on the 14th and 3.17" on the 26th. **Bill Hudelson** of **South Bowie** reported 2.96" on the 14th, 2.25" on the 25th and 2.98" on the 26th.

EXTREMES REPORTED BY ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Jug Bay Wetlands	101
Ridge	101
Hagerstown 1 E	100

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Eagle Rock	42
Hanover 2 S PA	49
Hagerstown 1 E	49

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Baltimore 2 SE	79.2
Ridge	78.7
Jug Bay Wetlands	77.9
Hollywood	77.9
California 3 NW	77.9

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Eagle Rock	67.3
Hanover 2 S	71.1
Westminster 4 SSE	71.6

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

South Bowie	9.34
Jug Bay Wetlands	7.59
Wilmington 3 NNE	7.40

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Hagerstown 1 E	2.51
Eagle Rock	2.59
Smithsburg 3 NE	3.01

Bobby Millers Heathkit showing 86 MPH gust

HURRICANE DENNIS

Dennis outflow clouds covered much of the eastern and central portions of the area on the 30th and 31st. Dennis and a strong high pressure area to the north brought stiff NE winds and cooler temperatures to the area. After stalling off North Carolina it hit the coast a week later. Details in next months report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR AUGUST 1999

Dan Hanson of Millersville 1 SE

Much needed rainfall this month provided the first above average precipitation in six months. While the heavy rains helped the short term drought, the rainfall deficit this year is around 7" and 15" for the last 12 months.

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

1st - Two heavy thunderstorms, 1:20 AM to 1:38 AM (0.33") and 3:10 PM to 3:34 PM (0.40").

14th - Heavy thunderstorm @ 3 PM much lightning & thunder, very dark. Temps dropped from 95 to 70 in 35 minutes.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

26th - TRW 1845-2130. Flash floods.

Herb Close of Manchester 1 SW

1st - 1:00 - 1:30 AM intense thunderstorm, downpours (0.55"). Another downpour 3-4 PM (0.66")

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

Summer 1999: Avg. Max 84.9, Avg. min 62.6, Avg. Temp 73.7 (+1.5). Precipitation 9.58" (-0.61")

16th - Visibility dropped to 1/16 mile in heavy shower in a thunderstorm. Winds gust to 43 from N. Marble size hail 2:53 PM to 2:58 PM briefly covered the ground. Daily minimum temperature

Jack Thomas of Middle Mt. Thurmont

12th - Bright meteor zoomed by.

25th - Visibility 1/10th mile in fog. 24 hour rain 25th-26th 2.85".

Marty Brumback of Bryans Road 2 SE

This summers dust bowl continued during most of August. My grass looked like shredded wheat!. Big change on the 24-26th when 4.07" of rain fell causing Mattawoman Creek to rise out of its banks. Things are greening up again.

Rich Giannola of JHU/APL

August rainfall total was nearly equivalent to total rainfall from May, June and July (4.43").

25th - 1.83" rain, greater than the rainfall for each of the months of May, June, and July. It was also the wettest day since November 7, 1997 (2.88")

Rich Giannola of Olney

Welcome rains received near the end of the month. One day totals on 20th (1.15") and 25th (1.81") each exceeded the entire total for July (1.05").

30th-31st - High cloud shield from fringes of Hurricane Dennis kept temperatures relatively cool.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

August 1999 was a real landmark month, a real turning point in this very eventful year. It marked the start of a much needed reversal of dry, hot weather that we have been having this summer, and, in fact, for most of this year. Temperatures averaged 1.9 degrees above normal and precipitation 1.73" above normal.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

Unusually hot, dry and sunny conditions persisted through 1st three weeks. 18 consecutive days 90+ days from late July to early August. Major break in both the heat and drought the last 10 days.

Jim Canavan of Wilmington 4 NNE

Heavy rains on the 14th (2.12") and 25th (3.17")

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

Severe dryness eased the last third of the month with two heavy rain events (20th & 26th). This was the seventh month in a row with above normal temps.

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie

This could definitely be said to be the month that a lot of prayers were answered in that many areas benefited from significant rainfall.

14th - 2.96" of rain, a wonderful surprise!

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

25th - Flooding rains. Rain with thunder 10 AM to 6 PM, very heavy noon to 4 PM. The 5.48" total was the most one day rain since 1985 (Rains from Danny, over 9")

Clinton Bubb of Morganza

25th - 5.21" of rain with a maximum of 1.28" in 1/2 hour. Many roads were flooded.

Marlene Walchli of California

8th - 98 degrees, Mostly thin CI overcast, filtered sunshine, thin haziness.

25th - Moderate rainfall 0920-1300. Heavy rainfall 1300-1545, moderate fog.

John Zyla of Ridge

May 99-Aug 99 precipitation 4.65" below average.

Aug 98-Aug 99 precipitation 11.58" below average.

24 days in a row of 90 degree or more (July 16-Aug 9)

51 days 90 or more, 22 days of 95 or more, 8 days 100 or more this summer (May 29-Sept 7)

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

17th - A surprised high temp today. Day began very warm and humid but the air rapidly dried out with quickly lowering humidity this afternoon and a jump in temp to a high of 100.

This summer was the 4th hottest on record, 75.5 degrees.

Rob Rickell of Hanover 2 S, PA

1st - Heavy afternoon thunderstorm, heavy rain, much needed!

14th - Thunder, hail, damaging winds.

31st - 49 degrees, a chilly start.

Thank you, Jack Thomas. Jack is moving to Frederick and will close his station on top of Middle Mountain, Thurmont. He plans on remaining a ACON member, but will not be able to have an operating station at this time.