



ATLANTIC COAST OBSERVER NETWORK, MD / DE / DC CHAPTER WITH DATA FROM NEARBY AREAS

DRIER AND WARMER THAN NORMAL

April 2001 was the mildest and driest since 1994 in the region. This month was not as windy as last month. The last five days of the month saw 100% sunshine under cloudless skies, low humidity, and light winds making them the "finest days of the year so far" according to **Ralph Hartsock** of **Westminster 4 SSE**.

TEMPERATURE

The temperatures this month finally broke out of the "flat" no extreme regime to one of a roller-coaster which bounced from one extreme to another. The first extreme was on the third when temperatures fell to freezing or below at all but more urban (such as **Joe Manfre** of **Baltimore 2 SE** who recorded a 40 and **Tony Scafide** of **Bethesda** who observed 36) and hill top locations (such as **Herb Close** of **Manchester 1 SW** who observed a 35). A storm which moved up in to Eastern Canada from the Mid West brought along with it associated warm and cold fronts. Thunderstorms accompanied the frontal passages. In between the temperature spiked to the mid to upper 80's, making it the warmest temperatures by far of the year. The first 90 degree temperatures of the season were observed by **Dan Hanson** of **Millersville 1 SE**, **Jug Bay Wetlands** of **Lothian**, and **Rob Cohen** of **Potomac 4 N**.

This warm spell was short lived. Maximum temperatures bounced from the 50's to the 70's and then to the 60's and 70's for the next 12 days.

From the 17th through the 19th the coldest temperatures of the month occurred at three quarters of the stations. The temperature at **Rebecca Harvey's Eagle Rock** station in Western Maryland's Garrett County fell into the upper teens on the 18th and 19th. Many of the other non urban stations saw a hard freeze with temperatures in the mid 20's to low 30's.

The roller-coaster-like temperatures continued for the last 10 days of the month. From the 22nd to the 24th summer like maximum temperatures in the mid 80's to 90 degrees returned. The following stations recorded their first 90 degree temperatures of the season: **Jim Canavan** of **Wilmington 4 NNE, DE** (91), **Lynn Albright** of **Fallston 2 NW** (92), **Kevin Shaw** of **Gaithersburg 2 WNW** (90), and **Bill Hudelson** of **South Bowie** (90). The temperature rose to 88 at **Eagle Rock**. The last five days saw large swings between the maximum and minimum (diurnal range) temperatures. Frost occurred in the morning while the afternoons saw temperatures in the 60's and 70's. A diurnal range of 35 to 40+ degrees was common on the 27th. **Kevin Shaw** of **Gaithersburg 2 WNW** reported a range of 45 degrees.

PRECIPITATION

Almost all of April's precipitation fell from the 6th to the 18th. The 14th was the only dry day. Most of the amounts were light. The heaviest amounts fell on the 9th, 11th, and 15th / 16th. Snow fell on the 17th and 18th east of the mountains.

Thunderstorms moved through the region on the 9th. A soaking daytime rain on the 11th brought the heaviest amounts of the month to many stations. Amounts ranged generally in the 1/2" to 1" range. The heaviest amount was recorded by **Rob Cohen** of **Potomac 4 N** of 0.97". Rain again fell on the afternoon of the 15th throughout the morning of the 16th. Heaviest amounts increased as you went north through the region. **Clin-ton Bubb** of **Morganza** recorded 0.14" while **Rob Rickell** of **Hanover 2 S, PA** observed 1.09".

Light rain on the night of the 17th and early morning of the 18th turned to wet snow from west to east. Amounts were generally a "Trace", but measurable amounts fell in Northern Carroll

EXTREMES REPORTED BY ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE	
Fallston 2 NW	92
Wilmington 4 NNE	91
MINIMUM TEMPERATURE	
Eagle Rock	18
Fallston 2 NW	24
WARMEST AVG. TEMP.	
Baltimore 2 SE	58.0
Ridge	57.6
COLDEST AVG. TEMP.	
Eagle Rock	50.4
Hanover 2 S, PA	50.7
MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION	
Smithsburg 2 NE	2.88
Hagerstown 1 E	2.85
Fallston 2 NW	2.85
MINIMUM PRECIPITATION	
Owings Mills 2 SE	1.42
Morganza	1.52
MAXIMUM SNOWFALL.	
Eagle Rock	4.0

County (**Herb Close** of **Manchester 1 SW** reported 1.3", **Bob Miller** of **Millers 4 NNE** reported 0.8"), Northern New Castle County Delaware where **Jim Canavan** of **Wilmington 4 NNE** reported 0.3", Baltimore County (**Marty Sharrow** of **Owings Mills 2 SE** reported 0.2"), and Washington County (Jim Vaughn of **Smithsburg 2 NE** 0.1"). The only other measurable snow this month fell at **Eagle Rock**. **Rebecca Harvey** reported snow of 1 to 1.5" on the 2nd, 17th and 18th.

The last twelve (12) days of the month saw an increasing amount of sunshine, drying conditions, and low humidity which brought with it high pollen levels.

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR APRIL 2001

Jim Canavan of Wilmington 4 NNE

18th - 1/4" of wet snow.

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

9th - Temperature today rose to 85 making it the first time since February 10 that it has been 60 or higher.

26th-30th - Not a cloud in the sky during the last 5 days.

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

3rd - Heavy frost

9th - 6:30 PM brief heavy thunderstorm

19th - Hard freeze

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

18th - 0.2" of wet snow fell this morning.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

9th - AM thunderstorm, partly cloudy, warm, low humidity.

Herb Close of Manchester 1 SW

17th - Heavy wet snow, flakes 1/4" to 1" diameter, between 11:30 PM & 11:35 PM with visibility 1/16th mile.

19th - Light to moderate frost with freeze.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

9th - Three early AM thunderstorms and one severe evening thunderstorm.

18th - Dusting of wet snow overnight.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

19th - Record low minimum with possible damage to Peach trees locally.

29th - Heavy valley frost

Lynn Albright of Fallston 2 NW

12th - Very dense fog in the AM. The day really didn't clear until 4 PM.

26th & 27th - Heavy morning frost.

Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock

7th - Fog & thunder.

Rich Giannola of JHU/APL

12th - AM fog

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

9th, 23rd, 24th - Record maximum temps of 90, 88, & 85

26th - Record minimum temperature of 34

Rich Giannola of Olney 1S

6th-13th - Eight consecutive days of measurable precipitation.

26th - AM frost.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

Diurnal temperature ranges, which are the differences between high and low temperatures on any give day, was a story this month also, as we had a spread of 26.9 degrees, which ranks 4th greatest for April, which is the month that has the greatest diurnal range average among all months of

the year. (My greatest April spread was 28.1 deg, in April 1982).

19th - Record minimum temp of 25.

23rd - Record maximum temp of 90. It was only the 4th day during April in my station history where I have recorded ≥ 90 .

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

9th - First 80 degree day of the season.

19th - Coldest so late in the season since station inception.

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie

3rd - Scattered heavy frost.

12th - Dense AM fog.

21st - Solar halo 1100 hours.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

Although measurable rain fell on 11 days, it was the driest April since 1992.

9th - Record high maximum temp of 89.

19th - Freeze. Record low minimum temp of 29.

24th - Variable clouds, late day showers, weak thunder.

Clinton Bubb of Morganza

Less than 50% of normal precipitation this month.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

9th: Series of thunderstorms moved through the area early this morning beginning at 3 AM. Some storms were very intense with frequent lightning, gusty winds and brief heavy rains. The worst storms were just north of this station only by 0.5 mile. Rainfall here was .45" 3-7 AM and winds gusted to 25 mph. A good bit of close and explosive lightning. Became Sunny and Hot today with a RECORD HIGH of 87 F beating the old record of this date of 85 in 1922. Gusty SW winds this afternoon to 33 mph. Another intense line of storms this evening 7:30-9:00 PM with strong winds of 47 mph, near 60 reported in the north end of town. Frequent lightning and brief heavy rains .34" fell this evening making .81" total today.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE

9th - AM & PM thunderstorms, 55 MPH winds.

18th - Latest measurable snow at station. Old was 4/9/96.

April had 6 days with 40+ mph winds tied record set last month.

John Zyla of Ridge

12th - Dense Fog in AM hours! Visibility less than 0.25 miles.

Rob Rickell of Hanover 1 S, PA

9th - Early morning thunderstorms. Rainfall was not too impressive with any of these am storms, but vivid cloud to ground lightning made quite a light show! Evening thunderstorm had damaging winds.

Compiled by Gary Gallaher, MD/DE ACON Data Collector and Report Writer, from data received from dedicated observers. Without your observations each month this report will not be possible.