



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

EXTREME DRYNESS ENDS WITH A BANG

May 2001 was a changeable month. One of the driest periods to be recorded during the spring season continued from last month and ended on the 18th in the extreme southern portion of the region and the VA suburbs of DC. The balance of the region east of the mountains had to wait until the 21st. The month began with a warm spell with temperatures well above normal and ended on a cool breezy note.

Seven tornadoes were reported in Maryland this month, five were F0 and two were F1. **Marty Brumback of Bryans Road 2 ESE** reported on the 25th that a F1 tornado touched down 2 miles west of Waldorf, 7 miles NE of his station. Vehicles were flipped, trees twisted off with some falling on homes, and siding peeled from houses. At least 30 homes received damage. **Rich Giannola of Olney 1 S** reported that a F1 tornado moved through the Olney area at approx 3:15 PM on the 27th. The NWS estimated it to be 70 yards wide and its path was 3.5 miles. This storm damaged the roof of the Olney 9 Cinema along with other businesses, trees and homes. From information sent to me it appeared that the Waldorf tornado caused more damage.

TEMPERATURE

May began on a very warm dry note. The first 11 days saw mainly clear skies, and quite low humidity. Temperatures rose into the 80's and low 90's over the entire region during the first four (4) days. **Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock** in Western Maryland's Garrett County and **John Zyla of Ridge** in Southern Maryland's St Marys County both maxed out at 86 during this period, the coolest maximum temperature reported by an ACON observer.

By the 7th frost was reported as temperatures fell into the 30's over most of the region. **Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW** and **Lynn Albright of Fallston 2 NW** both observed 33 degrees, the coldest of any station.

The temperature quickly re-

bounded and by the 10th 80'S began to return. The 12th saw the last 80's of the month. The balance of the month saw temperatures generally in the 60's and 70's.

The month ended on a quite cool, breezy note. Temperatures generally fell to the upper 30's and lower 40's range on the morning of the 31st. The temperature fell to freezing at **Rebecca Harvey's** station at **Eagle Rock**. Along with another 32 on the 14th her station reported the only freezing temperatures this month.

PRECIPITATION

Up to late in the evening of the 18th **Marty Brumback of Bryans Road 2 ESE** was the only observer to record more than 1/2" of precipitation during an event. Not only once did a good rain fall but twice, the 5th and the 12th.

Showers and thunderstorms brought rains in excess of 1 inch on the 19th to **Oraville (Van Wie)** and **Hollywood (Abell)** in St Marys County.

Showers and thunderstorms brought dumped over 2" of rain on the 21st and 22nd from Northern Delaware (by **Jim Canavan of Wilmington 4 NNE**, 2.20", and **Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW**, 2.65") southwest along the Chesapeake Bay including portions of the Baltimore and Washington DC areas and St Marys County (by **Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2 SE** 2.31", **Dan Hanson of Millersville 1 SE** 2.05", **JHU/APL in Laurel** 2.29", **Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N** 3.02", **Tony Scafide of Bethesda** 2.54", **Bill Hudelson of South Bowie** 2.05", **Floyd Abell of Hollywood** 2.26", and **Mike Van Wie of Oraville** 2.04").

Heavy thunderstorms and showers returned on the 26th and 27th. Amounts in excess of 2 inches fell on the same general area as did on the 21st and 22nd. **Mike Van Wie of Oraville** observed the heaviest amount, 3.15". Some of the observers reporting 2 inches or more are: **Lynn Albright of Fallston 2 NW**, 2.00", **Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE**, 2.15".

EXTREMES REPORTED BY

ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Gaithersburg 2 WNW	94
Smithsburg 2 NE	93
Wilmington 4 NNE	93

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Eagle Rock	32
Fallston 2 NW	33
Parkton 5 SW	33

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Baltimore 2 SE	67.3
Bethesda	65.5

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Eagle Rock	57.5
Hanover 2 S, PA	59.9

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Oraville	7.17
Hollywood	6.40

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Smithsburg 2 NE	1.84
Hagerstown 1 E	2.22

Marty Brumback of Bryans Road 2 ESE reported pea size hail from an isolated strong thunderstorm on the 5th. **John Zyla of Ridge** reported pea size hail the evening of the 22nd. **Floyd Abell of Hollywood** reported marble size hail fell the evening of the 22nd. Pea size to 1/4" hail was reported by **Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N** and **Rich Giannola of Olney 1S** on the 27th around the time of the Olney tornado. **Rob Cohen** again reported pea size hail at 6:50 PM. Not all areas received heavy rains. Monthly totals were below normal in Southern Delaware, Washington County Maryland and York County Pennsylvania.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO TONY
SCAFIDE OF BETHESDA WHO WAS
MARRIED THIS MONTH.**

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR MAY 2001

Jim Canavan of Wilmington 4 NNE

26th - Third day with greater than 1" of rain in the last 6.

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

From April 12 - May 19 (39 days) 0.95" of rain fell. Yards were turning brown. The 21st, 22nd & the 26th were the days where more than 0.25" of rain fell.

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

7th - 33 degrees Light frost at low end of property.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

2nd - Sunny hotter and very dry. 41 degree temp rise today.

9th - Early light rain, then clearing and mild.

23rd - Clearing, breezy and much cooler.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

19th - Cloudy, light rain in AM, variable clouds, warm and humid in PM.

Herb Close of Manchester 1 SW

9th - Heavy frost on car and house roofs.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

7th - Frosty start.

14th - Light frost this morning. PM sprinkles.

20th - PM rain FINALLY!

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

Spring 2001 Stats:

Avg. High 61.9 (-0.1) Max 89 on 5/4

Avg. Min 41.1 (-0.4) Min 17 on 3/6

Avg. Temp 51.5 (-0.3)

Precip 11.39 (-0.39) Max daily 1.67 on 5/27

Snow 2.9 (-3.8)

26th - Evening thunder with vivid lightning. Heavy showers Gravel washed on to roads.

Marty Brumback of Bryans Road 2 ESE

5th - TRW+ ~1225 hours with frequent CCL and pea size hail. Skywarn notified.

25th - At ~ 1700 hours an F1 tornado touched down 7 miles NE of this station, 2 miles W of Waldorf. At this station the peak wind was 42 MPH and 0.69" of rain fell.

Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock

14th & 31st - 32 degree low each day.

Rich Giannola of JHU/APL

No measurable rain fell for 29 consecutive days from April 19 through May 17!

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

Seven (7) thunderstorms on four (4) out of the six (6) days from the 22nd - 27th.

4th - Record maximum temperature of 87

27th - Thunderstorm with pea size hail 2:45 PM, some branches down. Thunderstorm with pea size hail at 6:50 PM.

Rich Giannola of Olney 1S

4th - 90 degrees

27th - Thunderstorm with 1/4" hail ~3:00 PM. F1 tornado through Olney about this time.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

I happened to break all time high records for the first 4 days of the month, topped off by my highest reading of the month of 94 on the 4th. I had a minimum of 36 a few days later. It was no wonder we were so dry during that early part of May! Significant dry spell during first 18 days of the month. Only 0.02" of precipitation fell from the 18th of April till the late evening hours of the 18th of May.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

9th - Stretch of consecutive days without rain end at 20.

30th - Unusually cool and breezy for late May under full sunshine.

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie

8th - Dense early morning fog.

22nd - Rain during night. Rain again in evening, very heavy at times, severe thunderstorm and tornado watches and warnings.

25th - Thunderstorm with heavy rain 1645 - 1730 ending 1810

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

22nd - Late day storms with heavy rain, gusty winds and marble size hail--unconfirmed reports of tornadoes in St. Marys Co.

Clinton Bubb of Morganza

Only 0.02" of rain fell from April 26th through May 17th.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

2nd - Mostly sunny and hot, high 88. Record 90 set in 1992. Still low humidity in the mid 20% this afternoon.

3rd - Sunny and hot 90 one degree shy of the record 91 set in 1913.

4th - 90 broke the old record of 89 set in 1965. Low dew point with some haze.

30th - Another sunny fine day but windy with WNW winds gusting strong at times to 32 MPH.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE

Precipitation below normal for the 7th out of the past 8 months. Precipitation 3.87" below normal this year and 15.45" below normal since July 1, 1998.

3rd - 93 degrees was the earliest 90 degree on record surpassing 92 set on May 10, 2000.

22nd - Thunderstorm with 42 MPH winds.

30th - 40 MPH winds.

John Zyla of Ridge

Sixteen (16) days straight with no rain from April 26 to May 11. Eleven (11) thunderstorms were observed this month.

22nd - Pea size hail fell during 7:00 PM - 7:10 PM - thunderstorm with downpour. Three thunderstorms today.

26th - Rain all day, 0.52: in 10 minutes (10:05 - 10:15 AM). Three thunderstorms today.

Rob Rickell of Hanover 1 S, PA

31st - 37 degrees this morning. Light frost nearby.