



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

COLD SNAP THE THIRD WEEK BRINGS FROST OR FREEZING TEMPERATURES TO SOME AREAS

May 2002 temperatures averaged close to normal while thunderstorms brought varied amounts of precipitation. A few of these storms were severe and brought with them hail and a few tornadoes.

TEMPERATURES

A cold spell set in on the 18th and remained well entrenched until the 23rd. Temperatures averaged well below normal under bright sunny skies, very unusual for this time of the year. Frost occurred at many locations. Freezing temperatures occurred as late as the 22nd at several locations across the region ranging from Garrett County in Western Maryland to the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland. Salisbury NWS ASOS at the Wicomico County Airport recorded a low of 30 degrees on the 22nd. The following ACON observers reported freezing temperatures during this cold spell: **Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock** reported temps in the mid to upper 20's from the 19th to the 22nd; **Robert Rickell of Hanover 2 S, PA 31 & 32** degrees from the 20th to 22nd; **Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW 31** on the 21st and 32 on the 22nd; **Lynn Albright of Fallston 2 NW 32**, and **Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE 31**, both on the 21st; and on the 22nd **Jug Bay Wetlands of Lothian** and **Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E** both 31 degrees, and **Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW 32** degrees.

The only other day this month that saw scattered frost and temperatures in the lower 30's was the 4th. No other unusual minimum temperatures for May occurred this month.

Other than the cold days noted above the balance of the maximum temperatures were fairly conservative for May. The 31st was the only day where the temperatures rose to 90's.

PRECIPITATION

Rain fell mostly from thunder-showers and thunderstorms this month.

Most of the storms occurred during the first 18 days of the month. The other period of storms was the 26th and 27th.

Heavy severe thunderstorms moved through the region on the 2nd. Over an inch was common at many locations. **Rich Giannola of Olney 1 S** reported 1.5" diameter hail. **Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N** reported marble to golf ball size hail at his place of employment near Shady Grove Road and Gaither Road. **Stan Rossen of Glenmont 1 NNE** reported pea and marble size hail.

Heavy rains also occurred on the 18th. Amounts of 1.5 inches or more were reported by the following ACON Observers: **Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW DE, Jug Bay Wetlands of Lothian, Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock**, and **Brian Smith of Oxon Hill**. Thunderstorms dumped heavy rains on portions of Montgomery County on the 26th and 27th. **Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW** reported 3.08" and **Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N 2.77"**.

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE reported 0.75" hail and almost an inch of rain in 15 minutes the afternoon of the 27th. **Dan Hanson of Millersville 1 SE** reported golf ball size hail and a lightning strike 250 feet from the house on the 31st.

SNOWFALL

A 1/2" of late season snow accumulated at Eagle Rock on the 20th. Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg noted a trace on the 21st, the latest in station history.

TORNADOES

A confirmed F2 tornado touched down 5 miles southeast of Rising Sun, Cecil County. Its path was 160 yards wide and traveled 4.5 miles in 7 minutes. It damaged a few homes and trees.

Another confirmed tornado touched down on the 13th at Earlvilleville, Cecil County. This was a F1 tornado whose path was 70 yards wide, 4 miles long and lasted 5 minutes. A funnel cloud was reported 1 mile southwest of Rockville, Montgomery County.

EXTREMES REPORTED BY

ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Millersville 1 SE	92
Glenmont 1 NNE	92
Bethesda	92
South Bowie	92

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Eagle Rock	26
Jug Bay Wetlands, Parkton 5 SW,	
Hagerstown 1E, Smithsburg 2 NE &	
Hanover 2 S PA	Each 31

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Ridge	66.2
Baltimore 2 SE	65.7

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Eagle Rock	54.7
Hanover 2 S	59.0

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Eagle Rock	7.91
Gaithersburg 2 WNW	5.71

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Hollywood	1.77
Oraville	1.88

Member Notes

Note from Floyd Abell: "I want to thank all the weather observers for calling or sending me get well cards. It really gave me a lift! Even got a card signed by the staff at the NWS at Sterling!"

Note from Lynn Albright: "Ken (Lynn's husband) went back to see the surgeon and he's very pleased with his progress. We got the pathology reports back, and the lymph glands, etc. all came back showing no further signs of cancer. They are confident that they got it all! And we're so very grateful for all the prayers we received, and the support we received from everyone. We can't begin to say a big enough "Thank you" to all."

Weather Museum Meeting Aug 16-18

Time is running out. See page 3 for details.

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR MAY 2002

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

Drought conditions remain in spite of the first month with above normal precipitation since May 2001. Precipitation fell "just in time" for my garden needs.

20th—22nd—Partial killing frost each morning.

27th—Severe thunderstorm with 3/4" hail and 0.98" of rain in 15 minutes. The hail remained on the ground for over a half hour after the storm passed.

Dan Hanson of Millersville 1 SE

31st—Thunderstorm with golf ball size hail and a lightning strike 250 feet from the house.

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

Spring Average Temperature and Precipitation:
Max: 64.7 (+2.9); Min: 40.5 (+1.4); Avg 52.6 (+2.1)
Precipitation: 10.39" (-2.50")

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

18th—Rainy overcast and raw start; cloudy and cold.

21st—AM frost then sun and clouds.

30th—AM fog, sun and clouds and continued warm.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

2nd—AM thunderstorms and strong PM thunderstorms.

Herb Close of Manchester 1 S

I did have some record lows on six dates. They were 38 on the 5th, 41 on the 15th, 35 on the 19th, 37 on the 20th, 34 on the 21st which also tied the all-time record low for May in 13 years of record, and 37 on the 22nd. The 5 days with lows in the 30's also set a record for May. The previous record was 3 days in 1989.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

21st—Latest freeze in memory.

22nd—Frost for the fourth day.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

Spring Average Temperature and Precipitation:
Max: 64.8 (+3.2); Min: 42.2 (+0.8); Avg 53.5 (+2.0)
Precipitation: 10.39" (-1.11")

Tied May'88 with most days of thunder in May—9 days.

Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock

15th—Hail

20th—0.5" of snow.

Rich Giannola of JHU/APL of Laurel

2nd—Peak wind gust of 50 MPH from the west at 7:22AM.

Rich Giannola of Olney 1 S

2nd—Thunderstorm with 1.5" hail at 3:40 PM.

27th—Thunderstorm with heavy rain and abundant lightning 10:30—11:30 PM.

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

2nd—Hailstorm at place of employment near Shady Grove Road and Gaither Road. Marble sized to golf ball sized hail fell along with brief gusty winds and near zero

visibility. No hail was observed at my station. (NOTE THIS WAS INSERTED IN THE APRIL REPORT BY MISTAKE. THE CORRECT DATE FOR THIS EVENT IS MAY 2, NOT APR 2)

Stan Rossen of Glenmont 1 NNE

2nd—Pea sized with some marble size hail in afternoon thunderstorm.

22nd—35 degrees; Latest sub 40 degree minimum.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

First time since last fall with precipitation significantly above normal. Amazing streak of cold minimums fairly late in the month.

22nd—32 degrees—the latest freezing temp ever breaking the previous record of 30 on 5/14/96.

19th-22nd—New record minimum temps set each day.

23rd-24th—Tied record minimum temps each day.

24th—88 degrees set record maximum temperature.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

19th—Near 100% sunshine yet the temperature only reached 62 degrees.

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie

2nd—Heavy rain during night and early morn with t-storms, t-storm again 1700, tornado watch, gust NW21

13th—Broken overcast, tornado watch, gust NW33

Brian Smith of Oxon Hill

3rd—Halo

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

22nd—Station latest frost on record.

John Zyla of Ridge

31st—Thirteenth consecutive day without precipitation.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

4th—Low of 33 this morning with light to moderate frost.

13th—Gusty WNW winds this evening to 38 MPH with temperatures falling into the 50's after afternoon and evening thunderstorms.

20th—Record low of 33 degrees—old record 36 set 1915.

21st—33 degrees close to record of 31 in 1907

22nd—Record low of 31 degrees—old record 33 set 1907. Extremely rare late season freeze and heavy frost.

23rd—Tied record low of 37 set 1932.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE

21st—31 degrees—Second lowest temperature ever in May. Trace of snow fell making it the latest on record.

Rob Rickell of Hanover 1 S, PA

4th, 20th, 21st, 22nd—Frost and freeze each morning.