



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

COOL MONTH WITH A COUPLE OF WARM SPELLS — BELOW NORMAL PRECIPITATION

The April 2003 highlight was the storm of the 7th which brought glaze to Western Maryland, and higher locations of Central Maryland, along with wet snow and sleet to the northern portion of the region and then cold maximum temperatures after the storm passed.

The month began on a very cold note. Generally temperatures fell into the mid to upper 20's the morning of the 1st. The coldest of 17 degrees was observed at **Frostburg** by **Greg Latta**. Only two ACON stations failed to report a freezing temperature: **Joe Manfre** of **Baltimore 2 SE** 33 degrees and **John Zyla** of **Ridge** 34 degrees. Temperatures rose to the 70's and 80's on the 2nd and 3rd ahead of a back door cold front which moved into the region on the 3rd. **Brian Smith** of **Oxon Hill** summed it up - "...ruined another early season hot spell."

A storm on the 7th brought snow, sleet, and a cold rain. Liquid amounts generally ranged for 1/2" to 7/8". The heaviest fell in Allegany County where **Nate Mullins** of **LaVale** reported 1.33" and **Greg Latta** of **Frostburg** 1.26" (7th & 8th) and St Marys County where **John Zyla** of **Ridge** reported 1.24" and **Floyd Abell** 1.22". Glaze occurred in Western and higher elevations of Central Maryland. **Rebecca Harvey** of **Eagle Rock** reported damage to timber worse than the October 2002 Ice Storm. **Herb Close** of **Manchester 1 SW** reported that this is the first time that he has ever had glaze in April in 24 years of observing including the last 14 at Manchester 1 SW. Measurable snow and sleet fell in the northern portions of the region. One inch or more were reported by the following ACON Observers: **Greg Latta** of **Frostburg**, **Nate Mullins** of **LaVale**, **Herb Close** of **Manchester 1 SW**,

Bobby Miller of **Millers 4 NNE**, and **Jim Vaughn** of **Smithsburg 2 NE**. Trace amounts fell as far south as Washington.

Maximum temperatures on the 8th were very cold for April. Several observers reported that they set an April minimum maximum temperature for their location. Some reported were: **Herb Close** of **Manchester 1 SW** 33 degrees - old record 39 set 4/2/92, **Rob Cohen** of **Potomac 4 N** 38 degrees, **Stan Rossen** of **Glenmont 1 NNE** 39 degrees - old record 41 set 4/7/82, **Kevin Shaw** of **Gaithersburg 2 WNW** 39 degrees - old record 40 set on 4/6/82, **Jim Vaughn** of **Smithsburg 2 NE** 39 degrees - old record 42 last tied on 4/9/96.

Two more storms moved through the region the next few days. The first one was on the 9th/10th where generally 1/3" to 5/8" fell. Amounts around 1" fell in Southern Delaware, Lower Maryland Eastern Shore and portions of St Marys County. Another storm on the 11th/12th brought 1/5" to 1"+ with the heavier amounts east of the Chesapeake Bay.

Much warmer temperature and sunny skies finally moved back into the region on the 15th. Temperatures rose into the 80's at some locations on the 15th and again on the 16th at many more locations. Temperatures peaked at 89 degrees at **Jug Bay Wetlands**. The 16th was the warmest day of the month at a majority of ACON stations.

The 17th was windy and much colder. **Gary Gallaher** of **Bear 2 SW DE** reported afternoon temperatures in the lower 40's, over 40 degrees colder than the previous day.

Precipitation during the last half of the month was much lighter than the first half. Four events occurred. The first the 17th - 19th, the second on the 21st & 22nd, and the third and heaviest one on the 25th &

EXTREMES REPORTED BY

ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Jug Bay Wetlands	89
Millersville 1 SE	88
Baltimore 2 SE	88

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Frostburg	17
Eagle Rock	18

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Ridge	55.9
Oxon Hill	55.4

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Eagle Rock	46.4
Frostburg	47.3

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

UofD Warrington Farm	4.26
Eagle Rock	3.81
Laurel JHU/ALP	3.65

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

UofD Pearson Hall Newark	1.97
Westminster 5 SSE	2.06
Frederick 4 N	2.40

MAXIMUM SNOW

Eagle Rock	2.0
Frostburg	1.7

26th, and the final and lightest one 29th & 30th. Rainfall amounts were around an inch.

Temperatures the final 10 days of the month were in the 60's and 70's during the day with a few 80's on the 28th and the 30's, 40's and 50's at night. Some freezing temperatures were observed on the morning of the 24th.

PLEASE FORWARD DATA BY THE 15TH OF THE FOLLOWING MONTH. LATE DATA SLOWS THE REPORT DOWN FOR EVERYONE. THE MORE COMPLETE THE REPORT, THE BETTER THE REPORT.

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR APRIL 2003

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

Seven (7) days with maximum temperature less than 50 degrees set a record. Old record was six (6) days set in 1964. Monthly peak wind gust of 37 MPH a new record minimum for April. Old record was 39 set in 1998 and tied in 2001.

7th - 0.8" of wet snow which changed to rain by mid day. Heaviest April snow since 2.3" fell on 4/9/2000.

Greg Latta of Frostburg

5th - Thunder

7th / 8th / 9th - Glaze each day. Max temperature on the 8th only 31 degrees. (note obs. time 7AM)

Nate Mullins of LaVale

3rd - First 80 degree day of the year.

7th - Ice storm. Rain overnight changed to snow and sleet mixed with freezing rain, heavy at times. Total solid Precip by 7 AM about 1" before changing back to a cold rain that continued to freeze on grass and trees. An icy, slushy mess.

18th - Much colder today after being in the 80's on the 14th to 16th with light rains by evening. High only 38 degrees.

Dave Bryant of St Margarets

Bay temperature at months end 58 degrees, a little below normal.

Jeff Stoudt of Laurel 2 E

7th - Rain mixed with sleet AM then drizzle PM.

30th - Very late thundershower.

Greg Klein of Westminster 5 SSE

1st - Winter type morning low of 21.

7th - I had an eight hour period of April snow and sleet. Due to warm surfaces, only a half inch managed to accumulate.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

1st - Overcast AM with showers.

17th - Early morning thunderstorm, then rather cloudy and colder.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

2nd - Breezy and warm.

4th - Cloudy and cool.

15th & 16th - Sunny and warm each day.

30th - Partly cloudy, mild, late day light rain.

Herb Close of Manchester 1 SW

7th - 1.5" of snow and mostly sleet fell along with up to 1/8" of glaze from freezing rain. This is the first April glaze observed here in 14 years of observing.

8th - Max temperature of 33 set a record for lowest maximum temperature for April. Old record was 39 set 4/2/92.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

1st - Early rain / snow / sleet brief showers

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

2nd - First 40 degree temp range since 5/21/92.

8th - Second lowest maximum temp for April.

Manuel Farfan of Frederick 4 N

1st - Trace of snow during the morning, then much warmer with a high of 64.

22nd - Rain overnight and dense for this morning. Mostly cloudy with periods of sun. Windy at night.

Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock

7th-9th - Ice storm. 1.5" on lines and 2" of ice on the ground. Electric and phone off Monday—Wednesday. More damage to timber than ice storm in October.

Rich Giannola of JHU/APL OF Laurel

7th -- Rainy day mixed with sleet in AM.

25th -- Solar halo at 1:30 PM.

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

7th - Sleet 5 - 7 AM. Afternoon temps in mid 30's.

8th - 38 degree max—record low April max temperature.

Rich Giannola of Olney 1 S

9th -- AM rain tapering to of drizzle in the afternoon and evening.

18th -- Light rain and drizzle during the day. Some fog in the evening.

Stan Rossen of Glenmont 1 NNE

8th - Record low maximum temperature of 39 for April. Previous record low maximum temperature was 41 set on 4/7/82.

15th - Minimum relative humidity 18%.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

8th - Record low maximum temperature of 39 for April. Previous record low maximum temperature was 40 set on 4/6/82.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

Several wild temperature swings, typical for April. Warm periods were brief; many very cool days. Precipitation total and distribution were beneficial to the start of the growing season. Very windy for April.

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie

15th - Lunar corona 2100 hours.

21st - Dense early morning fog.

30th - Thunderstorm 2315 hours.

Brian Smith of Oxon Hill

3rd - Back door evening cold frontal passage ruined another early season hot spell!

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

26th - Cloudy, spotty rain.

John Zyla of Ridge

21st - Very thick morning fog.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

2nd - Great Day! Sunny and warm 81 degrees.

4th - Showers and thundershowers 9-11 PM.

7th - Rain began this morning around 3:30 AM, mixed with sleet by 6 AM, snow / sleet all morning through early afternoon, then mostly rain. Temps remained in the mid 30's all day.

15th - Mostly sunny and warm. Max of 84 one degree shy of record of 85 set in 1960.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE

Two 20+ acre brush fires within 1.5 miles of my home-stand. Five (5) days with peak wind gusts of 50+ mph, a new record for any month.

7th - 1.2" of snow, sleet. Glaze 1/4" deep.