



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

QUIET MARCH WITH NEAR NORMAL TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION

After the coldest, snowiest February in years March's weather was a relief to all. There were no severe storms. Temperatures and precipitation averaged near normal while snowfall was below normal. Large temperature changes occurred throughout the month. The most noticeable was the 40 degree difference between the afternoon temperatures of the 29th and 30th. Temperatures averaged below normal the first half of the month while above normal the second half. East of the mountains temperatures generally remained above freezing from the 17th through the 30th. The snow cover, which was on the ground for a month, melted during the first week of the month east of the mountains. The water content of the melting snow cover was high. **Lynn Albright of Fallston 2 NW** 7" core sample on the 4th contained 2.61" of water. The brown grasses greened up quickly after the snow melted.

The month started off wet. A few snow flakes fell on the 1st while a general rain fell on the 2nd. Amounts were the heaviest east of I95 with the heaviest falling in Northern Delaware. A strong cold front moved through the region the night of the 2nd bringing winds and daytime temperatures in the 20's on the 3rd.

The next storm occurred on the 5th and 6th. Amounts were generally in the 0.25" to 0.75" range. Northern Delaware again received the heaviest amounts. **Jim Canavan of Wilmington 4 NNE** reported 1.03". Light snow and flurries fell on the morning of the 11th. Amounts up to 0.4" fell from **Smithsburg 2 NE** southeast to Salisbury. The 14th was sunny and cold with afternoon temperatures in the 40's.

Warmer air moved into the region on the 16th. Under sunny skies temperatures rose to the mid to upper 60's.

Temperatures broke the 70 degree mark for the first time in 2003 at the following ACON locations: **Wilmington 4 NNE DE 70, Bear 2 SW DE 70, Olney 1 S 70, Glenmont 1 NNE 71**, and at **Forest Glen 71**.

The 20th saw the heaviest rains of the month. A cold moderate to heavy rain fell during the daytime hours. The lightest rains fell in Western Maryland, Southern Delaware, and Maryland's lower Eastern Shore where amounts were a little more than half an inch. The following ACON observers reported more than 2 inches: **Jim Canavan of Wilmington 4 NNE 2.27"**, **Rich Giannola of JHU/APL 2.22"**, **Dan Hanson of Millersville 1 SE 2.08"**, **Joe Terry of Forest Glen 2.06"**, **Bill Hudelson of South Bowie 2.05"**, and **Brian Smith of Oxon Hill 2.04"**.

Sunny warm weather followed the storm of the 20th. The warmest day of the month was the 26th at many stations. The first 80 degree reading was observed by **Jug Bay Wetlands**. Temperatures again rose above the 70 degree mark on the 29th.

A "back-door" cold front moved southwest through the region the evening of the 29th bringing with it much colder temperatures and a cold rain. The rain changed to sleet and then wet snow west of the Chesapeake Bay Sunday morning. Daytime temperatures on the 30th were as much as 40 degrees colder that they were on the 29th. The heaviest snowfall was the 11.0" reported by **Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock**. **Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE** and **Greg Latta of Frostburg** each reported 5.8", **Herb Close of Manchester 1 SW** 5.0". Snowfall totals would had been greater if not for the temperatures in the lower to mid 30's and that it fell during daylight hours. This was one of the heaviest snowfalls for many stations so late in the season. Baltimore BWI NWS reported a daily record 2.6". Snow flurries and squalls were scattered across the region on the 31st which was the coldest day in almost three weeks.

EXTREMES REPORTED BY

ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Jug Bay Wetlands	80
Glenmont	79
Hollywood	79

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Eagle Rock	0
Frostburg	2
Fallston 2 NW	8
Smithsburg 2 NE	8

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Oxon Hill	47.2
Ridge	47.0

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Frostburg	37.6
Hanover 2 S	39.7

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

South Bowie	5.07
Bear 2 SW DE	4.94
Laurel JHU/ALP	4.93

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Frostburg	2.60
Eagle Rock	3.01
LaVale	3.10

MAXIMUM SNOW

Eagle Rock	13.1
Smithsburg 2 NE	6.3
Frostburg	6.0

MINIMUM SNOW

U of D RES Georgetown DE	0.0
3 Stations	T

MEMBER NEWS

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie was hospitalized on March 27th for a ruptured appendix. **Mike Van Wie of Orville** is unable to submit data this year due to traveling, but still wishes to remain a member and on our distribution lists.

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR MARCH 2003

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

Minimum temperature fell to freezing or below on only one day after the 15th. Only measurable snow fell in a snow squall the evening of the 31st. Winds were "light" for March. Average wind speed was the lowest on record for March (period of record 1991-2003).

Nate Mullins of LaVale

25th -- Warm, high of 77.

Dave Bryant of St Margarets

7th -- By this time snow was finally off the ground after 1 month - very unusual for here.

26th -- Temperature dropped 20 degrees - from 71 degrees at 3 PM to 51 degrees at 5 PM.

Dan Hanson of Millersville 1 SE

The highlight was the early spring snow of the 30th & 31st. 1.5" of snow fell on the 30th making it the largest snow for so late in the snow season.

Jeff Stoudt of Laurel 2 E

6th -- Rain AM ended mixed with sleet.

29th -- Showers evening thunder.

31st -- Afternoon flurries.

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

1st-- Light snow early AM, heavy fog visibility <1/4 mile.

20th -- Moderate rain, water around and under shelter.

30th -- Early rain, sleet then snow moderate at times, occasional heavy with large flakes.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

2nd -- Early light rain, then partly cloudy, windy, & milder.

14th -- Azure blue skies and much cooler.

15th -- Azure blue skies and much warmer.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

20th -- Cloudy, cold heavy rain.

Herb Close of Manchester 1 SW

3rd -- Temperatures stayed in the teens and 20's during the day. A brief snow squall occurred 12:30 AM-1 AM.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

11th -- Cloudy, snow showers then clearing.

12th -- Ice fog early, then partly cloudy and milder.

20th -- Rain, heavy and steady all day.

27th -- Frosty start, then sunny and mild.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

12th -- Rime fog at 6AM, visibility zero.

17th -- Dense fog in evening.

20th -- Moderate to heavy rain, minor local flooding of creeks and streams.

29th -- Distant thunder to the SW at observation time.

Manuel Farfan of Frederick 4 N

7th -- Dangerous black ice due to the rain and melting snow.

11th -- Periods of snow from 9 AM—12 PM with a heavy snow band from 10 AM - 11 AM and low visibilities.

Lynn Albright of Fallston 2 NW

4th -- 7" snow cover contained 2.61" of water.

Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock

9th -- 24" snow cover with 6 foot drifts.

Rich Giannola of JHU/APL OF Laurel

8th -- Perihelia 4:40 PM.

29th -- Thunder heard from 6:02-6:05 PM with one lightning flash at 6:02 PM. Thunder also heard at 7:48 PM.

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

3rd -- Cold! Daytime high only 24 degrees.

7th -- 30 consecutive days with snow cover.

21st -- Thunder 6 PM

30th -- Cold, daytime high 35 degrees, rain to snow 1.0".

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

A little warmer than normal breaking the pattern that held nicely through out the winter. Late month surprise snow still didn't catch us up to normal, reversing the trend of this past winter.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

8th -- Snow cover now gone after 30 consecutive days of a Trace or more.

20th -- Continuous moderate to heavy rain.

30th -- Falling AM temperatures resulting in rain changing to snow shortly after dawn. Wet snow continued most of the rest of the day partially melting as it fell with no additional accumulation after 1400. Afternoon temperatures 40 degrees colder than 24 hours earlier.

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie

18th -- Dense fog during night, sun dogs 1520 hours.

22nd -- Dense fog during the night.

29th -- Evening thunderstorm.

Brian Smith of Oxon Hill

4th -- First day with non-measurable snow on the ground since February 6th.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

3rd -- Daytime high 32 degrees, windy at times.

11th -- AM snow, afternoon clearing.

13th, 29th, 30th -- Thunder each day.

John Zyla of Ridge

Nine (9) days of fog, a station record for any month.

13th & 29th -- Thunder each day.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

20th -- Cold temperatures in the 30's with rain, moderate to heavy at times.

29th -- Brief thunderstorm 1-1:30 PM with winds to 31 mph.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE

Three days with winds >=50 MPH.

30th -- 5.8" of snow, heaviest to fall during astronomical spring in station history.

Robert Rickell of Hanover 2 S PA

6th -- Sleet and ice.

30th -- Thunder

31st -- Rain changed to sleet by 5 AM and then to wet snow by 7 AM.

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.