



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

MANY DAYS OF RAINFALL

Temperature wise April 2004 averaged slightly above normal with no periods of extremes. There were a few days with the minimum freezing or below and a couple of days where temperatures rose to the 90 degree mark at the warmest stations. After a winter with below normal precipitation the above normal precipitation was welcome. It was a good month for gardens and yards.

April began with daylong rains of over an inch west of the Chesapeake Bay. The heaviest band extended from Baltimore westwards where amounts were generally in the 1.40" to 2.00" range. Amounts of around an inch fell south of Baltimore except for St Marys County where one and a third inches fell. East of the Chesapeake Bay amounts of one-half inch or less fell. The storm stalled in our region on the 2nd and did not move out until a strong, windy cold front pushed it away on the 4th and 5th. Meanwhile the higher elevations of Western Maryland and West Virginia reported heavy wet snow on the 2nd thru the 5th. **Dave Leshner** of **Davis 3 SE** recorded 30.1" during that period (Kevin you need to move west!) while **Rebecca Harvey** of **Eagle Rock** recorded 15 inches.

Sub freezing temperatures covered the entire region except for one station (Georgetown DE NWS) on the morning of the 5th.

Light rains fell on the 8th and early on the 9th but another period of soaking rains moved into the region on the 11th and lasted through the 14th. The heaviest fell on the 12th. One inch amounts were common on the 12th while 2 inch totals for the 12th & 13th were recorded at 42% of stations reporting this month. The heaviest, 2.80", fell at the **U of D Wallington Farms** south of **Harbeson, DE** while **Greg Keefer** of **Hagerstown 1 E** reported 2.64".

The warmest air of the month moved into the region on the 17th and remained through the 24th. Mid to upper 80's were common on the 18th and 19th with the 19th being the warmest. 90 degree temperatures were observed in the following counties: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Frederick, Prince Georges, and Montgomery in Maryland and in Arlington and Loudon Counties in Virginia. The warmest was 94 degrees reported by Dan Hanson of Millersville 1 SE. Three ACON observers reported back to back 90 degrees days on the 18th and 19th: **Jug Bay Wetland** of **Lothian**, **Stan Rossen** of **Glenmont 1 NNE**, **Joe Terry** of **Forest Glen**, and **Brian Smith** of **Oxon Hill**. During this period the humidity was low but the pollen readings were high.

A stalled cold front on the 25th to 27th brought the last rains of the month. The heaviest amounts fell in Washington County where 2.82" fell at **Smithsburg 2 NE**, 2.58" at **Hagerstown 1 E**, and 2.08" at **Smithsburg 1.5 SW**.

Minimum temperatures in the 30's made its last occurrence this month on the morning of the 28th. Freezing temperatures were observed in portions of Carroll, Washington, Allegany, and Garrett Counties.

ACON MEMBER REQUESTS

CICADA REPORTS

ACON member **John Zyla** from **Ridge**, St. Mary's County, MD has been studying the emergence of the Periodical Cicadas of Brood X and is requesting your assistance in his research. If you have or even if you haven't seen any cicada emergence in your area, please let him know. His e-mail address is: jzci-cada@hotmail.com. He is planning to map out the emergence for the Mid-

EXTREMES REPORTED BY

ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Millersville 1 SE	94
Baltimore 2 SE	93

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Eagle Rock	10
Davis 3 SE WV	12
Frostburg	19

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Oxon Hill	57.9
Baltimore 2 SE	57.3
Ridge	57.0

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Davis 3 SE, WV	44.4
Eagle Rock	46.6
Frostburg	47.2

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Smithsburg 2 NE	7.86
Hagerstown 1 E	6.81
Millersville 1 SE	6.75

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Laurel JHU/APL	4.05
Oxon Hill	4.55
Jug Bay Wetlands	4.61

MAXIMUM SNOWFALL

Davis 3 SE WV	31.0
Eagle Rock	15.6
Frostburg	5.4

Atlantic area based on all the reports he has received and will post the map in the near future on his website: www.cicadas.info. Since the ACON members are nicely distributed throughout the region, your assistance would be greatly appreciated!

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR APRIL 2004

Jim Canavan of Wilmington 4 NNE

4th - 1/2" wet snow.

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

Ample precipitation spread throughout the month made for excellent garden and grass growing conditions.

Nate Mullins of LaVale

Temperatures were cool during the first half of April and warm the second half. April was the wettest since 1998. Two systems brought over two inches of rainfall, the first of which produced heavy snows on nearby mountain ridges.

1st - Torrential downpours and strong gusty winds. Daily rainfall totaled 2 inches.

2nd - More showers overnight. Rain / snow line just a few hundred feet above station. Several inches fell on top of Piney Mountain just to the west.

20th - Lots of lightning and thunder began around 9 PM but only 0.02" of rain fell.

Dave Bryant of St Margarets

16th - Major weather change from cool and wet to a dryer and much warmer pattern.

Jeff Stoudt of Laurel 2 E

This April was replete with its showers and prolonged rain to produce a monthly total which was moderately above normal. An early evening thunderstorm on Friday the 23rd which included a 20 minute downpour ended a week of near-summer temperatures. This April had a usual combination of cold and heat; however, the heat out dueled the cold this time.

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

15th—20th - Dry, good time to seed grass!

29th - Clear AM, hazy afternoon, many contrails visible.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

17th—19th - Sunny warming maximum temperatures from 80 to 93 along with low humidity.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

5th - Killing freeze in AM.

27th - Intermittent light showers.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

4th - Rain, wet snow, windy colder.

19th - Sunny, hot 86 degrees.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

1st - Moderate morning rain. Thunder north of station.

19th - Virga at observation (6 PM)

28th - Light frost, moderate in valley.

Manuel Farfan of Frederick 4 N

15th - Clear, nice, dry and wonderful day. Perfect weather for me!

19th - Mostly sunny, warm and unpleasant conditions 91 degrees.

Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock

12th - Glaze

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

12th - Rain, heavy at times 5-10 PM.

Rich Giannola of Olney 1 S

13th - Rainbow at 7:40 PM.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

A rather uneventful month, milder and wetter than normal. Precipitation deficit accumulated over the past three months cut down to 1.65".

12th - 1.52" rain today broke the daily record of 0.87" set in 1995.

19th - 91 degrees broke the daily record of 90 set in 2002.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

Cold and very wet first half. Very warm and dry most of the second half. Very late first thunderstorm of the year (23rd), in fact first thunderstorm in 5 1/2 months (since November 5th).

5th - Cold, dry air. Minimum dew point only 7 degrees.

13th - Full arc rainbow around sunset, even after sunset due to reflection of base of clouds on horizon.

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie

6th - Solar halo 1500 hours.

12th - Overcast, rain all day, heavy late afternoon and evening.

23rd - Broken overcast, severe thunderstorm watch and warning, but no storm observed here.

29th - Lunar halo 2100 hours.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

Stations second wettest April.

John Zyla of Ridge

Set a new April precipitation record with 6.02"

Max Hutto of Smithsburg 1.5 SW

26th - Rain all day, sometimes heavy, windy.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

April 2004 was the third wettest with 6.81" behind 7.26" in 1993 and 7.80" set in 1952.

13th - Rain again between 10 AM and 7 PM. Rain was moderate to heavy at times with an embedded thunderstorm around 11 AM.

16th - Chilly overnight low of 30 degrees with a touch of frost.

19th - partly cloudy and very warm with a high of 89, close to the record of 91 set in 1976.

27th - Dense fog overnight. Strong winds with a brief shower just after 7 PM with NW winds to 43 MPH as a strong cold front came through. Also a spectacular double rainbow at that time.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE

Second wettest April behind 8.24" set in 1993. Average wind of 17.7 mph was the third windiest month on record behind 20.1 mph set in February 2002, and 18.1 mph in January 1978.

12th - 71 MPH wind gust set a new April wind gust. Old record was 68 set on April 1, 1982.

19th - Minimum temperature of 66 broke the monthly record of 63 last occurring on April 20, 2002.

Lance Shaffer of Sterling 4 N VA

17th - First 80 degree day since November 4.

Dave Leshner of Davis 3 SE WV

2nd - 16.2" of snow

5th - 9.4" of snow

NOTE TO ACON AND WASHINGTON-BALTIMORE CLIMATE REVIEW MEMBERS:

When submitting data to either ACON or the WBCR please follow each publications data requirements. All detailed data furnished is not printed but it still required for an analysis of the months events. If you have any questions please contact either Brian Smith for WBCR and Gary Gallaher for ACON.

Thank-you