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

WARM WITH NEAR AVERAGE PRECIPITATION.

Another month with above normal temperatures. According to PRESTO DCA (Washington Reagan National Airport) saw its 15th month out of the last 18 with above normal temperatures. Maximum temperatures for April were generally in the lower 80's while minimums fell slightly below freezing. Precipitation averaged close to normal with the wettest being in Western Maryland and some scattered locations of the western Washington DC suburbs. There were three significant precipitation events this month. Numerous thundershowers / thunderstorms occurred, some with hail. Snow was limited to one event.

The month began on a cloudy, warm, windy note. Temperatures were generally in the 70's. Late afternoon and evening thunderstorms, some intense, brought the first significant precipitation since the February 12th snowstorm during the late afternoon and evening of the 3rd. Quarter inch hail was reported by several ACON observers: **Jeff Stoudt** of **Laurel 2 E**, **Rob Cohen** of **Potomac 4 N**, **Rich Giannola** of **Olney 1 S**, and **Joe Terry** of **Forest Glen**.

Between 6 and 9 AM of the 5th a brief, but strong, rain and snow squall accompanied by thunder at some stations, moved across the region. A trace of snow was reported as far south as **Hollywood**. The squall was the strongest in the northern portion of Maryland and Delaware. **Herb Close** of **Manchester 1 SW** reported the following: The sky turned very dark just like an approaching thunderstorm squall in the summertime. Between around 6:53am and 6:55am, light rain and sprinkles began around 6:53 AM. At 6:55 AM, the winds picked up and became very windy. The rain quickly changed to snow with moderate flakes. I looked out the back door and saw a bright flash and then heard a loud crack of thunder. By the time it ended around 7:15 AM 0.2" of wet snow covered the ground. **Gary Gallaher** of

Bear 2 SW DE reported that only a few flakes were mixed in at his station but to the northeast in downtown Wilmington half an inch of wet snow covered the ground and some slush formed on streets. A funnel cloud was reported near Millsboro in Sussex County Delaware.

The cold winds of the 5th were short lived. Temperatures rebounded to the 60's under partly cloudy skies on the 6th. Temperatures further warmed on the 7th to the 70's after morning showers. Showers, some with thunder occurred during the evening. Rainfall amounts for the 7th and 8th were generally around an inch.

Minimum temperatures from the 9th to the 11th fell to near or below freezing. Light frost was reported by many observers.

The warmest period of the month occurred from the 11th to the 20th. Temperatures rose to 70 or above on nine out of 10 days at many locations. 80 degree readings were observed on the 13th at some stations around and southeast of Washington DC. 80 degree temperatures occurred again on the 15th and 20th but this time they occurred at many stations east of the mountains.

The heaviest rains of the month fell on the 22nd. Amounts were generally in the 1 inch to 1 1/2 inch rain range. The heaviest fell in Montgomery County. **Kevin Shaw** of **Gaithersburg 2 WNW** reported 4.08". Kevin reported considerable street flooding at low-lying intersections, and some brief road closures on MD 117 as it crossed Seneca Creek. **David Roth** of **Montgomery Village 1 SW** reported 3.66". Two inch amounts were reported by **Greg Latta** of **Frostburg** (2.65"), **Al Kreinik** of **Parkton 5 SW** (2.54"), and **Floyd Abell** of **Hollywood** (2.15").

Light frost and a few minimum temperatures around freezing were reported at some locations for the 28th to the 30th.

EXTREMES REPORTED BY

ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Frederick 3 WNW	86
5 Stations	85

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Davis 3 SE WV	19
Eagle Rock	22
3 Stations	25

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Baltimore 2 SE	60.3
Annapolis 2 N	59.5
Ridge	59.3

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Davis 3 SE WV	48.0
Eagle Rock	50.8
Frostburg	51.1

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Gaithersburg 2 WNW	5.91
Davis 3 SE WV	5.69
Mont Village 1 SW	5.68

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

UofD Rec Ctr G'town DE	2.08
UofD Harbeson DE	2.11
Smithsburg 1.5 SW	2.30

MAXIMUM SNOWFALL

Davis 3 SE WV	6.7
Eagle Rock	4.5
Frostburg	0.8

MEMBER UPDATE

Manuel Farfan of **Frederick 4 N** station closed effective 4/1/06. Manuel has moved to Albany, NY.

Bryon Lawrence of **Frederick 3WNW** Bryon has joined ACON. He also is a member of WBCR.

Thanks and well wishes to Manuel and welcome Bryon!

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR APRIL 2006

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

5th -Windy, snow squall north of station around 8 AM., Trace here but over half inch in downtown Wilmington falling hard enough to lay on streets and whiten the ground Funnel cloud reported near Millsboro in Sussex County.

Greg Latta of Frostburg

5th - 1" of snow on the ground.

Nate Mullins of LaVale

2nd warmest April in 15 years of records.

21st-22nd—More than half of April's rain fell as result of a slow moving low over the Mid-Atlantic.

Dave Bryant of Annapolis 2 N

5th - Light mix of rain and snow showers early AM.

Jeff Stoudt of Laurel 2 E

One heavy, two moderate, and a few light rainfalls that totaled to the low-end the normal range brought only temporary relief from the prevailing dry condition.

3rd - Thunderstorm after 2230 with pea size (1/4") hail.

23rd - Brief late evening t-storm, with hail to grape (1/2") size

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

5th—Early AM snow shower.

22nd - All day rain, heavy at times especially late afternoon.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

15th - Mix of sun & clouds, windy, & warm.

20th - Mostly sunny & noticeably warmer.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

5th - Light rain and snow showers, then PC, windy, & cold.

20th - Sunny, warm 83 degrees.

Herb Close of Manchester 1 SW

5th - A brief snow squall complete with heavy snow, strong winds, thunder and lightning

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

Generally favorable for early planting. Still low relative humidity on many days.

3rd - Evening thunderstorm

5th - Thunder with heavy snow around 7 AM. Visibility 0.

14th - Thunderstorm with 1/2" diameter hail 11:21 - 11:31 PM

Ray Muller of Westminster City

5th - Snow shower produces 0.2" of snow along with a 40 MPH wind gust.

Manuel Farfan of Frederick 4 N

Station closed 3/31/06. Moved to Albany, New York

Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock

5th - 4.0" of snow on the ground, max for the month.

Rich Giannola of JHU/APL

3rd, 4th, 5th, & 7th - Windy. gusts over 40 MPH each day.

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

3rd - Thunderstorm with 1/4" hail, 7PM.

7th - Thunder @ 6 PM, 7 PM & 9 PM.

8th - Temperature fell to 39 degrees by 4 PM.

Rich Giannola of Olney 1 S

3rd - Thunderstorm with pea sized hail at 7:18 PM.

7th - Rainbow, partial (right side) double rainbow at 5:59 PM.

Stan Rossen of Glenmont 1 NNE

3rd - Cherry blossoms out.

24th - Dense early morning fog, visibility 1/4 mile.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

22nd - 4.08" of rain not only set a record for the date but was by far my greatest for any April day. It was the 3rd heaviest for any day behind and 5.41" on 9/5/79, and 4.68" on 8/11/01.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

Fairly typical April. Quite a bit of temperature variability and frequent rain events. Many near perfect weather days, especially late in the month

3rd - Thunderstorm with 1/4" hail around 1930.

17th -Vivid lightning display very early AM south and south west followed by a cold AM rain.

Brian Smith of Oxon Hill

3rd - +TSRA 1930 - 2050.

16th - Frequent distant lightning S to SW 2335.

30th - Bright halo in CS 0913 - 1025.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

1st - Variable clouds with showers at times.

15th - Late day thunderstorm.

17th - Vivid lightning before dawn, rainy morning.

John Zyla of Ridge

13 thunderstorms this month (on 9 days), tied July 2004 for the most in any month.

10th - Last frost of the season.

Max Hutto of Smithsburg 1.5 SW

5th - AM showers then snow squall, extremely windy.

10th - Cold AM with frost, slightly warmer PM, sunny.

20th - Mostly sunny, warmer, breezy.

22nd - Overnight rain continued into PM, breezy.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

3rd - Quick moving intense line of thunderstorms late this afternoon around 6 PM with sharp lightning.

4th - Strong WNW winds all day gusting to 43 MPH.

5th - Strong winds this morning around 6 AM as a squall came through with rain showers and with some snow mixed in. NW winds gusted to 48 MPH. Snow accumulated in some nearby areas.

21st - Strong winds and a rapid pressure drop then rapid rise in a short period of time around 8:30 PM.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE

April ties 1977 as the fourth warmest. The 2005/2006 seasonal snowfall is the third lowest on record.

3rd, 4th, 5th, 12th, 13th, 16th, 21st & 22nd - Winds gusted to 40 MPH or higher each day.

15th - 60 degree minimum set a daily high minimum record breaking the 59 set in 2002.

Lance Shaffer of Sterling 4 N VA

9th - Awesome frosty start.

16th - Cooler, rain showers at times.

Dave Leshner of Davis 3 SE WV

5th - 5" snow cover -max for the month.

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.