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

HOT, HUMID, DRY

August 2006 was the hottest and driest summer month this year by far. Many stations recorded less than an inch of rain. For some it was the third month out of the past 12 where less than an inch of rain fell. Some observers reported their driest August on record (see observer notes for details).

The hottest weather occurred during the first few days. Readings of 100 degrees or higher occurred at many of the warmer locations. Temperatures from the 4th to the 29th were seasonally warm with no extreme heat. Maximum temperatures during the last two days were in the upper 70's, slightly below normal.

The only tropical storm to affect the region occurred very late on the 31st in the extreme southeastern areas. Details of effects of Tropical Storm Ernesto will appear in the September issue.

The heat wave, which began during the last week of July, peaked from the 1st to the 3rd. All stations east of Allegany County Maryland reported temperatures in the mid 90's to low 100's. The hottest temperatures observed by ACON observers were 103° by **Joe Manfre** of **Baltimore 2 SE** and 102° by **David Roth** of **Montgomery Village 1 SW**, both on the 3rd.

The 4th saw temperatures fall closer to 90 degrees and lower humidity levels.

Humidity levels increased on the 7th as well as temperatures. Scattered thunderstorms during the pre-dawn hours brought the heaviest rains of this dry month to many stations from North Central Maryland southeast to the Maryland Eastern Shore. The heaviest amounts reported by ACON

observers were 0.85" at **Harbeson 8S DE** by **Dean Dey**, 0.82" by **Dan Hanson** of **Pasadena 3 SW**, 0.75" by **David Bryant** of **Annapolis 2N**, and 0.79" by **Brian Smith** of **Oxon Hill**. For many stations this represented a large percentage of the entire month's total. **Joe Terry** of **Forest Glen** in Montgomery County lost power for 3 1/2 hours as result of the pre dawn thunderstorms.

The coolest period of the month occurred from the 11th to the 13th. Day-time temperatures were generally around 80 degrees while overnight minimums were in the 50's outside the areas heat islands. The coldest temperatures observed by ACON observers was 47° by **Al Kreinik** of **Parkton 5 SW**, and 48° by **Bobby Miller** of **Millers 4 NE**, **Rebecca Harvey** of **Eagle Rock**, and **Max Hutto** of **Smithsburg 1.5 SW**. Temperatures at NWS Salisbury even fell below 50.

The 14th to the 26th saw warm to hot conditions with some days of high humidity. Scattered thundershowers brought light amounts of rainfall to many but not all on the afternoon and evening of the 20th.

The extreme dryness was broken by heavy thunderstorms from the 27th to the 29th in the northern portions of Maryland and Delaware. **Bryon Lawrence** of **Frederick 3 WNW** reported 1.80", **Greg Keefer** of **Hagerstown 1E** 1.74", and **Gary Gallaher** of **Bear 2 SW DE** 1.66". Amounts of over 1.50" were also reported by **Steven Gallaher** of **North St. Georges DE**, **Max Hutto** of **Smithsburg 1.5 SW** and **Jim Vaughn** of **Smithsburg 2 NE**. These amounts represented 78% to 95% of their total rainfall for August. The heaviest rains in the region was 2.53" which fell at NWS Wilmington DE.

Rainfall amounts in the southern portions of Maryland and Delaware were much lighter. It had little to no effect on

EXTREMES REPORTED BY ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Baltimore 2 SE	103
Montgomery Village 1SW	102
Pasadena 3 SW	101
Jug Bay Wetlands	101
Laurel 2 E	101

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Parkton 5 SW	47
Millers 4 NE	48
Eagle Rock	48
Smithsburg 1.5 SW	48

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Baltimore 2 SE	82.7
Annapolis 2 N	80.8
Ridge	79.7

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Davis 3 SE WV	66.5
Eagle Rock	70.5
Frostburg	71.2

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Davis 3 SE WV	3.86
Jug Bay Wetlands	2.62
Ridge	2.39

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Laurel JHU/APL	0.10
Laurel 2 E	0.18
Olney 1 S	0.19

relieving the extreme dryness which has gripped much of the region since July 7th.

Cooler temperatures moved into the region ahead of Tropical Storm Ernesto on the 30th and 31st. Temperatures failed to rise to 80 at many stations for the first time since the end of the first week of July.

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR AUGUST 2006

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

Consecutive day streak with the maximum temperature => 80 degrees ended at 54 days on the 29th. Very dry until the 27th. Yards brown and plants showing moisture stress. First three days hot. Balance of the month seasonally warm with no extreme heat.

Greg Latta of Frostburg

Three days with thunder, 7th, 20th, and 27th.

Nate Mullins of LaVale

Driest August and driest summer month in 15 years of records. This was also the hottest August on record.

2nd - Oppressive heat and humidity continue. The official reading in Cumberland was 104 F and was the hottest since July 1988.

26th - Sunny early then partly cloudy, hot and humid again. Light variable breezes. Light showers began around 5 PM with thunderstorms late this evening. 0.25" by midnight.

27th - Thunderstorms continued through 1 AM with heavy downpours. 0.54" of rain fell.

Dave Bryant of Annapolis 2 N

80° minimum temperature on the 2nd, 3rd & 4th.

3rd - Bay temperature 86°.

Jeff Stoudt of Laurel 2 E

The heat wave early in the month, when considering the three low 80s min temperatures, was the most severe since at least 2002 or even 1999. A few thunderstorms downpours missed by a short distance, any of which could have brought about an inch of rain.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills.

7th - Warm & humid with a few scattered storms.

13th - Mostly sunny skies, breezy, and nice.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

3rd - Mostly sunny, very hot, humid. Temps extremes 103 / 85.

31st - Mostly cloudy, breezy, and cool.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

7th - Early shower. Sunny and hot. PM storms to the south.

28th - Overnight light rain. PM late showers missed us.

20th - Overnight shower. Partly cloudy. Scattered showers.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

Summer 2006 Avg Max 83.0 (+1.0), Avg Min 62.7 (+0.6), Avg Temp 72.9 (+0.9) Precipitation 10.43 (-0.47)

Driest August on record (25 years of records)

3rd - A few scattered PM CU clouds. Another soil temp record high.

16th - Clear 100% sunshine.

29th - AM fog. Breezy PM with some sun. Humid.

Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock

Thunder 6th & 10th

Rich Giannola of JHU/APL

Third month within last 12 with 0.11" precipitation or less (March 2006 0.09", & September 2005 0.11")

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

Driest August on record.

Rich Giannola of Olney 1 S

3rd - Thundershower south 7:45 PM

Stan Rossen of Glenmont 1 NNE

Driest August on record. Old 0.89" in 1989.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

Second driest August behind 0.61" set in 1989.

2nd & 3rd - 76° minimum set an August record for the warmest daily minimum temperature. Old record was 75°

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

Extremely dry. 0.82" of rain from July 7th to August 31st

3rd - Very hot and humid. Hottest in 4 years. Max heat index 113°.

7th - Surprise pre dawn thunderstorms. Power out for 3 1/2 hours.

8th - 14th consecutive day with temperatures 90° or above.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

7th - Early AM thunderstorm, then fair.

John Zyla of Ridge

3rd - 81° minimum temperature, a new record high daily minimum temperature.

10th - 1.15" of rain all day but no thunder.

31st - Tropical Storm Ernesto begins before midnight with 0.12" of rain.

Max Hutto of Smithsburg 1.5 SW

25th - Cloudy, hot, PM shower.

27th - Overnight thunderstorms and heavy rain.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

12th - Sunny, nice, 100% sunshine. Very low humidity and dew points.

26th—27th - Late evening showers and thunderstorms with heavy downpours beginning around 10 PM. Thunderstorms continued after midnight into the 27th with more heavy downpours through 1 AM. 1.71" fell in two hours.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE

5th driest August on record. Record 0.81" in 1982. No wind to speak of. PWG only 35 MPH.

27th - 1.50" of rain smashed the previous daily record of 0.82" set in 1996.

Lance Shaffer of Sterling 4 N VA

9th - 62° coolest minimum temperature since July 8th.

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.