



<http://www.jhuapl.edu/weather/education/ACONdata.html>

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

ABOVE NORMAL TEMPS CONTINUE DRY IN DE., WET IN CENTRAL / WESTERN MD.

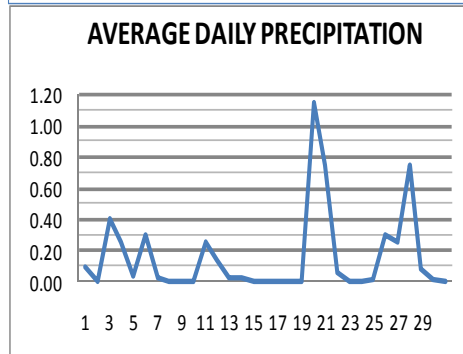
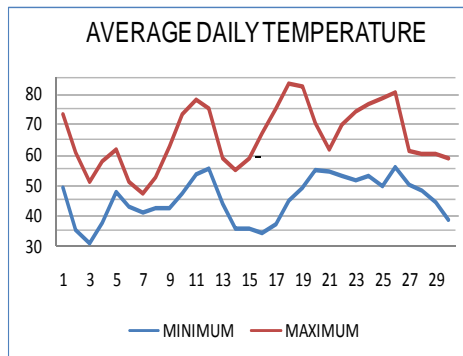
April was mild. Precipitation varied across the region. The wettest areas stretched northwestward from Washington D.C. into Washington and Frederick Counties in Maryland. A tornadic storm occurred the afternoon of the 20th. It briefly touched down northeast of La Plata in Charles County. The storm continued northwest and touched down this time near Chillum in Prince Georges County. No ACON observers were affected. See the NWS Public Information Statement on page 3 for details.

April began mostly cloudy, warm and windy along with some light rain. Temperatures fell into the upper 20's and lower 30's the morning of the 3rd.

Rain fell on two thirds of the first 14 days. Rain mixed with some snow or sleet fell late in the afternoon of the 3rd at some locations in central Maryland. A general rain fell east of Allegany County on the 6th. Amounts averaged 1/3rd of an inch. Thunderstorms with heavy rains and strong winds moved through Washington and Carroll Counties the evening of the 11th. **Max Hutto** of **Smithsburg 1.5 SW** reported 1.80".

Sunny weather with low humidity occurred from the 16th to the 19th. Daily diurnal temperature ranged from 30 to over 40 degrees. Maximum temperatures peaked out in the low to mid 80's on the 18th.

Rain and thunderstorms on the 20th and 21st dumped flooding rains from Washington D. C. northwestwards to Carroll County and westward into Western Maryland. Over 3 inches fell in Washington DC western and northern suburbs and in Washington County. **Kevin Shaw** of **Gaithersburg 2 WNW** reported 3.82", **David Roth** of **Montgomery Village 1 SW** 3.62", **Stan Rossen** of **Glenmont 1 NNE** and **Lance Schaffer** of **Sterling 4 N VA** both 3.50". Meanwhile less than a ¼ inch



ACON MD/DE Network

Daily average temperatures and precipitation based on observation times, not calendar days.

fell in Delaware.

The last rain event occurred from the 26th to the 28th. Heavy thunderstorms dumped over of 2 inches of rain in Washington County. **Max Hutto** of **Smithsburg 1.5 SW** reported 3.09". **Jim Vaughn** of **Smithsburg 2 NE** 3.01".

The month ended on a dry cool note. Minimum temperatures on the 30th fell into the mid 30's to lower 40's.

The only measurable snow this month fell in the Maryland Mountains. **Rebecca Harvey** of **Eagle Rock** reported that 1 inch fell on the 14th and 29th.

EXTREMES REPORTED BY

ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Jug Bay Wetlands	89
Pasadena 2 N	88
Glenmont 1 NNE	88
Forest Glen	88

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Eagle Rock	26
Davis 3 SE WV	26
Bear 2 SW DE	27
UofD Harbeson 8 S DE	27
Millers 4 NE	27
Emmitsburg 2 SE	27
Smithsburg 1.5 SW	27

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Hollywood	58.7
Baltimore 2 SE	58.4

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Davis 3 SE WV	48.0
Eagle Rock	50.3
Frostburg	50.8

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Smithsburg 1.5 SW	8.75
Smithsburg 2 NE	8.00

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

UofD Townsend Fm DE	1.81
UofD Harbeson 8 S DE	2.14

MAXIMUM SNOWFALL

Davis 3 SE WV	5.5
Eagle Rock	1.0

See page 2 for observer comments and page 3 for the Sterling NWS report on the tornadoes of the 20th.

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR APRIL 2008

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

16th to 19th - Clear sunny skies and low dew points created perfect conditions for daily temperature diurnal ranges of 33 to 44 degrees.

Nate Mullins of LaVale

3rd - Light evening rain mixed with sleet.

15th—19th - A fair weather period with unusually high diurnal temperature ranges. The month's low temperature of 32 on the 15th and 16th was immediately followed by the month's high temperature of 86 on the 18th. The 17th had a 42 degree diurnal range (high 80, low 38).

20th—21st - Periods of moderate to heavy rain fell from the early morning hours of the 20th to the late morning of the 21st totaling 2.98 inches

Jeff Stoudt of Laurel 2 E

20th - Frequent RASH/TSRA sunrise to sunset.

26th - RASH/TSRA evening

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

1st - Dreary morning, then variable clouds wind, warm.

18th - Sunny, very warm and dry.

28th - Rain, heavy at times, cool.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

1st - Light rain and drizzle until noon.

11th - Thundershowers in the late PM.

20th - Occasional rain with a few thundershowers.

27th - Rain in early AM, late PM drizzle.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

3rd - Increasing clouds, rain late, some sleet, wet flakes.

9th - Fog early, partly cloudy afternoon.

15th - Frosty early then sunny and cool.

20th - Storms and rain, heavy with hail.

30th - Some AM frost, then sunny.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

3rd - Sleet ~ 7 PM.

11th - Two evening thundershowers.

16th - AM light frost, heavy in the valley.

20th - Storms with heavy rain. Flooding rain & thunder after observation time.

26th - Evening thunderstorm - heavy rain - PM max temp 53

Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock

14th & 28th - Maximum snow cover of 1 inch.

Rich Giannola of JHU/APL

10th - Heavy morning fog dissipating by 10 AM.

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

3rd - Rain mixed with sleet late afternoon.

11th - Gusty thunderstorm 10 PM.

20th - Occasional thunder throughout the day.

Richard Holden of Clarksburg 2 ENE

3rd - Moderate rain, moderate sleet, light snow.

Rich Giannola of Olney 1 S

20th—21st - SHRA throughout day on 20th, mixed in with TSRA, first beginning at 8:55 AM, later beginning at 2:45 PM. Total precipitation by 8 PM 2.02". SHRA continued overnight into the 21st with 0.81" more by 5:15 PM. Additional 0.09 fell by 10:00 PM.

26th—27th - SHRA began 9:30 PM on the 26th. TSRA began 9:35 PM. By dawn of the 27th 1.13" has fallen. DZ & -RA in evening = 0.03" more.

Stan Rossen of Glenmont 1 NNE

9th - Cherry tree in front yard in full bloom.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

6.64" Second wettest April behind 7.50" which fell in 1983.

2nd - Sunny, breezy at times, cooler.

20th - Cloudy, rain - moderate to heavy at times, thunderstorm 3 PM, 9 PM, flooding. The 2.80" set a new daily record and is also the second heaviest April rain behind 4.08" which fell on 4/22/2006.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

Wettest April in 13 years of station history.

3rd - Rain by 1540, becoming moderate by evening, with a brief period of ice pellets mixed in 1730 to 1750. Temperatures fell into the 30's by early evening.

18th - Beautiful spring weather over the last 4 days. Minimum relative humidity today only 14%, typical of April.

20th - Periods of thunder much of the day. Frequent periods of rain, some heavy.

Brian Smith of Oxon Hill

16th - Light frost.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

3rd - Afternoon & evening rain mixed with sleet at times.

21st - Thunderstorm before dawn, then few showers.

John Zyla of Ridge

9th - Thick PM fog.

16th - Frost

28th - Thunderstorm at 7 AM (0.08") and 4:30 PM (0.77")

Max Hutto of Smithsburg 1.5 SW

1st - Mostly cloudy, much warmer, very windy.

3rd - PM rain with period of sleet, windy.

20th - Overnight showers then rain and thunderstorms throughout day.

30th - Cold AM with frost.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

Second wettest April ever with 7.46". Record wettest is 7.80" set in 1952.

3rd - Rain late afternoon and evening with falling temps into the 30's. Some sleet fell with the rain.

11th - Series of thunderstorms this evening between 6 PM and Midnight. Storms were rather intense with strong winds, heavy downpours, and frequent lightning later in the evening. Winds gusted in first storm to 48 MPH.

20th - Rain & thunderstorms all day, rain heavy at times.

26th - Thunderstorms this evening between 7:30 & midnight with heavy rains, frequent sharp lightning.

Lance Shaffer of Sterling 4 N VA

3rd - Rain with Sleet ~4:20 PM.

16th - Frosty start.

20th—21st - 3.21" fell by 8:30 AM on the 21st. 0.34" more by 4:30 PM.

Dave Leshner of Davis 3 SE WV

14th - 2" snow cover - maximum for month.

29th & 30th - 1" snow cover.

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.

NWS Sterling - April 20, 2008 Tornadoes

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BALTIMORE MD/WASHINGTON
DC923 PM EDT SUN APR 20 2008

...TWO TORNADOES STRUCK THE MARYLAND SUBURBS OF WASHINGTON SUNDAY AFTERNOON...

A TORNADIC STORM STRUCK THE WASHINGTON METRO AREA TWICE SUNDAY AFTERNOON. THE FIRST EVENT OCCURRED JUST NORTHEAST OF LA PLATA IN THE TOWN OF SAINT CHARLES IN CHARLES COUNTY MARYLAND. AT 2:09 PM EDT A TORNADO TOUCHED DOWN NEAR THE INTERSECTION OF RENNER ROAD AND ROUTE 5/LEONARDTOWN ROAD. THE TORNADO TRACKED NORTH AND DAMAGED THE EASTERN SECTION OF SAINT CHARLES. THE MOST DAMAGED PARTS OF THE COMMUNITY WERE AROUND SNOWBELL COURT...SWEETBRIAR PLACE...AND NORTHGATE PLACE. THE DAMAGE INCLUDED SEVERAL LARGE TREES SNAPPED AND UPROOTED...SOME OF WHICH FELL INTO HOUSES AND ONTO VEHICLES. ALSO SEVERAL HOMES LOST ROOFING MATERIAL AND SECTIONS OF THEIR SIDING. A LARGE STORAGE SHED WAS ALSO SHIFTED OFF ITS FOUNDATION AND HAD SOME OF ITS DOORS BLOWN OUT. THE STRONGEST WIND FROM THAT TOUCHDOWN WAS ESTIMATED TO BE 80 MPH AND HAS THEREFORE BEEN RATED AN EF-0 ON THE ENHANCED FUJITA SCALE. THE LENGTH OF THE PATH WAS ESTIMATED TO BE 2 MILES...WITH A WIDTH OF 50 TO 100 YARDS.

AFTER THAT TOUCHDOWN...THE TORNADO LIFTED. THE PARENT STORM THEN TRACKED TO THE NORTH PRODUCING NO KNOWN FURTHER DAMAGE...UNTIL THE STORM REACHED THE COMMUNITY OF CHILLUM JUST WEST OF HYATTSVILLE MARYLAND. AT 2:37 PM EDT...A TORNADO THEN TOUCHED DOWN IN CHILLUM AT A WATER PARK NEAR THE INTERSECTION OF SARGENT ROAD AND RAY ROAD. TREE DAMAGE WAS NOTED AT THE SPLASH PARK. THE TORNADO INTENSIFIED AS IT CROSSED A WOODED AREA AND FIELD BEHIND THE GEORGE E PETERS ADVENTIST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. PEAK WINDS ESTIMATED AT 100 MPH THEN STRUCK THE SCHOOL...LIFTING THE NORTHEAST SECTION OF THE ROOF OFF THE BUILDING AND THROWING MOST OF IT INTO THE DOWNWIND PARKING LOT. A CONSTRUCTION OFFICE TRAILER WAS ALSO THROWN ON ITS SIDE. SOME DEBRIS FROM THE SCHOOL WAS CARRIED HIGH INTO NEARBY TREES...SOME OF IT WAS BLOWN INTO THE METROPOLITAN ADVENTIST CHURCH ACROSS THE PARKING LOT DESTROYING SOME WINDOWS ON THE CHURCH. A PIECE OF PLYWOOD WAS CARRIED ACROSS RIGGS ROAD INTO PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY FIRE STATION 44...KNOCKING OUT THEIR POWER. A SCIENCE TEACHER IN THE SCHOOL AND A FIREMAN IN THE FIRE STATION BOTH REPORTED SEEING ROTATION AS THE DEBRIS WAS CARRIED BY THE WIND. THE STORM CONTINUED NORTH DOWNING TREES ALONG RIGGS ROAD...AS WELL AS A LIGHT POLE IN THE PARKING LOT OF A KMART SHOPPING CENTER ON RIGGS ROAD. THE STRONGEST WIND FROM THIS TOUCHDOWN WAS ESTIMATED TO BE 100 MPH AND HAS THEREFORE BEEN RATED AN EF-1 ON THE ENHANCED FUJITA SCALE. THE LENGTH OF THE PATH WAS ESTIMATED TO BE A THIRD OF A MILE...WITH A WIDTH OF 50 TO 100 YARDS.

THE TORNADO EF SCALE RATES TORNADOES AFTER THE FACT FROM 0 TO 5 BASED ON THEIR ESTIMATED WIND STRENGTH. THE EF SCALE IS AN UPGRADE TO THE OLD F SCALE WHICH IT REPLACED IT IN 2007.

\$\$ STRONG/LEE