



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

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

ANOTHER MONTH WITH WELL ABOVE NORMAL TEMPERATURES CAPPED OFF A WARM SPRING

May was the third consecutive month with above normal temperatures making it one of our warmest Springs. This Spring was the second warmest at NWS Washington National Airport and the fourth warmest at NWS Wilmington DE where records date both back over 100 years. Rainfall was below normal over much of the area except for a few locations outside Washington, DC and from Washington County westwards due to isolated heavy thunderstorms.

May began in the same manner as April, i.e. warm. Temperatures rose to the 80's at a majority of stations east of Carroll and Frederick Counties during the first 6 days of the month. Upper 80's and lower 90's occurred on the 1st. 92° was reported in **LaVale** on the 1st. Minimum temperatures failed to fall below 70° at many stations on either the 2nd and/or the 3rd. These were the warmest daily minimum temperatures of the month. Showers on the 2nd and 3rd brought 1.62" at **LaVale**, 1.32" at **Frostburg**, and 1.00" at **Smithsburg 1.5 SW**. East of Washington County amounts were generally less than 1/2 inch. No rain was reported in Southern Delaware.

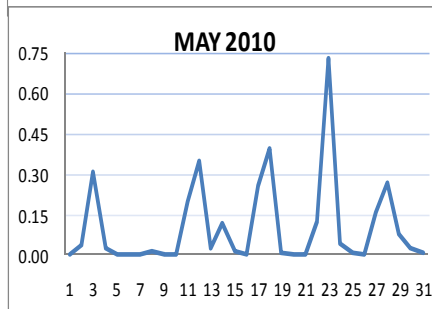
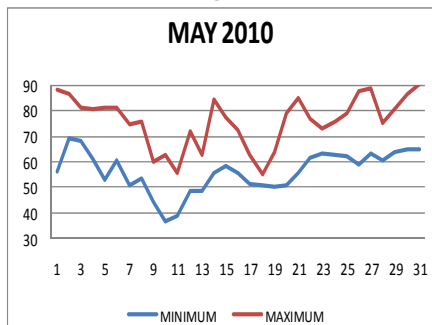
The coldest temperatures of the month occurred on the 10th and 11th. Freezing temperatures were reported at **Frostburg**, **Lothian**, **Manchester 1 SW**, **Millers 4 NE**, **Smithsburg 1.5 SW** and at **Davis 3 SW, WV**. Maximum temperatures on the 11th failed to rise above 60° across the region but at **LaVale** and **Manchester 1 SW** the temperature failed to rise out of the 40's. A cool rain fell on the 11th and 12th. Amounts ranged from 0.07" at **Ridge** to 1.09" at **Norbeck 1 SE** and **Clarksburg 2 ENE**.

Warm temperatures in the 80's returned briefly on the 14th. Scattered strong thunderstorms moved thru during the evening. Quarter size hail fell in Newark, DE, and 1/8" hail at **Millers 4 NE**. Hail was also reported at NWS Washington National Airport.

Seasonal temperatures returned from the 15th to the 17th. Maximum temperatures on the 18th were in the 50's. Much needed rains fell on the 17th and 18th. Amounts ranged from 1.47" at **Frostburg** to 0.27" at **Bethesda** and **Millers 4 NE**.

Temperatures in the 70's and 80's were common from the 20th till the end of the month except for the 26th, 27th, and Memorial Day the 31st when 90's occurred at some locations.

Scattered heavy thunderstorms on the 23rd dumped over two inches of rain at **Emmitsburg 2 SE** (2.60") and **Sterling 4 N, VA** (2.53"). Over 1" fell at many locations in the Washington DC Suburbs. A severe thunderstorm with quarter size hail stripped leaves and broke small branches from trees that occurred at **Frostburg** on the 28th.



ACON MD/DE Network

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

EXTREMES REPORTED BY

ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Baltimore 2 SE	95
Westminster 4 SSE	95
Pasadena 2 N	94
Montgomery Village 1 SW	94
Forest Glen	94

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Frostburg	28
Davis 3 SE WV	28
Manchester 1 SW	31
Millers 4 NE	31

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Baltimore 2 SE	70.1
Ridge	69.0
Westminster 4 SSE	68.5

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Davis 3 SE WV	58.0
Frostburg	59.3
Manchester 1 SW	63.0

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Frostburg	7.39
LaVale	5.90
Emmitsburg 2 SE	5.13

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Middletown 6 N DE	1.30
Bryans Road 2 ESE	1.68
Georgetown 5 SW DE	1.70

Observer Comments: Page 2
Floyd Abell Memorial: Pages 3 - 6

Don't forget the ACON Weather Gathering at the home of Herb Close of Manchester on Saturday, July 17th beginning at Noon.

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR MAY 2010

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

2nd warmest spring. Avg temp of 55.7° is 0.1° behind 1991.

10th & 11th - Light frost

14th - Severe thunderstorm with quarter size hail and blinding wind blown rain 5 miles north of here in Newark.

Greg Latta of Frostburg

28th - Quote from his web site "The most severe isolated thunderstorm I have observed in Frostburg occurred between 2 PM and 3 PM. I had quarter sized hail and winds that stripped the leaves from the trees and broke small branches. Most of today's 2.21" of precipitation came in form of thunderstorms."

Nate Mullins of LaVale

Spring tied 1991 for the warmest spring. May was the third warmest since 1948 due entirely to above normal minimum temperatures.

1st - Record high of 92°. Old record was 89 set in 2007.

2nd & 3rd - 1.62" of rain in 24 hours ending mid morning of the 3rd was more than fell during April.

11th - Very cool with steady cold rains. High of 45° tied May 6 & 7th 1958 for the coolest May maximum temperature.

27th - Severe thunderstorm 2:30 - 3:30 PM produced notable hail, intense frequent lightning, strong winds, and heavy rains.

Jeff Stoudt of Laurel 2 E

3rd - Gusty SHRA at daybreak. -RA till 0800.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

10th - Patchy frost.

11th - Inc clouds then overcast, light rain & cold.

23rd - Overcast with periods of showery rain, humid.

31st - Hot & humid: sun with afternoon clouds.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2 SE

1st - Partly cloudy, hot, moderate humidity.

27th - Hot, humid, late PM thunderstorms.

28th - Early AM thunderstorms.

Herb Close of Manchester 1 SW

11th & 18th - Coldest max temperature for the month of 49°. April's coldest was also 49°, but it occurred only on one day.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

11th - Frosty early, becoming cloudy, afternoon rains.

27th - Hot & humid. Heavy overnight storms.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

8th - PWG 49 MPH @ 3:51 PM twigs & limbs down.

14th - Evening thunderstorm with 1/8" hail. PWG 38 mph N.

27th - Thunderstorms 10 PM to 2 AM 5/28. 1/8" hail 11:20 to 11:28 PM. PWG 37 SE.

Ray Muller of Westminster City

Dry month.

Eric Glass of Emmitsburg 2 SE

9th - Sunny, cool, and breezy.

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

1st - Tied record max of 86°.

23rd - Thunderstorm 2:30 AM. 1.58" of rain today.

27th - Tied record maximum temperature of 90°.

Rich Giannola of JHU/APL

8th - Minimum barometric pressure for May of 29.51".

11th - Maximum barometric pressure for May of 30.42"

Rich Giannola of Olney 1 S

12th - SHRA/TSRA began ~ 5:00 PM. +TSRA 5:35 PM, Rain ended by 7:00 PM.

23rd - SHRA after midnight, ending before Noon. 1.00".

Richard Holden of Clarksburg 2 ENE

12th - Heavy rain.

Stan Rossen of Glenmont 1 NNE

2nd - Minimum temperature of 71° is the earliest 70 degree minimum temperature in 33 years of station record. Old earliest record was 5/24/2004.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

May tied 2007 for the second warmest May.

1st & 27th - Record daily max temp of 88° and 91°.

2nd - Record daily minimum temperature of 70°

5th - Sunny, warm day. Still pretty dry.

23rd - Record daily precipitation of 1.39".

25th - Cloudy, fog AM. Partly cloudy, warm, humid afternoon.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

2nd - Very uncomfortable for early May, especially during evening. Dew points mostly in the low 70's.

27th - Impressive Tcu and Cb to the south and east late afternoon and early evening but no thunder observed and only a couple of very light showers.

Brian Smith of Oxon Hill

7th - 1847 perihelia and upper portions of halo.

14th - -TSRA 1850-1930, 0.04"; -TSRA 1958-2030. 1847 rainbow in sun shower.

John Zyla of Ridge

8th - Windy all day, constant 10 to 15 mph.

17th - Drizzle all day.

28th - Thunderstorm 12:30 - 2:00 AM.

Max Hutto of Smithsburg 1.5 SW

10th - Cold AM with frost.

27th - Mostly sunny, hot, humid, windy

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

28th - Nearby intense thunderstorms to east around midnight produced high winds from East with gusts to 45 MPH but no rain fell here.

30th - Dense fog overnight and early this morning.

Lance Shaffer of Sterling 4 N VA

9th - Continued gusty winds, nice and cool, Fall like.

Dave Leshner of Davis 3 SE WV

9th - A few windblown snowflakes before daybreak.

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.

FRANCIS FLOYD ABELL

Floyd Abell, ACON weather observer from **Hollywood Maryland**, passed away on May 7, 2010. Well over 200 people attended his funeral mass on May 12th including ACON members Marty Brumback, Bobby Miller, John Zyla, Kevin Shaw and Gary Gallaher.

Below is the Eulogy presented by Marty Brumback sharing Kevin Shaw, Bob Ryan and Steve Steinke's remembrances of Floyd:

"I was so fortunate to have met Floyd back in the early 1980s through the Association of American Weather Observers. A local weather group, the Atlantic Coast Observer Network, or ACON, formed as a spinoff from the Association of American Weather Observers. Recruiting members for this new organization was relatively easy with observers like Floyd out there, eager to help get us off the ground and make major contributions to our publications and activities back in the pre-internet 1980s. Floyd added so much more besides his excellent data and reports from Hollywood. His humor, his wit, his poetry was so unique among us, and when we gathered he always commanded great respect and attention from all of us. We had frequent meetings, visits to weather stations, dinners, and much social interaction via postal correspondence and phone at first, then gradually through the internet and e-mail. Floyd embraced the new technology. His keen sense of what was right, and what was interesting and relevant to our great hobby was invaluable as our organization grew through the 1990s and into the current century. And he had "come on board" with technology that involved a new way of communication, and use of modern, wireless weather instrumentation. All of us in ACON, some 40 strong throughout Maryland and Delaware, have lost a great compatriot in weather and in life itself. May his great spirit live on forever."

Kevin Shaw, MD/DE ACON, Gaithersburg, MD

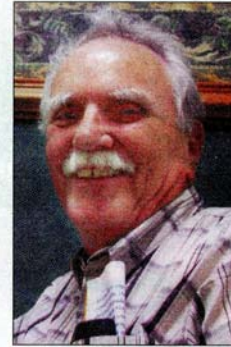
"We know Floyd was in failing health and his passing so soon after his loss of Stephanie was almost inevitable, much like the sunrises, sunsets, day to day changes in the sky he loved so much. Floyd may not have been the first person to respond to my on-air invitation to become a "Channel 4 Weather Watcher" but he sure was among the first few and the most loyal and accurate observer of any volunteer weather network. Floyd and Stephanie came to every "Weather Watcher Picnic" at Channel 4 some 20 to 30 years ago before budget cuts. He was a stone cutter by trade but a meteorologist in his heart. Everyone in St. Mary's County knows about Floyd's Weather Station, his reliable re-

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Weather watcher Abell dies

Floyd Abell of Hollywood, St. Mary's most renowned weather watcher, died Friday, May 7. He was 67.

See Page A-10 for his obituary and Page A-11 for a story about his life.



Wednesday, May 12, 2010 The Enterprise Page A-11

Abell, weather watcher, dies

■ Kept temperature, precipitation records for 30 years

By JASON BABCOCK
Staff writer

St. Mary's County lost its local weatherman when Francis Floyd Abell, 67, died on Friday, May 7. He leaves behind 30 years of daily weather records from his location in Hollywood in the Winterseat neighborhood.

A family member left a final message on his telephone weather line that said he had "gone to the big weather station in the sky and we're going to miss him."

Stephanie Abell, his wife of 46 years, died on March 1.

"It was more mourning for her than anything," said JoAllen Mattingly, Floyd Abell's sister-in-law, said of his death. On Friday at St. Mary's Hospital, Mattingly reported, "He said, 'I want to go home and see her. I want to go home and see her now.' He was adamant — he was going."

She said she can imagine Stephanie Abell telling Floyd, "What are you doing up here already?"

Bob Ryan, former chief meteorologist for WRC-TV, said in an e-mail to weather observers and other professionals, "Floyd may not have been the first person to respond to my on-air invitation to become a 'Channel 4 Weather Watcher,' but he was among the first few and the most loyal and accurate observers of any volunteer weather network.

"He was a stone cutter by trade but a meteorologist in his heart. Everyone in St. Mary's County knows about Floyd's Weather Station, his reliable reports and yard of whirligigs. Floyd was a decent, honest, lovely man who loved his wife, his friends and, of course, the weather. I'll miss his calls and reports, but know he is still watching," Ryan said.

Channel 4 meteorologist Veronica Johnson mentioned Floyd Abell's death during the 11 p.m. broadcast Friday. "He performed a great service over the years," she said.

Abell first starting making daily weather observations in Hollywood in 1980.

Now the National Weather Service office of climatology is requesting Abell's records to include in its archives, said Marty Brumback, Abell's friend of 25 years.

"Floyd was a stickler for accuracy," he said, "and that's why the weather service so heavily counted on him" for local storm reports.

"I never called his weather line; I just went directly to the source," Mattingly said.

Abell started his daily weather telephone line in November 1983. When severe weather struck, he would get up to 2,000 calls a day on it.

"You know, I did not realize how many lives he has touched, and how many people really depended on him and his weather," Mattingly said.

Besides his immense collection of weather data, Abell also leaves behind a sizable thermometer collection. "The weather was his passion," Mattingly said.

Abell was somewhat of a local celebrity, said John Zyla, who has been keeping weather records in Ridge for 15 years. Abell got him set up to record weather so he could compare weather information with another St. Mary's County location.

"A lot of people know of Floyd Abell, but don't know him personally," Zyla said.

"I didn't realize how famous he really is because he's a friend of mine," Zyla said. "He was always polite, very genteel. He always made you feel like you were important when you talked."

Speaking to a class at St. John's School in Hollywood in 2001, Abell told the students the weather affects life every day.

"Today you know it's warm so you dress lightly. And even on the wedding day, the question is not, 'Do you love me?' It's, 'What's the weather going to be?'" he said.

Born in St. Mary's County on Jan. 18, 1943, Abell was drafted into the military when he was 26 to go to Vietnam. He served as a combat engineer in the Army from 1969 to 1970.

"It's a terrible thing, the Vietnam conflict, all those boys killed. We had mortar fire coming into the camps. I was fortunate I got outta there," he said in a 2004 interview.

After the war, he got a job at Capitol Hill where he worked as a mason until his retirement.

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Newspaper article from "The Enterprise", St Mary's County
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FRANCIS FLOYD ABELL

Continued from page 3

ports and yard of whirligigs. Floyd was a decent honest lovely man who loved his wife his friends and of course the weather. I'll miss his calls and reports but know he is still watching. He enriched all our lives." 5/11/2010 Bob Ryan Continues "When anyone is driving around St. Mary's County and sees a whirligig gently moving in the breeze in someone's yard. . .think of it as the spirit of Floyd and Stephanie now part of the wind and weather."
Bob Ryan, WRC TV Channel 4, Washington, D.C.

"40 years ago I didn't know Floyd Abell. I knew I loved watching the weather. Growing up in Midwest farm country, I knew just the right country roads where I could drive, stop the car, and get out to view an approaching storm. I could take it all in. I could sense the wind and the smell of rain. And I could watch the clouds unfold in ways that spoke to me. Back then, it spoke to me and me alone. And I often wondered if there was another like me who felt the same way about the weather, and that's when I learned of Floyd Abell. Floyd had already established himself as a meticulous observer who was always most concerned about getting it right, not exaggerating the truth. When his rainfall came up short of others, he was fine with that. When he measured snow, he needed his measurements to be as accurate as it they could be. Floyd needed it "real," and he was dedicated to keeping it that way. Floyd brought to the AAWO his passion for the sky, a wonderful smile, and his ever-present gift of humor and poetry. These days when I look up to the sky I see it just as I did 40 years ago. I never get tired of it. With Floyd's help I learned more about the sky. With Floyd's help, I learned a lot about myself. Floyd gave us his perspective in ways unique to this delightful man. Those of you here today know exactly what his gift was. And when we look up each day, we know that he is looking down in appreciation of our commitment to the sky and to each other. We know, too, that Floyd's gift to us is not past tense. It is as alive today as it has ever been. In Floyd's passing we will all celebrate that gift he wants us to enjoy. I thank Floyd for answering my personal question about if there were others equally as passionate about the weather. Indeed there are many others just like Floyd and me who love the sky, never grow tired of its changing moods, and are defined by the connection we have to it. Thanks for helping me learn that from you Floyd. And thanks for sharing that gift with so many who came to know you."
Steve Steinke, Phoenix, Arizona

Floyd was also a poet. Marty ended with a poem:

"A Great Poet"

Sometimes he didn't know it
And he certainly never boasted of it
But Floyd Abell was one great poet

In his own special way
He told of glistening winter days
And of evening's kaleidoscope rays

He revealed his gentle soul
With a wit of gold
When of tomorrow's weather he foretold

His poems have given us much to borrow
His words leave us no need for pain or sorrow
Nor any worries about tomorrow

Scientists say matter can neither
be created nor destroyed
So know we are with you, Weatherman Floyd

Now Rest in eternal peace with Stephanie
In Jesus' name we pray.

Marty Brumback, White Plains, Maryland



Collage of pictures of Floyd with his weather friends on pages 5 & 6

FRANCIS FLOYD ABELL



Stephanie and Floyd



Center top: Floyd's Weather Truck



Willard Scott and Floyd



Top: Floyd and his nephew
Bottom: Floyd and his famous hat

Joe Moyer, Maryland / Delaware State Climatologist and Floyd in the 1980's

Floyd and his nephew crabbing



Floyd and his weather friends at his home in Hollywood 1997



Floyd's Weather Truck

Continued on page 6

FRANCIS FLOYD ABELL



Floyd at ACON Weather Parties held by Herb Close of Manchester

Top: Dan Hanson, Marty Brumback with Floyd 2004

Center Left: Jim Vaughn with Floyd 2003 Center Right: Kevin Shaw with Floyd 2005

Bottom left: Stan Rossen, Marty Brumback, Ray Muller with Floyd 2005