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

NEAR NORMAL TEMPERATURES - CENTRAL AND WESTERN AREAS ABOVE NORMAL PRECIPITATION

March temperatures averaged near normal. As **Joe Terry** of **Forest Glen** stated in his summary: "March's temperatures showed less variability than is typical for March." Precipitation was above normal west of the Chesapeake Bay and near normal east of The Bay. Two storms within six days during the first third of the month produced over two thirds of the months rainfall. Snowfall amounts were light and remained on the ground for very short periods. No severe thunderstorms occurred but several brought pea size hail.

The month began sunny and cool with seasonal temperatures on the 1st. The second was windy and warmer with temperatures in the 50's. A cold front ushered in the coldest temperatures on the 3rd. Minimums were generally in the low to middle 20's while teens occurred from Baltimore County westwards.

Clouds moved in on the 5th as temperatures rose to 60°. Precipitation on the 6th and ended as snow in Central and Western Maryland. The heaviest amounts reported by ACON observers were 2.68" by **Lance Schaffer** of **Sterling 4 N VA**, 2.42" by **Rob Cohen** of **Potomac 4 N**, and 2.39" by **Kevin Shaw** of **Gaithersburg 2 WNW**. **Dave Leshner** of **Davis 3 SE WV** measured 7.9" of snow while **Jim Vaughn** of **Smithsburg 3 NE 2.6"** and **Greg Latta** of **Frostburg 1.7"**.

A second storm brought heavy rains from the 10th to the 11th. Rainfall amounts of over 2 inches fell in Central and Western Maryland. The heaviest amounts were reported by **Greg Latta** of **Frostburg 3.22"**, **Bobby Miller** of **Millers 4 NE 3.08"**, and **Nate Mullins** of **LaVale 3.03"**. Two plus inches of snow fell in Allegany County westwards into West Virginia.

The warmest portion of the month occurred between the 17th and 22nd. Temperatures rose to record levels at some stations on the 18th when mid 70's to lower 80's were observed. **Greg Keefer** of **Hagerstown 1 E** broke a record which

stood since 1905 on the 18th when temperatures rose to 79°.

Small hail was reported on the 21st and 23rd by several observers. See Observer Notes for details.

The coldest period, in respect to normal, occurred from the 23rd to the 31st. Temperatures failed to rise above 50° at a majority of stations. Minimum temperatures in the 20's were common. Light snow fell early on the 27th. The heaviest amounts fell in St Marys County where **Wes Gleason** of **Hollywood 3 ENE** measured 2.4" and **John Zyla** of **Ridge 1.7"**.

Precipitation fell on the last two days. Light snow fell in Central Maryland on the evening of the 30th. **Herb Close** of **Manchester 1 SW** measured 1.3", **Bobby Miller** of **Millers 4 NE 1.0"**, **Greg Latta** of **Frostburg 1.0"**, **Jim Vaughn** of

EXTREMES REPORTED BY

ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Baltimore 2 SE	83
Forest Glen	83
Ridge	82

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Davis 3 SE WV	8
Frostburg	13
Manchester 1 SW	15
Smithsburg 3 NE	16

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Baltimore 2 SE	47.3
Forest Glen	46.2
Sterling 4 N VA	45.4

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Davis 3 SE WV	33.6
Frostburg	36.3
Manchester 1 SW	40.2
LaVale	40.9

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Davis 3 SE WV	7.38
Owings Mills	7.07
Frostburg	6.80
Jug Bay Wetlands Lothian	6.35

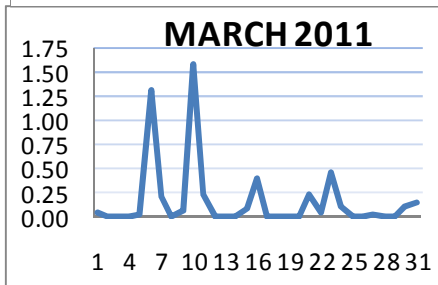
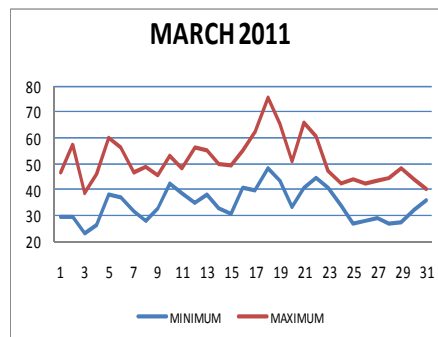
MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Ridge	3.55
Newark DEOS DE	3.56
Harbeson 8 S DEOS DE	3.69

MAXIMUM SNOWFALL

Davis 3 SE WV	16.9
Frostburg	6.4
Smithsburg 3 NE	3.3
LaVale	3.0

Smithsburg 3 NE 0.6", **Ralph Hartsock** of **Westminster 4 SSE 0.5"**, **Ray Muller** of **Reisterstown 0.3"**, **Max Hutto** of **Smithsburg 1.5 SW 0.2"** and **Marty Sharrow** of **Owings Mills 0.1"**.



ACON MD/DE Network

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

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR MARCH 2011

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

Normal month both temperature and precipitation wise but below normal snowfall. Warm first half, cool second half. Ground too wet to plant early crops in the garden.

23rd - Thunderstorm with pea size hail.

Greg Latta of Frostburg

Four days this month with 1" or more snow on the ground, but none were consecutive.

Nate Mullins of LaVale

March came in somewhat chilly but calm, much like a lamb. Then it left like a lion, with snow flakes flying again and chilly temperatures.

5th & 6th - Soaking rains turning to snow late on the on the 6th, strong winds.

9th & 10th - Heavy wet snow early on the 9th mixed with and changed to rain. Daily precipitation records set on both days—**9th** 1.41", old record 1.30" in 1994, **10th** 1.62", old record 0.62" in 1976. There was some flooding in the area, particularly along Wills Creek.

Jeff Stoudt of Laurel 2 E

Two thirds of the months precipitation (3.08" of 4.61") fell from the 6th to the 10th.

21st - A pair of brief thunderstorms rumbled through during dawn, the second of which nearly covered the ground with pea-size (1/4") hail within a few minutes of 6:50 AM..

Ray Muller of Reisterstown

18th - Fair, Pleasantly warm, 4 PM temperature 74°.

23rd - +TSRA with pea size hail 1745 to 1748 hours.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

7th - Early AM snow, sunny, windy, PWG 41 mph.

10th - Overcast with heavy rain, 3.36".

30th - Evening rain, snow, sleet.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

21st - AM thunderstorm and rain till 8 AM.

31st - Cloudy, cold drizzle.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

2nd - Sunny and milder, colder late and windy PWG 33WNW.

10th&11th - Widespread flooding.

23rd - Evening thunderstorm, marble size hail.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

6th - Afternoon wind shift, moderate rain.

10th - Evening minor flooding.

23rd - Evening storm, 3/8" hail at 6:17 PM.

30th - Freezing drizzle, glaze on trees.

Eric Glass of Emmitsburg 2 SE

21st - At 7AM obs: Light rain, thunder & lightning.

Ron Berger of Norbeck 1 SE

21st - Brief small hail (1/4" dia.) from 6:11AM to 6:13 AM.

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

6th - Heavy rain 6 - 8 AM, 3 - 9 PM, snow mix 11:30 PM.

30th - Rain, bit of sleet 3 - 9 PM.

Rich Giannola of Olney 1 S

6th—7th - Rain began before dawn. 0.50" by noon. 1.35" more before it ended as snow early on the 7th.

10th - Lightning and one clap of thunder followed by +SHRA/SHRA.

Richard Holden of Clarksburg 2 ENE

6th - Heavy rain, Light sleet, Light snow, AM min 54°.

19th - AM min temp 46°, afternoon max temp 57°.

Stan Rossen of Glenmont 1 NNE

7th - Snow began mixing with the rain after 12:15 A.M. and was all snow within 1/2 hour. The light snow tapered to flurries after 1 A.M. that continued until 3:00 A.M. The snow melted on contact and did not stick to any surface .

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

Warmer than normal, but as usual, mostly due to warmer than average minimums. 74% of the months precipitation fell in a 6 day period from the 6th to the 11th. 9th wettest March of 33.

6th - 2.36" daily record precipitation.

10th - 1.49" daily record precipitation.

18th - 80° tied daily record set in 1989.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

Near normal temperature but well above normal precipitation.

21st - Very brief but intense thunderstorm. Heavy rain along with 0.3" diameter hail for a few minutes around 0645. This was the first time hail has fallen in the month of March in this stations 16 year history.

Brian Smith of Oxon Hill

6th - -RA/RA 0600-2300;-RAPL 2300 changed to wet -SN

10th - Potential severe TS and flood-producing systems weakened in the evening; no flooding.

John Zyla of Ridge

16th - Cloudy, drizzle & Foggy, T'stm 12:30-4:30am

21st - Two thunderstorms: 1st 7:45am - 9:30am = 0.21", 2nd 8:30 - 8:45pm = 0.03

27th - Snow 3:30 -10:30am = 1.7", then clear, snow melted before Noon!

Max Hutto of Smithsburg 1.5 SW

2nd - Mostly sunny, warmer, very windy.

5th - 7th - Windy, late rain on the 5th continued throughout the 6th and changed to snow at night and ended on the 7th.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

Sleet fell on four days, 6th, 9th, 30th, & 31st. Thunder occurred on 3 days, 10th, 21st, & 23rd.

18th - Record maximum temperature of 79° broke the record 75 set in 1905.

23rd - Pea size hail around 7:30 PM with 30 MPH gusts.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE

6th - Daily snowfall record of 2.3". Old record 0.3" occurred on several occasions with the last in 2003.

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.