

2006 WEATHER SUMMARY

Annandale Virginia - Barcroft Hills Weather Center

MOST UNUSUAL RECORDS

The variability of precipitation this year has been phenomenal.

This year had the wettest month (June) and tied also for the driest month (March) in the last 26 years. Five months had daily precipitation amounts of more than two inches. But 2006 also had six periods (see drought under precipitation section) with ten to eighteen days with no measurable precipitation and yet it was the fourth wettest year. But 2006 had the least number of days (105) with measurable precipitation in the past 26 years. Very poor distribution of precipitation this year!

June with 14.38 inches of rain, +10.79 inch departure, was the wettest June on record and the wettest month on record here. The previous record was September 1999 with 11.33 inches which wasn't even close. The wettest 15 days ever recorded at this station was from June 22nd to July 6th. A total of 15.52 inches of rain occurred averaging more than one inch a day over one-half of a summer month period, amazing! I lost two tomato plants as they were too wet and their roots rotted which was also a lifetime first for me.

National Airport had 14.02 inches the most ever recorded for June; the previous record was 11.53 inches in 1972 the month of remnants of Agnes. To put this month's total rainfall in perspective, of the 135 years of records (1620 months) in Washington, only four months have been wetter; the record was 17.45 inches in Sept 1934. (Reference web address is <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/lwx/climate/dca/dcaprecip.txt>)

March was not only the driest March but also tied the record of the driest month in the last 26 years with October 2000. National Airport had only 0.05 inches in March. In the past 135 years they have had only two months drier - April 1985 and October 1963. No measurable precipitation occurred in Annandale for 18 days from March 3rd through March 20th. This is now the longest period without measurable precipitation since 2001 when the 26-year record was set of 34 days from Oct. 17th - Nov. 19th.

LIGHTNING - THUNDER

YEAR On June 24th - 25th from 2030 of the 24th until 0130 of the 25th some of the worst electrical storm cells ever observed occurred at this station. Two strikes were very close with one hitting a tall tulip poplar tree just 80 to 100 feet to our south and the other hit a smaller tulip poplar tree about 250 feet to our NNE. Annandale however had only 34 days with thunder in 2006 which is exactly average. (Records since 1995)

TEMPERATURE

YEAR The average mean temperature for 2006 was 58.0 °F which was + 1.9 °F above average for the yearly mean temperature and the second warmest on record. The warmest was 1998. Highest annual maximum temperature of 98 °F was recorded on August 3rd. Lowest annual minimum temperature was only 12 °F on February 19th. There were 35 days that were equal to or greater than 90 °F for the maximum temperature in 2006, which was 6 days more than the annual average. There were only 65 days that were less than or equal to 32 °F for the minimum temperature, which was 19 days less than the annual average and only 1998 had less. The 1998 record is only 49 days. Only one day during 2006 that the maximum temperature didn't climb to or above freezing. The previous record of the least number of days was three in 2002 and 1998 was second with four days.

MONTH February, with a mean temperature of 37.4 °F, was the coldest month of the year but was only a

little colder than average for February. February also had the greatest number of days (21 days) with the minimum temperature equal to or less than 32 °F in 2006. September had the greatest negative average monthly mean temperature departure of -2.3 °F for 2006. January's mean monthly temperature had a + 8.6 °F departure and the warmest January in the last 26 years and the highest positive monthly departure for 2006.

DAY February 19th was the coldest day of the year with a daily mean temperature of 21 °F. The lowest daily maximum temperature for 2006 also occurred on February 19th and was only 30 °F. February 19th also had the lowest wind chill for 2006 of -2 °F at 0817 hours. August 3rd was the hottest day of the year with a daily mean temperature of 88 °F. The highest daily maximum temperature for 2006 also occurred on August 3rd and was 98 °F.

RANGE The 36°F temperature range on May 2nd was the greatest daily temperature range for the year. April had the greatest average monthly temperature range of 22.6 °F The 3 °F temperature range on February 22nd was the lowest daily temperature range for the year. September had the lowest average monthly temperature range of 14.1 °F.

PRECIPITATION

YEAR The total number of days this year with measurable precipitation was 105 days, the least for any year in the past 26 years. The total precipitation for 2006 measured 53.30 inches which was a departure of +8.91 inches with only three years being wetter in the past 26 years. It is interesting that 2006 was much above average in precipitation but had a record low number of days with measurable precipitation. This also reflects the fact that we had very heavy rains that were then followed by long periods of drought. The year 2006 was known for its great variability in precipitation amounts.

MONTH June had thirteen days with measurable rain; only four Junes have had more days with measurable precipitation in the past 26 years. The 26-year record for any June is 19 days set in 1998. June had the greatest monthly total rainfall ever recorded at this station in the past 26 years of 14.38 inches, a +10.79 inch departure. March had the least monthly total rainfall of 0.06 inches a -4.28 inch departure and only had three days with measurable rain, which was the least in March since 1981 which also had 3 days. No month in the last 324 months has the precipitation total for the month been less than this March's total.

CALENDAR The precipitation total on June 25th was 5.31 inches, a new 26 year maximum precipitation record for a day. The old record was ONLY 3.86 inches recorded on October 8, 2005.

24-HOUR PERIOD The maximum rain in 24-hour period was 5.61 inches from 5 AM on June 25th to 5 AM of the 26th. This was very near the record of 5.66 inches set on October 7th and 8th 2005.

STORM The storm total of June 22nd – 28th was 12.10 inches the most precipitation ever recorded here in a storm in the last 26 years. The old record was October 6th – 8th of 2005 when 7.09 inches occurred.

HOURLY The maximum one-hour rainfall intensity was 2.35 inches on the 25th which shattered the previous record not only for June but for any month. The previous 26-year record was 1.74 inches on July 28, 2000 and the greatest one-hour intensity since precipitation intensity records were started in 1991.

FIVE-MINUTE The greatest five-minute rainfall was 0.50 inches, which fell on June 25th; this was the

fourth most intense five-minute rainfall since intensity records were started in 1991. Only the rainfall intensities on June 29, 2005 with 0.53 inches, June 16, 1998 with 0.56 inches in five minutes and July 23, 1992 with 0.58 inches were more intense.

DROUGHT March was not only the driest March but also tied the record of the driest month in the last 26 years with October 2000. No measurable precipitation occurred in Annandale during the following periods.

Mar.03rd-Mar. 20th 18 day period, Apr. 27th-May 06th 10 day period
July 23rd-Aug. 06th 15 day period, Aug. 11th-Aug. 28th 18 day period,
Sep. 16th-Sep. 27th 12 day period, Dec. 01st-Dec.12th 11 day period

The March 3rd-March 20th was the longest period without measurable precipitation since 2001 when the 26-year record of 34 days was set from October 17th - November 19th.

SNOW

YEAR The 2006 total snowfall was 13.5 inches, which was a departure of -7.9 inches. There were only four days in 2006 with measurable snowfall and no year in the past 26 years has had less. The only year that equaled that was 1991.

MONTH The 13.3 inches of snow in February was the greatest monthly snowfall total for the year. That made February the sixth snowiest February in the last 26 Februaries and the 12.5 inches of snow on the 11th and 12th was the fourth largest snow in February in the last 26 years. The snowfall total for December was a trace from the flurry on the 7th, and the least for December since 1999, when also only a trace was recorded for the month. This year was the first time in the last 26 years that only a trace was recorded in both January and December.

STORM The largest snowstorm of the year was 12.5 inches on February 11th - 12th. The greatest calendar day snowfall was 7.9 inches observed on February 12th. The greatest snow cover on the ground was 12.5 inches at 0800 on February 12, 2006. The storm total was 12.5 inches from 1500 of the 11th until 0735 of the 12th or a 16.5 hour period. It was the tenth greatest storm total in the last 26 years and the fourth greatest February snow in the last 26 years.

It also ranked eighth in the greatest 24 hour snow total in the last 26 years. The total snowfall for February was 13.3 inches and was +6.7 inches more than the 26-year average and only five Februaries have had more snow. See snow time lapse at

– <http://www.annandaleweather.com/photos/snowtimelapse>

WIND

YEAR The high wind gust of 45 mph from the WNW on the January 15th at 0401 was the strongest wind gust recorded in January since 2000. These winds were associated with a deep low pressure in MA and its associated cold front.

MONTH The windiest month was March with a total wind run of 2,085.1 miles.

DAY January 25th was the windiest day of 2006 with a wind run of 183.5 miles.

BAROMETRIC PRESSURE

MONTH January 22nd had the year's highest barometric pressure reading of 30.69 inches. The year's lowest barometric pressure reading of 29.25 inches on October 28th was also the lowest reading ever recorded in the last 26 years in October.

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

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SKY COVER

MONTH November was the cloudiest month of 2006 but January and September were also almost as cloudy. October's average sky cover made it the clearest month of the year and the clearest October since 2001.

SEASON RECORDS

WINTER SEASON - DECEMBER 2005 to FEBRUARY 2006

This was the 14th driest winter in the past 26 years.
The total seasonal precipitation was 9.32 inches.
The average is 9.55 inches, a departure of -0.23 inches
This was the 9th warmest winter in the past 26 years.
38.18 °F seasonal mean temperature and the average is 36.41 °F, a departure of + 1.77° F

SPRING SEASON - MARCH to APRIL 2006

The highest mean spring temperature since 2000 and only four springs were warmer in the last 26-years. The mean spring temperature was 56.8°F with a + 1.9 °F departure.
This was the driest spring since 1986 and the second driest in the last 26 years.
There were 24 days this spring with precipitation.
In the last 26 springs, there have been none with less precipitation days.
The total precipitation was only 6.43 inches with a – 5.76 inch departure

SUMMER SEASON - MAY to JULY 2006

The average temperature for the summer season was 77.3°F, a +1.7 °F departure.
This was the third warmest summer in the last 26 years.
Only 2002 with a record average of 78.0 °F and in 2nd place 77.6 °F that occurred in 2005 were higher.
But this summer was the wettest in the last 26 years with a total of 20.52 inches which is a departure of +9.29 inches for the season.
The previous 26-year record was 17.19 inches in 2000.
This summer's record was a result of June's 14.38 inches which was the wettest month we have ever had at this station.

FALL SEASON - SEPTEMBER to NOVEMBER 2006

This fall season was the second wettest in the last 26 years with 29 days with precipitation. Total seasonal precipitation was 18.68 inches and the average is 11.55 inches, a departure of +7.13 inches. This fall season was just a little cooler than average. The seasonal mean temperature was 56.8 °F & the average is 57.0 °F, a departure of - 0.2 ° F.

