

The Pennsylvania Observer

April 1, 2013



March 2013 - Pennsylvania Weather Recap

By: Mariguel Gonzalez

As we headed into the month of March, winter storms were expected to continue to hit the Northeastern states. After many people watched Punxsutawney Phil, the famous Pennsylvania groundhog, not see his shadow in February raised expectations that spring was arriving early. Well after seeing cold temperatures across the region, spring has not yet arrived this month.

At the beginning of March, a mature low pressure well far out into the Atlantic brought some rain or snow to most of the state as temperatures were below normal.

A winter storm moved north along the East Coast as a low pressure from the west, also moved towards Virginia and North Carolina. The southern half of the state received the most rainfall and snow accumulations amounts between the 6th and 8th. Pittsburgh received 5 inches of snow, while Harrisburg and Philadelphia only received a trace on the 6th.

High pressure moved in on the 9th with warm air moving in from the south. Temperatures across the state for the next 2-3 days were above normal giving an early spring treat. The maximum temperatures ranged widely during this period from the mid-50's to low-70's. Pittsburgh reached a maximum temperature of 71°F on the 10th. Yet this early spring treat was short lived as a cold front had passed through the state on the 13th, bringing temperatures back below normal.

A weak Alberta Clipper moved across the Mid-Atlantic during the weekend of the 16th. Most of the state saw rain, which later on switched to snow giving a trace or more at different cities. Soon after, another storm approached the region on the 18th, bringing in more rain and snow to the state.

Spring arrived with temperatures still slightly below normal while receiving a light snowfall across Pennsylvania. Philadelphia managed to see temperatures in the low-50's on the 19th, 20th, and 23rd as a mature low moved east and out into the Atlantic with high pressure following in, but temperatures in the city dropped back down below normal. Another storm brushed the southern half of the Commonwealth on March 25 and the remaining few days of March saw chilly winds and some afternoon rain and snow showers, though the month ended with a mild Saturday and a foggy, drizzly Sunday.

Here are the weather extremes across Pennsylvania (**observations taken at 8AM EDT**) during March 2013 from the NWS Cooperative & ASOS Networks of which our office receives routine observations. The extremes occurred in the 24-hour period prior to the date listed.

Parameter	Location	Value	Date (8 AM EDT)	County
Highest Temperature	Schenley Lock 5	76°F	March 11 th	Armstrong
Lowest Temperature	Oswayo 1 Mi. ENE	1°F	March 9 th	Potter
Greatest Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Farmington 0.5 Mi. ENE	3.85"	March 1 st -March 31 st	Fayette
Least Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Lenox 3.0 Mi. SSE	1.20"	March 1 st -March 31 st	Susquehanna
Greatest Cumulative Snowfall	Laurel Summit	60.6"	March 1 st -March 31 st	Somerset

Links to Pennsylvania Weather Stories during March, 2013

Tongue in cheek humor at seasonal forecasts:

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2013/03/punxsutawney_phil_indicted_ove.html

Low snowfalls are adding up in costs to municipalities

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2013/02/frequent_low_snowfall_costs_ad.html

Pothole season brings out ire in western Pennsylvania drivers

<http://www.wtae.com/news/local/alleggheny/Dangerous-pothole-fixed-after-ongoing-complaints-from-residents/-/10927008/19382452/-/lanluhz/-/index.html?absolute=true>

Clownfest annual meeting moves to PA due to Hurricane Sandy

<http://www.wtrf.com/story/21754671/clownfest-moves-from-nj-to-pennsylvania>

Sequester could limit some weather observations as FAA plans to close CXY, LNS and LBE

<http://www.wtae.com/news/local/allegheeny/FAA-closing-3-Pa-air-traffic-control-facilities/-/10927008/19433098/-/2o5fs2/-/index.html?absolute=true>