

The Pennsylvania Observer

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February 2012 - Pennsylvania Weather Recap

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The month of February continued in the same pattern as the first half of the winter. Above average temperatures were the norm almost uniformly across the state, and there were no major storms to speak of. There was just a series of less than impressive disturbances that brought rain and snow showers leading to one of the drier months in recent years.

The month started very mild with record maxima in eastern sections that was followed by scattered showers across the state on February 1st. They quickly dissipated with the passage of a cold front and led to 3 tranquil days before a low passed by to our south bringing light rain to the southern portion. Over the next several days, a couple of small disturbances brought light rain showers on the 9th and 11th. Temperatures remained above average as the general rule.

On February 12 and 13, the strongest shot of cold air for the month descended over the area. The cold air originated in the upper Midwest. Highs on the 13th did not make it out of the 20's across most of the state. The cold spell was short lived however, with high temperatures in the 40's overspreading Pennsylvania from southwest to northeast from Tuesday the 14th through Thursday the 16th.

Friday and Saturday, the 24th and the 25th, brought one of the more notable weather events, at least for western and central Pennsylvania. A cold front pushed through on Friday and brought behind it a period of very strong winds gusting to near 60 mph in some places. On Saturday morning, this same wind prompted lake effect snow squalls that dumped a quick accumulation of snow on many parts of the western half of the state. Once again, the wintry weather could only hold on for a short time as most of the state had highs in well into the 50's or even 60's by the 27th.

February marked the end of another disappointing month for snow lovers and a blow to any hopes that winter may try to redeem itself.

Here are the weather extremes across Pennsylvania (**observations taken at 8AM EDT**) during February 2012 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	West Chester 2 Mi. NW	68°F	February 2 nd	Chester
Lowest Temperature	Oswayo 1 Mi. ENE	-3°F	February 8 th	Potter
Greatest Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Schellsburg 2.6 Mi. WNW	2.80"	February 1 st - February 29 th	Bedford
Least Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Quarryville 2.8 Mi. S	0.60"	February 1 st - February 29 th	Lancaster
Greatest Snowfall	Laurel Summit	28.7"	February 1 st - February 29 th	Somerset

Links to Pennsylvania Weather Stories during February, 2012

Mild February leads to early vineyard opening in Hershey

http://blog.pennlive.com/go/2012/02/out_with_sara_the_vineyard_at.html

Businesses suffer through a mild winter/February

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/a348b7c30bef4cb285f88f3b25e855d3/PA--Member-Exchange-Chilled-By-Mild-Winter/>

Vultures gain as winter wanes

<http://www.poonorecord.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20120212/OUTDOORS/20120321/-1/NEWSMAP>