

# *The Pennsylvania Observer*

June 1, 2015



## **May 2015 - Pennsylvania Weather Recap**

*By: Kyle Imhoff*

While May can be a very active month with regards to severe weather (e.g. the tornado outbreak on May 31, 1985), this year had relatively few severe thunderstorms and a lack of rainfall across much of the state.

The first day of the month was seasonal with a few scattered showers across central PA from a low heading offshore of Virginia/North Carolina. High pressure built in bringing a period of tranquil weather with temperatures moderating slowly through the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. A slow-moving front brought some showers/storms to the region on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Winds were predominantly from the south/southeast for much of the remainder of the first half of the month which brought moist and very warm weather to the region.

A cold front brought some stronger thunderstorms to northwestern Pennsylvania on the evening of May 11<sup>th</sup>, with multiple reports of damaging winds. The front also kept Tropical Storm Ana far enough east to have little influence on the weather in Pennsylvania. Behind the front, temperatures returned to seasonal levels for a couple of days and high pressure brought dry conditions to the state. Low temperatures dipped to near or below freezing across much of northern Pennsylvania and the Laurel Highlands, resulting in a late frost/freeze in those areas.

A meandering front draped across the Mid-Atlantic region brought some showers and storms to the region for the period from the 16<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup>. At this point in the month, areas near the Delaware River had seen exceptionally dry weather with most station reporting near or below 25 percent of their normal monthly rainfall. Thus, "moderate drought" conditions were declared present in this region. Another cold front swept through the region on the 22<sup>nd</sup> dropping minimum temperatures, again, to near freezing in much of northern Pennsylvania on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Temperatures rebounded again to above normal through the last week of May. The 31<sup>st</sup> was one of the more active severe thunderstorm days of the month, with widespread reports of hail and damaging winds across central and eastern Pennsylvania.

For the month, temperatures were between 4-8 degrees above normal and precipitation was roughly half of normal levels for much of the state (with the exception being far northwestern PA which saw near normal precipitation). The total number of severe weather reports are as follows: 8 hail report, 62 damaging wind reports, and 0 tornado reports.