

The Pennsylvania Observer

September 30, 2011



September 2011 - Pennsylvania Weather Recap

Following a record breaking wet August for Pennsylvania, September was not short of disappointing. September saw even more wet weather. Five days into September (on Labor Day), a cold front associated with low pressure moved through the Keystone state, setting a daily maximum precipitation record at Harrisburg, with 1.33 inches of rain. Reading also broke their daily maximum rainfall record, receiving 2 inches of rain. Two days later, another low-pressure system (the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee) moved northeast towards Pennsylvania bringing more torrential rain across the northeastern portion of Pennsylvania. On September 7th, Harrisburg broke their daily maximum rainfall record, reporting 5.05 inches. On the same day, Allentown received 1.49 inches of precipitation, which set a new daily maximum rainfall record.

A day later, on September 8th, a surge of tropical air associated with the remnants of Lee moved into eastern Pennsylvania and continued to drop heavy rain. Harrisburg received 7.71 inches of precipitation; shattering their previous daily maximum rainfall record of 1.18 inches (set in 1998). On the same day, Williamsport reported 1.03 inches of rainfall, which established a daily maximum rainfall record. Lastly, Philadelphia received 3.65 inches of precipitation, which broke their daily maximum rainfall record.

After the record breaking rainfall seen within the first two weeks of September, the weather for the remainder of September turned fairly quiet. Throughout the majority of the month, Pennsylvania's temperatures remained predominantly average, staying within the usual September average between 70-80 degrees Fahrenheit, with a few days dipping into the 60's in the northern half of the state.

It was not until the end of the month when Pennsylvania saw the return of record-breaking rainfall. A large disturbance stalled over the Midwest. With very slow movement, the cold front associated with this system passed very slowly through the state and brought storms and torrential rain to parts of Pennsylvania. Harrisburg received 1.76 inches of rain on September 24th, setting another new daily maximum precipitation record. Mount Pocono also broke their daily maximum rainfall record with 3.06 inches of precipitation.

Overall, Allentown set a new monthly rainfall record for September with 12.77 inches of precipitation, which crumbled their previous monthly rainfall record of 11.57 inches of rain (set in 1999). It is also the second consecutive wettest month on record for Allentown, following a record of 13.47 inches of rain that was set last month. Harrisburg's rainfall was sufficient to make 2011 their wettest year on record with three months remaining. All in all, from the large amount of rainfall seen across the state, September has certainly left its marks in the weather record books.

Here are the weather extremes across Pennsylvania (observations taken at 8AM EDT) during September 2011 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	New Castle	99°F	September 4 th	Lawrence
Lowest Temperature	Kane	31°F	September 16 th	McKean
Greatest Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Selinsgrove	23.57"	September 1 st - September 30 th	Snyder
Least Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	North East	3.68"	September 1 st – September 30 th	Erie

Links to Pennsylvania Weather Stories during September, 2011

Foliage Expert: La Nina May Dampen Fall Leaf Colors - Gant Daily

http://www.myfoxphilly.com/dpp/news/politics/local_politics/Pennsylvania_Liquor_Tax_092611

Bloomsburg Fair canceled due to flooding

from Harrisburg, PA Weather Forecast, Radar & News by CHRIS MAUTNER, The Patriot-News

This is the first time the fair has ever been canceled in the 157 years it has been operating.