

SUMMARY OF HISTORIC MARYLAND WEATHER
including Chesapeake Bay
by
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- ?, Native Americans said that Sharps and Tilghman Islands were once very close together, probably they were once both part of Bay Hundred peninsula in Talbot Co. and were later cut off by storms and erosion
- 1586, hurricane moves up coast, hail stones the size of hens eggs off Roanoke, Va.
- 1634, very mild winter
- 1635, extremely cold winter
- 1635, Aug. huge hurricane moves up coast, no specific reports from Maryland
- 1649, Jan. 3, Maryland's first recorded coastal storm noted by Henry Norwood, many inlets cut through along coast including probably the one at Fenwick, Del.
- 1667, Sept. 6, "The Dreadful Hurry Cane of 1667", hits Virginia and Maryland, many trees down
- 1683, Aug. 23, hurricane
- 1693, Oct. 29, violent storm moves up coast
- 1703, Oct. 18, hurricane moves up coast, much damage, vessels lost
- 1706, Nov. 6, severe storm
- 1724, Aug. 23, "Great Gust of 1724" hits Bay
- 1727, "Great Rain and Horrible Gale of 1727"
- 1729, "Great Gale of 1729"
- 1743, Oct., coastal storm tracked by Ben Franklin proving that storms move
- 1749, Oct. 19, huge offshore hurricane, tides 15 feet above normal in Bay
- 1752, Oct. 22, hurricane hits mouth of Bay
- 1756, winter, Bay freezes
- 1769, Sept. 7- 8, hurricane causes much damage to Bay areas
- 1775, Aug. 29- Sept 2, "Independence Hurricane" heavy rains and much damage along coast
- 1779-1780, one of the coldest winters ever, Bay freezes over down to mouth of Potomac, ice 6 inches thick, carts and carriages cross Bay from Annapolis to Poplar Island
- 1784, Bay freezes, Baltimore harbor closed until March 19
- 1785, Sept. 22- 24, "most tremendous gale known in this century" hits lower Bay, very high tides
- 1787, hurricane
- 1788, July 23- 24, hurricane hits lower Bay
- 1804, bad tropical storm
- 1805, Jan. 11, bad ice storm in St. Michaels (Talbot Co.)
- 1805, cold winter, Bay frozen Feb. 3, vessels trapped in ice, people walk to shore
- 1805, July 9, 96° in Easton (Talbot Co.) the highest temp. in memory
- 1806, May and early June, army worms devastate wheat fields
- 1806, bad tropical storm
- 1812, violent storm off coast thought to have prevented British attack of Worcester Co.
- 1813, bad tropical storm
- 1814, very hot summer
- 1815, bad tropical storm
- 1816, "Year With No Summer" due to atmospheric dust from volcanic eruptions
- 1821, Sept. 3, hurricane- eye passed directly over Norfolk, Va., much damage
- 1825, June, dreadful storm
- 1846, "Great Hurricane of 1846", much destruction, s.e. winds drive water into Bay, flooding
- 1851, Aug. 24-25, "Appalachicola Storm" hits northern Chesapeake Bay

1852, very cold winter, railroad tracks laid on ice across Susquehanna River at Havre de Grace (Harford Co.) and used for over a month
 1854, Sept. 9, destructive hurricane "Horrible Gale of '54", much damage
 1856, Aug. 19, "Charter Oak Storm", heavy rains
 1856, Sept. 1, hurricane
 1861, Oct. 28, hurricane
 1861, Nov. 2, "Expedition Hurricane" batters lower Bay
 1869, driest year on record to date
 1872, winter, ice damages Love Point Light
 1872, Oct. 25, heavy rains
 1874, Sept. 28- 29, first hurricane ever shown on a weather map hits mouth of Bay
 1876, Sept. 16-17, hurricane "Centennial Storm" heavy winds and rain, tides 7.9 feet above normal at D. C., Sharps Island cut in two, terrible cyclone hits Easton (Talbot Co.)
 1877, Oct. 3- 4, severe tropical storm wrecks ships
 1877, Jan., Hoopers Straight Light damaged by ice
 1878, Oct. 22-23, severe hurricane "Gale of '78" moves up coast, much damage, barometric pressure 28.78
 1879, winter, ice damages several lighthouses
 1879, bad tropical storm
 1880, hottest year on record to date
 1881, Feb. Bay freezes, ice floes sheared Sharps Island lighthouse from foundation and carried it 5 miles with keepers inside
 1881, bad tropical storm
 1882, Sept. 22- 23, bad tropical storm, heavy rains
 1882, Bloody Point Light damaged by ice
 1884, winter, ice damages Seven Foot Knoll Light
 1885, Feb. 25, Choptank River frozen over and probably other rivers as well
 1885, Aug. 25, heavy rains and flooding
 1886, bad tropical storm
 1887, bad tropical storm
 1888, March 11-12, "Blizzard of 1888" or "The Great White Hurricane" paralyzes east coast, Maryland 10 inches of snow or less
 1888, Aug. 21 - 22, hurricane, flooding and several deaths
 1888, Sept. 10, bad tropical storm passes over Bay, flooding
 1889, April 6- 7, storm moves up coast
 1893, Aug. 28, "Sea Islands Hurricane", heavy winds and rain lower Bay
 1893, winter, ice damages several lighthouses, temperature in Easton (Talbot Co.) -9°
 1894, winter, ice damages Seven Foot Knoll Light
 1894, Oct., intense hurricane, much flooding and damage to Worcester Co. and coastal areas
 1896, Jan. 7, up to 22.5 inches of snow
 1896, Aug. 21, bad storm, 17 dead
 1896, Sept. 28- Oct. 3, hurricane
 1896, Oct. 11 -13, bad tropical storm
 1897, bad tropical storm
 1897, July 26, 14.75 inches of rain fell in Jewell (Anne Arundel Co.), a state record
 1898, July, first time the temp. reaches 100° in Easton (Talbot Co.) since official record keeping began in 1892.
 1899, Feb. 9- 13, cold wave, below zero temperatures across the state from -4° in Ocean City (Worcester Co.), and -15° in Easton (Talbot Co.) to -26° in Garrett Co., 10 inch thick ice on Bay

- 1899, Feb. 13, up to 21.4 inches of snow, and unofficial depths of over 3 feet common, entire state snowbound, said to be most snow in Easton (Talbot Co.) in 19th century, total snow for Easton 50.3 inches, month total for Easton 65.5 inches
- 1900, Aug. 100° in Easton (Talbot Co.)
- 1901, Sept. 16- 18, northeaster sinks vessels in Bay
- 1901 -1902, total 174.9 inches of snow for season in Deer Park (Garrett Co.), a state record
- 1903, Sept. 15- 17, hurricane, said to be worst storm to hit Ocean City (Worcester Co.) in 40 years, hundreds of dead birds stripped of their feathers fall from sky in Old Point Comfort, Va.
- 1903, Oct. 8- 10, bad tropical storm causes much damage
- 1904, winter, ice damages Point No Point Light
- 1904, intense tropical storm with hurricane force winds moves up coast
- 1907, Oct. 5, one or more fireballs in sky surprise Baltimore city residents
- 1909, high tide in St. Michaels (Talbot Co.)
- 1912, Jan. 13, -40° in Oakland (Garrett Co.), lowest temperature ever recorded in Maryland
- 1918, Jan., Bay freezes, several lighthouses damaged by ice, oysters tonged through holes chopped in ice, battleship Ohio used as icebreaker in Bay for wartime shipping
- 1918, Aug. 6, 105.4° in Baltimore city, and 101° in Easton (Talbot Co.)
- 1918, big hailstorm hits Trappe (Talbot Co.)
- 1920, Feb. terrific coastal storm batters Ocean City (Worcester Co.) and coast- tides 6.5 feet above normal, inlet cut through at Assateague
- 1922, Jan 27, "Knickerbocker Storm" up to 26.5 inches of snow in state
- 1924, Aug. 100° in Easton (Talbot Co.)
- 1926, Nov. 9, F4 tornado hits La Plata (Charles Co.), Maryland's deadliest tornado, schoolhouse with 60 children inside carried 50 feet, 14 children killed, some children carried 500 feet, total deaths 17
- 1928, Sept 2, said to have rained frogs in Trappe (Talbot Co.)
- 1928, bad storm batters coast
- 1930, July 18- Aug. 10, heat wave- some of the highest temperatures on record. July 21 saw the record temp. for Easton (Talbot Co.) of 104°
- 1930, drought, yearly average 23.8 inches of rain statewide, 17.76 inches of rain fell in Picardy (Allegheny Co.) record for driest place in state, driest year since 1869, Japanese beetle infestation
- 1931, one of the warmest years on record to date
- 1932, warmest Jan. on record to date, mild winter
- 1933, Aug. 23, hurricane cuts inlet through at Ocean City (Worcester Co.), tides 8 feet above normal, said to be worst coastal storm since 1896
- 1933, Sept. another hurricane hits mid-Atlantic
- 1934, Feb. record cold month in many areas
- 1934, March 4, Bay freezes
- 1934, one of the hottest years on record nationally
- 1935, Sept. 4- 6, hurricane hits lower Bay, much damage
- 1935, severe winter, ice damages Janes Island Light, oyster tonging through holes chopped in ice
- 1936, March, "Great Flood of 1936" or "Morro Castle Storm" inundates many Chesapeake Bay areas, flooding in St. Michaels (Talbot Co.) said to be higher than in storm of 1933
- 1936, July 10, 109° in Frederick and Cumberland counties, highest temperature ever recorded in Maryland, also record for Baltimore city 107.4°

1936, July 29, severe wind and hail storm hits Easton and Trappe (Talbot Co.) damaging several barns and blowing a car crossing the Choptank bridge into the railing.
 1936, winter, Bay frozen over, possibly the worst freeze ever
 1938, wettest June on record to date
 1938, Sept. 17- 22, "Long Island Express" hurricane moves quickly up coast
 1940, Jan. 24, big snow
 1941, April, warmest April on record to date
 1941, Oct., warmest Oct. on record to date
 1942, March 29, "Palm Sunday Snowstorm", 31 inches fell in Clear Spring (Washington Co.) in a 24 hour period a state record, up to 22 inches in other places
 1943, Feb., cold wave
 1944, July 17, tornado hits Talbot Co. many trees down Easton, two buildings in Trappe seriously damaged, hailstone observed in Trappe 3 inches thick
 1944, Sept. 14, Great Atlantic Hurricane
 1945, winter, Bay freezes, people walk across Bay from Love Pt. to Poplar Island
 1945, July, 20.35 inches of rain fell in Leonardtown (St. Mary's Co.), state record for one month period
 1947, Feb. 19, big snow
 1947, Oct., warmest Oct. on record to date
 1948, Feb., ice in Bay
 1948, 72.59 inches of rain fell in Salisbury (Wicomico Co.), state record for one year period
 1949, near record warm year
 1949, Feb. warmest Feb. on record to date
 1950, Jan., record warm Jan., 80° in Riverdale (Prince George's Co.)
 1951, Jan. 1 -10 warmest on record to date
 1952, July, heat wave
 1953, Sept, 28, Hurricane Ida dumps excessive rain on lower Bay areas
 1954, Jan. 11 -12, big snow
 1954, Aug. 101° in Royal Oak (Talbot Co.)
 1954, three hurricanes in one year, Carol, Edna and Hazel
 1954, Oct. 22, Hurricane Hazel, winds over 100 mph, much damage statewide
 1955, Jan., driest Jan. on record to date
 1955, July- Aug., warmest on record to date
 1955, Aug. 12- 13, 8.35 inches of rain fell in Baltimore, the city record for 24 hour period
 1955, Aug., wettest Aug. on record to date in many areas, 18.35 inches in Baltimore, a city record for monthly rainfall
 1955, Aug., two hurricanes in one month Connie and Diane, damage minimal
 1955, Dec., driest Dec. on record to date
 1956, July 4, 1.23 inches of rain fell in Unionville (Worcester Co.) in 1 minute- the world's record
 1958, Feb. 21, big snow said to be worst since 1942
 1960, Sept, 10-11, Hurricane Donna "Storm of '60", damage minimal
 1962, March 6-7, "Storm of the Century" or "Good Friday Storm" or "Ash Wednesday Storm" devastates Ocean City (Worcester Co.) and coast, two inlets cut through at Assateague, during the storm the famous Chincoteague pony Misty gave birth to a foal who was appropriately named Stormy
 1964, Jan. 12, 8 inches of snow in Talbot Co.
 1965, drought
 1966, Jan 30-31, big snow, said to be up to 25 inches in Talbot County
 1966, Sept. 17, 8:47 p.m. huge fireball seen in n.w. sky due to a meteor burning up hundreds of miles away
 1972, June 21, Hurricane Agnes, 14.68 inches of rain in Western Md.

1972, June 23, flooding
 1975, April, very low tide
 1976, Aug. 1., devastating hailstorm near Trappe (Talbot Co.), hail the size of silver dollars, window panes broken, trees down, corn shredded, hundreds of dead birds found on ground
 1977, cold winter, Bay freezes, ice boat races on Miles River (Talbot Co.), ice floes push Sharps Island lighthouse from vertical, oyster tonging through holes chopped in ice
 1978, Feb. 6-7, big snow
 1983, Feb. 11, up to 22.8 inches of snow
 1985, July 25, Hurricane Bob
 1988, Sept. Hurricane Gloria
 1991, Oct. 31 - Nov. 1., "Perfect Storm" batters coast
 1992, Hurricane Danielle makes landfall at mouth of Bay
 1993, March 13, "Super Storm" moves up coast, lowest barometric pressures ever recorded for mid-Atlantic coast: 28.51 in Baltimore city and 28.34 at mouth of Bay, thunder snow observed in Talbot Co.
 1993, Nov. 28 very high tide
 1994, Jan., very cold with freezing rains in Talbot Co. on the 17th and 27th
 1994, Jan. 19, temperatures near zero Talbot County
 1994, Feb. 11, severe ice storm moves across southern Maryland and central Eastern Shore, many trees and power lines down
 1996, Jan. 6-7, up to 17 inches of snow, said to be most snow since Blizzard of 1899
 1998, June 2, F4 tornado hits Frostburg (Allegheny Co.)
 1998, first 11 months warmest on record to date for Md., globally the hottest year on record
 1999, July [23?], 101° in Royal Oak (Talbot Co.)
 1999, Sept. 16 Hurricane Floyd- 10- 14 inches of rain in Talbot Co.
 2002, April 28, F4 tornado again devastates La Plata, (Charles Co.) strongest tornado ever recorded in Md., 4 dead, debris carried across Bay and dropped in Talbot and Dorchester Counties, La Plata had also been hit by a F4 tornado in 1926
 2002, June 6, thunderstorm fells Wye Oak in Wye Mills (Talbot Co.), the state tree was 450 years old
 2002, July 6, smoke from huge forest fires in Quebec seen and smelt through Md. and as far south as Va.,
 2002, drought, worst on record to date
 2002- 2003, winter, said to be worst winter in state's history
 2003, Feb. 15-17, 49 inches of snow fell in Keysers Ridge (Garrett Co.), state record for most snow in a single storm,
 2003, Feb. 19, worst storm in Baltimore city's history, 40 inches of snow in Western Maryland
 2003, Feb. 81.5 inches of snow fell in Eagle Rock (Garrett Co.), state record for most snow in one month
 2003, Sept. 11, Hurricane Henri, rain and flooding
 2003, Sept. 19, Hurricane Isabel, bad storm surge flooding probably equaling that of 1933
 2003, wettest year on record 62.79 inches state average, normal is 44"
 2005, hottest year on record globally
 2006, another warm year
 2007, first half of year hottest on record globally
 2007, Aug. 8, hot spell, John Swaine Jr. weather observer since 1948 said high of 101° in Royal Oak (Talbot Co.) matched that of July [23?] 1999 and Aug. 1954, over night low of 82° broke record, 103° in American Corner (Caroline Co.).

Noteworthy facts: a severe freeze has hit the Bay about once a century: 1780, 1899 and 1977.

Extreme contrasts: The winter of 1634 was unusually mild while the winter of 1635 was severely cold. 1898 saw record heat, while 1899 brought record cold. In Jan. 1918, the Bay froze yet that Aug. it was 105° in Baltimore city. 1935 was very cold, the summer of 1936 had record breaking heat, while the winter of 1936 was severely cold. 2002 was the worst drought on record, yet 2003 was the wettest year on record.

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