

# WEATHERWORKS

## THE WEATHER TRACKER

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## The Valentine's Day Storm...Part II

On March 16th and 17th, a strong Nor'easter brought some locations a near repeat of the devastating storm that hit the region one month earlier. A cold front dropped temps from the 70s and 80s to the 20s and 30s within 36 hours. As a storm moved up the coast, copious amounts of moisture brought heavy rain, snow and sleet.

Once again, below-freezing air near the surface became trapped as warmer air moved in aloft, setting the stage for another sleet storm through nearly all of New Jersey, Southeast PA and portions of Maryland. Locations such as Newark, NJ and Philadelphia, PA had nearly 16 straight hours of sleet with up to 6 inches accumulating!!! More than 24 hrs before the storm, [WeatherWorks](#) alerted all

forecast clients of a significant winter event with heavy periods of sleet. Though this was another difficult storm for snow and ice removers, a repeat of the aftermath from the February storm did not take place. The warm ground temperatures prior to the storm helped to make de-icers a little more effective. The following days after the March storm featured above freezing daytime temps and sunshine. However, untreated areas remained a solid block of ice for a few days after.

Some of the big snow winners for the event included South-Central PA (11.5 inches in York), Sussex County, NJ (9.5 inches of snow in Vernon with 3 inches of sleet) and Northwest MD (7.5 inches in Frederick). One thing that this storm reaffirmed is that if the

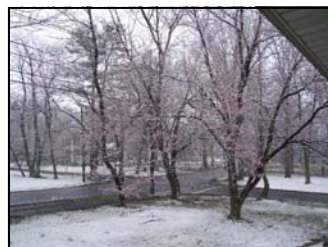
right conditions develop, pavements can accumulate snow or ice no matter how warm prior temperatures were. Select cities in the Mid-Atlantic hit 80 degrees two days prior to seeing pavements accumulate snow and ice. The intensity of the precipitation and time of day are usually the two biggest indicators if snow will accumulate.



The heavy sleet left behind massive chunks of ice that became difficult to melt

## April Preview

Although it is April, the book can not be closed on Winter 2006-07 just yet. While cold outbreaks are limited this time of year, they still can occur. As a reminder, on April 5th, 2006, Northern portions of the Mid-Atlantic experienced a light snow event. Many areas from Southeastern Pennsylvania and North received at



Snowfall on tree buds Berkeley Heights, NJ 4/5/06

least a slushy coating, while some locations in Northern New Jersey accumulated 2 inches of snow.

There are indications of a few pockets of cold air moving through the Mid-Atlantic during the first part of April. Whether or not any moisture will meet up with this colder air remains to be seen, but it is certainly a possibility.

Upon entering the Spring season, snow accumulation on paved surfaces becomes difficult as nights become shorter and the sun angle increases. The early April sun, which is equivalent in strength to a September sun, is enough to

cause snow to melt on contact with a near freezing surface (*for more info on sun angles see the website of the month, page 2*). However, keep in mind moderate to heavy snow significantly aids in accumulation as snow rapidly cools surfaces overcoming any previous warmth from the sun. Snow events taking place at night are more likely to accumulate on paved surfaces.

Don't forget that April can take on summer-like characteristics as well. Severe weather and even brief heat waves need to be considered. In particular, hail is a threat in the early Spring since the cold air above the surface prevents hailstones from melting.

### April Normals At-a-Glance

Rainfall \_\_\_\_\_ Snowfall \_\_\_\_\_

3.92" Newark 0.8"

3.49" Philly 0.6"

2.77" DC Trace

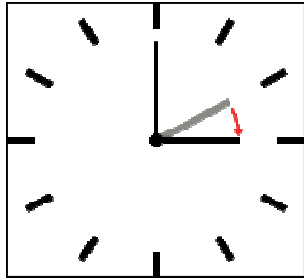
High Temp \_\_\_\_\_ Low Temp \_\_\_\_\_

61 F Newark 44 F

62 F Philly 44 F

66 F DC 46 F

## Why the Daylight Savings Time Change?



### Upcoming Time Changes

2007	Mar. 11	-	Nov. 4
2008	Mar. 9	-	Nov. 2
2009	Mar. 8	-	Nov. 1

The time that the sun sets can become critical for snow removers, especially late in the season. This year, a change was made to when the clocks get moved ahead an hour. Sunday, March 11th, became the new date when the switch was made, three weeks earlier than usual. On the 11th, most towns did not see the sun set until 7:00 PM. So why the change?

In August of 2005, the Energy Policy Act was formed, extending Daylight Savings time

from the second Sunday in March, to the first Sunday in November. The main reason for this change is that it will save the country energy, by being able to use natural lighting for an extra hour per day.

Did you know that not every state uses Daylight Savings Time? Arizona and Hawaii do not "Spring Ahead" or "Fall Back" when the rest of the country switches. Indiana is also rather complex in that the state is split between Eastern and Central time.

## A few notes from Frank

As we close out yet another winter season I wanted to personally thank all of our clients for their very positive feedback during the past few months regarding the many aspects of our services.

**The Weather Tracker** has been well received and I can assure you that we are planning continual improvements for the remainder of the year based on your suggestions.

One change already implemented in this issue is that the report will contain two pages of information instead of one. The first page will be dedicated to a review of the past month's weather and an outlook for the following month. The second page will provide useful information and links to the snow and ice/landscape contractor.

Every effort will be made to

keep the topics changing and seasonally appropriate, but we need your help - answer our surveys, send us emails and keep providing us with feedback so **The Weather Tracker** continues to improve.

Check out the calendar of events as well. Hopefully I will see some of you at the SIMA Symposium in Milwaukee or Snow Magazine's Industry Conference in Indianapolis.

## Use Weather Works through the Warm Season



Even though the snow season is over, remember [WeatherWorks](#) is here for all of your weather needs. Full Service clients enjoy the benefits of daily forecasts, severe weather alerts, past weather reports and unlimited telephone consultation. Whether you are landscaping, paving or trying to save money, [WeatherWorks](#) can help under any weather conditions.



Interested in learning more about a full service weather package?

Contact Kevin Hopley at 908-850-8600 or [kevinhopley@weatherworksinc.com](mailto:kevinhopley@weatherworksinc.com)

## Website of the Month



Interactive tool for seeing the seasonal variation of the sun's strength. For results applicable to the area, use a Latitude of 40°. (click image to follow link)

## How did we do this winter???

As the 2006-2007 Snow season wraps up, **WeatherWorks** is seeking information on how the **Winter Services** were for **Alert Clients**. The information will help greatly as preparations are made for the 2007-2008 season.

To submit your input, please fill out the short survey by clicking the link at the bottom of the page.

Also, if there are any additional comments or suggestions, feel free to email us any time

## UPCOMING EVENTS

May 9-11 Indianapolis, IN  
-[Snow Magazine](#) Snow Industry Conference

June 12-17 Milwaukee, WI  
-SIMA Snow & Ice Symposium