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Persistent La Nina Pattern Dominates US Winter Season



Roof Collapse in Guilford, ME 3/3/08 (Bangor Daily News)

As was well advertised last fall, a moderate to strong La Nina was in place through the winter across the equatorial waters of the Pacific Ocean. By and large, the trends that have been noted in past La Nina events have held fairly well this winter.

Of particular note in the US are the Midwest and Northern New England. Typically both of these regions have above normal precipitation. In Northern New England, this usually leads to a higher probability of above normal snowfall. In the Midwest, it is usually a matter of

temperatures. Northern cold spots tend to get a good deal of snow, with everyone else seeing at least average totals.

As the table to the right shows, some places have been absolutely pounded by snow this season from Illinois and Wisconsin northeastward through parts of Canada and into New England. Numerous longtime climate stations are approaching or have already exceeded their ALL TIME snowfall records.

While snow fans may be excited, this snowy winter has caused other problems. Lots of roofs across the area have collapsed under the weight of the snow. As temps warmed somewhat and snow cover absorbed rainfall, the weight was increased further, making the situation worse. In fact,

many snow contractors found themselves clearing roofs once the lots & roads were clear.

Looking ahead, La Nina is forecast to hold on at least through the end of Spring, meaning above normal rainfall potential in the Midwest and New England.

Cities Breaking or Approaching Seasonal Snowfall Records 2007-2008

City	Season to 4/1	Old Record
Quebec City	200.2"	188.2"
Caribou, ME	190.5"	181.0"
Youngstown	102.4"	90.2"
Madison, WI	100.7"	76.1"
Green Bay, WI	82.1"	79.6"
Ottawa, ON	168.9"	175.0"
Montreal, QU	143.4"	150.7"
Concord, NH	115.8"	122.0"
Spokane, WA	87.8"	93.5"
Flint, MI	82.3"	82.9"
Rockford, IL	72.9"	74.5"

An Active First Half of March...But With a Lack of Snow

This March featured a couple of fairly strong storm systems during the first week or two of the month, but there was no cold air to produce any real major snow threats. In fact, with the exception of the storm that ended February 29th into early March 1st, many locations in the

Mid-Atlantic did not see any accumulating March snow.

The two storms during the first half of the month brought severe weather threats, mostly in the form of thunderstorm squall lines. They both featured strong, damaging winds and brought in colder air behind the low pressure. The table to the left, shows some impressive gusts with the March 8-9 event.

Rainfall was the other significant player in these events as both produced 1-3+ inches region wide. A wet March in combination with greater than normal snowfall and snowpack across N. New England means



NWS predicted flood risk for Spring '08...Red = Above Avg, Brown = Below Avg

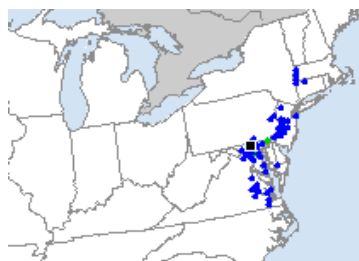
that the potential for Spring flooding along river-beds are higher than usual.

Otherwise, the rest of March was rather quiet with no major events. Temps stayed near or slightly above normal and there were no major arctic cold or warm air outbreaks.



Peak wind gusts on March 8-9, 2008

Westminster, MD	73 MPH
Sandy Hook, NJ	68 MPH
Willow Grove, PA	66 MPH
Hammonton, NJ	66 MPH
Clarksburg, MD	66 MPH
Newark, NJ	62 MPH
Bear, DE	62 MPH
NE Philadelphia, PA	59 MPH



Storm Prediction Center Storm Reports for 3-8-08. Blue dots indicate wind damage reports

Website of the Month

APRIL AVERAGES (30 year averages: 1971-2000)						
	Sussex, NJ (FWN)		Philadelphia, PA (PHL)		Baltimore, MD (BWI)	
	Apr 1	Apr 30	Apr 1	Apr 30	Apr 1	Apr 30
High Temp	53	65	57	67	60	69
Low Temp	31	40	40	49	38	47
Precip (Mo. Total)	4.44"		3.49"		3.00"	
Snowfall (Mo. Total)	1.8"		0.6"		0.1"	
Sunrise	6:41 AM	5:57 AM	6:44 AM	6:01 AM	6:50 AM	6:09 AM
Sunset	7:24 PM	7:55 PM	7:25 PM	7:55 PM	7:31 PM	7:59 PM

April 2008 Temperature Outlook

Trends for near normal temperatures will likely continue early in the month. However, a warmer pattern looks to develop especially mid-late April. Overall temps should average a bit above normal.

April 2008 Precipitation Outlook

Trends show an active pattern resuming across the Eastern US with at least a few systems bringing widespread precip. Keep in mind that strong coastal storms can still occur this time of year.

Upcoming Symposiums and Conferences



APWA North American Snow Conference
 Louisville, KY
 April 13-16, 2008

The American Public Works Association will be having their 48th annual snow conference in April. The conference will provide educational programs and presentations for snow removers from DPWs and road depart-

ments. There will also be an exhibit floor featured during the conference. Registration is still open and information can be found at APWA's website:

<http://www.apwa.net>



SIMA Symposium
 Buffalo, NY
 June 18-21, 2008

The SIMA symposium returns to the Northeast this year and will once again feature informative exhibits, speakers and events. Also, the trade show displaying many products and services will begin on the 19th. Be sure to register for the event soon, because fees go up after April 25th. Some of the meteorologists from Weather Works will be at the conference as well. Hope to see you there!

Conflicting Radar Images



Regional Radar sometimes show a much different picture than the local Doppler Radar.

Have you ever looked at a regional radar and thought "it must be raining outside", only to find nothing falling? A regional radar shows a broader view and is a combination of local Doppler

Radars. Sometimes, precipitation is misrepresented when the local radar gets out of range. The radar beam will see water droplets or particles that are very high in the sky

over locations that are far from the radar site. Because the Regional Radar is a combination of all the local radars, the "false" precipitation is picked up and it looks like it should be raining or snowing.

Make sure to use caution the next time you look at a regional radar. It is fantastic for the overall scope of precipitation movement and duration, but make sure to also look at the local Doppler Radar to finalize a complete overall picture.



<http://www.weatherworksinc.com/blog.htm>

The webpage featured above is a new product at Weather Works. See the article below for details.

WEATHER WORKS BLOG

The Weather Works blog is a new forum where the staff will be discussing weather and forecasts in a bit more depth and detail.

The purpose of the blog is to help clients better understand our forecast thinking with what is going on for the upcoming weather event as well as provide some meteorological insight and details.

Make sure to check out the website above and feel free to send us any suggestions on the site!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 Louisville, KY

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 Buffalo, NY