

**JUNE 2002:** The first month of meteorological summer was highlighted by above normal temperatures and varying amounts of rainfall across the Washington/Baltimore area. There were 17 days with at or above normal temperatures and ten days with 90°F+ highs at DCA. Monthly temperature departures between +1.5°F and +2.0°F were observed at the three major airports. In fact, it was the warmest June at DCA since 1996. From the 23<sup>rd</sup>- 27<sup>th</sup>, hot weather enveloped the local area, producing highs in the nineties at most locations and 3 consecutive days (24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>) with 95°F+ highs (95°F, 95°F & 97°F) at BWI. During most of this period the combination of heat and high humidity produced heat indices above 100°F. In addition, warm and muggy nights were also quite common as lows remained above 70°F at DCA from the 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. In sharp contrast, there were two periods of unusually cool weather during the first few weeks of the month. On the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, highs in the seventies were observed across the local area. From the 13<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, temperatures averaged more than 3°F below normal at DCA as highs remained in the seventies and low eighties at most locations.

As is typical during summer, rainfall varied across the region with monthly totals between 2" and 4" common at most locations. DCA recorded its wettest month since July of last year as nearly four inches of rain (3.81") fell at the airport. It was only the second month of 2002 with above-normal precipitation at DCA. In contrast, subnormal precipitation was observed at both BWI (2.39") and IAD (3.61") Strong thunderstorms produced some noteworthy headlines during the month. On the 5<sup>th</sup>, thunderstorms accompanied by intense lightning and strong winds struck portions of the region. According to press reports, about 20 homes suffered damage in southern Prince Georges County, MD. Reports of broken windows and minor structural damage were recorded in Brandywine, Clinton, and Upper Marlboro, MD. In addition, lightning also hit the dome of Maryland's State House in Annapolis, sparking a small fire which was quickly controlled, according to press reports. As many as 15,000 people lost power in Maryland & the District of Columbia and up to 5,000 in Loudoun and Fauquier counties in Virginia. IAD recorded 1.05" of rain from the storms, its largest daily amount for the month. The following day, powerful thunderstorms packed heavy rain (more than an inch at BWI) and strong winds that toppled Maryland's famous Wye Oak tree on the Eastern Shore. According to press reports, the Wye Oak stood for more than 450 years and was the nation's largest white oak. The 1.19" of rain that fell at BWI was about half of their monthly total. Farther west, thunderstorms spawned a small tornado in the Braddock Heights area of Frederick County, MD. A week later, a soaking rain fell across much of the local area. DCA recorded 1.92" of precipitation on the 13th, accounting for more than 50% of the monthly precipitation total. Adequate topsoil moisture levels during the first half of the month, started to vanish toward month's end as less than 0.50" of rain fell at most locations during the final 10 days. At BWI, only 0.08" of precipitation was observed after the 15<sup>th</sup>. Moderate to severe levels of drought continue throughout much of the local area with six-month (January-June) precipitation deficits of about 4" inches common at the three major airports.

### **JUNE 2002 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:**

Station <u>Location</u>	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)			
	<u>AvMx</u>	<u>AvMn</u>	<u>AvgT</u>	<u>NmIT</u>	<u>DepNml</u>	<u>MaxT</u>	<u>MinT</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Norm</u>	<u>DepNml</u>	<u>Yr to date</u>
National (DCA)	85.8	66.4	76.1	74.5	+1.6	95/12	57/9	3.81	3.13	+0.68	14.61
Baltimore (BWI)	85.0	62.5	73.8	71.8	+1.9	97/26	54/8*	2.39	3.43	-1.04	15.66
Dulles (IAD)	84.1	61.0	72.5	70.9	+1.6	93/25	52/8	3.61	4.07	-0.46	16.98
Andrews AFB (ADW)	84.5	61.6	73.0	N/A	N/A	95/26	54/7#	3.76	3.7	+0.1	16.43

Other Occurrences: \* June 17<sup>th</sup>; # June 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **LOOKING AHEAD TO JULY:** *Some noteworthy historical July statistics.*

With the first month of summer behind us, we now look ahead to July, the climatologically hottest month of the year in Washington. Below is a list of some noteworthy July statistics for Washington, D.C. [At DCA: Normal Average Temperature: 79.2°F; Normal Monthly Precipitation: 3.66"]

#### **Temperature**

Hottest: 1993 (Avg. Temp: 83.1°F)  
 Coolest: 1891 (Avg. Temp: 72.0°F)  
 Most 90°F+ days: 24 (1987 & 1993)  
 Fewest 90°F+ days: 0 (1891)  
 Most 100°F+ days: 6 (1930)  
 Longest consecutive period of 90°F days: 16 (July 3-18, 1993)  
 Longest consecutive period of 100°F+ days: 4 (July 19-22, 1930)  
 Record monthly high: 106°F (July 20, 1930)\*  
 Record monthly low: 52°F (July 4, 1919 & July 31, 1895)

\* All-time highest reading in Washington (tied w/ Aug. 6, 1918)

#### **Precipitation**

Wettest: 1945 (Prec. Total: 11.06")  
 Driest: 1872 (Prec. Total: 0.82")  
 Record daily rainfall: 4.69" (July 9, 1970)

