Messages of the Day
April 2011

Thursday, April 1, 2011

CoCoRaHS March Madness 2011 Final Results . . . Wild Finish! North Carolina wins "total observers" category . . . Indiana wins "per capita"!

At 11:59PM (MDT) on March 31st the last CoCoRaHS volunteer application of "CoCoRaHS March Madness 2011" came rolling in (from Lake Waccamaw, North Carolina) and thus this year's recruiting tournament came to a close with 776 new volunteer observers added to the network in the month of March. What an exciting contest it was right down to the wire! On the final day **North Carolina** recruited 27 new observers and surpassed Indiana (who added 14) just before midnight winning the "traditional" (total new observers) category 129 to 128. **Indiana** clinched the "per capita" category (128 new volunteers out of a population of 6,483,802), edging out Minnesota (15.65 points) with 19.74 points.

The "CoCoRaHS Cups" will be traveling to the Tar Heel and Hoosier states shortly and will most like reside at their respective state climate offices until next April (of course the trophies may travel within their states at any given time). This is North Carolina's first championship and Indiana's second (they won the cup back in the first year of our contest, 2006).

We tip our hats to valiant efforts of the top ten runners-up in each category:
Traditional (total observers recruited) -- Indiana (128), Minnesota (83), Illinois (54), South Carolina (51), Texas (36), Ohio (29), Florida (28), Tennessee (21), Missouri (18) and Georgia (18).
Per Capita (new observers recruited per million) -- Minnesota (15.65), North Carolina (13.53), South Carolina (11.03), South Dakota (7.37), North Dakota (5.95), Illinois (4.21), Montana (4.02), Kentucky (3.91) and West Virginia (3.78).

To view the full Final Standings click here:
"Final Traditional Standings"
"Final Per Capita Standings"

Congratulations to our winning states! Thanks to everyone for being such great supporters of the network and good sports in this fun annual contest!

Sunday, April 3, 2011

THANKS FOR REPORTING ZERO WHEN THERE IS NO PRECIPITATION!

Thanks for participating in CoCoRaHS and for entering your precipitation report today. We really appreciate those of you who are reporting zero when nothing has fallen in your gauge.

We realize that it takes time to enter your data each day. And yes, it is usually more interesting to measure and report precipitation when there is something in your gauge. But keep in mind that it is just as important to know when and where it DIDN'T rain or snow as to know were it DID. We even care about trace (T)

amounts. Your reports of 0.00" for dry days are greatly appreciated and are used by many organizations to see where it didn't rain.

An example of the great work you are doing reporting zero's happened on March 12th of this year. On that day there were approximately 7,400 observations reported and of those entries, over 6,200 observers reported zero! Way to go!

If you don't have time to enter each day, we have a feature entry report that makes it easy to enter zeros. Feel free to use the “Monthly Zeros” report. This is also a quick way to view your precipitation reports one month at a time.

Thanks for helping us "zero-in" on this "very dry" topic!

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Weatherwise Magazine's 2011 Photo Contest and Discount for CoCoRaHS Members

“*Some people are weatherwise, but most are otherwise*” -- Ben Franklin

Weatherwise Magazine is an exciting bi-monthly magazine that provides the weather enthusiast with fascinating articles regarding all aspects of weather and climate. With our full endorsement, CoCoRaHS regards this magazine as one “which everyone interested in weather would benefit from having on their coffee table”. Thanks to a special arrangement CoCoRaHS volunteers can subscribe to the magazine at a 27% discount: CoCoRaHS discount.

Now thru June 2nd, Weatherwise Magazine is accepting submissions for its “2011 Photo Contest”. There are great prizes awaiting the winners. This annual event provides an opportunity for you to share your potential prize winning photos with a nationwide audience. Click here to find out more about the magazine and photo contest: Photo Contest.

Check it out today, you'll be glad you did!

Saturday, April 9, 2011

The Midwestern Regional Climate Center

As we continue our "Climates of the Fifty States" series, we move to our fourth region of the country and look at the states of the Midwestern Regional Climate Center.

The Midwestern Regional Climate Center (MRCC) was established at the Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS) in 1988 and is one of six Regional Climate Centers in the country. The ISWS is a division of the Institute of Natural Resource Sustainability at the University of Illinois. Nine states comprise the RCC Midwest region: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

Agriculture plays a major role in these nine states, accounting for 62 percent of the corn and 64 percent soybeans grown in the United States and is the focus of many climate data products and activities within the MRCC.

Current Activities

- We provide information to state and local government agencies, businesses, and other organizations to provide a climatic perspective on extremes (droughts, floods, heat waves, etc.) when these extremes begin to develop.
- We assess the physical and socioeconomic impacts of weather and climate events on the Midwest.
- We provide climate data and information to state, local and federal government agencies, private individuals, farmers, businesses, educational institutions, and university researchers. We have more than 400 subscribers to our online data access system.
- We provide up-to-date information on the current climate conditions on a region-wide and state-by-state basis. The state of the climate is a critical component to the decisions that must be made to manage agriculture.
- The MRCC has played a critical role in the national Climate Data Modernization Program, developing quality control techniques that are now routinely used on data that is extending the climate record back into the early 1800s.
- The MRCC works closely with NOAA, the National Weather Service, the state climatologists, and other agencies and groups in providing climate services to our customers.

To find out more about the MRCC visit: http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/.

To learn more about the "Climates of our Fifty States" and view past state climate messages, visit our 50 States Climate Page.

Join us on Tuesday, as we look at the next state in our series: Minnesota

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Tuesday, April 12, 2011

Minnesota . . . You can expect just about any kind of weather nature has to offer except for hurricanes.

By Peter Boulay, Minnesota State Climatology Office

The mean annual precipitation is 34 inches in extreme southeast Minnesota, an amount that gradually decreases to 19 inches in the extreme northwest portion of the state. Although the total precipitation is important, its distribution during the growing season is even more significant. For the most part, native vegetation grows for seven months (April to October) and row crops grow for five months (May through September). During the latter five-month period, approximately two-thirds of the annual precipitation occurs. Statewide, two of the driest years were 1910 and 1976, while two of the wettest were 1965 and 1977. The 24-hour rainfall record is 15.10 inches near Hokah in Houston County on August 19, 2007. The annual maximum precipitation record is 53.52 inches in 1991 at St. Francis in Anoka County.

Seasonal snowfall averages near 80 inches in the highlands along the north shore of Lake Superior in northeast Minnesota, gradually decreases to 40 inches along the Iowa border in the south, and is around 40 inches along the North Dakota and South Dakota borders in the west. Snow cover of one inch or more over

the state occurs on an average of about 110 days annually, ranging from 85 days in the south to 140 days in the north. The seasonal snowfall record for Minnesota is 170.5 inches at the old Pigeon River Bridge crossing in Cook County during the winter of 1949-1950.

Heavy snowfalls of greater than four inches are common any time from mid-November through mid-April. Heavy snowfalls with blizzard conditions affect the state on an average of about two times each winter. The most devastating blizzards were those of January 11-13, 1888, and of November 11-12, 1940, which resulted in the loss of many lives and a heavy toll of livestock. "Blizzard conditions" are when visibilities are reduced to less than one-quarter of a mile for several hours due to falling and/or blowing snow. The wind must be at least 35mph. Another memorable blizzard occurred on October 31, 1991 and is known as the Halloween Blizzard. The Twin Cities received 28.4 inches from this storm that lasted until November 3. The 24-hour snowfall record for Minnesota is 36 inches, reported near Finland on January 7, 1994.

For much more on Minnesotas climate, please see the Minnesota Climatology Working Group web site at http://climate.umn.edu/

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Join us on Thursday, as we look at the next state in our series: Iowa

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Friday, April 15, 2011

The Precipitation Climatology of Iowa

By Harry Hillaker, Iowa State Climatologist

Iowa's climate, because of its latitude and interior continental location, is characterized by marked seasonal variations. During the six warmer months of the year, the prevailing moist southerly flow from the Gulf of Mexico produces a summer rainfall maximum. The prevailing northwesterly flow of dry Canadian air in the winter causes this season to be cold and relatively dry. At intervals throughout the year, air masses from the Pacific Ocean moving across the western United States reach Iowa, producing comparatively mild and dry weather. The autumnal 'Indian Summers' are a result of the dominance of these modified Pacific air masses. Hot dry winds, originating in the desert southwest, occasionally reach into Iowa during the summer, producing unusually high temperatures and desiccating crops.

TEMPERATURE The average annual temperature ranges from 45F in the extreme north to 52F in the southeastern corner of the state. In July, the hottest month, daily temperatures range from morning lows of around 61F and afternoon highs of 82F in the northeast corner of the state up to lows of 65F and highs of 87F in the southwest. In January, the coldest month, temperatures range from morning lows of 4F and afternoon highs of 22F in the northwest corner of Iowa up to lows of 15F and highs of 32F in the southeast. Extreme temperatures have varied from 117F at Atlantic and Logan on July 25, 1936 to -47F at Washta on January 12, 1912 and again at Elkader on February 3, 1996. The average number of days with maximum temperatures of 90F or higher ranges from only 5 days in extreme northeast Iowa up to 36 days in the southwest corner of the state. The number of days with 0F or lower minimum temperatures ranges from about 28 days along the Minnesota border to around 12 days along the Missouri border.

PRECIPITATION Precipitation averages around 34 inches per year for the state, ranging from 26 inches in the extreme northwest to as much as 38 inches in the southeast. However, annual totals vary widely from

year to year and locality to locality. Annual totals have varied from as little as 12.11 inches at Clear Lake in 1910 and Cherokee in 1958 to as much as 74.50 inches at Muscatine in 1851. For Iowa during the period of reliable statewide records (since 1873), the year 1993 was the wettest (48.22 inches) and 1910 the driest (19.93 inches). The idea that 'rain makes grain', while generally true, is not an absolute. Persistent cloudiness, late planting owing to excessive wetness, flooding, and cool temperatures made 1993 one of the worst crop years of recent decades. Meanwhile, 1910, though easily recording the least rain in the historical record, brought record-high corn yields for that era as rains were timely and summer temperatures were mild. Nearly three-fourths of the annual precipitation is received during the April-through-September growing season. Measurable precipitation occurs on about 100 days per year. The number of rainfalls exceeding one-half inch per day varies from about 15 days in the northwest to 25 days in the southeast. The heaviest official one-day rainfall of record is 13.18 inches at Atlantic on June 14, 1998. However, unofficial daily rain totals reached 21.7 inches at Boyden in northwest Iowa on September 18, 1926!

SNOWFALL Seasonal snowfall averages 32 inches across Iowa and varies from around 40 inches in northeast Iowa to about 20 inches in the extreme southeast corner of the state. The snow season normally extends from late October through mid-April, but significant snows have fallen as early as September 16 (1881) to as late as May 28 (1947). The average number of days per season with snow cover one inch or deeper varies from about 40 days along the Missouri border to around 85 days along the Minnesota border. In about half of all winters, a daily snowfall of 5 to 6 inches or more is recorded in southern Iowa and 7 to 8 inches or more in northern Iowa. December, January and February are normally the snowiest months, averaging about 7 inches each. However, late winter storms in March and April have produced as much as 27 inches of snow in a single storm, and 24-hour amounts have reached 24 inches. The snowiest winter of record (since 1887-1888) was in 1961-1962 with a statewide average of 59.0 inches while the lowest state average with only 11.9 inches was recorded in the winter of 1965-1966. Seasonal snowfall totals have varied from 2.4 inches at Keokuk in 1965-1966 up to 93.1 inches at Elkader in the winter of 1950-1951.

OTHER CLIMATIC FEATURES Around 85 percent of the 45 to 65 thunderstorms per year occur from April through September, with the peak frequency coming in June. At times these thunderstorms become severe, producing hail, high winds, torrential rains and an occasional tornado. Tornado occurrences average about 46 per year spread over 16 days, with May and June being the peak months of tornado occurrence. Hail occurs most frequently in May; however, nearly half of the crop-hail damage comes in July when crops are more susceptible to yield-reducing damage. In the average year hail destroys about 1.4% of Iowa's corn crop and 4.5% of its soybean crop. Hail losses are greatest in the northwest where hailstorms are typically more severe and also somewhat more frequent than in the southeast. In any one location hail will occur on about two to four days per year.

Floods are most frequent in June, which has the highest average rainfall of any month (4.64 inches). Mid-March through early April is another favored time for flood occurrence when snowmelt, combined with rain and frozen soils, can produce significant flooding on the major rivers. Ice jams, caused when river ice begins to break up in the spring, can also contribute to flooding. Flash flooding from heavy thunderstorm rainfall is most frequent in the overnight hours from June through September. Flooding in mid-winter is very rare owing to low precipitation totals (January averages only 0.95 inch) and a high percentage of precipitation falling as snow.

Drought occurs periodically in Iowa, with the most severe in historical times occurring in the 1930s. Other major droughts, usually characterized by deficient rainfall combined with unusually high summer temperatures, occurred in 1886, 1893-94, 1901, 1954-56, 1976-77 and 1988-89. Although droughts are not the spectacular weather events that floods, blizzards or tornadoes can be, historically they produce more economic damage to the state than all other weather events combined.

Overall, Iowa's climate, combined with its rich soils, is nearly ideal for the production of grain crops such as corn and soybeans. Rainfall is greatest during the growing season, when it is needed most. Summer temperatures are high enough for optimal corn and soybean growth, but yet not usually so high as to cause severe crop stress. Much of the summer rains come in the form of fairly brief thunderstorms, which are most frequent at night, thus allowing ample sunshine during the daylight hours. Furthermore, the fall

months are normally relatively dry, thus allowing optimal dry-down of the crops and ready access to the fields for harvesting. The cold winters usually result in the soils being frozen from early December through late March. The freezing of the soils also benefits annual crops in that the freeze-thaw process acts to 'stir' the soil and reduce soil compaction. Finally, although Iowa's spring and summer thunderstorms do occasionally become severe, the benefits of the rainfall these storms generate far outweigh the damage caused by their high winds and hail.

For more information on Iowa's Climate, please visit the Iowa Climate Office website at: http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/climatology.asp.

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Join us on Thursday, as we look at the next state in our series: Missouri

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Monday, April 18, 2011

Show-Me the Climate of Missouri: Precipitation

By Pat Guinan, Missouri State Climatologist

Missouri has a continental type of climate marked by strong seasonality. In winter, dry-cold air masses, unchallenged by any topographic barriers, periodically swing south from the northern plains and Canada. If they invade, reasonably humid air, snowfall and rainfall result. In summer, moist warm air masses, equally unchallenged by topographic barriers, swing north from the Gulf of Mexico and can produce copious amounts of rain, either by fronts or by convectional processes. In some summers, high pressure stagnates over Missouri, creating extended droughty periods. Spring and fall are transitional seasons when abrupt changes in temperature and precipitation may occur due to successive, fast-moving fronts separating contrasting air masses.

Missouri experiences regional differences in climates, but these differences do not have obvious geographic boundaries. Regional climates grade inconspicuously into each other. Nevertheless, several basic principles help to understand climatic differences in Missouri. The basic gradient for most climatic characteristics is along a line diagonally crossing the state from northwest to southeast. Both mean annual temperature and precipitation exhibit gradients along this line.

Mean annual precipitation varies along the same gradient as temperature, from a low of 34 inches in the northwest to a high of 50 inches in the southeast. Seasonal climatic variations are more complex. In northwestern Missouri, seasonality in precipitation is very pronounced due to strong continental influences. June precipitation, for example, averages five times greater than January precipitation. In contrast, in southeastern Missouri, seasonality in precipitation is insignificant due to the greater influence of subtropical air masses throughout the year.

Mean January precipitation varies along the gradient from a low of 0.8 inches in the northwest to a high of 3.6 inches in the southeast. However, mean July precipitation is greatest in northeastern Missouri, largely the result of high-intensity convectional precipitation (4.4 inches), and is least in southwestern Missouri (3.2 inches). Though much less precipitation falls in northern Missouri in the winter than in the summer, it tends to be seasonally affected precipitation, since temperature and evaporation rates are much lower in winter.

Snow has been known to fall in Missouri as early as October and as late as May. However, most of it falls in December, January, and February. As one would expect, the northern counties usually get the most snow. North of the Missouri River, the winter snowfall averages 18 to 24 inches. This average figure tapers off to 8 to 12 inches in the southernmost counties. It is unusual for snow to stay on the ground for more than a week or two before it melts. Winter precipitation usually is in the form of rain, or snow, or both. Conditions sometimes are on the borderline between rain and snow, and in these situations freezing drizzle or freezing rain occurs. This does not usually happen more than five times in a winter season.

Spring, summer, and early fall precipitation comes largely in the form of showers or thunderstorms. Thunderstorms have been observed in Missouri during the winter months, but they are most frequent from April to July. Hail also occurs in all regions and may occur throughout the year, but it is much less likely in winter. May has the greatest number of days with hail. Measurable precipitation occurs on an average of about 100 days a year. About half of these will be days with thunderstorms. Occasionally, these produce some very heavy rains.

All of Missouri experiences "extreme" precipitation climate events, and such events must be considered part of the normal climate. Though infrequent in occurrence and often very geographically restricted, these “disturbances” produce environmental changes that may not otherwise have happened and that may be relatively long lasting in their effect. Among these extreme climatic events are high-intensity rains, ice storms and blizzards. These climatic events, in turn, may lead to other environmental disturbances such as floods, landslides, and abrupt changes in plant and animal populations and distributions.

High-intensity precipitation characterizes all regions of Missouri. The town of Holt in northwestern Missouri holds the world record for a high-intensity rain, having received 12 inches within a 42-minute period on June 22, 1947. Once every two years in southwestern Missouri, one should expect one precipitation event to produce at least 4.5 inches of rain in a 24-hour period. Over a five-year period, a ten-year period, a twenty-five-year period, a fifty-year period, and a hundred-year period one should expect one precipitation event to produce at least 5.5 inches, 6 inches, 7 inches, 8 inches, and 9 inches of rain respectively in a 24-hour period. Probabilities decline to the north and east away from southwestern Missouri. Please refer to Table 1 for information on state precipitation records and significant events.

The river drainage in Missouri is wholly either directly or indirectly into the Mississippi River, which forms the eastern boundary of the state. The northern part of the western boundary is formed by the Missouri River, which then flows eastward across the State from Kansas City, entering the Mississippi just above St. Louis. Most of northern Missouri is drained by tributaries of the Missouri River, the principal ones being the Grand, Chariton, One Hundred and Two, and the Nodaway Rivers. The principal southern tributaries of the Missouri are the Osage and the Gasconade. Important tributaries which drain directly into the Mississippi within the borders of the state are the Fox, Wyaconda, Fabius, and Salt Rivers in the northeast, and the Meramec River, which enters the Mississippi just below St. Louis. A small portion in the southwest corner of the state lies in the headwater area of some Arkansas River tributaries. A relatively small area in the south and southeast drains directly into the Mississippi outside the state through the White, St. Francis, and other minor streams.

Tributary flooding resulting from heavy rains (which may be expected once or twice in most years) and flash flooding along minor streams following heavy thunderstorm rains occur most frequently in the spring and summer, April to July, but may occur during any month. Serious flooding occurs less frequently along the main stems of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers and usually occurs during the spring and early summer. Main stem flooding may be caused by prolonged periods of heavy rains, ice jams, or upstream flood crests synchronized with high tributary discharge. There are several flood-control structures in the Missouri Basin above Kansas City, which may be expected to reduce upstream flood crests in the future.

On the average the amount of water that falls in Missouri on a square mile in a year varies from nearly 600 million gallons in the northwest corner to over 800 million gallons in the southeast. This would be about 6 million gallons per person in some of the more thickly populated areas, and about 36 million gallons per

person in some thinly populated sections. Some of this water runs off into the rivers and streams; some is consumed by animal life; and large amounts are evaporated back into the atmosphere or transpired by growing vegetation. During years when precipitation comes in a fairly normal manner, moisture is stored in the top layers of the soil during the winter and early spring, when evaporation and transpiration are low. During the summer months the loss of water by evaporation and transpiration is high, and if rainfall fails to occur at frequent intervals, drought will result. Nearly every year some areas have short periods of drought in Missouri. There have been occasional years when the soil moisture has been depleted, and the soil becomes arid when rains have failed to replace the water lost by evaporation and transpiration for prolonged periods. These conditions have caused widespread distress. With increasing population and more competition for the use of water, wise water management is becoming more important.

Drought may be conceptualized in different ways. Meteorological drought, based on precipitation records, is different from agricultural or soil-moisture drought and the physiological drought of plants. Drought is commonly thought of as a growing-season phenomenon, but precipitation deficiency during colder months does affect moisture abundance during the following warmer months. If drought is defined as a month during which less than 40 percent of normal precipitation for that month is received, then the average probability of such a dry month, based on records at Columbia, is about 15 percent, or one in seven years. For the months of April and May, the probability reduces to 8 percent; but for August and September, it rises to 18 and 21 percent, respectively, or one in five years. Thus, monthly precipitation is more variable in August and September than in April and May. The probability of three consecutive months receiving less than 60 percent of mean precipitation, again at Columbia, for the months of April through October, is 13 percent, or about one year in eight. There is no convincing evidence that severe droughts occur in Missouri with any cyclic regularity. Drought directly affects plant and animal life by limiting water supplies, especially at times of high temperatures and high evaporation rates. Drought indirectly affects life by increasing plant and animal susceptibility to disease and the probability of fire and the severity of any fire.

Table 1.

Precipitation **Year/Month(s)** **State Average Precipitation (In.)**
Wettest Year: 2008 57.34
Driest Year: 1953 25.35
Wettest summer: 1915, Jun-Jul-Aug 20.54
Driest summer: 1936, Jun-Jul-Aug 3.87
Wettest winter: 1950, Dec-Jan-Feb 11.40
Driest winter: 1963, Dec-Jan-Feb 2.39
Wettest month: 1993, September 11.65
Driest month: 1986, January 0.08

Wettest Year: Individual location: 1957, Portageville; 92.77 inches
Driest Year: Individual location: 1910, Conception; 14.37 inches
Wettest day: 1965, July 20; 18.18 inches in Edgerton
Snowiest month: 1960, March; State average snowfall: 20.6 inches
Max month snowfall: 1960, March; 38.5 inches in Concordia
Deepest snow depth: 1960, March 19-20; 36 inches in Union
Latest heavy snowfall: May 3, 1907: 8” in Fairport
World record rainfall: Holt; 12 inches in 42 minutes on June 22, 1947

For more information on the climate of Missouri, please visit the Missouri Climate Center Web site at: http://climate.missouri.edu/.

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Join us on Thursday, as we look at the next state in our series: Illinois

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Thursday, April 21, 2011

Precipitation in the Land of Lincoln

By Jim Angel, State Climatologist

Illinois lies midway between the Continental Divide and the Atlantic Ocean, and the state's southern tip is 500 miles north of the Gulf of Mexico. Illinois' climate is typically continental with cold winters, warm summers, and frequent short fluctuations in temperature, humidity, cloudiness, and wind direction. Many consider the more moderate temperatures of spring and fall to be the most pleasant.

Weather systems create the wide variety of weather conditions that occur almost daily as a result of varying air masses and passing storm systems. The polar jet stream often is located near or over Illinois, especially in fall, winter, and spring, and is the focal point for the creation and movement of low-pressure storm systems characterized by clouds, winds, and precipitation. The settled weather associated with high-pressure systems is generally ended every few days by the passage of low-pressure systems.

Topography, urban areas, and Lake Michigan are the three local influences with effects on Illinois climate. The Shawnee Hills extend across southern Illinois and have elevations 500 to 900 feet higher than the surrounding terrain. This change in elevation is enough to increase annual precipitation by about 10 to 15 percent.

The second local feature is the urban climate found in many cities. Buildings, parking lots, roads, and industrial activities make the urban climate noticeably different than that of surrounding rural areas. Urban areas also enhance summertime precipitation downwind of the city and cause changes in humidity, cloudiness, wind speeds and directions.

Lake Michigan influences the climate of northeastern Illinois, especially Chicago. The lake tends to increase cloudiness in the area and suppress summer precipitation. Winter precipitation is enhanced by lake-effect snows that occur when winds blow from the north or northeast. These winds allow air to pass over the relatively warm lake, boosting storm system energy and water content, and leading to increased snowfall.

Average precipitation exceeds 48 inches a year in southern Illinois, compared to less than 32 inches in northern Illinois. Snowfall distribution is just the opposite, with averages of 36 inches a year in the north to less than 10 inches in extreme southern Illinois. Winter snowfall is heaviest in the Chicago area, enhanced by lake-effect snows from Lake Michigan.

The following is a list of precipitation records for Illinois. The greatest 24-hour rainfall was 16.94 inches at Aurora on July 17-18, 1996. The greatest one-year precipitation was 74.58 inches at New Burnside in 1950. The greatest 24-hour snowfall was 37.8 inches at Astoria on February 27-28, 1900. The greatest winter snowfall was 105.1 inches at Antioch in 1978-1979.

The Illinois State Climatologist Office (SCO) is located in Champaign, Illinois, at the Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS) on the campus of the University of Illinois. More information on the climate of Illinois can be found on the website: http://www.isws.illinois.edu/atmos/statecli/

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Join us on Saturday, as we look at the next state in our series: Wisconsin