

2012 Weather In Review -- "A Most Interesting Year"

Weather

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Weather-wise, 2012 will be most remembered for drought—a lack of rain and some very hot summer temperatures. Trenton statistics demonstrate the year was unique—the least amount of precipitation in the last 25 years at Trenton. Twenty-two different dates saw daytime high temperatures climbing above 100 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 26.62 inches, a number that is more than 12 and three quarters inches below normal. While it turned out to actually be our SIXTH lowest precipitation in a study of almost 100 calendar years at Trenton, 2012 will be noted for another milestone. That pertains to the lack of having a so-called “wet month” during the year.

Every month in 2012 had less than four inches of rain or melted precipitation. That has never happened in our 43 year (from 1970) collection of the MONTHLY weather data for Trenton. Even the driest year on record, the 22 inches in 1988, had two months, August and September, with over five and four inches of rain respectively. It should be pointed out 1988 featured FOUR different months when less than one inch fell per month. 2012 had just one month, January, with under one inch of precipitation. (.66) Looking at the months of last year, precipitation at Trenton was below normal in nine months including eight in a row from April through November. February, March, and December were a little above average. The most rainfall, occurred in March, April, and May. Each of the spring months was between three and four inches for a total of ten and two thirds inches.

That number represents 40 percent of the total for the whole year. 2012 snowfall was about eight and a half inches. Snow was measured on just six dates in January, February, and December — some of those were consecutive 24 hour reporting periods with three and a quarter inches the greatest at any one time. (December 20th) The summer of 2012 will be remembered for 11 consecutive days when our temperature in Trenton climbed to 100 degrees or above. That stretched from the final days of June through the first week of July. In fact, there were 22 times last summer when the century mark was reached at Trenton. Fifteen (15) such days were observed in July; with five in June and two in August.

Perhaps equally amazing is the fact Trenton never dropped below zero for a temperature in the 2012 calendar year. The coldest was six above on two consecutive mornings in February (11th and 12th) There were only six mornings in the whole year when a single digit temperature reading was noted. More research showed the last time Trenton had a sub-zero temperature was back on February 10th of 2011 (CQ) when it was five below zero. That occurred a week after a major snowstorm and blizzard in early February 2011 that left multiple inches (8 to 12) of snow and numerous road closures.

For those who relish statistics and weather, Trenton's “mean” or average temperature last year was almost to 58 degrees. (57.8) That takes into account all the maximum and minimum daily temperatures for the year.