

April 1, 2018

Dear Precipitation Observer,

Each year, we reach out to our amazing volunteer citizen scientists with a summary of the previous year's weather, observation tips for the upcoming year, and a note of thanks.

**2017 Weather Summary:**

2017 was not as warm or as wet as 2016, but was still a little wetter and warmer than the long term average. 2017 finished with an average statewide precipitation total of 28.17 inches and an average temperature of 42.8 degrees.

Spring took off with an early start in 2017 with a February heat wave. It was an extraordinary spring for ice out with many lakes losing ice and then becoming ice covered again. In general lakes shed their ice about two to three weeks earlier than the median.

One of the most noteworthy weather events of 2017 was the record early tornadoes on March 6, 2017. These three tornadoes broke the long-standing early record of March 18, 1968 as the earliest tornadoes for Minnesota. Not only were there three tornadoes, but they were in four different counties: Freeborn, Faribault, Sherburne and Steele County. Out of the 61 tornadoes reported in Minnesota for 2017, most were weak. The most costly weather event for 2017 in Minnesota was a large hail event on June 11. An estimated 2.4 billion dollars in damage was done, especially to buildings and vehicles in the Twin City Metro Area. On July 20, thunderstorms moved along the Mississippi River from northern Dakota County to Houston County. The highest total found was 6.02 inches by a MNgage observer in Wabasha. On August 16-17, heavy rains fell over Renville, Redwood and Yellow Medicine Counties, with the highest total of 9.45 inches at the Redwood Falls Airport.

Autumn was a mixed bag of wintry and balmy weather, with a particularly gloomy and cold spell from October 27 to November 5. With the cold and damp weather, statewide corn harvest fell behind. Fortunately, November 24 through early December turned balmy and was a time to catch-up with fall activities. Most lakes had a series of freeze-thaws before most froze over by the second week of December. The coldest arctic outbreak of the year was at the end, when the mercury plummeted to well below zero at many places on New Year's Eve Day.

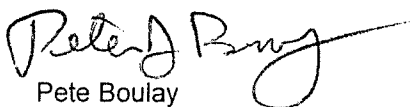
**Observation Tips:**

The 2017 listing of monthly precipitation totals for locations in your county should depict your measurements. If your data are missing, or if inaccurate values are shown for you, please let us know. Contact: [peter.boulay@state.mn.us](mailto:peter.boulay@state.mn.us) or 651-296-4214.

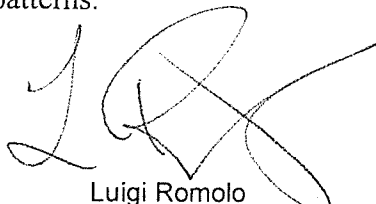
The enclosed **annual** observation form is for your personal records only. Please use the **monthly** forms to report data to the network administrator. You can also provide your data on-line. To learn how contact: [peter.boulay@state.mn.us](mailto:peter.boulay@state.mn.us). Your data, and data from all of our volunteers, can be viewed on the State Climatology Office Web site (<http://climate.umn.edu>).

**Thank you** for contributing your data to the statewide precipitation archive. We appreciate your time and your hard work. The data you provide is critical to our understanding and appreciation of Minnesota's dynamic weather patterns.

Sincerely,



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Climatologist  
DNR-Climatology



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