

My name is Keith Heidorn. If you asked me to describe myself in the context of the Weather Doctor, I would tell you that I am both an artist and a scientist who is deeply involved with the weather and other atmospheric phenomena on many levels. I have had a love affair with the weather for about 45 years. You see, I think that weather is the most sensual aspect of life, stimulating all my senses at one time or another and often several at once. I was born in Chicago and grew up in northeastern Illinois where I first fell in love with the weather. The Great Lakes region has its variety of weather extremes generally with a rapid turnover of daily weather events.

<http://www.glenallenweather.com/historylinks/wxdoc/jan.htm> **Ref. Weather Doctor**

United States

1 April 1923, Eastern States: Residents awake to "April Fool's Day" bitterly cold temperatures: -34 °F (-36.7 °C) at Bergland Michigan and to 16 °F (-8.9 °C) in Georgia.

1 April 1987, White Fish Bay, Wisconsin: Tornado strikes during a snow squall and damages a mobile home.

2 April 1975, Chicago, Illinois: O'Hare Airport is closed as 10.9 inches (27.7 cm) of snow buries the Windy City. The storm is the city's biggest snowstorm so late in season, dumping as much as 20 inches (51 cm) across northeastern Illinois.

2 April 2006, Central Mississippi Valley/Ohio Valley: Widespread severe weather produces a major tornadic outbreak. As many as 86 tornadoes are reported across Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, Kentucky, Indiana and Tennessee. At least 23 deaths are attributed to the storms across the region.

3 April 1955, Wyoming and Montana: Record snows fall across north-central Wyoming and south-central Montana. Billings, Montana receives a storm total of 42.3 inches (107 cm). Sheridan WY establishes a 24-hour snowfall record with 26.7 inches (68 cm).

3 April 2008, Little Rock, Arkansas: A tornado hits parts of Little Rock and its suburbs passing directly over the National Weather Service office. The tornado, rated an EF-1, knocks down numerous trees and powerlines and destroyed homes in Leawood and Cammack Village. A total of six tornadoes rake central Arkansas this day, fortunately no one died from the storms.

4 April 1804, Augusta, Georgia: A large tornado crosses six Georgia counties killing at least eleven persons near Augusta.

4-5 April 1983, Wasatch Mountains, Utah: A severe canyon wind (gusts of 60-80 mph (96-138 km/h) with peak of 104 mph (166 km/h)) overturns 12 flatbed railroad cars with loaded trailers on the Union Pacific line near Farmington.

5 April 1936, Tupelo, Mississippi: A F5 tornado slashes a path of destruction over 400 yards (400 m) wide through the residential section of Tupelo. The evening storm kills 233 persons, injures 700 others, and inflicts \$3 million in damage. Fortunately for popular music history, the home of the toddler Elvis Presley is missed.

5 April 1972, Vancouver, Washington: A tornado, rated as an F2, strikes an Oregon marina on the south shore of the Columbia River and then hammers Vancouver on the north shore. The tornado, America's deadliest tornado of the year and Washington's worst ever, kills six and injures 304 others, causing more than \$5 million in damage.

5 April 1945, Eagles Nest, New Mexico: The temperature plunges to 45 °F below zero (-43 °C) to establish an April record for the United States.

5 April 1972, Vancouver, Washington: A tornado strikes Vancouver, killing six people, injuring about 300 more and causing \$3 million in damage. Among the injured are about 70 children from the Peter S. Ogden Elementary School, which is demolished.

6 April 1936, Gainesville, Georgia: A pair of F4 tornadoes destroy most of the business district of Gainesville, causing \$13 million in damage. The duo kill 203 and injure 934. The most deaths occur at the Cooper Pants Factory where at least 70 died, the greatest death toll caused by a tornado on record for a single building.

6 April 2003, Jackson, Mississippi: The city's storm sewers are tested as a record daily rainfall of 7.38 inches (187.5 mm) falls.

6-9 April 2007, Cleveland, Ohio: The opening-season series between the Indians and Minnesota Twins is wiped out by a snowstorm and a cold snap. The Indians lead 4-0 when their home opener Friday (the 6th) was called off by umpires because of heavy snow. The grounds crew who tried to make the field playable with backpack blowers and brooms, spent more time on the field than the players during nearly three hours of stoppages. About a foot of snow remained on the field Monday afternoon (the 9th).

7 April 1987, Miami, Florida/International Falls, Minnesota: Is the map upside down? The temperature in Miami, Florida drops to a record low for this date 66 °F (18.9 °C) meanwhile in the north, International Falls, Minnesota warms with record afternoon high of 71 °F (21.7 °C).

7 April 2003, Upper Midwest States: An unwelcomed Spring snowstorm drops over a foot (30 cm) of snow in parts of South Dakota, Nebraska and southern Minnesota. When it is over, Albert Lea, Minnesota, receives 14 inches (40 cm), and Greeley, Nebraska, has 12 inches (30 cm). Sioux Falls, South Dakota collects 7 inches (18 cm).

8 April 1926, San Luis Obispo, California: A lightning-set oil depot fire spawns many tornadic vortices from its heat. One traverses 1000 yards (915 metres), picking up a house and carrying it 150 feet (45 m). The two occupants inside are killed.

8 April 1965, San Juan Capistrano, California: Two tornadoes arise at Capistrano Beach and head inland, causing property damage and downing of power lines. From eyewitness reports, the tornadoes travel 1 mile (1.6 km) along Del Obispo, and dissipate at Via Belardes.

9 April 1947, Woodward, Oklahoma: A tornado strikes Woodward during the late evening killing 95 persons and causing six million dollars damage. The tornado, one to two miles in width, and traveling at a speed of 68 mph (105 km/h), kills a total of 167 persons along its 221-mile (355-km) path from Texas into Kansas, injures 980 others, and causes nearly ten million dollars damage.

10 April 2003, Western North Carolina: A late-season winter storm cover the higher elevations of the western North Carolina mountains with 22 inches (56 cm) of snow.

10 April 2007, Fairbanks, Alaska: Unseasonably warm temperatures cause Fairbanks to as the record a high of 56 °F (13.3 °C) which tied the record set in 1957. Fairbanks' high exceeded that registered on this day in Atlanta, Georgia by 2 F degrees (1.1 C deg).

11 April 1965, Great Lakes States: Palm Sunday Tornado Outbreak: 51 reported tornadoes strike the States of Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan Ohio, Indiana and Iowa resulting in 256 deaths and over 1500 injured.

12 April 1934, Mount Washington, New Hampshire: Winds atop Mount Washington averaged 186 mph (298 km/hr) for five minutes, with a peak gust of 231 mph (370 km/hr).

13 April 1857, Alabama: Portions of Alabama received a surprise 4 inches (10 cm) snow in a late-season storm.

13 April 2004, Western Kentucky and Tennessee: A late-season storm surprises the region with snow causing six traffic fatalities. In Jackson, Tennessee, it is the latest measurable snowfall on record.

13 April 2006, Iowa City, Iowa: An F2 tornado, one of a dozen in the region on this day, tears through this community including the University of Iowa campus. The storm severely damages many buildings including a sorority and local church during a pre-Easter service. However, though preliminary damage estimates exceed \$12 million, no one is killed in the city.

14 April 1886, Saint Cloud, Minnesota: A devastating tornado cuts a 20-mile (33 km) path through the Saint Cloud area killing 74 persons. Eleven are killed at a wedding party near the town of Rice.

14-15 April 1921, Silver Lake, Colorado: 24-hour snowfall descends on area: 76 inches (193 cm) to set world record. [Mark broken in January 1997.]

15 April 2003, Southern New Mexico: Blowing dust driven by powerful winds as high as 50 mph (80 km/h) with gusts to 130 mph (210 km/h) sweeps across southern New Mexico. The dust storm prompts road closures and causes a 10-car pileup that kills two.

16 April 1851, Boston, Massachusetts: The famous "Lighthouse Storm" rages near Boston Harbor, destroying Minot Light with its two keepers still inside. Whole gales and gigantic waves from the storm result in major shipping losses and severe coastal erosion.

16 April 2007, Albany, New York: An intense nor'easter raging along the New England Coast causes the barometric pressure reading at Albany to fall to 28.84 inches of mercury (976.68 mb), the lowest barometric pressure reading ever recorded in April in the Empire State's capital city.

17 April 1953, Northeastern Oklahoma: Everything but the kitchen sink: A severe storm spreads hail, snow, sleet, glaze, and rain, across sections of Kay, Osage, Creek, Tulsa, Washington, and Rogers Counties in northeastern Oklahoma.

17 April 2008, Navajo, New Mexico: The afternoon temperature in Navajo only reaches a high temperature of only 45°F (7.2 °C), which tied a low high temperature record for the date.

17-30 April 1965, Upper Mississippi River Valley: The Mississippi River reaches a flood crest at Saint Paul Minnesota four feet (122 cm) higher than any previous mark. During the next two weeks, record levels are reached along the Mississippi between Saint Paul and Hannibal, Missouri. Flooding causes more than 100 million dollars damage, but timely warnings keep the death toll down to just twelve persons.

18 April 1944, Sacramento Valley, California: California's worst hailstorm of record damages two million dollars as two consecutive storms destroy the fruit crop.

19 April 1881, Nation City, South Dakota: Rail contact finally made with outside world as 79-day snow blockade ends isolation of Nation City.

19-20 April 2006, The Dakotas: An intense spring snowstorm sweeps across the region, dumping up to 5 feet (152 cm) of snow. The heaviest snow falls in the Black Hills, with 59.4

inches (151 cm) at Lead, South Dakota. Bowman, North Dakota, accumulates about 18 inches (45 cm). The storm closes highways including I-94 in North Dakota, cuts power to thousands and is blamed for at least four deaths.

20 April 1901, Ohio: A strong spring storm drops unseasonably heavy snow in northeast Ohio. Warren receives 35.5 inches (90 cm) in thirty-six hours, and Green Hill, 28 inches (71 cm). Akron establishes 24-hour April snowfall record of 15.6 inches (39.6 cm).

21 April 1958, Montana: Portions of the State experiences spring snowburst. Snowfall accumulations ranged up to 55 inches (140 cm) at Red Lodge, 61 inches (155 cm) at Nye Mine, and 72 inches (183 cm) at Mystic Lake.

22 April 1883, Beauregard, Mississippi: A major tornado outbreak claims 200 lives across Kansas to Mississippi. The entire town of Beauregard is destroyed with 29 deaths and 100 injuries.

23 April 1870, Estherville, Iowa: The Estherville Vindicator uses the term blizzard in reference to a storm that produced heavy snow and high winds in Minnesota and Iowa from 14-17 March 1870. This is the first published application of blizzard as a weather term according to David Ludlum (Early American Winters, Volume II, 1968).

23 April 1885, Denver and Idaho Springs, Colorado: Snow storm in Colorado covers the city of Denver in 23 inches (58 cm) of snow in 24 hours. Storm at Idaho Springs produces 32 inches (81 cm) of snow.

24 April 1834, Sargeant, Nebraska: Four and a half inch (11.4 cm) diameter hail is reported near Sargeant.

24 April 1908, Amite, Louisiana, Purvis and Natchez, Mississippi: A deadly tornado strikes the communities of Amite, Louisiana and Purvis, Mississippi killing 143 people. Further north, another tornado kills 91 in Natchez, Mississippi. These two tornadoes rate among the deadliest in US history.

24 April 2003, Juneau, Alaska: The temperature soars to a maximum of 70oF (21oC), the earliest record of 70oF to occur in Juneau.

24 April 2005, Cleveland, Ohio: Late-season snow falls across portions of the lower Great Lakes. In the greater Cleveland area, one foot (30 cm) of snow accumulates in some localities.

25 April 1898, Volcano Springs, California: The temperature rises to 118oF (47.8oC), establishing a US record for the month of April.

25-26 April 1969, Eastern Montana: A cold front associated with a late season storm brings sharp weather changes to eastern Montana. Following a day when numerous stations registered their month's highest temperature, the temperatures fall more than 50 Fahrenheit (27.8 Celsius) degrees in 24 hours.

25-26 April 2008, Anchorage, Alaska: Record snowfall falls over the Anchorage region. The NWS Office measures 17.2 inches (43.7 cm) at its office just south of Anchorage's international airport and 22 inches (55.9 cm) in northeast Anchorage. The heaviest snow falling between 3 and 6 p.m. on the 25th accumulates at a rate of almost two inches (5 cm) per hour. The 15.5 inches (39.4 cm) on the 25th is the third-most for any one day in Anchorage.

26 April 1834, Deep Southern States: Killer frosts hit across the the Deep South. Frost is quite severe around Huntsville, Alabama.

26 April 2003, Sierra Nevada Mountains, California: A powerful spring storm dumps up to 20 inches (50 cm) of snow leaving some ski resorts with record April snow totals — Alpine Meadows just north of Lake Tahoe reporting more than 100 inches (250 cm) of snow, and the Kirkwood Resort south of Tahoe accumulating 112 inches (285 cm).

27 April 1898, Topeka, Kansas: The first Weather Bureau kite is launched for daily, early morning, atmospheric observations. By year's end, sixteen additional launch sites will be in operation.

27 April 1931, Pahala, Hawaii: The temperature soars to 100 °F (37.8 °C), the hottest temperature ever recorded on the Islands.

27 April 2003, Key West, Florida : The largest hail storm ever recorded at Key West falls between 410-420pm, hailstones ranging in size from one-half inch up to one and three-quarter inches fell. It is the eleventh recorded hail event (since 1871) at Key West.

28 April 1989, Miles City, Montana: A spring outbreak of cold arctic air surges across the north central US. Pushed by strong northerly winds, up to 20 inches (50.8 cm) of heavy snow smother Miles City.

29 April 1905, Taylor, Texas: The southeastern Texas community of Taylor is deluged with 2.4 inches (6 mm) of rain in fifteen minutes.

30 April 1852, New Harmony, Indiana: A tornado kills sixteen persons in the village.

30 April 1994, Kaneohe Ranch, Oahu, Hawaii: It finally stops raining on the Kaneohe Ranch on the island of Oahu ending a streak of 247 consecutive days of rain which began 27 August 1993.