

Spring 2008 Weather Highlights in Western Kentucky ... Southern Illinois ... Southwest Indiana ... and Southeast Missouri

SPRING SEASON (March 2008 – May 2008)

Synopsis: Spring of 2008 started out with near normal temperatures across much of the quad state area with slightly cooler temperatures for the months of April and May. Average temperatures ranged from a couple of degrees below to 1.5 degrees above normal during March. With the exception of Carbondale averaging 0.3 degrees above normal for April...all locations reported below normal temperatures for the last two months of the season. Temperatures were so cool that Cape Girardeau recorded its 8th coolest April and May on record. Two different winter events moved through the area during March, which produced the monthly average temperature swing. The first winter storm occurred March 3rd and 4th, which also produced localized flooding. Then on March 7th and 8th a winter storm developed across a narrow band...almost the exact path as the first storm. The communities of Owensboro, Evansville and Cape Girardeau experienced below normal monthly temperatures, while areas not affected as much by the winter storms recorded slightly above normal monthly temperatures. During the latter two month of the season...the combination of several frontal systems moving across the quad state area and the associated cloudy skies and rain kept the monthly temperatures below normal.

The big story for the spring season was the amount of rainfall that occurred. Some of the frontal systems that moved across the area produced periods of torrential rains. Major flooding developed when a strong storm front passed on March 18th and 19th. Some of the flooding from this system produced 50 to 100 year flood events. And the continued flooding from this event was aggravated by a major severe weather outbreak on April 3rd and 4th. It was the third wettest March on record for Paducah and Carbondale, the second wettest at Evansville, the wettest for Poplar Bluff and Cape Girardeau. Official weather records have been kept at Cape Girardeau since 1960, and March of 2008 was the all-time wettest month ever with 17.83 inches of rainfall...or 13.34 inches above normal. To compound the flooding issue... it was the 8th wettest April on record for Cape Girardeau.

Below are some spring 2008 rainfall rankings:

Location	Spring 2008 rainfall	Ranking	Record
Paducah	21.99"	5 th Wettest	27.04" in 1973
Owensboro*	19.97"	8 th Wettest	26.98" in 1927
Evansville	25.41"	Wettest on record	Old – 24.34 inches
Carbondale	25.97"	3 rd Wettest	26.81" in 1996
Poplar Bluff	22.89"	8 th Wettest	33.29" in 1927
Cape Girardeau	30.62"	2 nd Wettest	34.79" in 1973

Owensboro information derived from 2 locations within the community.

MARCH 2008	Average Monthly	Departure from	Records
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	Temp.	Normal	
Paducah, KY	48.2°	+0.6°	
Owensboro, KY	45.7°	-2.5°	
Evansville, IN	44.9°	-0.9°	
Carbondale, IL	45.8°	+1.5°	
Poplar Bluff, MO	48.2°	+0.3°	
Cape Girardeau, MO	46.5°	-1.1°	

APRIL 2008	Average Monthly Temp.	Departure from Normal	Records
Paducah, KY	55.8°	-1.2°	
Owensboro, KY	56.4°	-1.5°	
Evansville, IN	55.1°	-0.4°	
Carbondale, IL	54.8°	+0.3°	
Poplar Bluff, MO	55.7°	-2.3°	
Cape Girardeau, MO	54.7°	-2.8°	8 th Coolest

MAY 2008	Average Monthly Temp.	Departure from Normal	Records
Paducah, KY	65.3°	-0.6°	
Owensboro, KY	64.8°	-2.2°	
Evansville, IN	63.1°	-2.5°	
Carbondale, IL	63.4°	-0.4°	
Poplar Bluff, MO	66.0°	-1.5°	
Cape Girardeau, MO	64.4°	-2.6°	8 th Coolest

MARCH 2008	Monthly	Departure	Records
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	Precip.	from Normal	
Paducah, KY	9.60	+5.33	3 rd Wettest
Owensboro, KY	4.23	-0.03	
Evansville, IN	12.34	+8.05	2 nd Wettest
Carbondale, IL	11.00	+6.75	3 rd Wettest
Poplar Bluff, MO	12.82	+8.11	Wettest
Cape Girardeau, MO	17.83	+13.34	**Wettest

** All-time wettest month on record for Cape Girardeau (1960 – Present)

APRIL 2008	Monthly Precip.	Departure from Normal	Records
Paducah, KY	6.77	+1.82	
Owensboro, KY	4.55	-0.11	
Evansville, IN	5.07	+0.59	
Carbondale, IL	5.35	+0.90	
Poplar Bluff, MO	7.32	+2.55	
Cape Girardeau, MO	6.61	+2.27	8 th Wettest

MAY 2008	Monthly Precip.	Departure from Normal	Records
Paducah, KY	5.63	+0.88	
Owensboro, KY	4.43	-0.35	
Evansville, IN	8.07	+3.06	9 th Wettest
Carbondale, IL	6.19	+1.41	
Poplar Bluff, MO	3.94	-0.43	
Cape Girardeau, MO	6.21	+1.12	