



Baton Rouge Area

OZONE

There were no days that exceeded the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone in the Baton Rouge area during the month of March, 2013. Please see the graph on page two for daily air quality index levels in the Baton Rouge area during March.

No Action Days were called for the Baton Rouge area during the month of March.

PM_{2.5}

There were no violations of the NAAQS for PM_{2.5} in the Baton Rouge area during the month of March, 2013. Please see the chart and table on the next page for detailed information on PM_{2.5} levels throughout the state.

Other Areas of the State

OZONE

There were no days that exceeded the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone in areas of the state other than Baton Rouge during the month of March, 2013.

No Action Days were called for any area of the state during the month of March.

PM_{2.5}

There were no violations of the NAAQS for PM_{2.5} during the month of March, 2013. Please see the graph and table on the next page for detailed information on PM_{2.5} levels throughout the state.

Change to the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM_{2.5}

Effective March 18, 2013, EPA will revise the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for fine particles (PM_{2.5}), which caused a change in the Air Quality Index breakpoints. Below is a table detailing these changes.

AQI Category	Index Values	Previous Breakpoints (1999 AQI) ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, 24-hour average)	Revised Breakpoints ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, 24-hour average)
Good	0 - 50	0.0 - 15.0	0.0 - 12.0
Moderate	51 - 100	>15.0 - 40	12.1 - 35.4
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 - 150	>40 - 65	35.5 - 55.4
Unhealthy	151 - 200	> 65 - 150	55.5 - 150.4
Very Unhealthy	201 - 300	> 150 - 250	150.5 - 250.4
Hazardous	301 - 400	> 250 - 350	250.5 - 350.4
	401 - 500	> 350 - 500	350.5 - 500



Air Quality Summary—March 2013



Good

Moderate

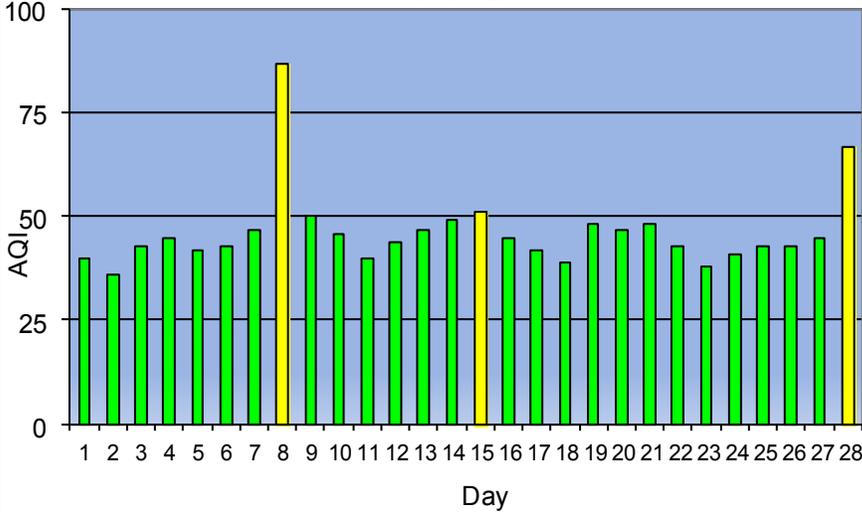
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups

Unhealthy

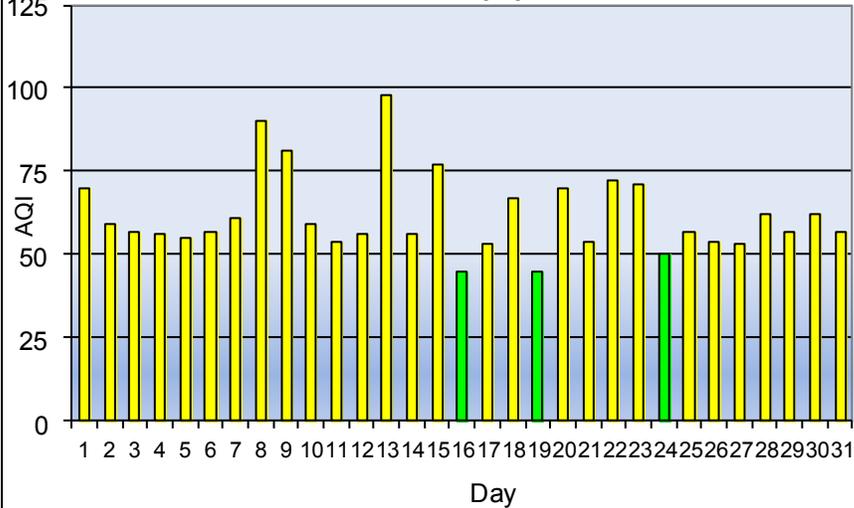
Very Unhealthy

Hazardous

**Baton Rouge Area Daily Maximum AQI For Ozone
MARCH 2013**



**Statewide Daily Maximum AQI For PM_{2.5}
MARCH 2013**



Statewide High PM_{2.5} 24-Hour Average Readings - MARCH 2013

DAY	UG/m3	AQI	SITE
1	21	70	Lafayette
2	16.1	59	Lafayette
3	14.8	57	Lafayette
4	14.4	56	Chalmette Vista
5	14	55	Monroe
6	14.9	57	Monroe
7	16.7	61	Monroe
8	30.7	90	Capitol
9	26.6	81	Capitol
10	15.7	59	Monroe
11	13.7	54	Monroe
12	14.6	56	Monroe
13	34.5	98	Westlake
14	14.4	56	Monroe
15	24.6	77	Monroe
16	10.9	45	Chalmette Vista
17	13.1	53	Chalmette Vista
18	19.9	67	Westlake
19	10.8	45	City Park
20	21	70	Westlake
21	13.6	54	Monroe
22	22.1	72	Monroe
23	21.6	71	Monroe
24	12	50	Monroe
25	14.8	57	Monroe
26	13.7	54	Lafayette
27	13	53	Port Allen
28	17.3	62	Alexandria
29	15.1	57	Monroe
30	17.5	62	Monroe
31	15.1	57	Monroe

Baton Rouge Climate Summary—March 2013

**Prepared by: Jay Grymes*

(based on available preliminary data as of April 15, 2013)

March Weather Highlights:

- a chilly March that includes four freezes
- below-normal rainfall after an unusually-wet winter

March 2013's monthly average temperature was 56.5°F for Baton Rouge's Metro Airport (AP), 5.0° below the monthly norm and ending the run of mild temperatures that highlighted the 2012-2013 winter. And the shift in temperature trends was rather dramatic: March's monthly departure of -5.0° is the largest "negative" monthly temperature departure recorded at Metro AP since February 2010.

March 2013 included four freeze-days (Min Temps $\leq 32^\circ$). Historically, Baton Rouge averages less than one freeze-day per March; in fact, the four freeze-days during March 2013 ties 1960 and 1943 with the 3rd most freeze-days for any March (since at least 1930). The most March freeze-days ever? 5 days, recorded in March of 1996 and 1965. In addition, those four March 2013 freezes seem even more unusual given the mild nature of the 2012-2013 winter, with just 6 freeze-days leading into March (well below the average of 19-20 freeze-days between the fall and the end of February)!

March's absolute minimum temperature for Metro AP was a very cold 26°, recorded on the morning of March 3rd. In addition to the four freezes, lows dropped below 40° on 14 March days (the long term average is 5 March days below 40°), the most for any March (since at least 1930). Still, there were some mild, almost warm, March afternoons: March's absolute maximum temperature of 82° was recorded on March 18th, and highs also reached 80° on March 10th and 17th.

Daily temperatures averaged 10° to nearly 20° below normal during the first three days of March thanks to a Canadian air mass that lingered over the lower Mississippi Valley. But maybe the most memorable March chill came during March 25-28, when temps again averaged 10° to nearly 20° below the norm thanks to the arrival and persistence of a late-season cold, continental air mass.

Given the March cold, it comes as no surprise that monthly Heating Degree-Days (HDDs) were well-above normal for metro Baton Rouge. But the run of mild weather during the preceding months offsets the March cold in terms of "seasonal" HDD totals. As a result, energy demands for indoor heating across the metro area are likely to still be near-normal to below-normal for the current "HDD season."

Table 1: March 2013 Temperature and Degree-Day Summaries

Temperatures & Departures (°F)									
Monthly MeanT		Monthly MaxT		Monthly MinT		J-F-M MeanT		YTD MeanT	
56.4°	-5.1°	69.3°	-3.4°	43.6°	-6.7°	55.5°	-1.0°	55.5°	-1.0°

Cooling Degree-Days & %Normal				Heating Degree-Days & %Normal			
Monthly CDDs		Seasonal* CDDs		Monthly HDDs		Seasonal* HDDs	
19	33%	44	49%	278	165%	1448	98%

*CDD Season: Jan 1 thru Dec 31 *HDD Season: Jul 1 thru Jun 30

Baton Rouge Climate Summary—March 2013

**Prepared by: Jay Grymes*

(based on available preliminary data as of April 15, 2013)

March 2013's 2.91" rain total for Baton Rouge's Metro Airport (AP) was 1.50" below the monthly norm -- bringing an end (at least temporarily?) to the run of wet weather that has impacted the metro area since December 2012. Although far from a record low for the month, March 2013's total does fall within the lowest quarter of all March totals for Baton Rouge since 1888. But somewhat more intriguing is the recent run of drier-than-normal Marches experienced in recent years: 7 of the last 10 March totals have been below 3.00" for Baton Rouge.

For the year (Jan-Mar 2013), Metro AP cumulative rainfall stands at 24.95", nearly 10" above the three-month normal. This Jan-Mar total ranks among the sixth "wettest" opening quarters of any year for Baton Rouge (records back to 1888) and is the largest Jan-Mar total for Metro AP since 1990 (25.16").

Table 2: Distribution of March 2013 rain totals based on sites (Table 2) with complete monthly records for the month (32 sites).

No. Sites ≤ 0.50"	No. Sites 0.51" - 1.00"	No. Sites 1.01" - 1.50"	No. Sites 1.51" - 2.00"	No. Sites 2.01" - 2.50"	No. Sites 2.51" - 3.00"	No. Sites > 3.00"
1	3	8	10	5	4	1

Based on the 32 sites in Table 3 (with complete monthly totals), metro area regional rainfall for March 2013 averaged a very modest 1.71", with a median of 1.56" -- both numbers running about 3.0" below the March regional average (roughly 4.7"). 22 sites reported less than 2.0" of rain for March, with four stations under 1.0" for the month. IN fact, Metro AP's 2.91" was the second largest regional total for March, with only one site in the region recording more than 3.0" of rain during March. March regional totals also suggest a modest rainfall gradient across the metro area, with the northern half of the region generally reporting slightly more rain for the month.

March totals were below-normal for all 13 NWS Cooperative sites with monthly normals; 6 of those sites posted departures in excess of -3.0" for the month. Most of the metro area sites recorded measurable rainfall on between 4 and 7 days during March (by comparison, Metro AP averages 8 to 9 March raindays). The month's "wettest" spell -- the result of a strong cold front during March 10-11 -- not only produced the region's one-day maximum totals but accounted for the majority of the month's rain across the region (Fig. 1 & Appendix 1).

The daily data from Metro AP and the responses along local rivers (Figs. 6a & 6b) clearly show the impact of the stormy weather during March 10-11. Not only did this frontal event account for the majority of the month's rain, but also prompted flood concerns along the Amite and Comite rivers.

The only other stormy March event came at month's end -- on Easter Sunday, unfortunately -- when a pre-frontal squall line moved through the greater metro area. While March 31 rain totals were not especially impressive for most locations, thunderstorms associated with the squall line were responsible for a number of reports of wind damage and hail during that afternoon.

Baton Rouge Climate Summary—March 2013

*Prepared by: Jay Grymes

(based on available preliminary data as of April 15, 2013)

Table 3: March 2013 rainfall for selected sites across the greater Baton Rouge metro area. (Data are preliminary and provided courtesy of the National Weather Service, the LSU Southern Regional Climate Center, the LSU AgCenter, and the CoCoRaHS Volunteer Network.)

Rain-Reporting Site	Monthly Rainfall		No. Days		Year-to-Date	
	Total	DFN	≥0.01"	≥1.00"	Total	DFN
NWS Cooperative Stations						
<i>BR – Metro Airport</i>	2.91"	-1.50"	6	1	24.95"	+9.78"
BR - Concord Estates	1.96"	-2.75"	3	1	28.92"	+12.97"
BR - Sherwood Forest	1.42"	-3.38"	7	1	27.22"	+11.55"
Clinton 5 SE	2.06"	-2.69"	4	1	22.69"	+6.33"
Denham Springs	1.13"	-3.74"	2	0	21.18"	+5.57"
Dutchtown #2	0.59"	--	5	0	29.27"	--
Gonzales	0.48"	-4.31"	3	0	25.51"	+10.18"
Livingston	1.56"	-3.73"	5	0	28.09"	+11.73"
New Roads	0.70"	-3.76"	6	0	26.29"	+10.14"
Oaknolia	2.45"	-2.70"	2	1	22.71"	+5.35"
Plaquemine	1.58"	-2.97"	5	1	25.69"	+10.29"
Port Allen	2.64"	-1.89"	4	1	24.72"	+8.92"
St. Francisville	2.80"	-2.02"	10	1	22.41"	+5.54"
St. Gabriel	0.86"	-3.50"	4	0	23.30"	+8.87"
CoCoRaHS Volunteer Observers						
Baton Rouge 2.7 SW (LA-EB-2)	1.88"	--	5	1	27.98"	--
Baton Rouge 3.5 E (LA-EB-14)	1.44"	--	3	1	27.58"	--
Baton Rouge 2.5 E (LA-EB-27)	1.54"	--	7	1	26.09"	--
Baton Rouge 4.3 S (LA-EB-41)	1.56"	--	6	1	27.09"	--
Baton Rouge 1.4 WSW (LA-EB-46)	1.91"	--	5	1	27.66"	--
Baton Rouge 5.3 S (LA-EB-47)	1.30"	--	5	1	28.19"	--
Baton Rouge 2.1 S (LA-EB-48)	1.96"	--	3	1	27.77"	--
Central (LA-EB-23)	2.03"	--	4	1	M	--
Central 2.2 SE (LA-EB-31)	1.51"	--	5	1	23.82" ⁽ⁱ⁾	--
Inniswold 2.8 S (LA-EB-42)	1.28"	--	5	0	26.13"	--
Shenandoah 1.5 E (LA-EB-22)	1.08"	--	5	0	24.68"	--
Zachary 3.5 WNW (LA-EB-28)	3.08"	--	7	1	24.97"	--
Gonzales 4.0 S (LA-AS-5)	1.41"	--	5	0	25.92"	--
Prairieville 1.8 NW (LA-AS-10)	0.71" ⁽ⁱ⁾	--	M	M	25.24" ⁽ⁱ⁾	--
Port Vincent 4.4 W (LA-AS-2)	1.24"	--	3	0	28.57"	--
Wakefield 0.9 WNW (LA-WF-4)	2.74"	--	4	1	19.70" ⁽ⁱ⁾	--
Additional Metro Area Sites						
LSU Campus (LA-EB-33)	2.06"	--	4	1	28.34"	--
WAFB-TV, Downtown BR	2.03"	--	5	1	24.03"	--
LSU Ben Hur Farm	1.56"	--	5	1	27.29"	--
Regional Average	1.71"	-3.00"	11.8	3.4	26.04"	+9.02"
Regional Median	1.56"	-2.97"	12	4	26.13"	+9.78"

DFN - Departure-from-Normal "--" - Not Available

M - Missing Value

(e) – Estimated

(i) - Incomplete Total

Baton Rouge Climate Summary—March 2013

*Prepared by: Jay Grymes

(based on available preliminary data as of April 15, 2013)

Figure 1: March 2013 Daily Maximum and Minimum Temperatures, Daily Average Dew Points and Precipitation from the Baton Rouge Metro Airport ASOS.

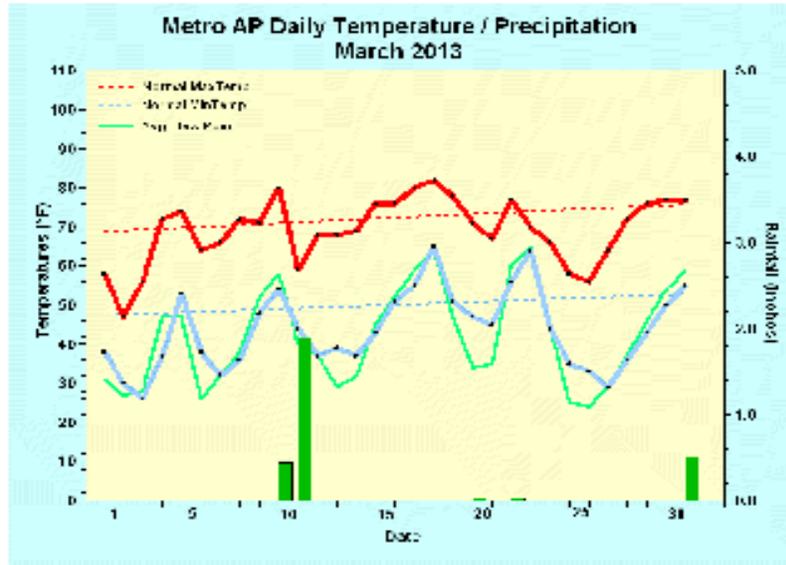
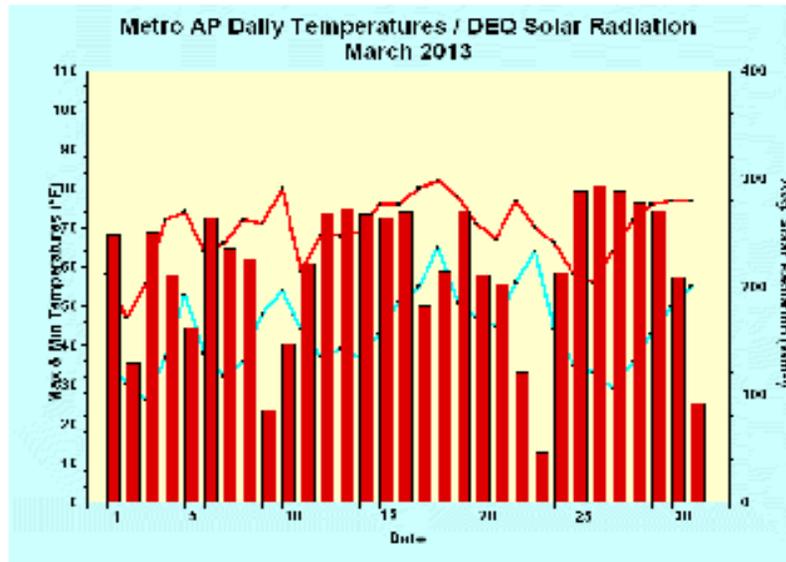


Figure 2: March 2013 Daily Average Hourly Solar Radiation as recorded at DEQ's Capitol site and Daily Maximum and Minimum Temperatures from the Baton Rouge Metro Airport ASOS.



Baton Rouge Climate Summary—March 2013

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(based on available preliminary data as of April 15, 2013)

March's dry trend allowed for considerable sunshine and a number of fine weather days (Fig. 2 & Table 4). Even with the array of March frontal events (Appendix 2), roughly two-thirds of all days during the month were "fair sky" days; only four days were deemed mostly-cloudy to cloudy.

Officially, the Baton Rouge ASOS reported no thunderstorms during March, but a detailed investigation by the NWS indicated that thunderstorms should have been reported on March 31 in association with the squally weather that day. In addition, it appears possible, if not likely, that thunderstorms should have also been recorded during the frontal event of March 10-11.

March's dry weather also appeared to help limit the occurrences of fog at Metro AP. Visibilities at Metro AP dropped below 7 miles for only 11 March days ('average' is 17 days), mainly as a result of morning fog. There were no March occurrences of "heavy" fog ($vis \leq \frac{1}{4}$ mi.) at Metro AP.

March 2013 winds at Metro Airport averaged 6.6 mph for the month, below the 28-year March average of 7.7 mph. Daily winds averaged above 10.0 mph on just three days: March 4, 10 and 18 – each occurring during pre-frontal weather set-ups. Daily winds were "near-calm" (averaging under 3.0 mph) for two days – March 7 and 12 – both occurring when surface high-pressure was located over the lower Mississippi Valley and in control of the regional weather.

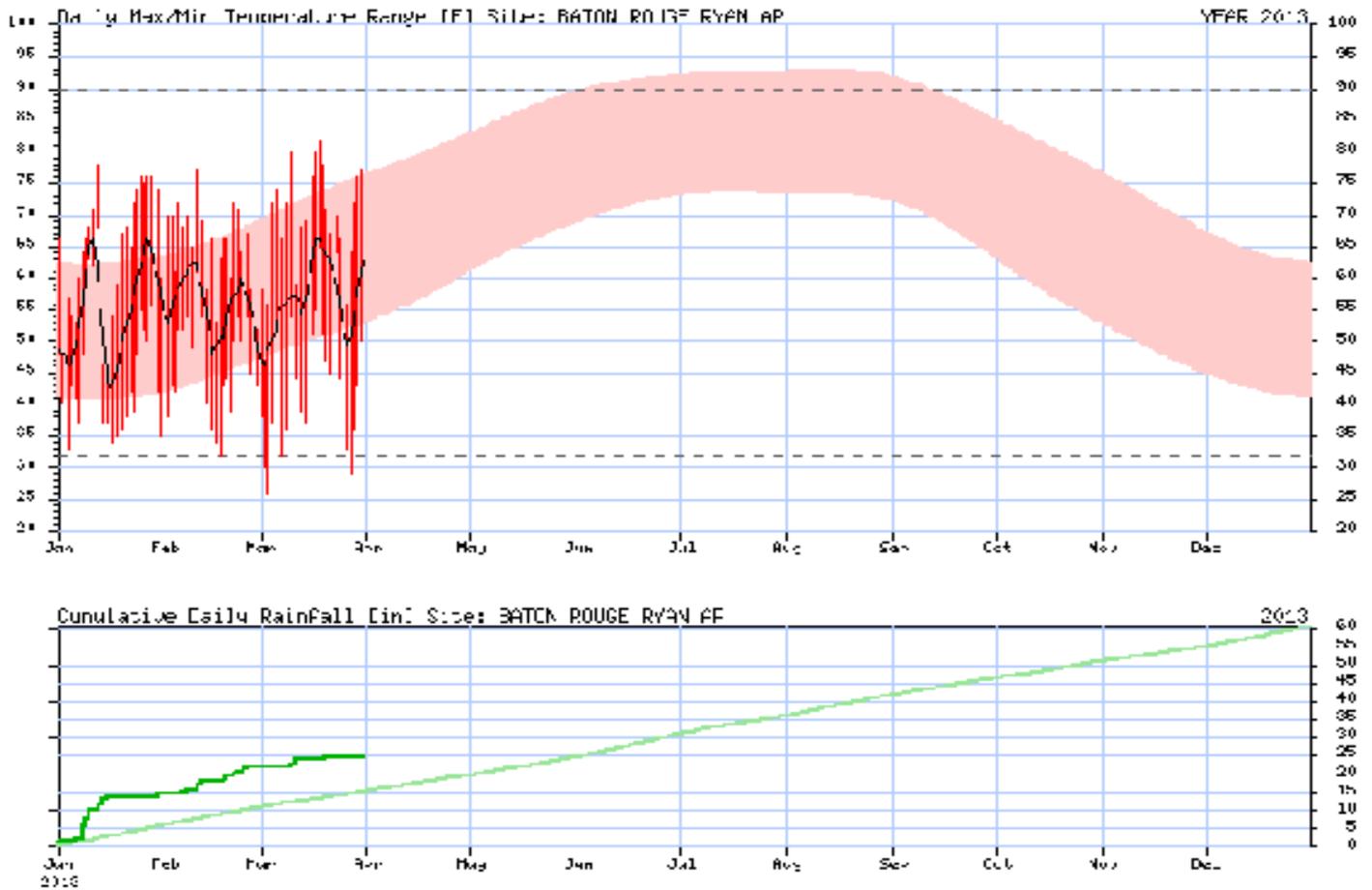
Although March winds were below average from a monthly perspective, there were still plenty of periods with breezy-to-windy conditions: that comes as surprise given that spring tends to be south Louisiana's windiest period of the year (barring tropical weather). Peak sustained winds (lasting one minute or more) during March topped 20 mph on eight dates, with sustained winds reaching 36 mph on March 10 and 31 mph on March 31 – both associated with stormy weather. Peak daily gusts topped 30 mph on six dates, with maximum gusts of 44 mph (March 10) and 43 mph (March 31).

Baton Rouge Climate Summary—March 2013

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(based on available preliminary data as of April 15, 2013)

Figure 3: 2013 Daily Temperature and Cumulative Rainfall for Baton Rouge Metro Airport compared to long-term averages (as of 1 April 2013). Source: LSU Southern Regional Climate Center (www.srcc.lsu.edu)



Baton Rouge Climate Summary—March 2013

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Table 4: March 2013 additional reports and observations from the ASOS (Automated Surface Observing System) weather platform at Baton Rouge Metro Airport (BTR).

4a. Significant Weather.

No Days:	Mar 2013	Median*
Thunderstorms	0	4
"Heavy" Fog (Vis** ≤ ¼ mi.)	0	2
All Visibility*** (Vis** < 7.0 mi.)	11	17
Fog / Mist (Vis** < 7.0 mi.)	11	17
Smoke / Haze (Vis** < 7.0 mi.)	0	2

Median* - based on observations during 2000-2012 (13 years)

Vis** - Sensor Equivalent Visibility; Fog/Mist are distinguished from Haze/Smoke through evaluation of temperature and humidity at the time of observation

All Visibility*** - total number of days with any obstructions leading to At least one observation with Visibility estimated under 7 miles

4b. Average Daily Wind Speed.

	< 3.0 mph (Near Calm)	3.0 mph < 5.0 mph	5.0 mph < 10.0 mph	10.0 mph < 15.0 mph	≥ 15.0 mph
No. Days	2	7	19	3	0

4c. Average Sky Conditions (cloud-cover estimate to 12,000 ft) during "Daylight"

	Clear to Mostly Sunny (0/10ths – 3/10ths)	Partly Cloudy To Partly Sunny (4/10ths – 6/10ths)	Mostly Cloudy To Overcast (7/10ths – 10/10ths)
No. Days	20	7	4

4d. Solar/Lunar Summary

Sunrise-Sunset Durations: (excludes 'Civil Twilight')

March 1	March 15	March 31
11.6 hours	12.0 hours	12.5 hours

Moon Phases:

Last Quarter	New Moon	First Quarter	Full Moon
Mar 4	Mar 11	Mar 19	Mar 27

Baton Rouge Climate Summary—March 2013

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Table 5: March 2013 significant Preliminary 'Local Storm Reports' as posted by the NWS for the greater Baton Rouge metro area. (Final Reports available through the NWS.)

Date	Time (CDT)	Event	Location*	Parish
3 / 31	2:35 PM	Wind Damage	Wakefield	WF
3 / 31	2:53 PM	Wind Damage	4 S New Roads	PC
3 / 31	3:15 PM	Wind Damage	5 NW Clinton (near Wilson)	EF
3 / 31	3:27 PM	Wind Damage	2 NE Greenwell Springs	EBR
3 / 31	3:31 PM	Hail (Size Unknown)	Westminster	EBR
3 / 31	3:45 PM	Wind Damage (E60 mph)	3 W Livingston	LIV
3 / 31	4:03 PM	1.00" Hail	Gonzales	ASC

*Locations approximated in whole miles from town center

Table 6: March 2013 Watches, Warnings and Key Advisories issued for East Baton Rouge Parish.

Date(s)	Approx. Time in Effect (CDT)	Event
3 / 2 - 3	10:00 PM - 8:00 AM	Freeze Warning
3 / 24	10:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Wind Advisory
3 / 26	12:00 AM - 8:00 AM	Freeze Warning
3 / 27	2:00 AM - 8:00 AM	Freeze Warning
3 / 31	5:24 AM - 9:00 AM	Dense Fog Advisory
3 / 31	12:20 PM - 4:48 PM	Severe T-Storm Watch (WW 0072)

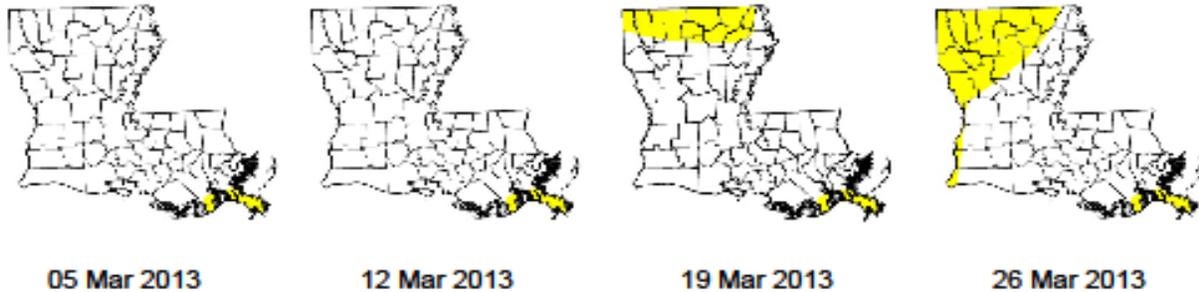
Baton Rouge Climate Summary—March 2013

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(based on available preliminary data as of April 15, 2013)

Figure 4a-d: Louisiana's weekly U.S. Drought Monitor for March 2013.

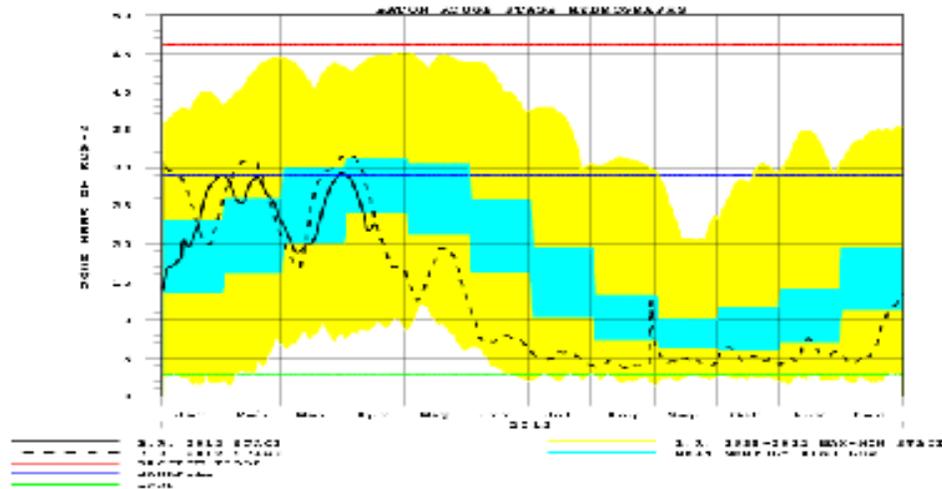
Source: <http://drought.unl.edu/DM/>



March rainfall was not only below-normal across the Baton Rouge metro area but below-normal statewide. While the winter was unusually wet for metro Baton Rouge, winter rains were not so unusually large over northern and extreme southeastern sections of the state. As a result, some sections of Louisiana were posted as "Abnormally Dry" by, or even before, month's end.



Figure 5: Mississippi River Daily Stage for 2012 and 2013 as of 18 April 2013, with comparisons to long-term averages and extremes.



Source: <http://www.rivergages.com>, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

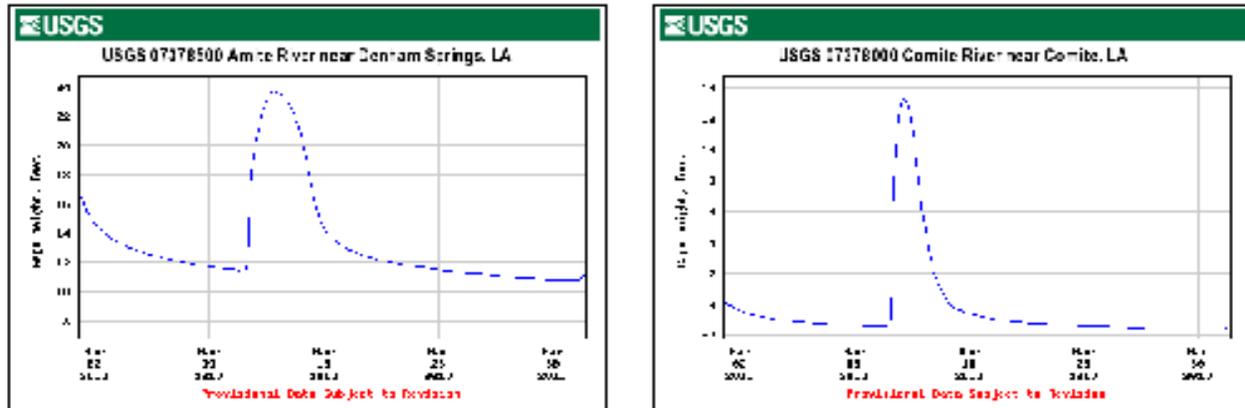
Although the river displayed a steady rise during the latter half of the month, March 2013 water levels along the Mississippi River at Baton Rouge (solid black line) remained close to seasonal "averages" through the month.

Baton Rouge Climate Summary—March 2013

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Figure 6a-b: Daily river stages, Amite River near Denham Springs and Comite River near Comite (Joor Rd.) during March 2013.



Source: USGS Louisiana Hydrowatch.

Rains during March 10-11 produced rapid rises along the Amite and Comite rivers, but neither gaging station reached flood stage. Mainly-dry weather through the remainder of the month kept both river gages close to base-level flows for much of March. However, note the rise at both sites at month's end in response to the afternoon rains and storms on Easter Sunday, March 31st.

Acknowledgements:

- National Weather Service offices serving Louisiana
- LSU Southern Regional Climate Center (SRCC)
- Louisiana Office of State Climatology (LOSC)
- LSU AgCenter / LAIS AgWeather Monitoring Program
- CoCoRaHS Volunteer Network
- U.S. Drought Monitor (<http://drought.unl.edu/DM/>)
- NWS Climate Prediction Center (NWS/CPC)
- NWS Storm Prediction Center (NWS/SPC)
- NWS Weather Prediction Center (NWS/WPC)
- NOAA/National Climatic Data Center (NCDC)
- Iowa Environmental Mesonet (<http://mesonet.agron.iastate.edu/>)
- U.S. Geological Survey, Louisiana District (USGS)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (USACE)
- WAFB-TV (Ch. 9), Baton Rouge

Prepared by: Jay Grymes

WAFB-TV Chief Meteorologist & LSU AgCenter Climatologist

2 May 2013

Baton Rouge Climate Summary—March 2013

*Prepared by: Jay Grymes

(based on available preliminary data as of April 15, 2013)

Appendix 1: March 2013 Daily Data from Baton Rouge Metro Airport

Date	Max Temp	Min Temp	Avg Temp	AvgT DFN	Avg. DewPt	Daily HDD	Daily CDD	Precip (in.)
1	58	38	48	-10	31	17	0	0
2	47*	30	39	-19	26	26	0	0
3	56	26*	41	-18	28	24	0	0
4	72	37	55	-4	47	10	0	0
5	74	53	64	+5	47	1	0	0
6	64	38	51	-8	26	14	0	0
7	66	32	49	-11	32	16	0	0
8	72	36	54	-6	38	11	0	0
9	71	48	60	0	52	5	0	0
10	80	54	67	+7	58	0	2	0.44
11	59	44	52	-8	40	13	0	1.90
12	68	37	53	-8	37	12	0	0
13	68	39	54	-7	29	11	0	0
14	69	37	53	-8	32	12	0	0
15	76	43	60	-1	45	5	0	0
16	76	51	64	+2	52	1	0	0
17	80	55	68	+6	59	0	3	T
18	82*	65*	74	+12	64	0	9	T
19	78	51	65	+3	47	0	0	0
20	71	47	59	-3	34	6	0	0.03
21	67	45	56	-7	35	9	0	0
22	77	56	67	+4	60	0	2	0.03
23	70	64	67	+4	65	0	2	0.01
24	66	44	55	-8	44	10	0	0
25	58	35	47	-16	25	18	0	0
26	56	33	45	-19	24	20	0	0
27	64	29	47	-17	29	18	0	0
28	72	36	54	-10	37	11	0	0
29	76	43	60	-4	46	5	0	0
30	77	50	64	0	54	1	0	T
31	77	55	66	+2	59	0	1	0.50
Avg. / Sum	69.3°	43.6°	56.4°	—	42.0°	276	19	2.91"
DFN / %Nrm	-3.4°	-6.7°	-5.1°	—	-9.9°	165%	33%	-1.50"

(*) - Highest/Lowest

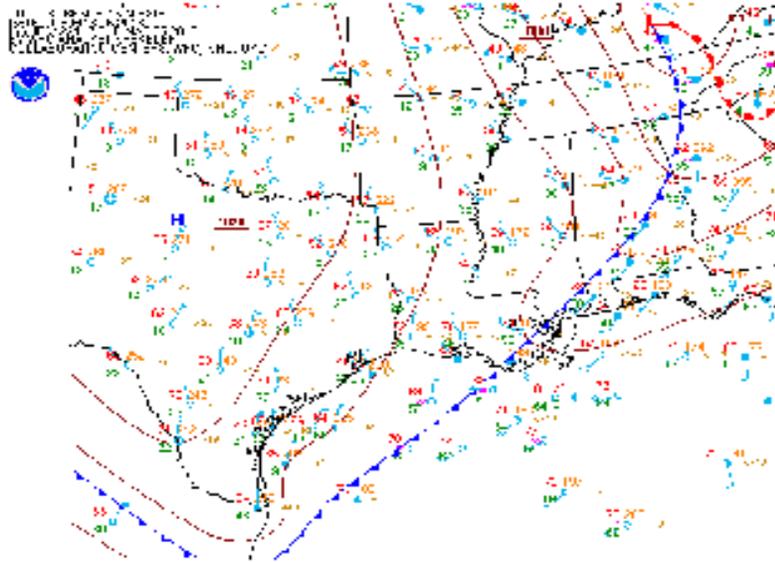
"T" – Trace; less than 0.01"

Baton Rouge Climate Summary—March 2013

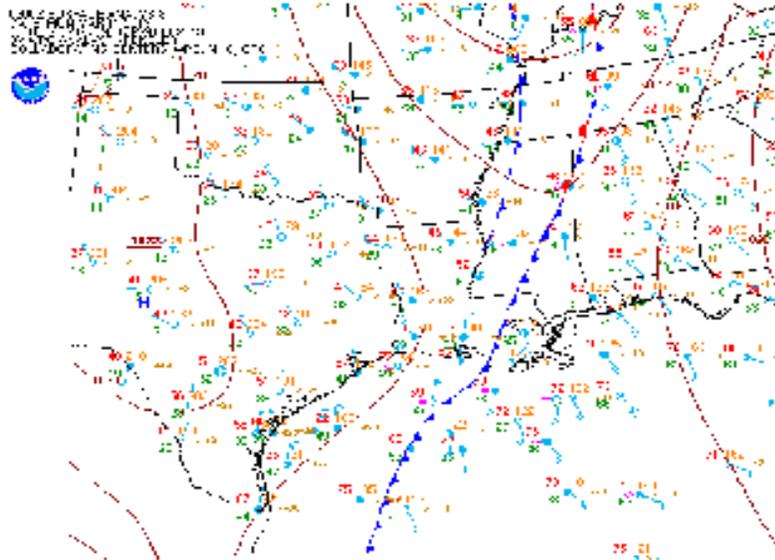
*Prepared by: Jay Grymes

(based on available preliminary data as of April 15, 2013)

Appendix 2: Surface Weather Charts for March 2013's Significant Weather.



Mar 5: A cold front moved from west to east through the metro area on the 5th, bringing morning clouds and an afternoon wind shift, but virtually no rain to the region.

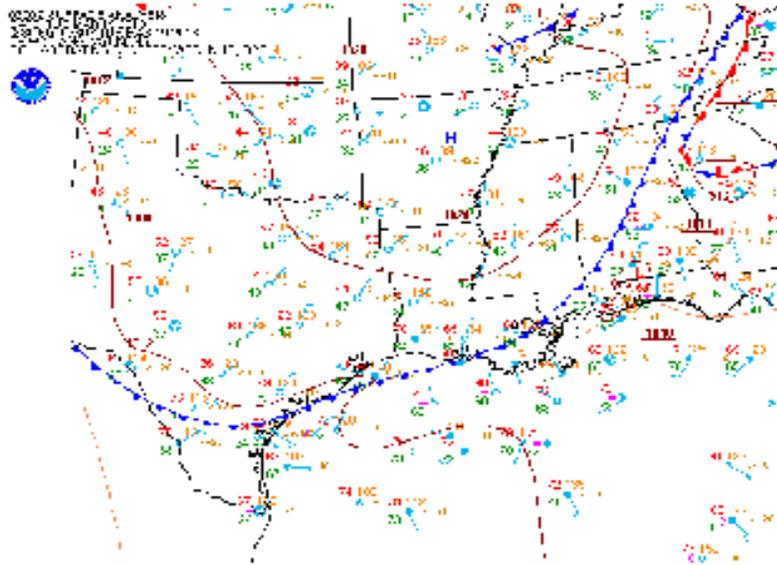


Mar 10-11: A strong cold front late on the 10th and early on the 11th was accompanied by a few elevated thunderstorms and brief periods of heavier rains, producing rain totals of more than 2" for Metro Airport and a number of metro area locations north and west of Baton Rouge.

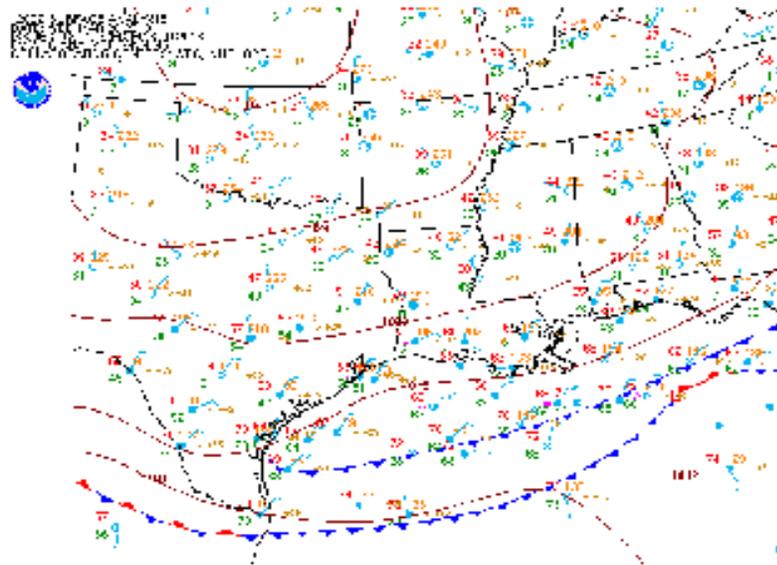
Baton Rouge Climate Summary—March 2013

*Prepared by: Jay Grymes

(based on available preliminary data as of April 15, 2013)



Mar 18-19: A dry cold front quickly passed through the Baton Rouge metro area, producing a brief run of cloud cover but no significant weather.

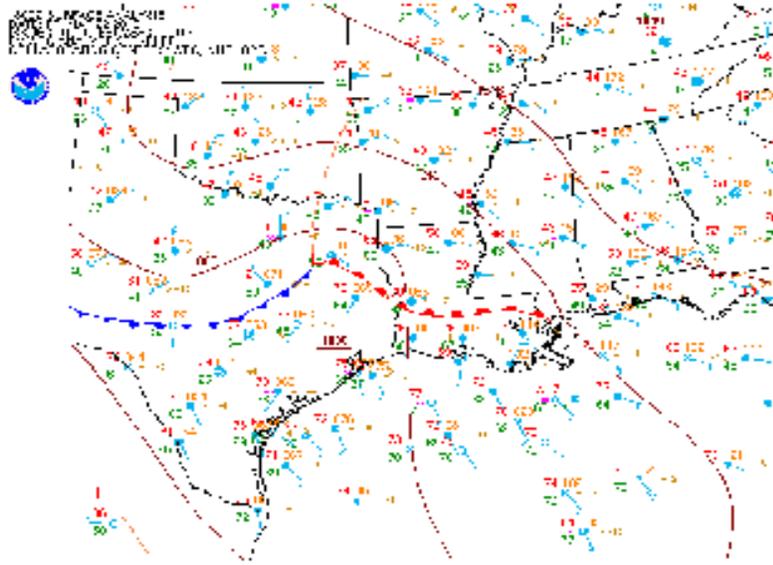


Mar 20: A weak, 'secondary' cold front generated mainly-light overrunning rains in the metro area on the morning of the 20th.

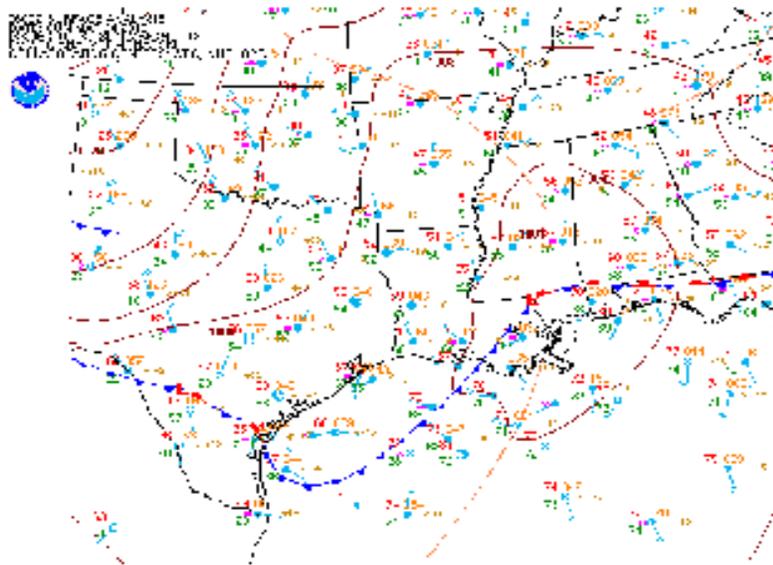
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Mar 21-22: A meandering, quasi-stationary front eventually retreated northward as a warm front, producing light rains over portions of the Baton Rouge metro area on the 22nd. The boundary lingered along the Gulf Coast states into March 24th, producing pockets of mainly-light showers.

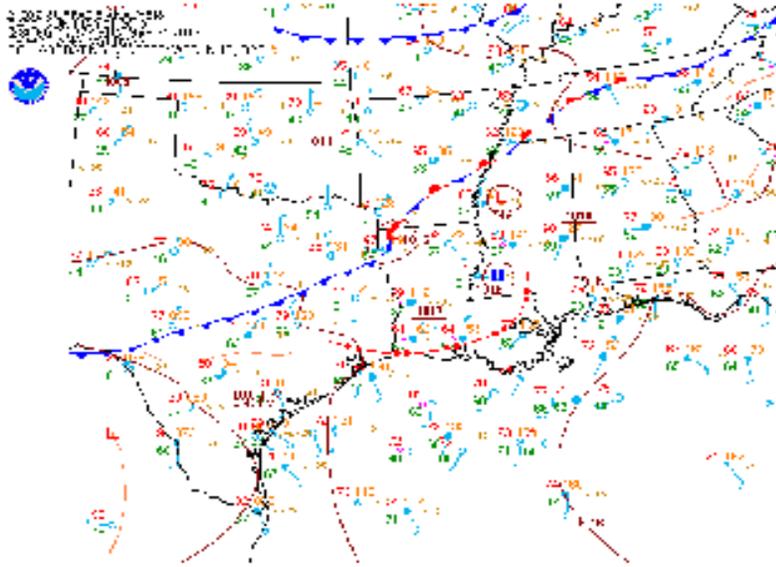


Mar 23-24: The frontal boundary that had lingered over the coastal states for several days finally moved off to the east late on the 23rd and early on the 24th. Temperatures dropped in response to arrival of a continental air mass behind the front.

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Mar 31: A squall line on the afternoon of March 31st, running ahead of an advancing cold front, produced the region's only severe weather during the month. Although no Warnings were issued for the greater metro area, the afternoon's Severe T-Storm Watch was "verified" by area reports of wind damage and small to medium-sized hail. Rain totals were typically in the 0.5" to 1.0" range for the event.

*Jay Grymes, LSU AgCenter Climatologist and WAFB Chief Meteorologist, provides the climatology portion of this report as a free service to DEQ and the citizens of Louisiana.