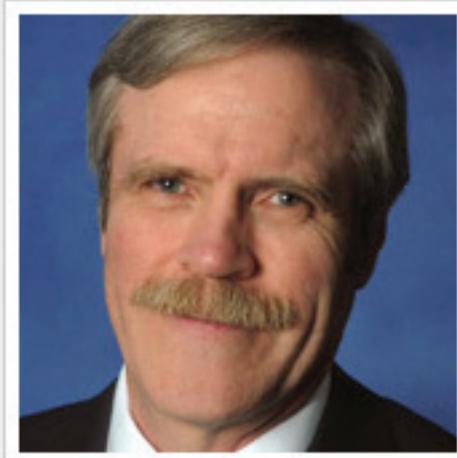


# The Alabama Climate Report

Brought to you by the Office of the Alabama Climatologist

Volume 7, Number 6, March 2017



Dr. John Christy, Alabama State Climatologist

March wasn't all that much to talk about. It was generally warmer and drier than normal, but there were few extremes.

Russellville and Fairhope recorded their warmest March days on record — 85.3° in Fairhope of March 22 and 85.9° on March 21 in Russellville.

The mid-month freeze was a real shock to all of the vegetation that budded and blossomed in the warm late winter weather — and to those of us who had put away our sweaters. Mobile dropped to 34° on both March 15 and 16, while on the 16th temperatures in Montgomery and Dothan dropped to 28°, 27° in Tuscaloosa, 26° in Birmingham, 25° in Troy, 22° in Anniston, 21° in Huntsville, Decatur and Albertville, 20° in Russellville, 19° in Cullman and 16° in Valley Head.

What is most interesting about March is that for most of the state it was part of the warmest (or nearly warmest) first three months in the year since at least 1948.

For Huntsville and Montgomery, the first three months were the warmest on record, while Mobile tied for its warmest start to the year. Birmingham saw its second warmest January-March. Huntsville, Mobile and Birmingham all averaged more than 6° warmer than normal for the first three months, while Montgomery's average temperature was 7.5° warmer than normal.

Mobile, Birmingham and Huntsville are each slightly behind on rainfall since Jan. 1, while Montgomery is 2.54 inches ahead of its normal rain for that period despite being almost two inches below normal in March.

The state tornado database maintained by the National Weather Service office in Birmingham reports no tornadoes in Alabama in March, although there were widespread reports of damaging winds and hail associated with thunderstorms.

But severe weather seems likely during the rest of April, which is Alabama's most tornado active month of the year. The litany of deadly Aprils is chilling: 1903, 19 killed by tornado; 1908, 35 killed; 1920, 92 fatalities; 1974 ... 1977 ... 1998 ... and, of course, April 27, 2011.

We've been harping and nagging about this for a bit, but it is worth repeating: If you haven't made your severe weather plans and preparations, do it now. Know where to go in case of tornado

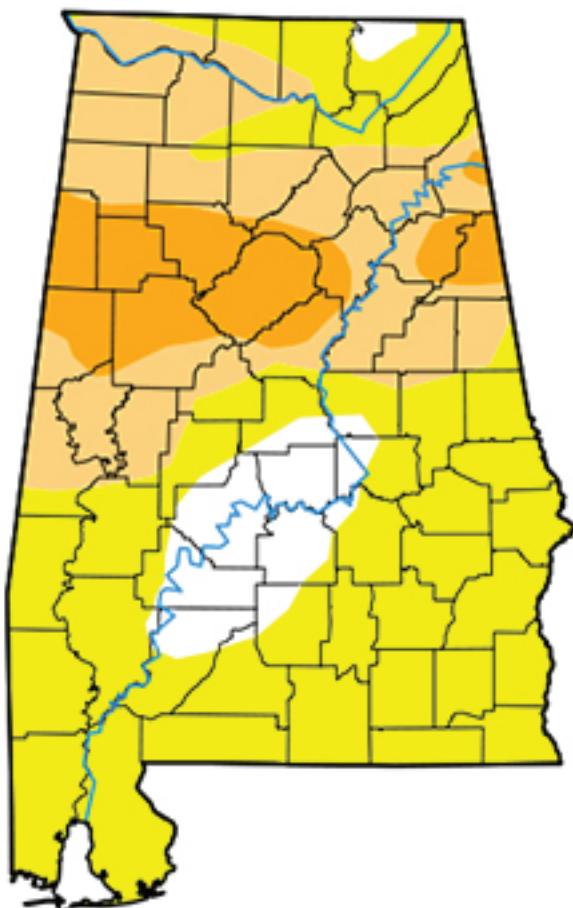
warning. Be alert and be prepared.

We are hosting scientists and students from across the U.S. for the next several weeks. They are here to help us study the unique traits of tornado-spawning storms in the southeast. But what they learn and pass on to the forecast community is less useful than it could be if the people out in our communities aren't prepared and don't know how to react in the event of severe weather.

Let's be safe out there.

- John Christy

## U.S. Drought Monitor Alabama



**March 28, 2017**

(Released Thursday, Mar. 30, 2017)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

### Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	9.36	90.64	37.68	12.14	0.00	0.00
Last Week 03-21-2017	29.04	70.96	41.07	21.89	1.65	0.00
3 Months Ago 12-27-2016	1.17	98.83	98.09	88.05	51.76	19.18
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2017	22.97	77.03	68.12	48.58	23.32	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-27-2016	17.15	82.85	47.12	17.94	6.36	0.00
One Year Ago 03-29-2016	98.08	1.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

### Intensity:

<span style="background-color: yellow; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span>	D0 Abnormally Dry	<span style="background-color: red; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span>	D3 Extreme Drought
<span style="background-color: lightorange; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span>	D1 Moderate Drought	<span style="background-color: darkred; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span>	D4 Exceptional Drought
<span style="background-color: orange; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span>	D2 Severe Drought		

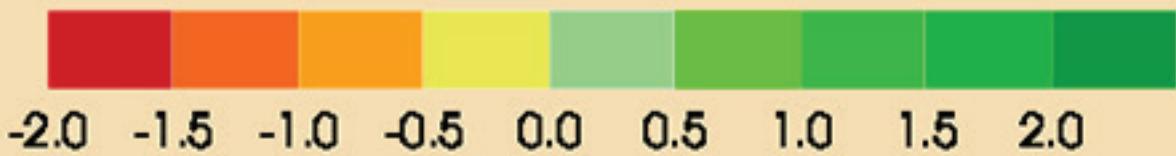
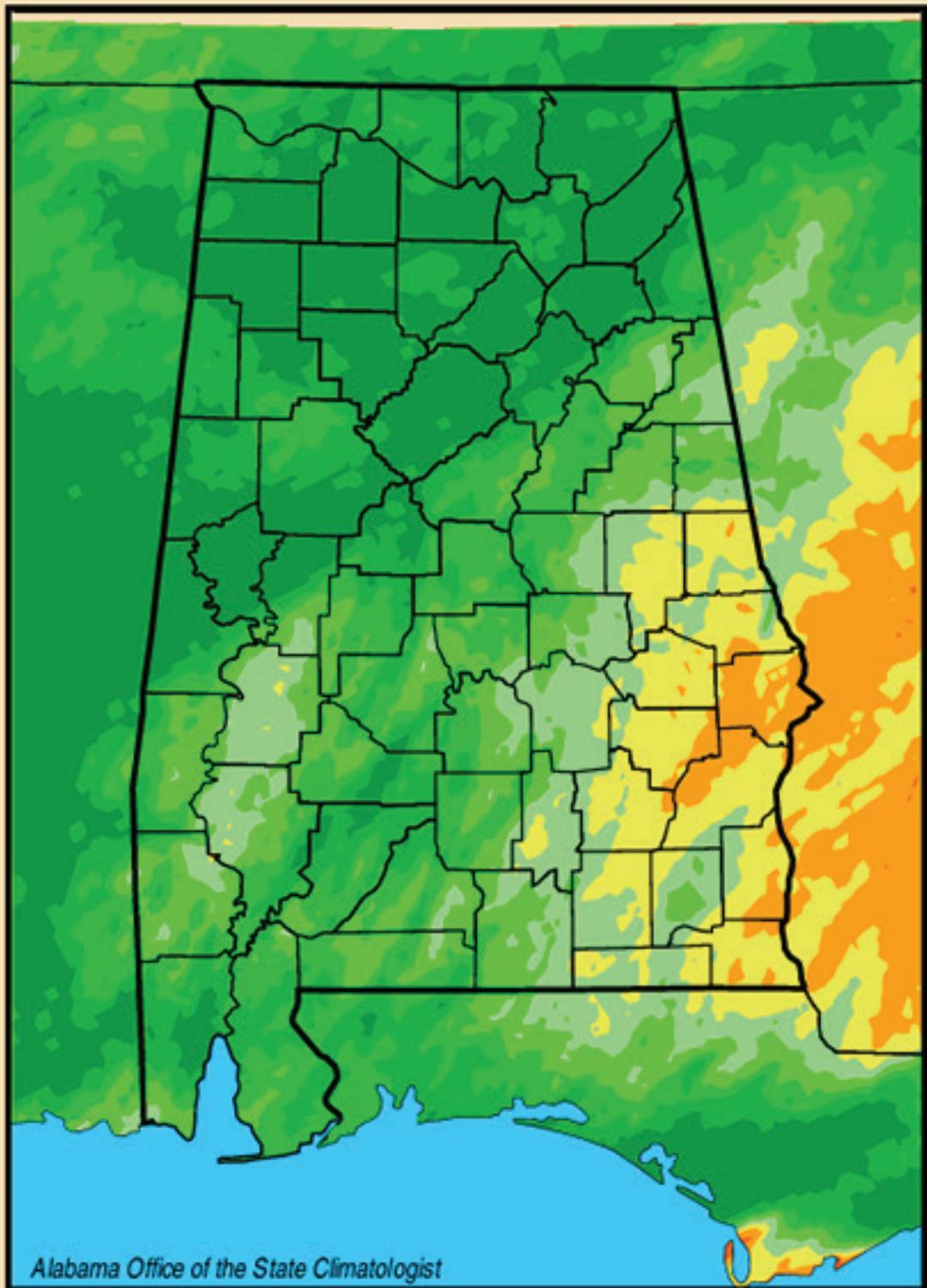
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

### Author:

Eric Luebehusen  
U.S. Department of Agriculture



## Lawn-and-Garden Moisture Index for April 4, 2017



## Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

March 2017

		Station Began	March Mean March Norm	March Hi Temp Record Hi	March Low Temp Record Low	Total Precip. Normal Prec.	Wettest March Driest March	Heaviest Day Record Day
Anniston	2/1903	55.6° 54.9°	86° 3/21/17 89°+ 3/9/74	22° 3/16/17 12° 3/14/93	3/16/17 3/4/43	2.97" 4.80" 1.38"	18.09" 1.38" 1977 1985	1.12" 7.96" 3/7/17 3/29/77
		57.1° 56.2°	84° 3/21/17 89° 3/27/1910	26° 3/16/17 13° 3/4/43	3/16/17 3/4/43	4.12" 5.27" 0.69"	17.47" 0.69" 1929 1918	0.54" 5.06" 3/7/17 3/23/44
Birmingham	1/1930	56.7° 54.5°	89° 3/21/17 89°+ 3/19/82	26° 3/16/17 2° 3/14/93	3/16/17 3/14/93	2.95" 4.21" 1.71"	15.80" 1.71" 1980 1985	1.33" 6.91" 3/7/17 3/19/70
		60.6° 57.6°	84.9° 3/22/17 91° 3/31/78	28.5° 3/16/17 10° 3/3/80	3/16/17 3/3/80	2.91" 5.67" 2.80"	15.82" 2.80" 1990 1985	1.45" 13.00" 3/25/17 3/15/29
Calera	9/1900	57.6° 54.2°	87° 3/21/17 88° 3/10/74	28° 3/16/17 9° 3/3/80	3/16/17 3/3/80	4.16" 5.32" 0.40"	18.86" 0.40" 1980 1918	1.65" 6.45" 3/7/17 3/29/51
		57.4° 54.5°	86.2° 3/21/17 93° 3/25/29	25.1° 3/16/17 10° 3/14/93	3/16/17 3/14/93	3.54" 5.48" 2.27"	15.88" 2.27" 1976 1985	1.31" 6.85" 3/7/17 3/4/79
Courtland		54.5° M	84.1° 3/21/17 M	21.8° 3/16/17 M	3/16/17 M	2.42" M M	M M	1.29" M 3/27/17 M
		54.1° M	83.8° 3/21/17 M	19.1° 3/16/17 M	3/16/17 M	3.54" M M	M M	1.22" M 3/10/17 M
Decatur	2/1880	54.0° 52.4°	83° 3/21/17 93° 3/22/1907	21° 3/16/17 4° 3/7/1899	3/16/17 3/7/1899	2.76" 4.88" 0.65"	11.45" 0.65" 1929 1910	0.90" 4.95" 3/27/17 3/23/29
		61.7° 59.3°	88° 3/22/17 89° 3/24/1904	28° 3/16/17 21° 03/04/43	3/16/17 03/04/43	5.11" 4.80" 0.42"	18.40" 0.42" 1929 1955	0.40" 9.00" 3/30/17 3/14/29
Fairhope	8/1917	62.0° 59.8°	*85.3° 3/22/17 85°+ 3/10/74	30.3° 3/16/17 21°+ 3/3/80	3/16/17 3/3/80	3.14" 5.47" 2.59"	11.60" 2.59" 1980 1981	0.86" 6.20" 3/7/17 3/16/90
		53.2° 52.2°	81° 3/21/17 88° 3/11/74	19.9° 3/16/17 11°+ 3/6/80	3/16/17 3/6/80	2.69" 4.91" 1.46"	17.41" 1.46" 1980 1986	1.46" 4.98" 3/25/17 3/4/79
Gainesville Lock	6/1948	58.7° 54.8°	87.3° 3/21/17 88°+ 3/13/67	28.9° 3/16/17 15° 3/3/80	3/16/17 3/3/80	3.84" 4.99" 1.57"	17.26" 1.57" 1976 1985	1.94" 5.12" 3/11/17 3/29/51
		58.9° 56.8°	85.4° 3/21/17 91° 3/23/95	28.4° 3/15/17 10° 3/14/93	3/15/17 3/14/93	3.94" 5.37" 2.37"	14.57" 2.37" 1976 1985	1.83" 7.30" 3/7/17 3/28/51
Highland Home	3/1892	59.8° 57.8°	83.5° 3/21/17 88° 3/12/55	28.4° 3/15/17 14° 3/3/80	3/15/17 3/3/80	4.68" 5.35" 2.92"	13.84" 2.92" 1973 1984	0.72" 8.13" 3/25/17 3/30/60
		55.5° 52.1°	85° 3/21/17 88° 3/31/63	21° 3/16/17 6° 3/3/80	3/16/17 3/3/80	2.47" 4.70" 1.12"	17.00" 1.12" 1980 2007	0.87" 5.24" 3/10/17 3/16/1973

## Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

March 2016

		Station Began	March Mean March Norm	March Hi Temp Record Hi	March Low Temp Record Lo	Total Precip. Normal Prec.	Wettest March Driest March		Heaviest Day Record Day
Mobile	3/1900	64.0° 59.7°	88° 3/22/17 89° 3/15/67	34° 3/15/17 21° 3/14/93	1.28" 5.10" 3.00"	13.46" 3.00" 3.00" 1981	1980 1981	1.27" 7.15" 7.15" 3/16/90	3/7/17
		60.4° 57.1°	88° 3/21/17 89°+ 3/22/95	28° 3/26/17 17° 3/14/93	3.53" 5.45" 1.75"	12.4" 1.75" 1.75" 1997	1990 1997	0.99" 7.89" 7.89" 3/16/90	3/7/17
Montgomery	6/1948	55.3° 52.2°	85° 3/21/17 86°+ 3/13/67	24° 3/16/17 10° 3/3/43	2.52" 4.46" 2.22"	14.25" 2.22" 2.22" 1985	1980 1985	1.34" 4.80" 4.80" 3/27/94	3/27/17
		54.3° 49.1°	*85.9° 3/21/17 84°+ 3/24/95	20.3° 3/16/17 5°+ 3/4/80	2.63" 4.81" 2.14"	15.75" 2.14" 2.14" 2000	1973 2000	2.38" 8.40" 8.40" 3/16/73	3/27/17
Muscle Shoals	12/1940	53.4° 51.5°	84.1° 3/21/17 90° 3/25/29	19.0° 3/16/17 8° 3/14/93	3.62" 5.22" 2.28"	16.48" 2.28" 2.28" 1982	1980 1982	1.43" 4.88" 4.88" 3/16/73	3/27/17
		58.8° 58.5°	84.7° 3/21/17 90° 3/25/36	27.5° 3/16/17 18° 3/4/80	3.30" 4.87" 1.07"	14.06" 1.07" 1.07" 1985	1973 1985	2.40" 9.75" 9.75" 3/16/90	3/31/17
Russellville	9/1953	56.4° 54.8°	85.9° 3/21/17 88°+ 3/24/95	20.8° 3/16/17 6° 3/14/93	3.29" 5.11" 1.18"	18.24" 1.18" 1.18" 1985	1976 1985	1.68" 7.81" 7.81" 3/30/77	3/25/17
		60.0° 57.6°	86.6° 3/21/17 89°+ 3/20/80	27.4° 3/16/17 14° 3/3/80	3.00" 5.25" 5.25"	15.35" 1.62" 1.62" 1978	1976 1978	1.15" 11.10" 11.10" 3/12/35	3/7/17
Selma	1/1895	58.0° 58.0°	86° 3/21/17 89° 3/12/55	25° 3/16/17 13° 3/3/80	5.19" 4.83" 1.81"	13.75" 1.81" 1.81" 1982	1990 1982	0.74" 8.56" 8.56" 3/17/90	3/25/17
		57.2° 55.4°	88° 3/21/17 90° 3/23/95	27° 3/16/17 12° 3/14/93	4.01" 5.07" 1.12"	19.99" 1.12" 1.12" 1986	1976 1986	1.38" 6.08" 6.08" 3/13/75	3/7/17
Talladega	2/1888	51.7° 49.6°	81.3° 3/21/17 84°+ 3/20/82	16.4° 3/16/17 2° 3/3/80	4.28" 5.62" 1.91"	15.87" 1.91" 1.91" 1985	1980 1985	1.81" 4.87" 4.87" 3/4/79	3/27/17
		57.53° / 55.24° /	89° Birmingham 93° 2 stations	16.4° Valley Head 2° 2 stations	4.12" 6.50" 0.40"	19.99" Tuscaloosa 0.40" Calera	Tuscaloosa Calera	2.40" Selma 13.0" Brewton	

M: Data is missing or not available

"New Record

#This data is missing this month due to an instrument malfunction

<sup>a</sup> This record differs from long-term data in the AOSC climate database:  
[http://nssic.uah.edu/alcimate/climate/daily\\_climate\\_and\\_normals.php](http://nssic.uah.edu/alcimate/climate/daily_climate_and_normals.php)

# New Local Climate Records<sup>1</sup>

March 2017

## Maximum High Temperature, Daily

## Minimum Low Temperature, Daily

	New Record	Previous Hottest Day	Previous Record	Period of Record		New Record	Previous Coldest Day	Previous Record	Period of Record
<b>01 March 2017</b>									
DAUPHIN ISLAND No 2	75	2011-03-01	73	41	15 March 2017	FT BENNING LAWSON FD.....26	2013-03-15	31	68
ENTERPRISE 2 W	80	2011-03-01	79	51		MOBILE D'TOWN AIRPORT....37	1958-03-15	38	68
MONTGOMERY AIRPORT	85	1997-03-01	82	69	<b>16 March 2017</b>	ANNISTON METRO AIRPORT..22	1949-03-16	23	114
ROCK MILLS	79	1951-03-01	77	75		BESSEMER 3 WSW.....25	1992-03-16	27	40
<b>02 March 2017</b>									
CHATOM	84	2000-03-02	83	67		ENTERPRISE 2 W.....29	1988-03-16	30	51
DAUPHIN ISLAND No 2	78	2000-03-02	73	41		FT BENNING LAWSON FD.....22	1949-03-16	29	68
FT BENNING LAWSON FD	84	1970-03-02	81	68		GADSDEN.....22	1970-03-16	23	64
JACKSON	84	2011-03-02	80	33		HUNTSVILLE INTL AIRPORT ..21	1970-03-16	22	58
VERNON	81	1976-03-02	80	60		MOBILE D'TOWN AIRPORT....35	1954-03-16	36	68
<b>04 March 2017</b>									
EUFALUA WILDLIFE REF	85	1997-03-04	84	50		OPELIKA.....21	1988-03-16	22	60
<b>05 March 2017</b>									
EUFALUA WILDLIFE REF	86	1976-03-05	84	50		ROCK MILLS.....19	1970-03-16	20	75
<b>06 March 2017</b>									
EUFALUA WILDLIFE REF	87	1976-03-06	85	50		SYLACAUGA 4 NE.....18	1988-03-16	20	62
<b>07 March 2017</b>									
EUFALUA WILDLIFE REF	84	2016-03-07	82	50		TALLADEGA.....20	1992-03-16	22	123
<b>08 March 2017</b>						<b>17 March 2017</b>			
DAUPHIN ISLAND No 2	77	2004-03-08	76	41		ATMORE.....31	1988-03-17	0	77
<b>10 March 2017</b>							BELLE MINA.....21		
MOBILE DT AIRPORT	81	1997-03-10	80	68			1988-03-17	25	67
<b>13 March 2017</b>							BREWTON 3 ENE.....24		
DAUPHIN ISLAND No 2	77	1976-03-13	76	41			1988-03-17	25	40
<b>29 March 2017</b>							CLAYTON.....27		
BANKHEAD LOCK & DAM	84	2007-03-29	83	60			1999-03-17	29	61
DAUPHIN ISLAND No 2	81	1985-03-29	77	41			FAIRHOPE 2 NE.....30		
<b>30 March 2017</b>							1950-03-17	33	99
DAUPHIN ISLAND No 2	80	2007-03-30	77	41			FT BENNING LAWSON FD.....22		
<b>31 March 2017</b>							1967-03-17	31	68
ATMORE	87	1946-03-31	85	77			GENEVA NUMBER 2.....28		
MOBILE DT AIRPORT	84	2015-03-31	83	68			1993-03-17	29	41

## Precipitation, Daily

## 12 March 2017

	New Record	Previous Year	Previous Record	Period of Record					
<b>01 March 2017</b>									
ADDISON	1.63"	2011-03-01	0.34	79	ALICEVILLE LAND D	1.27"	2013-03-12	1.11	37
HAMILTON 3 S	1.59"	2012-03-01	0.92	55	GAINESVILLE LOCK	2.10"	1977-03-12	1.64	69
<b>07 March 2017</b>									
RUSSELLVILLE No 2	2.00"	1967-03-07	0.72	63	WARRIOR LOCK & DAM	1.67"	1977-03-12	1.58	59
TUSCALOOSA MUNI ARPT	1.38"	1978-03-07	1.30	69	WEST BLOCTON	1.40"	1953-03-12	1.12	77
<b>08 March 2017</b>									
ALICEVILLE LAND D	2.01"	1995-03-08	1.31	37	RUSSELLVILLE No 2	3.00"	1986-03-13	2.17	63
HOLT LOCK AND DAM	1.72"	2005-03-08	1.33	36	<b>30 March 2017</b>				
						MOBILE D'TOWN AIRPORT 0.76"			
							1999-03-30	0.65	68

<sup>1</sup> [ncdc.noaa.gov/cdo-web/datatools/records](http://ncdc.noaa.gov/cdo-web/datatools/records)

**Alabama State Climatologist**

**John R. Christy**

Alabama State Climatologist

The University of Alabama

in Huntsville

[christy@nsstc.uah.edu](mailto:christy@nsstc.uah.edu)

256-961-7763

**Contact:**

**Phillip Gentry**

UAHuntsville Communications

The University of Alabama in Huntsville

[gentry@nsstc.uah.edu](mailto:gentry@nsstc.uah.edu)

256.961.7618

**Bob Clymer**

Assistant State Climatologist

The University of Alabama in Huntsville

[bob.clymer@nsstc.uah.edu](mailto:bob.clymer@nsstc.uah.edu)

256-961-7771