



Daniel Smiley Research Center  
MOHONK PRESERVE  
Mohonk Lake, New Paltz, NY 12561

Natural Science Note No. 604-08

**Weather: December 2008**

From records of the Mohonk Lake Cooperative Weather Station  
Established January, 1896

	<b>112-year average 1896-2007</b>	<b>Actual This Year</b>	<b>Deviation from Average</b>
<b>Temperature (°F)</b>	28.7	30.1	+1.4
<b>Precipitation (in.)</b>	3.84	8.21	+4.37
<b>Snow (in.)</b>	11.4	17.9	+6.5

Highest temperature: 56°F on the 28<sup>th</sup>

Lowest temperature: 4°F on the 22<sup>nd</sup>

Fog: 12 days (1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>)

Ice Pellets:

Glaze: 4 days (11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>)

Thunder:

Damaging Wind:

Misting: 3 days (1<sup>st</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>)

Rime: 4 days (11<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>)

Haze: 6 days (4<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>)

Lake Ice: 10% on the 6<sup>th</sup>, decreased to <1% on the 7<sup>th</sup>, increased to 80% on the 9<sup>th</sup>, and decreased to 0% on the 10<sup>th</sup>. 1% on the 17<sup>th</sup>, **Ice Over on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10 days earlier than the 70 year average.** <1% off on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 100% on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

Snow on Ground: Trace on the 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. 1 in. on the 17<sup>th</sup> increased to 12 in. on the 21<sup>st</sup>, decreased to 1 in. on the 29<sup>th</sup>, and increased to 4 in. on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

Precipitation pH: 4.71 (n=11)

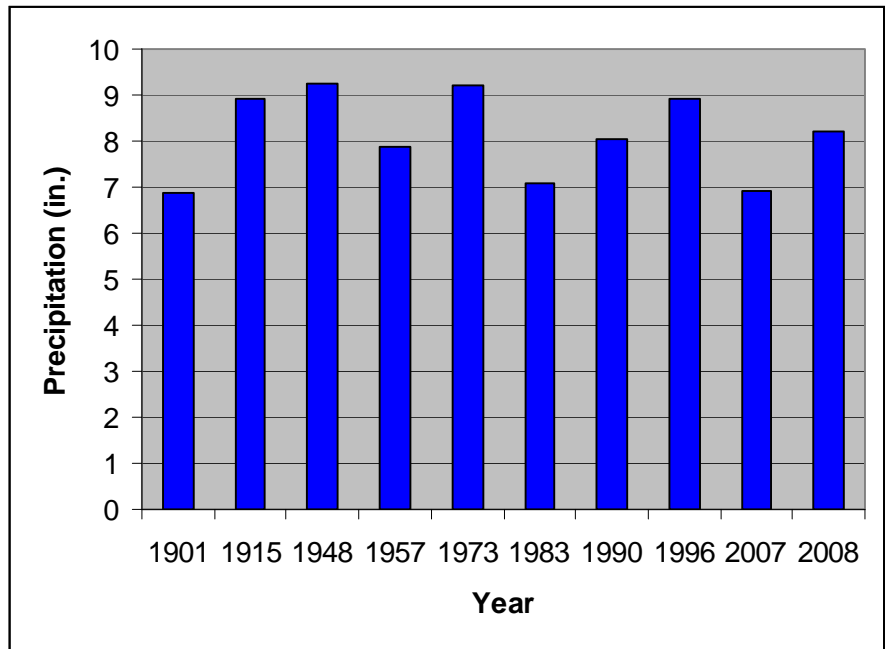
**Summary**

Temperature for the month was 1.4°F above the 112 year average. The highest maximum daily temperature reading on the 16<sup>th</sup> was set at 54°F (surpassing the previous high of 53°F in 1982 and 1987) and a daily maximum temperature reading was tied on the 28<sup>th</sup> (56°F ties the record set in 1949). Precipitation for the month was 8.21 in., 114% above normal, ranking this the **5<sup>th</sup> wettest December** on record (see table and graph on Page 2). The highest amount of precipitation recorded on a December 19<sup>th</sup> occurred this month, 2.89 in. Monthly snowfall was 17.9 in., 57% above normal. A notable ice storm occurred on the 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, producing 5/8 in. of glaze and much tree damage above 900 ft. elevation.

Paul C. Huth, Director of Research  
John E. Thompson, Natural Resources Specialist

## Highest Monthly Rainfall: December

Year	Precipitation (in.)	Rank
1948	9.23	1
1973	9.22	2
1996	8.92	3
1915	8.90	4
<b>2008</b>	<b>8.21</b>	<b>5</b>
1990	8.05	6
1957	7.88	7
1983	7.07	8
2007	6.91	9
1901	6.88	10



# MOHONK LAKE COOPERATIVE WEATHER STATION

## Summary for December 2008

Compiled by the MOHONK PRESERVE, Mohonk Lake, New Paltz, NY 12561

	Months	112-year Average (1896-2007)	Actual this Year	Deviation from Average
<b>Temperature (°F)</b>				
<b>Month</b>		28.7	30.1	+1.4
<b>Season</b>	Jan-Dec	48.3	50.0	+1.7
<b>Precipitation (in.)</b>				
<b>Month</b>		3.84	8.21	+4.37
<b>Season</b>	Jan-Dec	47.74	60.12	+12.38
<b>Snow</b>				
<b>Month</b>		11.4	17.9	+6.5
<b>Season</b>	Nov-Dec	14.7	18.2	+3.5

Highest temperature: 56°F on the 28<sup>th</sup>

Lowest temperature: 4°F on the 22<sup>nd</sup>

This month last year:

Temperature 29.1°F

Precipitation 6.91 in. (8<sup>th</sup> wettest)

Snow 21.6 in.