IndependentMail.com
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Printer-friendly story
Read more at independentmail.com

Mild winter continues after brief cold snap

By Jennifer Crossley Howard howardjc@independentmail.com 864-260-1248

Monday, February 20, 2012

Old Man Winter seems to be getting soft in his old age. There are only four more official weeks left until spring, and this week's forecast has only two freezing nights.

Snow did fall on Grandfather Mountain north of Asheville, N.C., on Sunday, but highs topped 49 degrees on a rainy day around Anderson.

Gray skies will give way to sun and a high of 54 degrees on Monday in Anderson. Monday night is forecast to hit a low of 33 degrees, but temperatures will warm to the upper 60s Wednesday and Thursday. Only Sunday night and next Saturday were to drop to a freezing 32 degrees.

The La Nina weather pattern controls winter weather, said Doug Outlaw, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service, and that along with a low-pressure wedge from the Gulf of Mexico brought recent rain.

Such patterns indicate a low chance of consistency for the remainder of the season, Outlaw said.

"Winter probably won't catch up," he said.

Anderson received two-thirds of an inch of rain in the past week, Outlaw said.

Still, lake levels are struggling to sustain themselves.

Hartwell Lake stood 652 feet above sea level Sunday, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, losing .17 of an inch over the past week. Meanwhile, lakes Jocasee and Keowee did not see significant change in their levels since last Monday. Jocassee stayed 21 feet below full pool level while Keowee remained 5 feet below full pool.

Clouds move in Tuesday, but the morning should be mostly clear. Highs climb to 58 degrees during the day and drop only to 44 Tuesday night.

By Wednesday a slight chance of rain returns, and clouds are forecast until Thursday, which is mostly sunny. Highs reach the mid to upper 60s through Friday. The weekend will be mostly sunny with highs in the upper 50s.



© 2012 Scripps Newspaper Group — Online