



Georgia CoCoRaHS Newsletter Volume 1 Number 1

Friday, June 13th, 2008

Welcome!

Hopefully each of you have received a welcome letter from your regional coordinator, and perhaps your county coordinator if there is one. If not, I apologize – we're still working out some kinks here. Let me know and I'll make sure we properly welcome anyone who may have slipped through the cracks.

A great start

As of this morning, we have 256 observers signed up, representing 89 of Georgia's 159 counties – very exciting. Best of all, 155 of those observers have made at least one report since June 1st. It looks like about 60 people have signed up but never made a report, though, so I hope you'll be able to get up and running soon.

Tuesday, June 17th – let's make it a record day!

Of course, we always encourage everyone to submit rain reports daily, even if it is just a zero – those are valuable too. But CoCoRaHS National Director Nolan Doesken has asked that everyone make a special effort to send in a report on Tuesday, June 17th, so we can set a nationwide record of more than 6000 daily reports.

County coordinators

Out of the 86 counties, only 11 have county coordinators so far – Cobb, Columbia, Franklin, Gwinnett, Habersham, Lowndes, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Paulding, Richmond and Walton. If your county doesn't have a coordinator yet, would you consider volunteering? The main responsibilities of a county coordinator are to serve as a point of contact for volunteers in their county, and to help recruit more volunteers. You don't need any special expertise, or even much experience with CoCoRaHS – several of our county coordinators volunteered right out of the starting gate. If you'd like more information, please visit this page:

http://www.cocorahs.org/Media/docs/CoCoRaHs_LocalCoordinatorDescription2006.pdf

What about training?

The observer training presentation is available on the CoCoRaHS home page (the “Training Slide Show” link at the right side of the page, near the top). You can skip all the snow stuff for now if you’d like. The key points are on slides 13-30, 36-48 and 88-110. Unfortunately, budgets and personnel shortages make it hard for us to visit every county for training, but we could begin holding periodic conference calls where someone will go through the training presentation. Let me know if you’re interested.

Where do I get a rain gauge?

CoCoRaHS observers use a standard clear plastic 4” diameter rain gauge. There are a couple of vendors who sell them to CoCoRaHS observers at a very good discount:

<http://www.weatheryourway.com/cocorahs/store.html>

<http://www.ambientweather.com/strgloteprra.html>

Unfortunately, we can’t supply everyone with a free gauge. In the future, it would be great if we could get sponsors who would, say, provide rebates or incentives of some sort as a reward for making a certain number of reports.

Fast facts

Top 10 highest 24-hour rainfall reports for Georgia so far:

3/5/2008	Dillard 3.5 NE (Rabun Co)	3.67 inches
5/11/2008	Baxley 10.0 SE (Appling Co)	3.21 inches
2/23/2008	Hahira 3.6 SE (Lowndes Co)	3.12 inches
5/11/2008	Hazlehurst 1.8 N (Jeff Davis Co)	3.00 inches
5/11/2008	Tiger 1.7 S (Rabun Co)	3.00 inches
4/28/2008	Lindale 3.0 S (Floyd Co)	2.86 inches
2/18/2008	Hahira 3.6 SE (Lowndes Co)	2.62 inches
4/28/2008	Silver Creek 0.6 SE (Floyd Co)	2.60 inches
3/30/2008	Sharpsburg 6.0 N (Coweta Co)	2.59 inches
5/24/2008	Waycross 6.3 ESE (Ware Co)	2.50 inches

Thanks to all of you, and keep up the good work!

Chris McGehee, State Coordinator for Georgia