

Messages of the Day
May 2013

Friday, May 3, 2013

**The American Meteorological Society's (AMS) Associate Membership . . .
a great opportunity for you!**

As we mentioned before, CoCoRaHS tries to make our observers aware of great meteorological organizations out there. Here is a chance to become involved with some would say is the "grand-daddy" of them all -- the American Meteorological Society (AMS).

The American Meteorological Society, founded in 1919, is the largest U.S. membership organization devoted to advancing the atmospheric and related sciences. More than 14,000 members worldwide are currently enjoying the substantial benefits associated with AMS membership.

What can AMS membership offer YOU? How about:

A complimentary subscription to the Bulletin of the AMS (BAMS)! BAMS, the flagship AMS publication, contains news on Society activities and programs, interdisciplinary peer-reviewed articles, membership news, conference information and summaries, book reviews, and more. Best of all, members now have exclusive cover-to-cover ONLINE access to each issue! Visit the [Bulletin of the AMS](#) to view a sample issue and to learn more.

A great price on Weatherwise magazine!
By agreement with Taylor and Francis Group, the publishers of Weatherwise, AMS members can subscribe to this exciting magazine for just \$24.95, that's more than 50% off the list price! Written for a general audience, Weatherwise offers a non-technical look at the latest discoveries in meteorology and climatology. Check out the [Weatherwise Web site](#) to view the latest table of contents.

Great benefits for weather enthusiasts!
AMS's Associate Member benefits package includes a subscription to either BAMS or Weatherwise, substantial discounts on journal subscriptions and meeting registration fees, access to information for members only, and much more. Annual dues are just \$63 per year. Learn more about the benefits of [Associate Membership](#).

We invite you to give AMS membership a try. The Associate Member category is open to any person regardless of educational or professional background and is an excellent way for weather enthusiasts to become involved with the Society. The full Member category is intended for persons having demonstrable professional or scholarly expertise in the atmospheric or related sciences, technologies, applications, or services. Full Members enjoy full voting privileges and the highest member discount on journal subscriptions and meeting registration rates.

To apply for membership, simply visit the [AMS Membership Web Site](#) to complete an application online or to download an application that you can fill out and return by fax or by mail. We hope that once you consider all that the AMS has to offer, you'll complete an application today!

If you have any questions regarding membership or the application process, please feel free to contact the AMS Member Services department at amsmem@ametsoc.org

Friday, May 10, 2013

Join the USA National Phenology Network! Document how plants and animals respond to local weather conditions using Nature's Notebook

The USA National Phenology Network is offering CoCoRaHS participants a chance to enhance their observations by also reporting on what plants or animals are doing!

Plants and animals respond strongly to environmental conditions. Trees are cued by warming spring temperatures to begin leafing out. A combination of temperature and soil moisture conditions influence when they flower and produce fruits and seeds. Similarly, birds and insects migrate and complete their life cycles based on temperature and sun angle cues. The timing of these seasonal life cycle events is termed phenology.

Because plants and animal life cycle events are so closely tied to weather conditions, they are being affected by climate change. In many parts of the country, trees and plants are leafing out and flowering earlier than in previous decades. Though the longer growing season can be beneficial in some respects, there are risks and drawbacks as well. For example, early leaf-out comes with a higher risk of plant damage due to late frosts. Spring 2012 was a good example of the widespread damage that can occur from a very early spring - fruit and vegetable crops were decimated in much of the Midwest.

NPN welcomes you to help them better document how plants and animals are responding to local weather conditions. Your observations of plant or animal phenology collected via Nature's Notebook are made available publicly and are regularly used by researchers and decision makers. *Phenology observations made at the same locations that weather observations are collected are especially valuable!*

Learn more! NPN invites you to join one of their spring campaigns "<http://www.usanpn.org/Spring2013Campaigns>". They are especially interested in collecting observations for these species. However, you are welcome to collect and submit observations on any of the 900 species of plants and animals for which protocols are available "<http://www.usanpn.org/participate/observe>".

Questions? Contact Theresa Crimmins, USA National Phenology Network's Partnerships & Outreach Coordinator at: theresa@usanpn.org

Saturday, May 11, 2013

"Few April showers, thus no May flowers . . . Is drought lurking about in your community? Let us know!"

A dry spring so far in your region? You're not alone. A good deal of the country west of the Mississippi has been rather dry. Stretches from the southern Great Plains through Central New Mexico and South Texas have been experiencing exceptional drought. Many of you are experiencing this dryness firsthand and we'd love to hear how drought is impacting your community. Drought can impact us in many ways. Effects may be associated with agriculture, energy, public health, wildfire and recreation, just to name a few.

Please take a look around your community this week and think about how drought might be impacting it. Then, as a big favor to CoCoRaHS and the National Drought Mitigation Center, file a "[CoCoRaHS Drought Impact Report](#)". It should only take a minute or two. Report what you can, don't let the "monetary impacts" part scare you away. That part is highly desirable, but if you don't know a dollar amount, feel free to skip that part.

Your reports go directly to the National Drought Mitigation Center ([NDMC](#)) and they provide critical information on how drought is impacting the nation. Just like your precipitation reports, drought impact reports help fill in the gaps by providing important "eyewitness information" for your geographic area.

When you have some spare time, please re-visit our "[Drought Impacts Reporting Resource Page](#)" to get re-acquainted with drought impacts. In addition there is a short slideshow that everyone can benefit from reviewing.

Tuesday, May 14, 2013

Weatherwise Magazine's 2013 Photo Contest and Discount Subscription Rate for CoCoRaHS Members

"Some people are weatherwise, but most are otherwise" -- Ben Franklin

Weatherwise Magazine is an exciting bi-monthly magazine that provides the weather enthusiast with fascinating articles regarding all aspects of weather and climate. With our full endorsement, CoCoRaHS regards this magazine as one "which everyone interested in weather would benefit from having on their coffee table". Thanks to a special arrangement CoCoRaHS volunteers can subscribe to the magazine at a 27% discount: [CoCoRaHS discount](#).

Now thru June 3rd, Weatherwise Magazine is accepting submissions for its "2013 Photo Contest". There are great prizes awaiting the winners. This annual event provides an opportunity for you to share your potential prize winning photos with a nationwide audience. Click here to find out more about the magazine and photo contest: [Photo Contest](#).

Check it out today, you'll be glad you did!

Friday, May 17, 2013

Weather in Space?

Although outer space has none of the ingredients we usually think of for weather (moisture and temperatures to sustain life), it can still be a stormy place. The source of the storminess is our sun. The sun, like all active stars, is constantly in motion and often produces eruptions of gas and high energy particles into space (sort of like solar burps).

Although solar particles continuously bombard the earth, during a solar eruption the "storm" of particles can be particularly intense. These storms can disrupt communication satellites and power grids on the ground. NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center monitors and forecasts solar activity so that the effects of solar storms can be mitigated.

To learn more about space weather, check out: [SPACE WEATHER](#).

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

The PRISM-CoCoRaHS Climate Portal!

The PRISM-CoCoRaHS Climate Portal. What is that you might ask? The PRISM portal is a CoCoRaHS data analysis tool developed in collaboration with the PRISM Climate Group at Oregon State University. This is an exclusive feature available only to CoCoRaHS participants. It helps connect our daily precipitation measurements (weather) to seasonal patterns, long term averages and year to year precipitation variations (climate). This portal provides access to estimates of "normal" precipitation for any location in the contiguous United States. PRISM also provides estimates of total precipitation for each month and year since 1895. View the ["PRISM Portal Reference page"](#)

You can access the portal by going to the CoCoRaHS home page and clicking on "My Account" at the top of the page. From there you have two choices. One is to select the PRISM Portal section and click on on the "blue" words PRISM PORTAL to get access to the Continental United States or under the My Station heading click on the "blue" words PRISM DATA to get access to your specific station's PRISM estimates.

Once there you'll be able to find the estimated precipitation for any location in the continental United States or create a historical time series for monthly and annual precipitation.

We recommend watching the PRISM Portal Guide YouTube instructional video on how to use the portal by clicking here: ["PRISM PORTAL VIDEO"](#)

Please enjoy and use this great feature to explore the climate of the U.S.

Thursday, May 23, 2013

"Field Photo Weekend" May 25, 26, 27 . . . Please take a photo this weekend!

Do you have a camera? Would you be willing to take a few quick photos this weekend to help a national project that will be looking at how drought or lack of drought (all that snow that may have fallen in your community over the past week) has affected the landscape of our local communities? On May 25th, 26th and 27th you can help by participating in our third "Field Photo Weekend".

Hundreds of folks participated during our second "Field Photo Weekend" over President's Day weekend last February. We thank you if you were able to take part. Many of our landscapes now look significantly different from that weekend. Thus it's time to dust off your camera and try it again . . . or give it a try for the first time.

Here's all you have to do. Take your camera, find a landscape in your community (streams, lakes, rivers, reservoirs, a tree, a field, etc) and take a single photo or a panorama in four different directions (N, E, S, W) from where you are standing. After that email your photos with your location to: fieldphotos@southernclimate.org. That's it. For detailed instructions click here ["FIELD PHOTO WEEKENDS"](#)

Field Photo Weekend is a partnership between CoCoRaHS, the Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program (SCIPP) and the Earth Observation and Modeling Facility (EOMF) to help ground truth through

photos, what is going on with our landscapes throughout the country. It's not just drought we are looking for either, it could be flooding, or whatever state the landscape is now in. There is the possibility that we may hold additional "Field Photo Weekends" during the year to show how conditions to your landscape may have changed over time. This should be fun!

In a few weeks this weekend's photos will be posted and you'll be able to see your photos and those taken by other volunteers. Reference "Viewing Photos" on the ["FIELD PHOTO WEEKENDS"](#) page to see how to view the photos.

Remember you don't have to email your photos this weekend, just take them, but we do encourage you to email them soon afterward. That address again is: fieldphotos@southernclimate.org. When uploading your photos please include the words **#CoCoRaHSMay13** in the notes field.

Just think if all 19,000+ CoCoRaHS volunteers take photos! Wow!!

Thanks in advance for participating and have a great Memorial Day weekend!

Tuesday, May 28, 2013

"Field Photo Weekend" was a great success . . . Remember to email your photos in!

Thanks to all of you who took the time to take a few quick photos this past weekend. Your efforts helped our third collaborative "Field Photo Weekend" take a look how drought or lack of drought has affected the landscape of our local communities.

Field Photo Weekend is a partnership between CoCoRaHS, the Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program (SCIPP) and the Earth Observation and Modeling Facility (EOMF) to help ground truth through photos, what is going on with our landscapes throughout the country.

In a few weeks this past weekend's photos will be posted and you'll be able to see your photos and those taken by other volunteers. Reference "Viewing Photos" on the ["FIELD PHOTO WEEKENDS"](#) page to see how to view the photos.

Please don't forget to email your photos of this past "Field Photos Weekend" to: fieldphotos@southernclimate.org. When uploading your photos please include the words **#CoCoRaHSMay13** in the notes field.

Thanks again for participating!

This is National Hurricane Preparedness Week! May 26 - June 1, 2013

History teaches that a lack of hurricane awareness and preparation are common threads among all major hurricane disasters. By knowing your vulnerability and what actions you should take, you can reduce the effects of a hurricane disaster.

The goal of this Hurricane Preparedness Web site is to inform the public about the hurricane hazards and provide knowledge which can be used to take ACTION. This information can be used to save lives at work, home, while on the road, or on the water.

To find out more visit: [National Hurricane Preparedness Week](#)

Thursday, May 30, 2013

CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar for June 2013: "Monitoring the Earth's Climate"

Monitoring the earth's climate will be the focus of our next "[WxTalk Webinar](#)" on June 13th. "*Monitoring the Earth's Climate*" will be presented by Deke Arndt of NOAA's National Climatic Data Center.

Space is limited to the first 500 registrants, so register today! We will notify the first 500 who register of their acceptance to the Webinar. Those who aren't able to attend will be able to watch this episode on-line the following day.

REGISTRATION INFO

Title: Webinar #19 - CoCoRaHS WxTalk: "Monitoring the Earth's Climate"

Date: Thursday, June 13, 2013

Time: 1:00 PM Eastern, Noon Central, 11:00 AM Mountain, 10:00 AM Pacific

Monitoring the Earth's climate involves taking today's observations and comparing them with decades to centuries of past observations, and drawing conclusions from these comparisons. At NOAA's National Climatic Data Center, Climate Monitoring is an activity that involves detecting climate change, and designing the indicators that help us do so. But it also involves tracking the week-to-week and month-to-month conditions that more directly impact our lives: drought, heat spells, wet spells in the United States and beyond. This presentation is designed to help CoCoRaHS observers understand about major climate monitoring efforts going on in NOAA, and how their data fits in! We will review the do's and don't's of climate monitoring, and how datasets are used in the process. We'll also look into recent trends and findings about the state of our climate system and how these may or may not relate to climate change."

Reserve your seat now by registering here: [EARTH'S CLIMATE](#)

Our July CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar: "*Rainwater Harvesting - Catching and Using It*" by Billy Kniffen, Vice President and Education Coordinator for the American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association (ARCSA) will take place on July 25th. Stay tuned for an upcoming announcement on how to register.