

Messages of the Day
May 2014

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Download a "CoCoRaHS Brochure" . . . in English or Spanish!

This week, download a CoCoRaHS brochure and give one to a friend or family member who might be interested in weather. Anyone can download it from his or her home as a pdf file. The brochure is an easy and concise way to share CoCoRaHS with others.

To download the brochure in English click here: [CoCoRaHS Brochure in English](#)

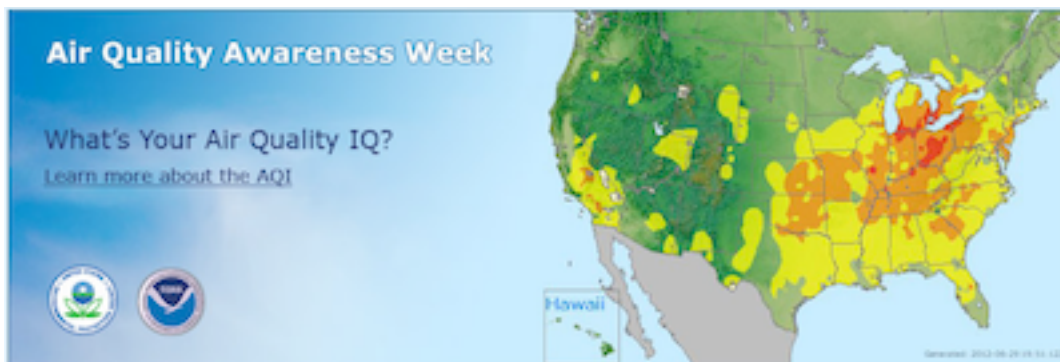
To download the brochure in Spanish click here: [CoCoRaHS Brochure in Spanish](#)

Your help in recruiting new volunteers helps bolster our network while filling in the precipitation reporting gaps across the country. It's a fun way to get your friends involved in "citizen science" as well. Thanks for passing the word along!

“BE AIR AWARE”

Air Quality Awareness Week

April 28th thru May 2nd, 2014



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service urge Americans to “Be Air Aware” during Air Quality Awareness Week, April 28th thru May 2nd, 2014

Join the EPA and NOAA as they examine the following topics:

- Monday: Do Your Part: Reduce Your Contribution to Air Pollution
- Tuesday: Air Quality- Important at Every Age
- Wednesday: Air Quality & Your Health
- Thursday: Get Outside...with the Air Quality Index !
- Friday: Traveler's Health

To find out more visit: [Air Quality Awareness Week](#)

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

"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 southwest half of the country has been extremely dry. Much of California and parts of Nevada, Northern Texas and Western Oklahoma have been experiencing extreme and 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 13, 2014

Planting your garden? Check out the CoCoRaHS "Climate Resources Guide for Master Gardeners"!

Two years ago, CoCoRaHS released an on-line guide for our [master gardeners](#) out there. The HTML version of this [guide](#), introduces elements of large scale and local climate important to gardeners. An overview of climate patterns and differences are shown. Links to local climate information are provided. Topics include: Climate & Gardening, Sunshine, Temperature, Humidity and Dew Point, Precipitation, Wind, Evapotranspiration, Climate Resources, Climate Change and CoCoRaHS.

We hope that you'll take a look at it, use it for your own gardening needs and pass along the URL link to other gardeners you know who may be interested in gaining a better understanding of climate and how climate might effect their local gardening efforts . . . and be careful in putting out your tender plants in those parts of the country where cold temperatures can still show up in mid-May!

Thursday, May 22, 2014



"Field Photo Weekend" May 24-26th . . . Celebrate Memorial Day Weekend by taking a photo or two!

What does your landscape look like in late spring? Have you participated in the CoCoRaHS Field Photos Weekends before? If not, here's your chance to join hundreds of other CoCoRaHS users to see what our landscapes looks like. If you have participated before, this is a great chance to go back to your favorite spots and see what has changed. During May 24-26th, you can help by participating in our sixth "Field Photo Weekend".

All you have to do is take your camera or smartphone, find a landscape in your community (streams, lakes, rivers, reservoirs, a forest, a crop field, a pasture, etc.) and take a single photo or a panorama in four different directions (N, E, S, W) from where you are standing. After that you can either email your photos with your location to: fieldphotos@southernclimate.org, or upload them directly to the Earth Observation and Modeling Facility's photo archive website: "<http://www.eomf.ou.edu/photos>". For detailed instructions, click here: "[FIELD PHOTO WEEKENDS](#)"

If you have a smartphone, you can use the "Field Photo" app, which is now freely available in the "[Apple Store](#)" and "[Google Play Store](#)". You can use your smartphone to take a photo in the field, enter metadata to describe the landscape, and then upload the photo and metadata into the EOMF photo archive website directly from your iPhone when you have access to WI-FI. When you enter metadata, you may add "#CoCoRaHSMay14" keyword.

If you want to see what others have submitted before, go to "<http://www.eomf.ou.edu/photos/cocorahsfeb14/>" and click on any of the dots (these photos were from President's Day weekend last February). We are working on going back to the earlier events and tagging all those photos so you will be able to easily find all the ones from our past weekends. If you upload photos directly to the EOMF website, you can help us by adding a tag #CoCoRaHSMay14 in the Field Notes section. Then your photos will pop up on the link: "<http://www.eomf.ou.edu/photos/cocorahsmay14/>" along with any that we receive by e-mail.

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 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 #CoCoRaHSMay14 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 27, 2014

Our Memorial Day "Field Photo Weekend" was a great success . . . Please remember to upload your photos or email your photos in!

Thanks to all of you who took the time to take photos this past weekend. Your efforts helped our sixth 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. 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 Photos Weekends" during the year to show how conditions to your landscape may have changed over time.

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.

Please don't forget send us your photos of this past "Field Photo Weekend". You can either email your photos with your location and the words (#CoCoRaHSMay14) to: fieldphotos@southernclimate.org, or upload them directly to the Earth Observation and Modeling Facility's photo archive website: ["http://www.eomf.ou.edu/photos"](http://www.eomf.ou.edu/photos). When uploading your photos please include the words #CoCoRaHSMay14 in the notes field. For detailed instructions, click here: ["FIELD PHOTO WEEKENDS"](#)

Thanks again for participating!

"Take the CoCoRaHS "Spring Survey" . . . We value your opinion!

The folks at CoCoRaHS would like to hear from you by taking our "Spring Survey" . . . even if you have yet to take your first observation.

The survey will be available to take through June 5th. It is very comprehensive and will take a little time, but your efforts in taking it will help us greatly. Help us evaluate how we are doing and how we can improve. Let us know what you like about CoCoRaHS and what you have learned?

You may see the survey advertised several times in different ways during the next week. Please only take it once.

Thanks for being part of our nationwide network!

Click here to: ["TAKE THE SURVEY"](#)

Saturday, May 31, 2014

CoCoRaHS welcomes Puerto Rico to the network!

Starting, Sunday, June 1st, our friends in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico can sign up for CoCoRaHS and start measuring precipitation on the island. For more information, visit the ["CoCoRaHS Puerto Rico webpage"](#).

So glad to have all of you as part of our network!

"2015 CoCoRaHS Rain Gauge Calendar" Photo submission deadline this Sunday, June 1, 2014

Here's your last chance to get your cameras ready to shoot your gauge! We are looking for artistic close-ups of your gauge in natural settings such as beach backgrounds, farm backgrounds, mountain backgrounds, interesting cloud backgrounds, animals near the gauge, close-ups of droplets on the gauge, etc.

Please e-mail us close-up photos of your rain gauges with warm weather-spring/summery backgrounds for our "2015 CoCoRaHS Rain Gauge Calendar". The deadline is this Sunday — JUNE 1ST. Browntrout Publishers will be publishing our calendar this summer and it should be available for purchase by early September. Our last calendar in 2011 was very popular: ["photo of calendar"](#).

What we are looking for are artistic high-quality, high-resolution photos (jpeg format) of your rain gauge with spring-summery backgrounds. We now have plenty of snow photos, so please do not send those. The photos should be of "the gauge" only and should not include people in them. Close-up shots of the gauge are best. Also make sure that they are well lit . . . better in sunlight than in a shadow. They can be creative. You may mail in more than one set of photos. We will narrow down our final photos in the next few weeks. We'll let you know if your photo is chosen.

Please e-mail your photos to Henry Reges at: hreges@atmos.colostate.edu with the words "Rain Gauge 2015 Calendar Photo - Spring" in the subject line. Please include the name of the photographer for credit purposes, as well as the location - city, state - of the gauge (ex- John Jones: Royal, Illinois). Finally include in the text of your message that "I give CoCoRaHS permission to publish the photo and use it for other possible CoCoRaHS promotions".

Those which don't make the 2015 calendar we will keep on hand to consider for our possible 2016 calendar. So if you have the opportunity, keep your camera handy and continue shooting throughout the year! As we mentioned earlier . . . dusty gauges, full gauges, dew on the gauge, animals in or near the gauge, special lighting circumstances, rainbows in the background, lightning bolts in the background, etc. -- all photos should be natural, no photo-shopping please.

Thanks. The CoCoRaHS headquarters team