

Messages of the Day August 2012

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

The Water Cycle

Evaporation . . . Condensation . . . Precipitation, etc! Are you familiar with the "Water Cycle"? Even if you can name all of its components by heart, you may enjoy viewing this short YouTube animation from part of the CoCoRaHS Educational Series.

To view the animation click here: ["The Water Cycle"](#).

One of the parts of the cycle is evapotranspiration or "ET" for short. Visit our Evapotranspiration page: ["ET"](#) to find out more about ET and how you might be able to help us measure this part of the water cycle right in your own yard.

Monday, August 6, 2012

Heavy Rain? . . . stay safe . . . Turn Around Don't Drown (TADD)

Local summer thunderstorms, as well as tropical systems can reek havoc, especially when a large amount of rain falls in a short period of time. In the case of a flash flood the rain may not even fall in your local area, but upstream, resulting in cascading water heading in your direction.

In today's Message of the Day, we highlight the National Weather Service's campaign "**Turn Around Don't Drown**". It is meant to inform people of the hazards of walking or driving a vehicle through flood waters. Knowing what to do ahead of time when a flooding situation arises can help save your life.

NOAA's site recommends several things when it comes to flooding:

- *Monitor the NOAA Weather Radio, or your favorite news source for vital weather related information."*
- *If flooding occurs, get to higher ground. Get out of areas subject to flooding. This includes dips, low spots, canyons, washes etc.*
- *Avoid areas already flooded, especially if the water is flowing fast. Do not attempt to cross flowing streams. Turn Around Don't Drown®*
- *Road beds may be washed out under flood waters. NEVER drive through flooded roadways. Turn Around Don't Drown®"*
- *Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams and washes, particularly during threatening conditions.*
- *Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers."*

Please take a few moments to visit NOAA's informative site at: [TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN](#).

Stay safe this summer!

Wednesday, August 8, 2012

CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar for August 2012: "Extreme Rainfall, How We Analyze It and How The Data is Used"

Extreme Rainfall will be the focus for our next ["WxTalk Webinar"](#) on August 23rd, "***Extreme Rainfall, How We Analyze It and How The Data is Used***" presented by meteorologist Bill Kappel of Applied Weather Associates, Monument, Colorado.

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 #9 - CoCoRaHS WxTalk: Extreme Rainfall, How We Analyze It and How The Data is Used"

Date: Thursday, August 23, 2012

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

This webinar will detail the 200 plus extreme rainfall analyses we have completed over the past 10 years. This will include how the storm analyses are completed, how rainfall data is gathered and used, and what the results of the analyses look like. Further, information about who uses this information and how it is used will be discussed. Special topics to be discussed include: Probable Maximum Precipitation-what is it, how is it derived-who uses it; Hurricane Irene bucket survey process and results, unique characteristics of rainfall during the Southwest Monsoon, Atmospheric River storms along the West Coast, differences in rainfall characteristics of extreme storms along the Front Range versus the Midwest, and the importance of accurate COCORAHS data.

Reserve your seat now by registering here: [EXTREME RAINFALL](#)

Our September CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar "So you want to become a meteorologist" by Dave Changnon of Northern Illinois University will take place on September 20th . Stay tuned for an upcoming announcement later this month on how to register.

Friday, August 10, 2012

"Heat and drought continue to grip the nation this August!"

Many communities, in almost every state are in the grip of some degree of drought right now. Many have had to continue to deal with oppressive heat and humidity over the past several weeks as well. Corn is dying on the stalk, livestock are being impacted and many favorite swimming/watering/fishing holes are turning to dust. A good deal of our CoCoRaHS observers are experiencing this dryness firsthand. 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 local area 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.

A great resource on drought is the "[Drought Impacts Reporting Resource Page](#)". If you are new to CoCoRaHS please take a moment to look it over, if you've seen it before please take a moment or two to review it.

Thank you for your drought impact reports!

Monday, August 13, 2012

Any improvement in your drought affected areas? . . . Have the mosquitos returned?

During the past several days we have been running a message asking for you to report "drought impacts" in your community. Thank you for your reports.

Fortunately, for many of you who have been in drought for some time, things are starting to improve. Those far off elusive rains have finally come and you are beginning to a difference. The vegetation is perking up, dust is no longer blowing and that pond out back actually has water in it, with waterfowl to boot. In fact the fire danger has subsided, there are no longer watering restrictions and those pesky mosquitos have made a late summer appearance (*drat!*).

We'd love you to share the visible evidence of how things are improving in your community. Improvements in drought conditions can impact us in many ways. Most positive, some not so much ("*Looks like there's water in my basement again!*") and ("*Our horse got stuck in the mud!*") Effects may be associated with agriculture, energy, public health, wildfire and recreation, just to name a few.

As we asked in last week's message, please take a look around your local area this week and think about how the improvement in drought drought conditions 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.

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Thank you for your drought impact reports!

Sunday, August 19, 2012

**CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar for August 2012:
"Extreme Rainfall, How We Analyze It and How The Data is Used" . . .
This Thursday!**

Extreme Rainfall will be the focus for our next ["WxTalk Webinar"](#) this Thursday August 23rd, "*Extreme Rainfall, How We Analyze It and How The Data is Used*" presented by meteorologist Bill Kappel of Applied Weather Associates, Monument, Colorado.

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.

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Thursday, August 23, 2012

CoCoRaHS T-Shirts . . . where can I purchase one?

Recently one of our observers wrote us and asked: "*I really like your CoCoRaHS t-shirts. Where can I purchase one?*"

Great question! Perhaps you have asked yourself this same question as well. The good news is that you can obtain our shirts from our good friends at Weatheryourway.com. Weatheryourway is the "*Official Distributor*" of all of our CoCoRaHS products.

Classic CoCoRaHS t-shirts are priced at \$12.75 each plus shipping (\$14.75 for XXL). For each shirt sold \$5.00 is donated to the CoCoRaHS network. "[Shirt colors](#)" include: Navy Blue, Forest Green, Cardinal Red, Royal Blue, Prairie Dust and Indigo Blue. CoCoRaHS shirts are a great way to show your participation in the network. Each order includes a free CoCoRaHS decal.

Weatheryourway.com is also stocked with CoCoRaHS caps, sweatshirts, polo shirts, snowrulers, snowswatters, hail pads, rain gauges as well as other products. To find out more visit: www.weatheryourway.com or click here: "[Weatheryourway](#)".

Sunday, August 26, 2012

"Getting started with CoCoRaHS - Introductory Training" Webinar Wednesday afternoon, August 29th . . . register today!

Are you new to CoCoRaHS within the past couple of months? Do you have some questions on where to locate your gauge, take an observation or use the website? Well this Webinar is for you! Some of us may have a few questions on observing and could always use a refresher, no matter how long we have been taking observations.

On August 29th (5:00PM eastern, 4:00PM central, 3:00PM mountain and 2:00PM pacific) we will host a introductory training Webinar on the basics of the CoCoRaHS.

We will cover the basics of how to begin as a CoCoRaHS observer. Topics will include where to locate your rain gauge, how to take measurements, how to enter and view your observations and we will cover some frequently asked questions.

Sign up today, as space is limited to the first 500 registrants and we expect a large audience! 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 at a later date.

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Title: "Getting started with CoCoRaHS - Introductory Training" Webinar

Date: Wednesday, August 29, 2012

Time: 5:00 PM Eastern, 4:00 PM Central, 3:00 PM Mountain, 2:00 PM Pacific

Reserve your seat now for the Webinar by registering here: [INTRO WEBINAR](#)

Thanks for being a CoCoRaHS observer!

Thursday, August 30, 2012

"Field Photo Weekend" Sept 1, 2, 3 . . . 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 has effected the landscape of our local communities? On September 1st, 2nd and 3rd you can help by participating in "Field Photo Weekend".

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

Just think if all 15,000+ CoCoRaHS volunteers take photos! Wow!!

Thanks in advance for participating and have a great holiday weekend!