

Messages of the Day
August 2014

Monday, August 4, 2014

Headed out for vacation or just away for a few days? The Multi-Day Precipitation report.

Many folks ask us what to do about reading their rain gauges when they will be out of town for a few days. Not to worry, we have a easy solution for that. It's called a ["multi-day precipitation report"](#).

Here's what you do. Make a note to yourself of the date when you last read your gauge. Then head off and enjoy your trip and don't even think about CoCoRaHS (unless you want to tell the relatives you are visiting how to be part of this exciting network). When you get back, wait until the next morning to take your observation at the regular time. Note the date and the amount that has accumulated in your gauge. Then go to the multi-day report, fill in the appropriate information . . . hit submit and there you have it. Your accumulated amount will not show up on the maps, but will certainly be recorded in our system and on your station record.

Hoping you have a fun trip planned during the month ahead . . . enjoy that vacation!

Wednesday, August 6, 2014

Summer photos of your gauge for potential "2016 and beyond CoCoRaHS Rain Gauge Calendars" . . . Keep shooting!

The deadline for the 2015 CoCoRaHS Rain Gauge Calendar has come and gone, but that doesn't mean that you should put your camera away. Since our photo deadline is usually early in the year, we forget that some of the best calendar photos come during the summer. So in looking ahead to 2016 and beyond, we need a good selection of summer shots of your gauge to choose from. As we mentioned in the past, we are looking for artistic close-ups of your gauge in natural settings, such as beach-coastal backgrounds, farm backgrounds, mountain backgrounds, lake and pond backgrounds, interesting cloud backgrounds, animals near the gauge, close-ups of droplets on the gauge, etc. All natural photos (no photo shopping please).

These artistic photos should be high-resolution (greater than 1MB and jpeg format). Too many great shots were of low resolution, which we could not use this year. 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 email in more than one set of photos. We will archive your shots and put them into the pool for our next calendar. 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 "Summer Rain Gauge Photos" 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- Sam Robinson: Tampa, FL). Finally be sure to include in the

text of your message that "I give CoCoRaHS permission to publish the photo and use it for other possible CoCoRaHS promotions".

Don't forget to keep your camera handy and continue shooting throughout the year! Our volunteers take some amazing shots! Thanks . . . the CoCoRaHS headquarters team



CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar for August 2014: "Weather CSI - Forensic Meteorology"

Forensic Meteorology will be the focus of our next ["WxTalk Webinar"](#) on Thursday, August 14th. **"Weather CSI - Forensic Meteorology"** will be presented by Pam Knox, Certified Consulting Meteorologist at the University of Georgia in Athens, GA.

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 #33 - CoCoRaHS WxTalk: Weather CSI - Forensic Meteorology

Date: Thursday, August 14, 2014

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

"Television shows featuring detectives who use cutting-edge science to solve crimes are among the most popular programs on television today. But did you know there are weather detectives, too? Certified consulting meteorologists are often called on to help determine the causes of accidents for court cases, and sometimes even solve serious crimes. Any lawyer with a case that has weather as a contributing factor can enlist a forensic meteorologist to help determine whether a particular weather condition was occurring at the time of an accident and what impact it had on the event. In this talk, we will look at the role of meteorologists as expert witnesses and see some examples of the kinds of questions they need to answer in a typical weather- or climate-related case. "

Reserve your seat now by registering here: [WEATHER CSI](#)

Our September CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar: *"The day in the life of a NWS Forecast Office"* will feature Chief Meteorologist, John Gordon of the Louisville, Kentucky National Weather Service Forecast Office. It will take place on Thursday September 11th. Stay tuned for an upcoming announcement on how to register.

Monday, August 11, 2014



Get your CoCoRaHS 2015 Calendar! . . . The Three Day Summer Fund Raising Campaign - August 12-14th

For the first time in several years we are holding a "summer fundraiser". This one will be quick -- just three days long -- but important. We are offering a great premium for those who donate \$50 and above . . . our popular [2015 Rain Gauge Calendar](#) (thanks to photos taken by CoCoRaHS observers).

There is no obligation to give, as you already help out immensely by taking your daily observations. Also, there will be the opportunity later this fall to purchase calendars directly without donating. But many CoCoRaHS volunteers have been choosing to help financially and that really makes a difference. Your gifts go directly to support CoCoRaHS activities such as educational programs, outreach, supplies data management and web development work. Your giving goes a long way to help sustain the network today and provide opportunities for the future. We greatly thank you!

Our traditional "Five For CoCoRaHS" campaigns have asked folks to give five dollars. **Any size donation is most welcome**, but during this "3-Day Summer Fundraiser" we're asking some of you to consider giving \$50.00 to this campaign. All donations add up quickly and have great impact in keeping the network going throughout the year.

As we mentioned above, at the \$50 level and above, we will send you our 2015 CoCoRaHS Rain Gauge Calendar* as a thank you gift. (The calendars are currently being printed and will be shipped in September). "Weatheryourway.com" is generously donating the shipping on all calendar "thank you" gifts.

To make a donation to CoCoRaHS please click on the Fifty for CoCoRaHS 3-Day Fundraiser logo at the top of this message or click right here: [DONATE](#)

*Please note that calendars will also be available for retail purchase at a later date.

Saturday, August 16, 2014



THANKS!

Thanks to everyone who donated to our short summer fundraiser! We were able to raise a little over \$15,000. We really appreciate it.

Some of you wrote and said that you were away on vacation but would like to contribute when you return. We officially ended the campaign Friday, but we'll keep the link active so you can contribute when you get back home. We'll leave it up on this page through early next week: [DONATE](#)

Enjoy the rest of summer! Labor Day weekend will be here soon.

Monday, August 18, 2014

Calling All Educators! Join the "CoCoRaHS School Network"!

With the beginning of school right around the corner, we want to make our educators out there aware of CoCoRaHS activities for K-12 teachers.

With over 500 educators across the country who are already involved, the CoCoRaHS Education Team is continuing to develop and pilot new materials and activities. Students really enjoy collecting data that are actually used by scientists, and teachers are finding that participating with CoCoRaHS meets many of their required standards for science, math and more! We invite all educators, teachers, students, schools, and home schools to join CoCoRaHS! If you or someone you know is interested in becoming part of the "CoCoRaHS School Network", or for more information, please e-mail: education@cocorahs.org

Thursday, August 21, 2014

**“Dust in the wind?” . . . Is drought lurking about in your community?
Please let us know!**

Has it been a dry summer in your region? You're not alone. That's been the case for a good deal of the southwestern and western parts of the country. From Texas to Washington and in between, it has been extremely dry. Parts of California and Nevada have been experiencing exceptional drought with major impacts hitting their local communities. With many of you experiencing this dryness firsthand, we'd love to hear how it is impacting your particular 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. In places where things are recovering from a long dry spell, tell us about that too. 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.

Sunday, August 24, 2014

The CoCoRaHS iPhone and Android Apps

Would you like to submit your daily measurements from your smartphone? There is both a CoCoRaHS iPhone and Android app available. Both free to download thanks to the hard work of one of our CoCoRaHS volunteers, Steve Woodruff at Appcay in South Carolina.

The CoCoRaHS iPhone App is available at the Apple Store. Click here to download: "[CoCoRaHS iPhone App](#)".

The Android App can be downloaded via the Google play store by clicking here: "[CoCoRaHS Android App](#)".

These apps allow registered CoCoRaHS observers to submit their daily precipitation reports via their mobile devices. In addition, users can view past reports to ensure accuracy.

Thursday, August 28, 2014

"Field Photo Weekend" Aug 30th - Sept. 1st . . . Celebrate Labor Day Weekend by taking a photo or two!

What does your landscape look like in waning days of summer? 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 Aug 30th - Sept. 1st, you can help by participating in our seventh "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 "#CoCoRaHSSep14" keyword.

If you want to see what others have submitted before, go to "<http://www.eomf.ou.edu/photos/cocorahsmay14/>" and click on any of the dots (these photos were from Memorial Day weekend last May). 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 #CoCoRaHSASep14 in the Field Notes section. Then your photos will pop up on the link: "<http://www.eomf.ou.edu/photos/cocorahssep14/>" 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 #CoCoRaHSSep14 in the notes field.

Just think if all 19,500+ CoCoRaHS volunteers take photos! Wow!

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