

Messages of the Day
September 2013

Tuesday, September 3, 2013

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

Thanks to all of you who took the time to take photos this past weekend. Your efforts helped our fourth 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 to email your photos of this past "Field Photo Weekend" to: fieldphotos@southernclimate.org. When uploading your photos please include the words **#CoCoRaHSSep13** in the notes field.

Thanks again for participating!

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

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!

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Autumn Leaves

“The falling leaves drift by the window. The autumn leaves of red and gold....” Some of you may remember the old classic song by Johnny Mercer “Autumn Leaves”. It’s almost that time of year again when the leaves in many parts of the country begin to take on color, the nights are cooler and the pumpkins adorn the porches of many homes.

Have you ever thought to yourself “Why do the leaves change color?”

The US Forest Service has put together a nice web site explaining just that at: [“Forest Service Leaves”](#).

Or have you ever wondered “Does precipitation play a role in leaf color?”

“The amount and brilliance of the colors that develop in any particular autumn season are related to weather conditions that occur before and during the time the chlorophyll in the leaves is dwindling,” says University of Kentucky agricultural meteorologist Tom Priddy. “Temperature and moisture are the main influences. . . .The countless combinations of these two highly variable factors assure that no two autumns can be exactly alike.”

And if you are just trying to find out where the leaves are turning during a certain week or in a certain place in the country, the Foliage Report Network: [“The Foliage Network”](#) keeps track of leaf colors in the midwestern and eastern half of the country and the US Forest Service keeps you advised on fall colors throughout the US at: [“Fall Colors”](#).

More info the study of periodic plant and animal life cycle events that are influenced by environmental changes, especially seasonal variations in temperature and precipitation driven by weather and climate visit the National Phenology Network Web site at: [“National Phenology Network”](#).

Friday, September 20, 2013

"2015 CoCoRaHS Rain Gauge Calendar" Photos wanted!

Now through the end of November 2013, we are asking our CoCoRaHS volunteers to e-mail us photos of their rain gauges in summer and autumn backgrounds for our possible "2015 CoCoRaHS Rain Gauge Calendar". We hope to publish the calendar during the summer of 2014. We are currently looking into the feasibility of doing this. 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 summer and autumn backgrounds. These should be of "the gauge" only and should not include people in them. Close-ups of the gauge are best. They can be artistic and creative. We will narrow down our final photos in the late spring of 2014.

Please e-mail your photo to Henry Reges at: hreges@atmos.colostate.edu with the words "Rain Gauge 2015 Calendar Photo - Summer-Fall" 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 Smith: Columbus, Ohio).

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

We will ask for additional "winter and spring" gauge photos early next year, so if you have the opportunity, keep your camera handy and keep shooting! (dusty gauges, full gauges, dew on the gauge, animals in the gauge, special lighting circumstances, rainbows in the background, lightning bolts in the background, etc. -- be creative).

Tuesday, September 24, 2013

CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar for October 2013: "Weather Instruments -- Everything you wanted to know, but were afraid to ask!"

Weather Instruments will be the focus of our next ["WxTalk Webinar"](#) on October 17th. "*Weather Instruments -- Everything you wanted to know, but were afraid to ask!*" will be presented by Stephen Burt of the University of Reading, Reading, UK.

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 #23 - CoCoRaHS WxTalk: "Weather Instruments"

Date: Thursday, October 17, 2013

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

"This presentation will cover the basics of making and archiving weather observations with consumer-level weather stations and readily-available weather instruments. The topics will include choosing and using weather stations, how best to expose your instruments for best results, and specific guidance on measuring air temperature and humidity, precipitation, atmospheric pressure and (if time permits) wind speed and direction. The session will close with a few pointers on how best to collect and make use of your weather station data.

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

Our November CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar: "*Weather Modification: Does the seeding of clouds enhance precipitation? An old question revisited*" by Bart Geerts of the University of Wyoming in Laramie, WY will take place on November 6th. Stay tuned for an upcoming announcement on how to register.

Friday, September 27, 2013

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR)

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Working with the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System , NWR is an “All Hazards” radio network, making it your single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. In conjunction with Federal, State, and Local Emergency Managers and other public officials, NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards ñ including natural (such as earthquakes or avalanches), environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety (such as AMBER alerts or 911 Telephone outages).

Known as the “Voice of NOAA's National Weather Service,” NWR is provided as a public service by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), part of the Department of Commerce. NWR includes more than 985 transmitters , covering all 50 states, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories. NWR requires a special radio receiver or scanner capable of picking up the signal.

Click on the following link to find out more about where to listen to NOAA Weather Radio in your area:
[NOAA RADIO](#)