

Messages of the Day November 2013

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Observation Notes . . . Daily Comments - CoCoRaHS comments extremely useful in supplementing your data!

One of the great things about the CoCoRaHS web site is that you can include comments about your daily observation when you enter your daily precipitation report each morning under observation notes. These comments are extremely useful in supplementing your data and greatly help others get a more detailed picture of what has taken place during the past 24 hours.

Here are some examples:

From Indiana, Nov 18, 2013: *"Tornado warnings, heard siren from Claypool, and thunderstorms Sunday afternoon. We had a few dead branches down. No damage."*

From Texas, October 2013: *"No flooding at this location but several horses drowned within 4 miles of here. Lots of flooding in Central TX last night!"*

From Colorado, Oct 2013: *"1:20 AM thunder and lightning with rain and hail (pea size). Electric storm continued and at 1:50 I got up with my dog and it was snowing with about 0.05 inches on the ground. Very unusual!"*

From New Jersey, Oct 2012: *"Hurricane Sandy . . . 3.50". Station evacuated, further details to follow."*

From Oklahoma, November 2011: *"Felt the 5.6 earthquake here in Edmond around 10:45 PM. Rattled windows and vibrated the floor. Second time in less than 24 hours. A weird sensation I'm not use to."*

From New Hampshire, May 2013: *"stupendous thunderstorm last night - window-rattling blasts all night long. Still drizzling."*

Finally, Florida, July 2013: *Between 1545 - 1626 had 2.64 inches. A lot of thunder and lightning. This was probably one of the heaviest rainfalls in such a short time in the 29 years I've lived here."*

You can view a summary of each days reports by clicking on "View Data" from the homepage's top menu bar and then choose "Daily Comments Reports" for a given location and date. Please give this a try with your next observation.

Thursday, November 21, 2013

**CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar for December 2013:
"Climate Change, Ecology, and Disease Emergence – A Public Health
Perspective"**

Climate and health will be the focus of our next ["WxTalk Webinar"](#) on December 5th. "*Climate Change, Ecology, and Disease Emergence – A Public Health Perspective*" will be presented by Ben Beard, Chief, Bacterial Diseases Branch, Division of Vector-Borne Diseases, NCEZID Centers for Disease Control, Fort Collins, CO.

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 #25 - CoCoRaHS WxTalk: "Climate Change, Ecology, and Disease Emergence – A Public Health Perspective"

Date: Thursday, December 5, 2013

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

"Vector-borne diseases are diseases that are transmitted by mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas. Most of these illnesses are also zoonoses, meaning that they are harbored naturally by wild and sometimes domestic animals. Examples of these diseases include West Nile virus infection, Lyme disease, plague, and rabies. Vector-borne and zoonotic diseases have a strong link to the environment. As environmental conditions change, it is likely that certain diseases will occur in areas where they previously had not been seen. Likewise, we also expect that these same diseases may become less important in places where they have been of great importance historically. In the U.S., it remains unclear exactly how climate change may impact the distribution and occurrence of existing infectious diseases, as well as the introduction and establishment of exotic disease agents. Research and surveillance that is underway, however, will help address these important questions. The best preparation we can take now to prevent and adapt to emerging infectious disease threats related to climate change is to continue an investment in infectious disease surveillance and maintain a strong public health system so that when diseases occur in new areas, they will be quickly detected and reported, allowing prevention and control activities to be rapidly and effectively mobilized."

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

Our January CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar: "*The Hydrologic Cycle: How River Forecast Centers Measure the Parts*" by Greg Story of the National Weather Service's West Gulf River Forecast Center in Fort Worth, TX will take place on January 16th. Stay tuned for an upcoming announcement on how to register.

Saturday, November 23, 2013

CoCoRaHS Water Year Summary Reports are now viewable on the Web

"Water Year Summary Reports and graphs" are now available for every CoCoRaHS rain gauge observer who submitted measurements during the 2013 water year (October 1, 2012 - September 30, 2013). They are also available for 2010, 2011 and 2012. With help from the PRISM Climate Group at Oregon State University we also provide monthly estimates for your "normal" (30-year 1981-2010 average) precipitation. We can all see if our monthly and water year totals were wetter or drier than average.

To view data for any CoCoRaHS station in the USA or Canada, click here: [WATER YEAR SUMMARY](#)

Thanks for being a CoCoRaHS observer!

Tuesday, November 26, 2013

"Field Photo" iPhone App is now freely available at Apple Store

During the past year CoCoRaHS observers have participated in our collaborative Field Photo Weekends and have sent in their landscape photos. Now you can take field photos at anytime and submit them using the University of Oklahoma's new app.

The Field Photo iPhone App is now freely available at Apple Store. Field Photo is a smartphone app from the Earth Observation and Modeling Facility at the University of Oklahoma. Click here to download: ["FIELD PHOTO APP"](#). It allows people to take geo-referenced field photos and enter metadata that describe their observations in the field, and upload their photos into the Global Geo-Referenced Field Photo Library (<http://www.eomf.ou.edu/photos/>), where people share, visualize and analyze field photos that document land use and land cover change, habitats of wildlife and impacts of severe climate event (e.g., drought, flood) and fire, and so on, in the world. All field photos are linked with time series satellite images, and can be used to support global monitoring of the planet Earth. If you have an iPhone or iPad, you can download it and join the global effort in citizen science and community remote sensing.

Thursday, November 28, 2013

Thanks CoCoRaHS Observers!

As we reflect on all that we have to be thankful for during this Thanksgiving week, we want to let you know that we are especially thankful for YOU. We appreciate all of your daily efforts in measuring precipitation in your local communities. Taking measurements can sometimes be challenging, as well as rewarding and fun often at the same time. Your efforts as "citizen scientists" (that's really what you are) are noticed and appreciated by many across the country. Your individual measurements really do make a difference and when combined with others in your town, county and state paint a wonderful picture of what we can do together in community!

Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at CoCoRaHS!