



ARKANSAS CoCoRaHS



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Arkansas Natural Resources Commission
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MARCH MADNESS

Welcome to the CoCoRaHS March Madness. CoCoRaHS March Madness is our friendly recruiting contest between all 50 states to see who can recruit the most new volunteers during the 31 days of March.

There is always a need for a greater number of observations, as the saying goes "the rain doesn't fall the same on all". Due to the variability of precipitation, amounts measured can be quite different only a block or two away. Help fill in the gaps by recruiting a friend or relative during our contest. The more observations, the clearer the picture, the better the understanding of where it did and did not rain.

The contest is broken down into two categories: "**Traditional Count**" . . . the state that recruits the greatest number of new observers in March. The second category is "**Per Capita***" or population weighted . . . the state that recruits the greatest number of new observers per one million of its total population.

The winning state in each category receives the "CoCoRaHS Cup" to keep and exhibit for a year until next year's contest (*in the tradition of the NHL's Stanley Cup*). The cup usually travels around the state during the year, so check with your state coordinator for its whereabouts.

HISTORY

Past cup winners (2006-2012)



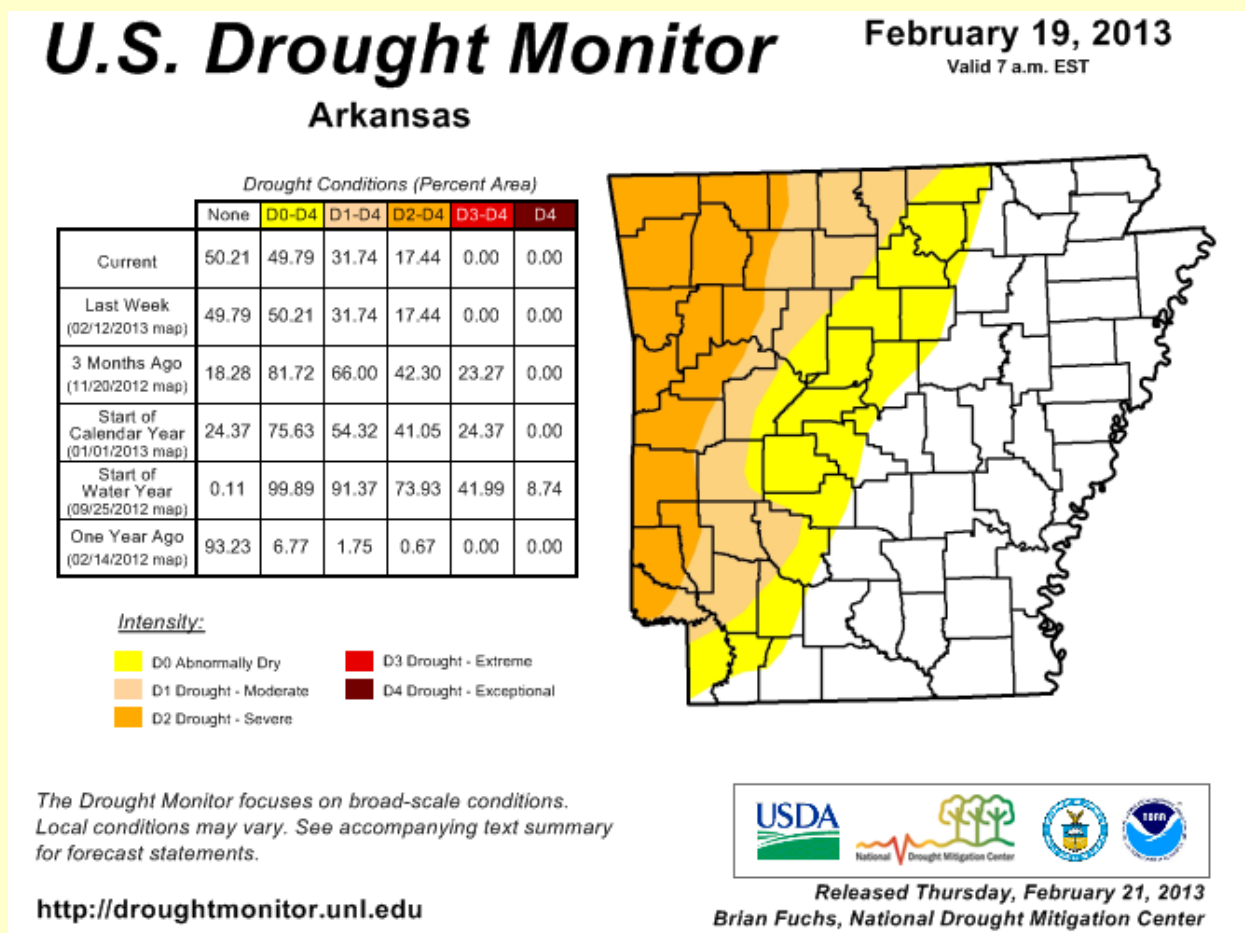
CoCoRaHS March Madness webpage:

<http://cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=marchmadness>

January Summary

Most of the State showed above normal precipitation for January. Exceptions were the extreme northwest and the south/southwest, where rainfall was at or only slightly above normal. Drought conditions continue over approximately 50% of the State as of mid-February. The following is a drought report from an observer in north central Arkansas:

“The year 2013 started with 20 inches short of soil moisture from the 2011 - 2012 droughts. Our ponds creeks and rivers are the lowest I have ever seen them in my 61 years upon this earth. Looking at the 90 - 180 days weather charts and forecast tools I am afraid this drought will continue into the planting season for 2013. I hope I am wrong.”



Once again, the central and southern portion of the State had the largest rainfall totals. Four (4) rain gauges recorded over 10 inches of rain in January. They were Hamburg 13.9 ENE (12.08”), Montrose 9.4 (11.71”) and Crossett 2.5 NNE (10.01”) in Ashley County, and Blytheville 1.9 ENE (10.84”) in Mississippi County. (This does not include stations which reported Multi-Day Accumulations, since the days could overlap other months.) Multi-Day Reports are important. As are “ZEROs”. More than 120 stations recorded over 5 inches of rain.

Volunteer observers registered 29 or more daily records for over 107 stations in January. Congratulations! Three hundred one (301) stations reported at least one day during January. Currently, 648 stations are registered in Arkansas.

Volunteer Contribution to the Newsletter

Share your experiences, successes, difficulties, photos, etc. with other CoCoRaHS volunteers. Email items you think would be of interest to other volunteers. What suggestions do you have to improve CoCoRaHS in Arkansas? Email to the following:
michael.borengasser@arkansas.gov.

And always remember, **“ZEROS COUNT”**. Use the “Monthly Zeros” feature to fill in for days when there has been no rainfall.

