



ARKANSAS CoCoRaHS



June 2012
Volume 1 Issue 1

Arkansas Natural Resources Commission
101 E. Capitol, Suite 350, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72201, Phone: (501) 682-3960

ARKANSAS COCORaHS COORDINATORS

Michael J. Borengasser, CFM
State Climatologist
Arkansas Natural Resources
Commission
State CoCoRaHS Co-Coordinator
(501) 682-3969
michael.borengasser@arkansas.gov

Chris Buonanno
National Weather Service State
CoCoRaHS Co-Coordinator
Central Arkansas Regional Coordinator
(501) 834-9102 x 224
christopher.buonanno@noaa.gov

Zwemer Ingram
National Weather Service
Northeastern Arkansas Regional
Coordinator
(901) 544-0399
zwemer.ingram@noaa.gov

Marty Pope
National Weather Service
Southeastern Arkansas Regional
Coordinator
(601) 936-2189
marty.pope@noaa.gov

Aaron Stevens
Jason Hansford
National Weather Service
Southwestern Arkansas Regional
Coordinators
(318) 631-3669
aaron.stevens@noaa.gov
jason.hansford@noaa.gov

Nicole McGavock
National Weather Service
Northwestern Arkansas Regional
Coordinator
(918) 832-4116
Nicole.mcgavock@noaa.gov

Welcome to the First Arkansas CoCoRaHS Newsletter

In April, 2009, Arkansas became the 42nd state to join the CoCoRaHS network of volunteers who take daily measurements of rainfall and record their observations online. The volunteer network grew very slowly during the first two years as volunteers discovered the program by word-of-mouth or surfing the Web.

Last year, the University of Arkansas Extension Service began encouraging county agents to set up rain gauges in their respective counties, and there was a noticeable increase in volunteers.

But the real growth is just beginning. Earlier this year the Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts began distributing hundreds of rain gauges to cover the entire state with a network of 10-15 gauges per county, thus providing a much denser and more widely distributed network. As of June 18, 2012, Arkansas has 373 CoCoRaHS volunteers.

This newsletter will be published monthly to focus on how the volunteers and users of CoCoRaHS can get the most out of their experience. Future issues will focus on a particular topic, including drought. (A more lengthy discussion of this topic will take place in a future newsletter.)

We are entering the summer season when drought begins to be a serious problem. Webster's Dictionary defines drought as "a long period with no rain" or "a dearth or shortage of something." When CoCoRaHS volunteers record "zeros" on their daily reports, they are helping to document drought.

While it is far more interesting and fun to be able to find rainfall in a gauge and record its measurement, "zeros" are equally important. And there is also a feature on CoCoRaHS to record drought information on the Drought Impact Report. Your submittal goes to the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC). There is a slide presentation that explains reporting drought impacts.

Try to record the contents of your rain gauge on a daily basis. If you are gone for the weekend or on vacation, use the Multi-Day Accumulation feature to capture the total rainfall while you were gone. If there is no water in the gauge, enter "zeros" for each day.

The U.S. Drought Monitor publishes a weekly map of drought conditions and predictions (<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>). You can also track drought reports at the Drought Impact Reporter from this website.

