Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network

Southern New England

June 2016

The American Robin and Mountain Laurel are the state bird and state flower for the last in our state anniversary series, Connecticut. Joe has a story to tell about Connecticut being introduced to CoCoRaHS.

As long as that American Robin, and all of the other birds, stay on the tree branches and not on my gauge, I'm a happy CoCoRaHS observer. The first article is about cleaning your gauge.

The growth continues for yet another month. Our three states awoke from its winter nap with a vengeance. We set our sights on 6,000 Daily Reports for June, a 30 day month. Really? Didn't we all just get a message from Joe asking for us to break 5,000 Daily Reports for April? Read on and see how much we grew since last month's newsletter.

We have a selection of gauge photos from some of you.

As the days get longer, and the heat gets stronger, we head to the water. Joe provides what we should look for in beach and boating forecasts with the wind and waves on the water.

We are saving the best for last! An end of school year video. Watch it!

Welcome to all of the new observers to our growing network, coming to us from the several SkyWarn sessions.

Gauge Cleaning

When the inner cylinder looks a little dirty. When there is a dirt layer on the bottom of the inner cylinder. When the birds borrowed your rain gauge. Find a day when there is no precipitation in the forecast for a day or two to clean your gauge.

There is a cleaning technique involving a little bleach and a soft bottle brush. There is a cleaning technique involving a rolled up newspaper. Whatever cleaning technique you use, make sure it involves nothing metal and nothing abrasive. Scratches on the plastic gauge can last for the life of the gauge and become detractive to look at every day.

The technique pictured below illustrates using a small sponge, cut long ways in half, a wooden pasta spoon, and liquid soap.

DIRT ON THE BOTTOM OF THE INNER CYLINDER

WOODEN PASTA SPOON, SOAP AND TWIST THE SPONGE IN A CIRCLE, CLEANING THE BOTTOM OF THE CYLINDER.

WHILE THE SOAP, WATER AND SPONGE ARE IN USE, CLEAN THE FUNNEL AND OUTER CYLINDER.

RINSED, CLEANED AND READY TO RETURN OUTSIDE TO ITS MOUNTING BRACKET

One noticeable benefit from a clean gauge comes when reading precipitation in the inner cylinder. The curve on the meniscus becomes very flat, for a brief period in time, before returning to its normal appearance.

Detail and Summary for May 2016

From the National Weather Service (NWS) Climate sites for May 2016.

Location	Station ID	May 2016 Precip	May departure from normal	Mar-Apr-May Precip	3 month departure from normal	Dec-May Precip	6 month departure from normal
Pittsfield MA	PSF	3.98''	-0.23''	8.73''	-2.71''	17.78''	-2.26''
Bridgeport CT	BDR	3.50''	-0.30''	8.38''	-3.60''	20.48''	-0.72''
Hartford CT	BDL	2.47''	-1.88''	7.11''	-4.58''	18.19''	-3.06''
Worcester MA	ORH	2.21''	-1.98''	8.33''	-4.18''	20.37''	-2.68''
Providence RI	PVD	3.18''	-0.37''	9.77''	-3.15''	22.92''	-1.37''
Boston MA	BOS	2.83''	-0.66''	8.90''	-2.65''	20.62''	-1.32''

The first week of May was cool, overcast with occasional rains. Rain totals quickly became 1”-2” in the first week. The sunshine and warm temperatures were welcome when they returned.

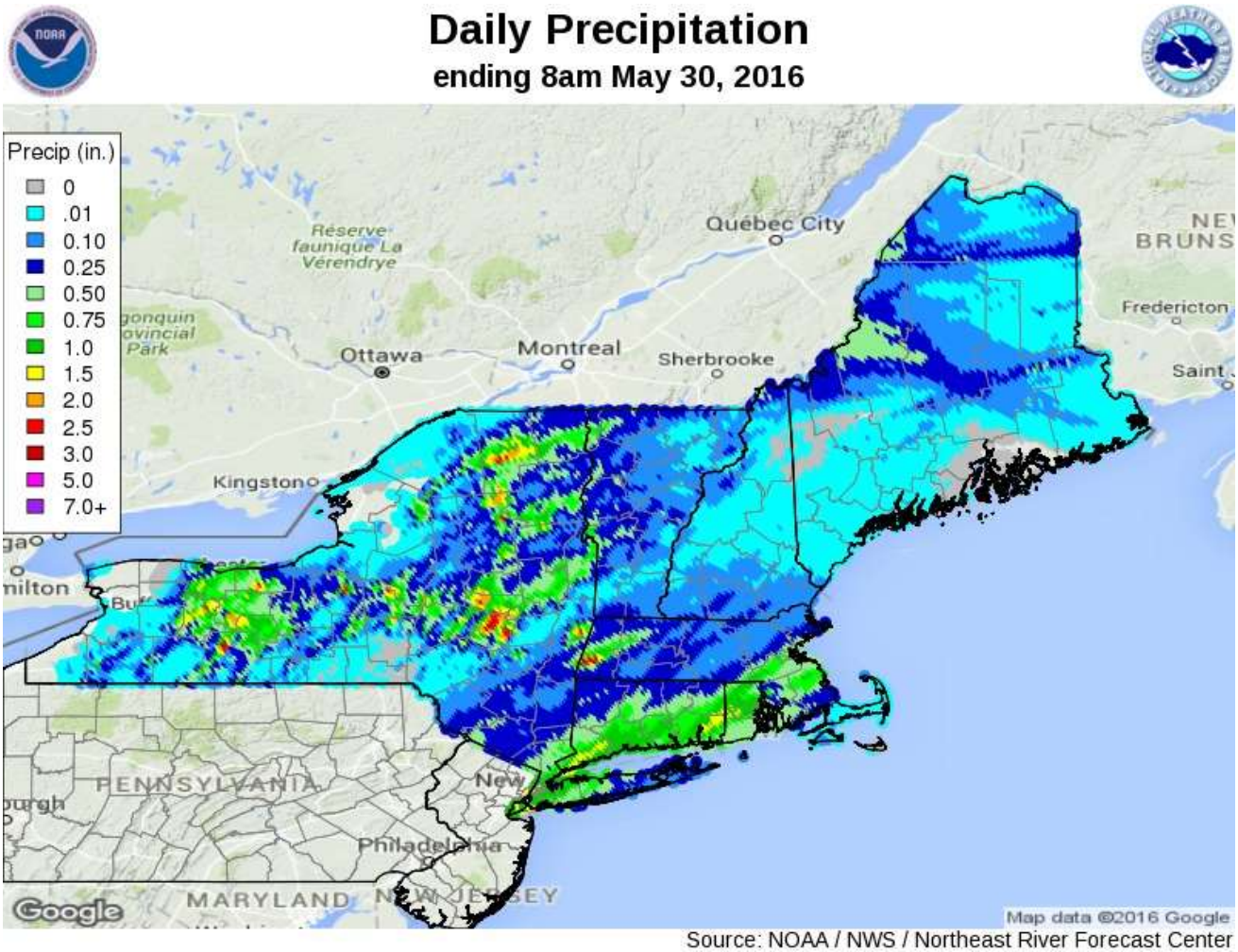
A weekend rain on the 14th–15th. A midweek rain on the 24th-25th. Memorial Day weekend started with summer warmth and some moderate humidity. Sunday the 29th saw an isolated rain shower dump 4” of rain on Stockbridge MA, and the frontal passage gave a wide ranging amount of rain on Memorial Day Monday the 30th, the map of which from the Northeast River Forecast Center is on the next page.

Although the Climate Sites report below normal precipitation, our stations continue to find variation in precipitation.

The next few pages are astounding! Collectively, you all deserve the credit for measuring and reporting, and for filling out a record number of Multi-Day reports from last month’s article on it. Having a report for every day in the month is valuable to your own station and to many others. This is tremendous growth for our small states, so be proud of it. We set our sights on 6,000 Daily Reports and that is within reach if we all report precipitation when it occurs and zeros for those days without precipitation.

From your reports for May 2016

Observers reporting	236
Reported all 31 days	98
Completed by Multi-Day Reports	30
Missing 1 or 2 reports	29
Daily Reports	5754
Zero Reports	2725
Non-Zero Reports	3029
Comments	715
Multi-Day Reports	153
Significant Weather Reports	2
Hail Reports	0
Highest Daily Report	4.04″ from Stockbridge MA (MA-BE-3) reported on 5/30



Source: NOAA / NWS / Northeast River Forecast Center

It is a list that keeps getting longer!! If you keep reporting every day, not miss any days, and continue filling out Multi-Day reports for the days that you get away, this list will go beyond the 128 listed here who did so during May 2016. A little generosity rendered to 4 more observers who filled out a Multi-Day report over the end of the month.

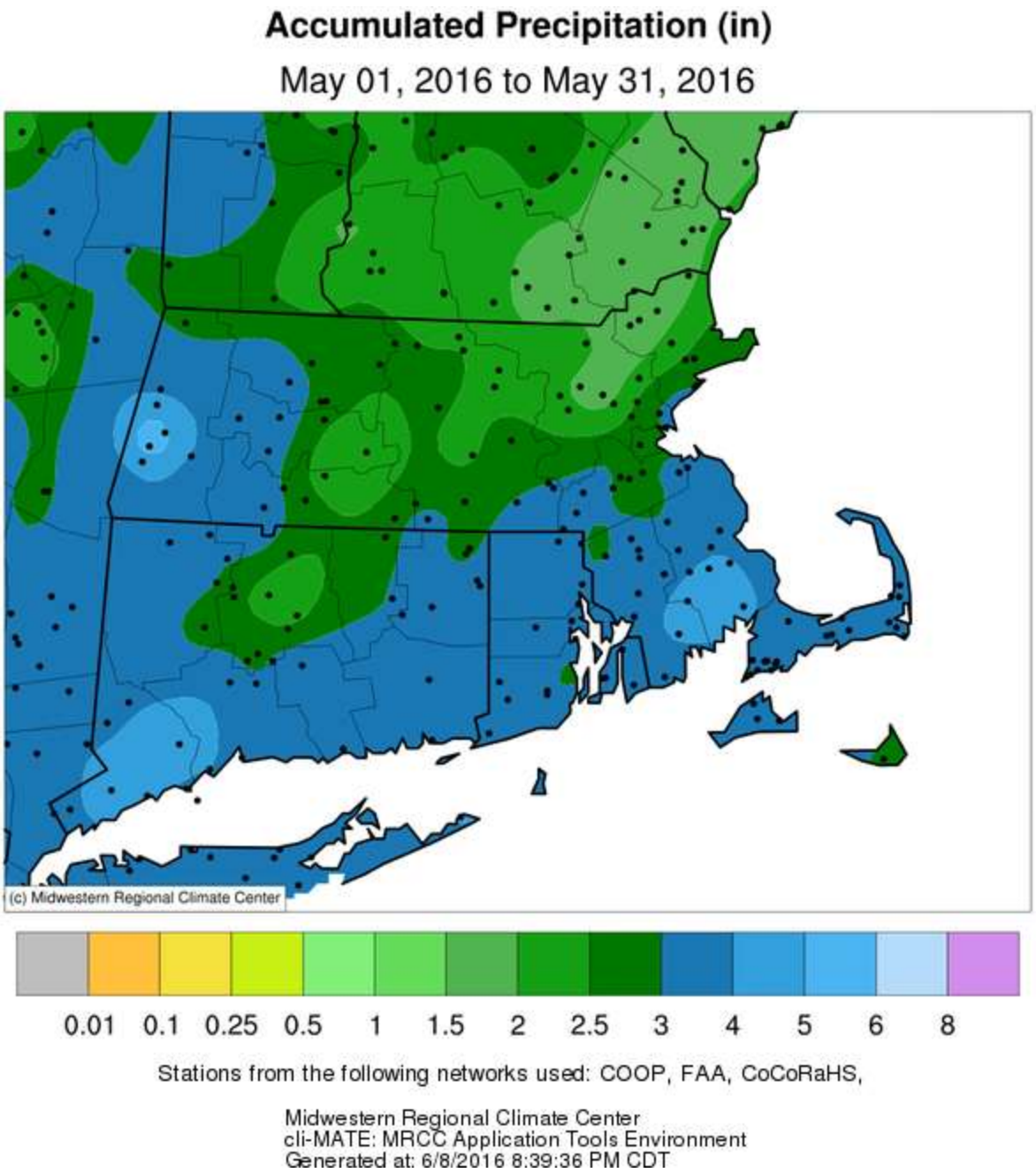
As we continue to a 4th page, keep making this list longer by not missing any days without a Daily or a Multi-Day Report.

Station	Location	Precip	County & State
MA-BE-10	Pittsfield 2.0 NNW	3.69''	Berkshire MA
MA-BE-4	Becket 5.6 SSW	3.73''	Berkshire MA
CT-LT-14	Watertown 0.5 S	2.79''	Litchfield CT
CT-LT-9	New Hartford Center 3.2 SW	3.28''	Litchfield CT
CT-FR-39	Stamford 4.2 S	4.75''	Fairfield CT
CT-FR-37	Stamford 0.4 WNW	4.93''	Fairfield CT
CT-FR-29	Ridgefield 1.9 SSE	4.09''	Fairfield CT
CT-FR-3	New Canaan 1.9 ENE	4.64''	Fairfield CT
CT-FR-35	Darien 1.8 ENE	4.08''	Fairfield CT
CT-FR-9	Brookfield 3.3 SSE	3.68''	Fairfield CT
CT-FR-31	Newtown 4.6 SSW	3.83''	Fairfield CT
CT-FR-20	Westport 2.5 ENE	4.76''	Fairfield CT
CT-FR-32	Monroe 0.8 W	4.20''	Fairfield CT
CT-FR-23	Shelton 1.3 W	5.22''	Fairfield CT
CT-FR-30	Stratford 0.5 WNW	3.48''	Fairfield CT
CT-NH-16	Milford 1.8 E	4.22''	New Haven CT
CT-NH-14	Prospect 1.9 ENE	3.77''	New Haven CT
MA-FR-17	Buckland 1.8 ESE	3.80''	Franklin MA
MA-FR-13	Conway 2.9 NW	3.87''	Franklin MA
MA-FR-10	Conway 0.9 SW	3.96''	Franklin MA
MA-FR-12	Sunderland 1.3 SE	3.08''	Franklin MA
MA-HS-7	Plainfield 2.2 SW	3.88''	Hampshire MA
MA-HS-2	Westhampton 1.8 SW	3.59''	Hampshire MA
MA-HS-10	Northampton 1.6 NE	3.22''	Hampshire MA
MA-HD-16	Wales 0.4 SSW	2.69''	Hampden MA
CT-HR-24	Collinsville 0.9 NW	2.89''	Hartford CT
CT-HR-28	North Canton 0.8 SSW	3.05''	Hartford CT
CT-HR-23	Southington 0.9 SSE	3.06''	Hartford CT
CT-HR-15	Southington 3.0 E	2.99''	Hartford CT
CT-HR-8	North Granby 1.3 ENE	2.81''	Hartford CT
CT-HR-9	West Hartford 2.7 NNW	2.65''	Hartford CT

CT-HR-18	Berlin 2.4 SSE	3.07''	Hartford CT
CT-HR-11	West Hartford 2.7 SSE	2.43''	Hartford CT
CT-HR-6	Wethersfield 1.2 WSW	2.40''	Hartford CT
CT-HR-22	East Hartford 1.3 E	2.03''	Hartford CT
CT-HR-7	Central Manchester 2.7 SW	2.50''	Hartford CT
CT-TL-16	Vernon 3.5 NNE	2.45''	Tolland CT
CT-TL-18	Hebron 5.3 NW	2.98''	Tolland CT
CT-TL-13	Crystal Lake 1.2 W	2.71''	Tolland CT
CT-TL-12	Stafford Springs 0.3 NNE	2.74''	Tolland CT
CT-TL-14	Storrs 1.5 SW	2.94''	Tolland CT
CT-TL-2	Staffordville 0.4 NNW	2.56''	Tolland CT
CT-MD-2	Portland 0.9 S	3.67''	Middlesex CT
CT-MD-5	Westbrook Center 1.1 N	4.15''	Middlesex CT
CT-MD-11	Westbrook Center 1.5 NE	4.30''	Middlesex CT
MA-WR-40	Gardner 1.4 SSW	2.58''	Worcester MA
MA-WR-41	Auburn 2.6 SW	3.11''	Worcester MA
MA-WR-32	Auburn 1.9 ESE	3.04''	Worcester MA
MA-WR-13	Leominster 1.5 S	2.26''	Worcester MA
MA-WR-30	Shrewsbury 1.6 NNE	2.88''	Worcester MA
MA-WR-28	Berlin 1.3 WSW	2.36''	Worcester MA
MA-WR-18	Northborough 0.6 SSE	2.58''	Worcester MA
MA-WR-42	Northborough 2.3 N	2.46''	Worcester MA
MA-WR-1	Milford 2.3 NNW	2.87''	Worcester MA
CT-WN-10	South Windham 1.3 NNE	3.06''	Windham CT
CT-WN-6	Dayville 2.0 ENE	3.17''	Windham CT
CT-WN-8	Moosup 1.7 NE	3.93''	Windham CT
CT-WN-4	East Killingly 1.3 SW	3.37''	Windham CT
CT-NL-5	Oakdale 2.6 WNW	4.14''	New London CT
CT-NL-22	Central Waterford 2.7 SSW	3.77''	New London CT
CT-NL-17	Waterford 2.2 N	4.37''	New London CT
CT-NL-8	Uncasville-Oxoboxo Valley 1.6 ENE	5.07''	New London CT
CT-NL-19	Mystic 0.9 W	4.10''	New London CT
CT-NL-21	Griswold 0.9 N	3.52''	New London CT
CT-NL-18	Stonington 0.5 NNE	3.81''	New London CT
RI-PR-33	Greenville 0.7 NNW	3.39''	Providence RI
RI-PR-45	Manville 0.4 WSW	3.40''	Providence RI
RI-PR-44	Cranston 4.2 ENE	3.95''	Providence RI
RI-PR-35	Cumberland Hill 3.7 E	3.18''	Providence RI
RI-PR-32	Providence 2.3 NE	4.03''	Providence RI
RI-KN-2	East Greenwich 2.3 ESE	3.32''	Kent RI
RI-WS-25	Rockville 0.4 E	3.46''	Washington RI

RI-WS-32	Kingston 6.9 NNW	2.91''	Washington RI
RI-WS-31	Kingston 7.5 NNE	2.94''	Washington RI
RI-NW-7	Little Compton 0.6 E	4.26''	Newport RI
MA-BR-23	Attleboro 0.9 ENE	3.11''	Bristol MA
MA-BR-2	Rehoboth 2.1 N	3.81''	Bristol MA
MA-BR-3	Norton 1.8 NNE	3.35''	Bristol MA
MA-BR-8	Dighton 1.1 WSW	3.56''	Bristol MA
MA-BR-9	Taunton 2.6 NW	4.06''	Bristol MA
MA-BR-30	Taunton 3.9 N	3.80''	Bristol MA
MA-BR-14	Dartmouth 2.5 SSW	3.71''	Bristol MA
MA-BR-32	Acushnet 1.8 SSE	4.76''	Bristol MA
MA-MD-47	West Townsend 0.5 W	2.16''	Middlesex MA
MA-MD-61	Stow 2.3 NW	1.94''	Middlesex MA
MA-MD-12	Acton 1.3 SW	2.14''	Middlesex MA
MA-MD-55	Holliston 0.7 W	2.89''	Middlesex MA
MA-MD-51	Maynard 0.7 ESE	2.20''	Middlesex MA
MA-MD-42	Holliston 0.8 S	3.17''	Middlesex MA
MA-MD-52	Lexington 0.6 SW	1.77''	Middlesex MA
MA-MD-67	Lexington 2.3 SE	2.05''	Middlesex MA
MA-MD-54	Belmont 0.3 SE	2.35''	Middlesex MA
MA-MD-45	Wilmington 1.5 NE	1.74''	Middlesex MA
MA-MD-66	Woburn 1.2 SE	2.45''	Middlesex MA
MA-MD-7	Winchester 0.7 SE	2.46''	Middlesex MA
MA-MD-44	Medford 1.2 W	2.42''	Middlesex MA
MA-MD-11	Cambridge 0.9 NNW	2.36''	Middlesex MA
MA-ES-3	Haverhill 3.6 WNW	1.97''	Essex MA
MA-ES-20	Haverhill 0.7 N	1.60''	Essex MA
MA-ES-4	Groveland 0.5 WSW	1.51''	Essex MA
MA-ES-12	Boxford 2.4 S	2.28''	Essex MA
MA-ES-1	Salisbury 3.7 NW	1.75''	Essex MA
MA-ES-8	Marblehead 0.8 SW	3.38''	Essex MA
MA-ES-22	Rockport 1.0 E	2.59''	Essex MA
MA-SF-4	Brighton 0.5 W	2.51''	Suffolk MA
MA-SF-1	Boston 0.5 WSW	2.52''	Suffolk MA
MA-SF-10	Chelsea 0.8 N	3.39''	Suffolk MA
MA-NF-16	Bellingham 4.7 S	3.59''	Norfolk MA
MA-NF-11	Millis 2.0 SW	3.31''	Norfolk MA
MA-NF-1	Norwood 1.3 NW	3.57''	Norfolk MA
MA-NF-5	Weymouth 0.5 NW	3.19''	Norfolk MA
MA-PL-22	East Bridgewater 0.3 WSW	3.45''	Plymouth MA
MA-PL-24	Whitman 1.1 WSW	3.20''	Plymouth MA

MA-PL-28	Whitman 0.1 SSW	3.18''	Plymouth MA
MA-PL-23	Pembroke 2.8 SW	3.40''	Plymouth MA
MA-PL-6	Middleborough 5.5 E	4.08''	Plymouth MA
MA-BA-8	Falmouth 1.8 WSW	3.36''	Barnstable MA
MA-BA-2	Falmouth 3.1 NNW	3.46''	Barnstable MA
MA-BA-13	Falmouth 0.6 NNW	3.35''	Barnstable MA
MA-BA-3	Falmouth 3.0 E	3.42''	Barnstable MA
MA-BA-11	East Falmouth 1.4 ESE	3.05''	Barnstable MA
MA-BA-18	Waquoit 0.6 SSW	3.27''	Barnstable MA
MA-BA-47	Mashpee 2.4 WSW	2.97''	Barnstable MA
MA-BA-49	Sandwich 3.5 SSE	3.55''	Barnstable MA
MA-BA-22	Yarmouth 0.9 NNW	3.42''	Barnstable MA
MA-BA-51	Orleans 3.0 S	3.32''	Barnstable MA
MA-BA-12	Orleans 1.1 E	3.51''	Barnstable MA
MA-BA-30	Eastham 0.6 SW	3.56''	Barnstable MA
MA-NT-1	Nantucket 3.8 WNW	5.07''	Nantucket MA
MA-NT-2	Nantucket 2.2 E	4.86''	Nantucket MA
MA-DK-5	West Tisbury 2.9 N	3.69''	Dukes MA
MA-DK-2	Vineyard Haven 0.8 WSW	3.17''	Dukes MA

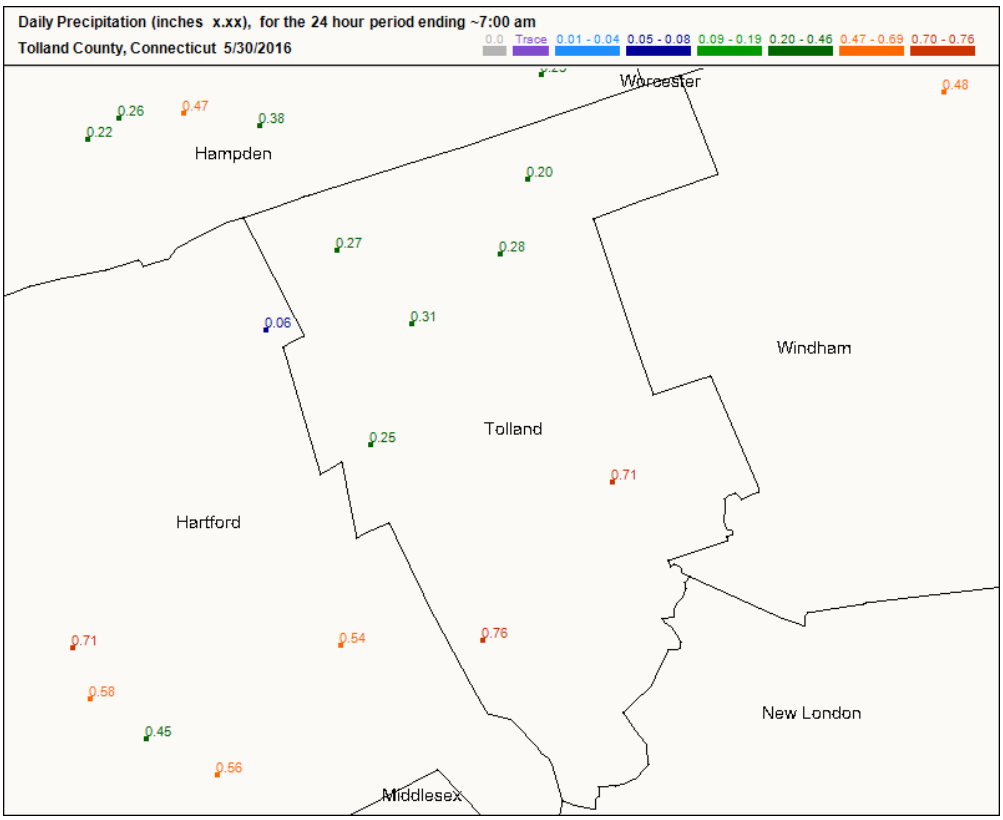

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
May 01, 2016 to May 31, 2016
(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center
0.01 0.1 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 4 5 6 8
Stations from the following networks used: COOP, FAA, CoCoRaHS,
Midwestern Regional Climate Center
cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment
Generated at: 6/8/2016 8:39:36 PM CDT

Map of the Month – Tolland County CT

The fertile fields of corn and tobacco in the north and west part of this county give way to forests, lakes, and high points ranging from 800' to over 1000' above sea level, high points not seen as many outside of Litchfield County. One of those high points is Soapstone Mountain, 1075' above sea level, serving as as a NOAA Weather Radio broadcast tower for this area.

Precipitation falling in the very western part of Tolland County flows to the Connecticut River. In the remainder of the county, the Willimantic River starts in the northern part and eventually flows towards New London. The Willimantic River falls 90' in just one mile from Stafford Springs to Willimantic. The hills can enhance precipitation and it becomes important to measure and report as it will impact many downriver.

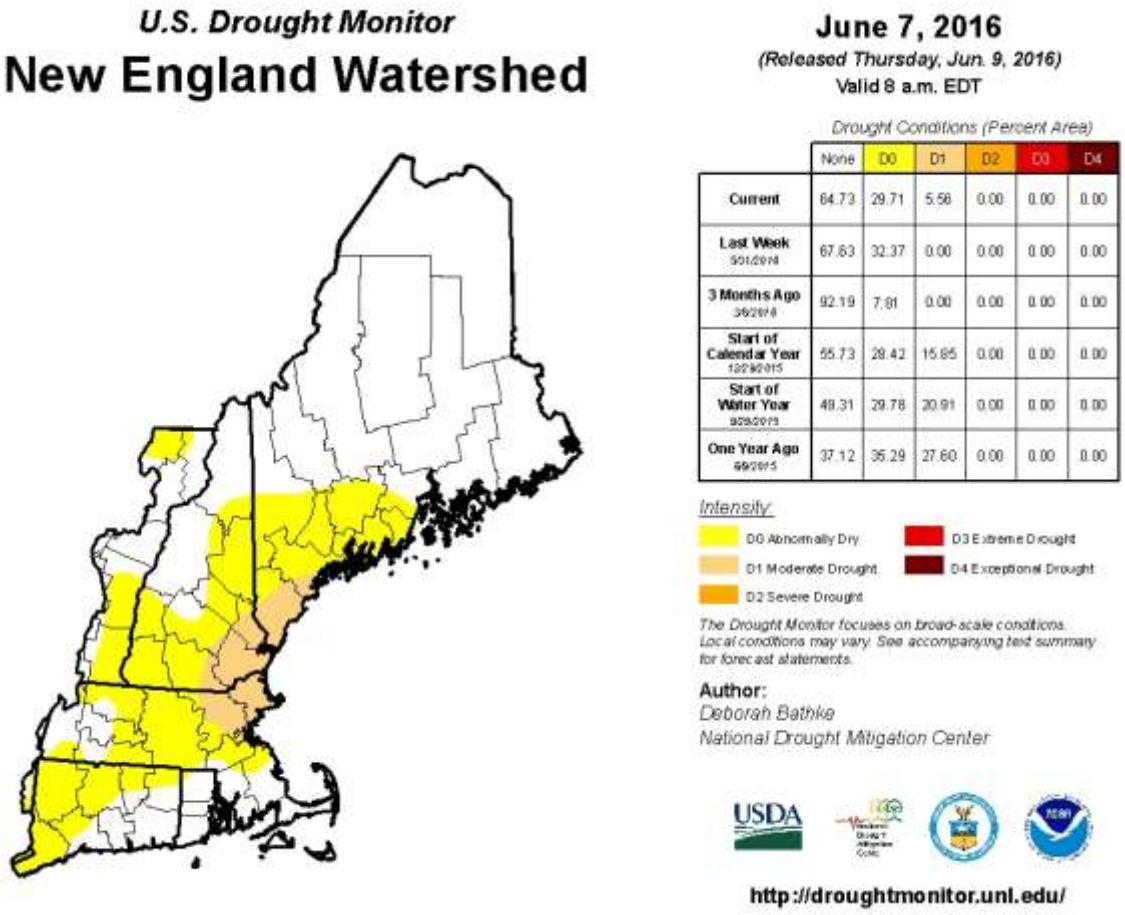
Another rapidly growing county of CoCoRaHS observers is here. Let us all keep it that way. If you know of someone who might be interested in measuring and mapping precipitation, ask them to join CoCoRaHS.



From the Drought Monitor.

Your reports of zero matter most throughout the year. Every Tuesday morning, the National Drought Mitigation Center, at the University of Nebraska, goes in search of ***your*** CoCoRaHS reports. Please keep your station data complete. Every drop counts and zeros do too!

More areas are experiencing drought conditions since last month.



	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	64.73	29.71	5.56	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 5/31/2016	67.63	32.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 3/8/2016	92.19	7.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12/29/2015	55.73	28.42	15.85	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 9/29/2015	49.31	29.78	20.91	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 6/9/2015	37.12	35.29	27.60	0.00	0.00	0.00

For a viewing explanation on the Drought Monitor, the CoCoRaHS animated video is on YouTube.

Happy Anniversary, Connecticut!

July 1, 2009. Connecticut is admitted to CoCoRaHS, the 45th state to join the network.

These 14 observers joined within the first 12 months and have stayed active since. In total, they have made 25,487 Daily Reports through the end of May 2016, half of the 50,988 total reports.

CT-FR-3	New Canaan 1.9 ENE
CT-FR-9	Brookfield 3.3 SSE
CT-HR-5	Enfield 1.5 SE
CT-HR-6	Wethersfield 1.2 WSW
CT-HR-7	Central Manchester 2.7 SW
CT-HR-8	North Granby 1.3 ENE
CT-LT-5	Winsted 2.6 NNW
CT-MD-2	Portland 0.9 S
CT-NH-9	Milford 2.9 ESE & CT-NH-16 Milford 1.8 E
CT-NL-5	Oakdale 2.6 WNW
CT-TL-2	Staffordville 0.4 NNW
CT-TL-4	Mansfield Center 1.9 SW
CT-WN-2	North Grosvenor Dale 1.7 SSE
CT-WN-4	East Killingly 1.3 SW

Connecticut CoCoRaHS

Comments by Joe DelliCarpini – Science & Operations Officer, NWS Taunton MA and State Coordinator for Massachusetts

The State Seal has 3 grapevines, representing the first 3 settlements of Connecticut in Windsor, Hartford and Wethersfield. The state is covered by 3 climate zones for the shoreline, Litchfield County area and the remainder in between. The state is also covered by 3 NWS forecast offices.

Having done our work to expand CoCoRaHS into Rhode Island and Massachusetts, it was time to set our sights on Connecticut! Establishing the CoCoRaHS network in Connecticut was certainly a challenge, since we needed to coordinate our efforts between the 3 NWS forecast offices and state emergency management.

We laid most of the ground work through email and conference calls. Press releases were sent to newspapers and TV meteorologists. NWS

offices posted headlines on their web pages so people could sign up. Prior to the July 1 startup, 30 observers signed up and were ready to go. Another 15 joined the ranks in July. Our small core of 14 observers (listed above) reported frequently. Others reported when they could.

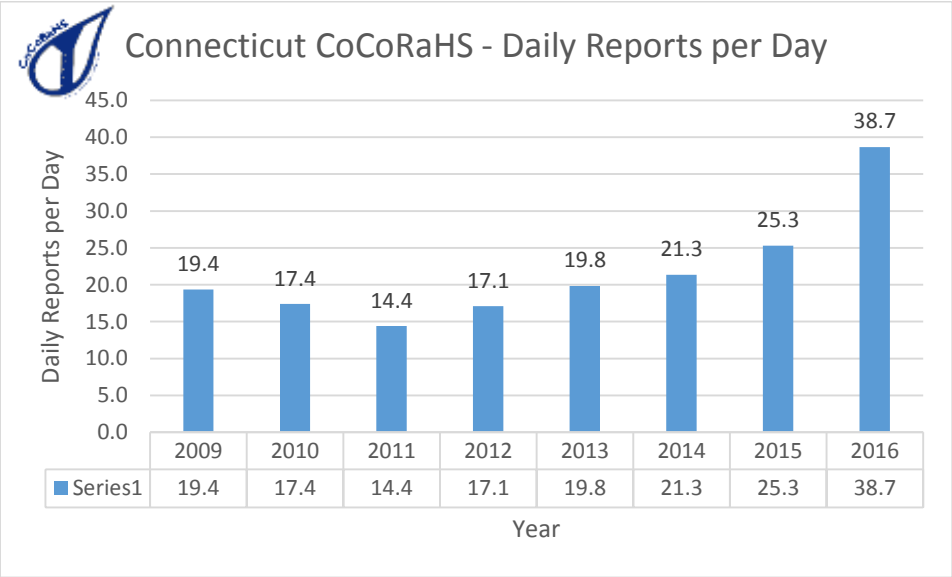
Then last summer, our observer in Brookfield, you know him as Matt Spies, got in touch with me about rejuvenating the network in Southern New England. Due to work and other commitments, it became difficult to manage all of Southern New England on my own, so I welcomed the help.

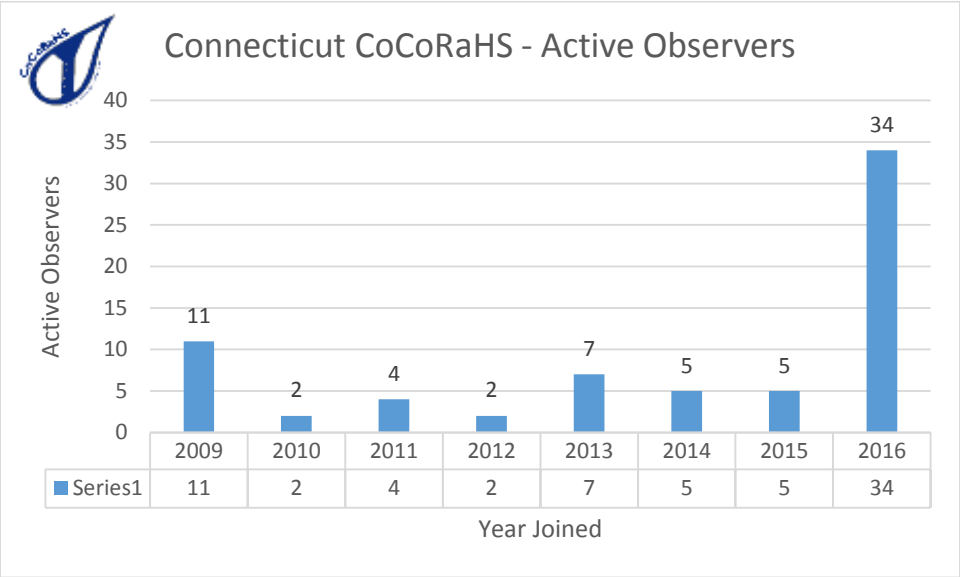
The very first message from Matt was a monthly newsletter. I liked it right away. Those monthly newsletters have not stopped coming to me and to all of you. Instead, they only have gotten longer and more detailed. Next, came ideas on how to get people to report more regularly. When Henry Reges and I couldn't figure out how to slow down this fountain of information, we decided that Matt should be appointed your State Coordinator as December 2015 came to a close. In 2016, Matt sends messages to most of you in Connecticut. Then came the recruitment drive for March Madness. Matt helped increase the density of observations in Connecticut, especially near the coast, to help with drought analysis maps, which were erroneous due to poor measurements from automated gauges.

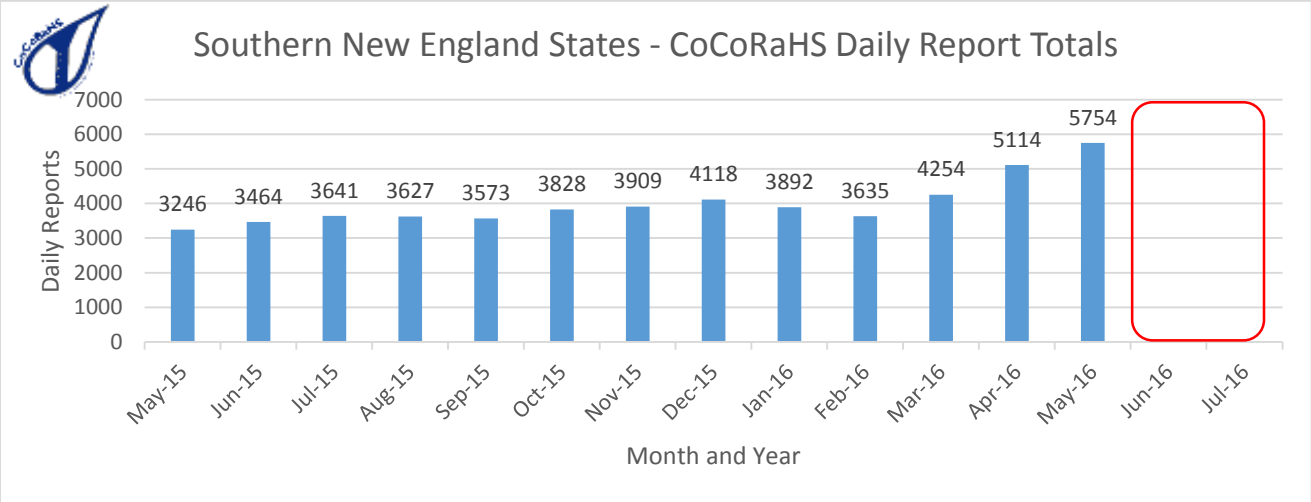
Matt and I have become great friends thanks to CoCoRaHS and communicate with each other almost every day. But you are the real "heroes" of CoCoRaHS: the volunteer observers who faithfully report every morning, or as much as you can, in all types of weather conditions.

Our network in Connecticut features people of all different ages and backgrounds; widows and widowers, school age students and school teachers, educators young and older, a retired meteorologist and a TV meteorologist, a botanist, a retired aircraft pilot, an observer who also reports for the NWS Co-Operative network and our network in the predawn hours every day, an insurance agent, newlyweds starting in just as they are starting together, several ham radio operators, and 1 of the 3 people in the entire CoCoRaHS network who is blind, and reports diligently.

As we conclude our anniversary series, I want to say thank you for your efforts. Connecticut CoCoRaHS and Massachusetts and Rhode Island are far and above, the most rapidly growing part of the network in the country!


Connecticut CoCoRaHS - Daily Reports per Day
Daily Reports per Day
45.0
40.0
35.0
30.0
25.0
20.0
15.0
10.0
5.0
0.0
19.4
17.4
14.4
17.1
19.8
21.3
25.3
38.7
2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016
Series1 19.4 17.4 14.4 17.1 19.8 21.3 25.3 38.7
Year


Connecticut CoCoRaHS - Active Observers
Active Observers
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
11
2
4
2
7
5
5
34
2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016
Series1 11 2 4 2 7 5 5 34
Year Joined


Southern New England States - CoCoRaHS Daily Report Totals
Daily Reports
7000
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
0
3246
3464
3641
3627
3573
3828
3909
4118
3892
3635
4254
5114
5754
May-15 Jun-15 Jul-15 Aug-15 Sep-15 Oct-15 Nov-15 Dec-15 Jan-16 Feb-16 Mar-16 Apr-16 May-16 Jun-16 Jul-16
Month and Year

Gauge Photos

CT-TL-15

CT-NL-21

CT-NL-6

CT-LT-14

I got into weather reporting in memory of my brother who died 3 months ago and had wanted to be a weatherman. He became a systems engineer but always loved talking about weather. The pole was in my attic and was an old newspaper box and post from 70 years ago.

I am enjoying measuring. CT-LT-14

MA-MD-47

CT-FR-41

MA-HS-8

MA-MD-52

My Dad was in the Air Force during Korea and spent a stint in Japan as a radio operator flying weather recon missions (basically, go fly over / near the bombing site ahead of the actual mission). His interest in weather continued after his discharge and he passed that on to me. I'd always hear details and terms from him that I didn't hear from the media (how many people describe windy conditions to their kids as "the isobars are close together?" A friend talked me into going to spotter training in Maynard last June and it was there that I heard about CoCoRaHS. I signed up and ordered a gauge soon after. MA-MD-52

CT-NL-19

MA-HD-23

MA-WR-44

MA-MD-25

I don't have anything cool like a grey tree frog in my rain gauge but mine (MA-MD-25) has a pretty bed of iris for company this time of year.

I became a CoCoRaHS volunteer thanks to my Dad during one of your volunteer drives several years ago. He was a faithful reporter (MA-BA-10) and we always loved talking weather. Now that he has passed away, my Mom continues the reporting on his gauge. Thanks for the newsletters. I enjoy reading them.

Beach Forecasts are Back!

By Joe DelliCarpini – Science & Operations Officer, NWS Taunton MA

June is here and I'm sure many of you are thinking about a summer filled with enjoying the outdoors and trips to the beach. Don't forget to check the latest Beach Forecasts before heading out the door! In addition to finding out if the sun will shine and how warm it will be, the forecasts also provide information on wind, surf height, rip current risk, lightning, and tides. You can also find safety tips on rip currents.

For the ocean beaches in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, go to http://www.weather.gov/box/surfzone. For Connecticut, forecasts can be found at http://www.weather.gov/beach/okx.

Taking the boat out for a ride? Don't forget to check the forecast first! Go to http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/marine/zone/east/boxmz.htm for the Massachusetts and Rhode Island coastal waters and http://www.weather.gov/okx/marine for the Connecticut and Long Island coastal waters.

Give it a Grade!

Tuesday after Memorial Day, we received a message from one of our observers, a school at Nantucket MA, Station MA-NT-2, completing their first full school year of measuring and reporting for CoCoRaHS. As their school year was ending, they summarized the lessons they learned working with our network with an 8 minute long video!

As you open and play this video, you may find success with a different web browser. Google Chrome may work better than Internet Explorer. You also may need to turn up the volume on your device to hear what the students are saying.

https://www.dropbox.com/s/78df4fdx44hprj5/CoCoRaHS%20Final%20Video%20Presentation%20May%202016.mp4?dl=0

They received their own newsletter last Thursday for their efforts. A Special Edition for a special group of observers. If you want to send a message to Joe or Matt, you can "Give it a Grade!" of your own.

Wrap up

May was a fairly calm month. Weather events always heat up, in more ways than one, when June, July and August come. A reminder to all of you that you have been deputized. You have been deputized to fill out from the website, in real time, a Significant Weather Report and a Hail Report.

- Be safe. None of this is worth getting hurt over.
- Make a note of the start and stop times for when you do report.
- A simple guideline to use is 1" or more of precip in 1 hour or less.
- If you think it is significant, report it.
- The "H" in CoCoRaHS is for Hail. Silent when we say it. Not so silent when it falls. If hail falls at your station, please fill out and submit a Hail Report so that it alerts the Forecast Office in real time, and to add to the ever increasing database on Hail.

These reports go directly to your local Forecast Office. They are a huge help in issuing warnings or advisories. In April's newsletter, it was mentioned the tremendous impact one report made in July 2008. There is always someone else downwind from your location.

These reports are real time and supplemental. Please report all precipitation during your morning observation.

- Keep the birthday candles ready for CoCoRaHS. June 17, 1998 is when our network started so we are completing our 18th year in this great citizen-science project, measuring and reporting precipitation.

- Summer begins with the summer solstice and that occurs this year June 20 at 6:34am EDT. Sad to think when we get into July, that daylight begins to wane again.

- Hurricane Season began on June 1. We've had 3 named storms already. Although the climax of Hurricane Season occurs here in early September, now is a good time to get into the habit of staying informed and to have a plan in place should a storm come our way this season.

Thank you for all that you do for CoCoRaHS, whether in the past, present and in the days to come.