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Big Rains hit the Gulf South on March 26th-27th

The last week of March saw a weather pattern that placed the Gulf States in line with upper level weather disturbances to produce a heavy rain event. A slow moving and eventually stalling cold front settled across coastal Louisiana parishes the morning of March 26th. Strong gulf breezes ushered plenty of moisture to maintain heavy rainfall across the region along the stalled front. CoCoRaHS observers in the area reported 9.33 inches in Gray and 7.81 inches near Raceland within the swath of heaviest rain. Street flooding was extensive and a few homes succumbed to flooding. Drainage was hampered a bit due to strong south winds maintaining higher than normal tides in the bayous and drainage canals.

Rainfall Highlights

The highest single day rainfall report in the entire state came from **Gray 0.5 ENE (LA-TR-5)** with the 9.33 inches falling on the 26th and early 27th. **Raceland 1.8 WSW (LA-LF-2)** was a somewhat distant 2nd in the state with the 7.81 inch report on the 27th. However, the wettest location for the entire month of March in the whole state was at **Franklinton 0.4 ENE (LA-WS-2)** with 13.89 inches reported on 28 days. **Gray 0.5 ENE (LA-TR-5)** also reported pea sized hail during the 26th – 27th deluge, occurring shortly after midnight around 12:10 a.m.

State of the network

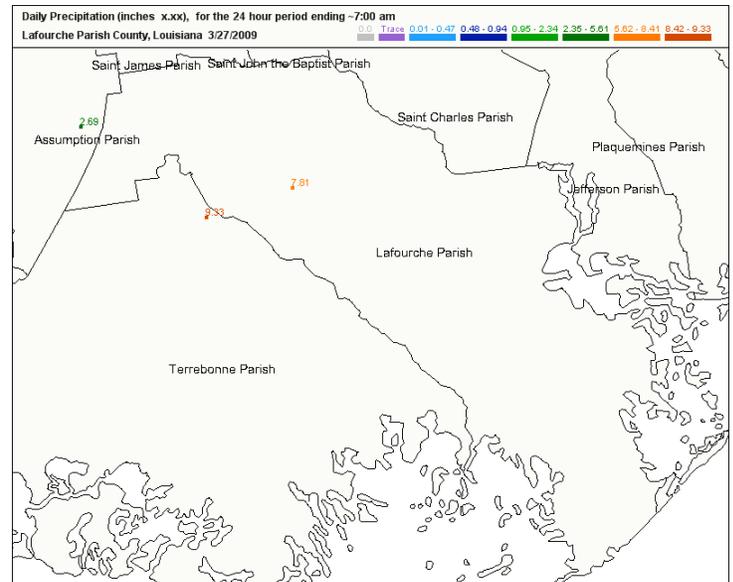
Louisiana had 77 stations file 1806 reports over 31 days in March. The most active day was 68 stations with reports of measurable rainfall on the morning of March 28th.

March Madness

March came and went and unfortunately we did not add to the roles of CoCoRaHS observers in south Louisiana. We were not able to contribute to the national membership drive but do not despair. Recruitment is a year-round activity and hopefully we can still garner some new participants. I will continue to build interest on the south shore and may have a network of established flood monitoring rain gauges to include on the north shore soon. Stay tuned and stay hopeful.

Open House

This is another reminder that the National Weather Service Office in Slidell will be hosting an open house on Saturday, May 16, 2009. A CoCoRaHS booth will be present along with many other weather and emergency operations activities for all to enjoy. Come out and meet the weather forecasters and fellow CoCoRaHS observers.



KEEP THOSE RAINFALL REPORTS COMING!!!