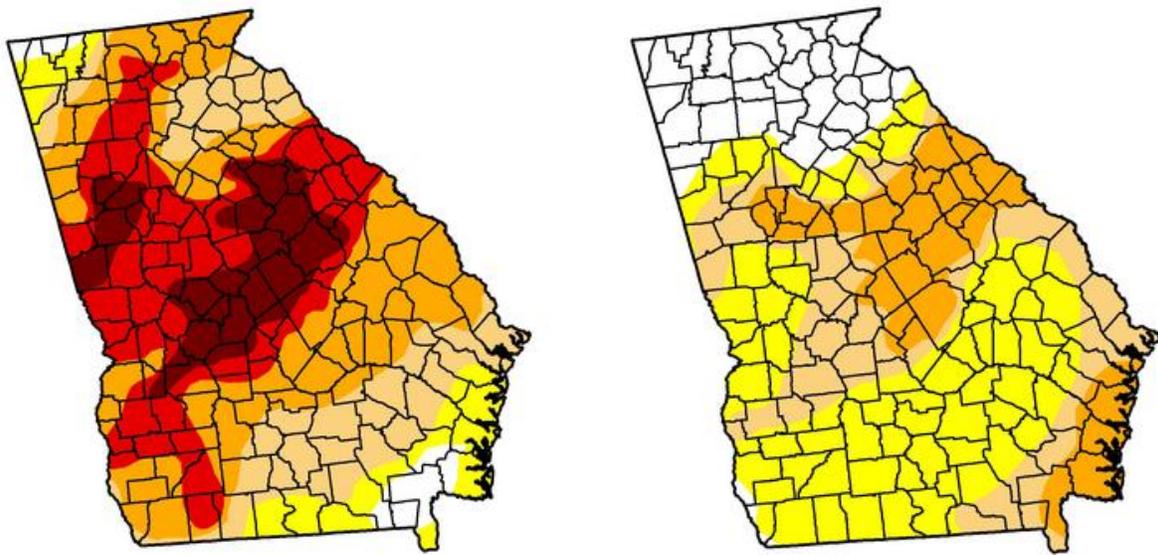




Georgia CoCoRaHS Newsletter

March 2013

Drought improves for most of Georgia



December 4, 2012

March 5, 2013

Drought Severity



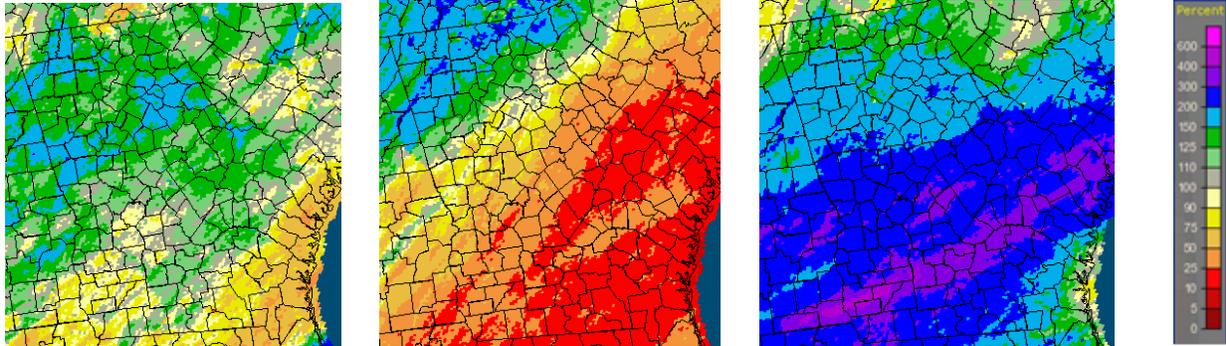
(from <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/archive.html>)

Is this drought on its way out? Time will tell, but many of us in Georgia have seen substantial improvement over the last few months. Of the 40 Georgia CoCoRaHS stations that have reported every day since December 1st, more than half received at least 18 inches of rain during that period. At the other end of the scale, GA-MI-5 (McIntosh County) logged only 8.11 inches despite having reported every day. The highest total for the period from a station that reported every day was 28.63 inches at GA-HB-5 (Habersham County). Five stations had higher totals, but none of them submitted reports every

day, so we can't assume their totals are complete. Rest assured, we appreciate all reports, but it really is helpful for those who use your data if the record is complete. So if you can remember to enter those zeroes on dry days, it makes your data much more valuable.

Percent of Normal Precipitation for Georgia

(from <http://water.weather.gov/precip/>)



December 2012

January 2013

February 2013

The above graphics show the percent of normal precipitation in Georgia for each of the past three months. In December, there was higher-than-normal precipitation over much of north and central Georgia, with some locations receiving nearly twice their December averages. January saw further improvement in north Georgia, while central and especially south Georgia remained dry. February saw above-normal precipitation for almost all of Georgia, with parched central and south Georgia benefitting the most; some locations received about five times their February normals.

What's next?



This is a portion of the U.S Seasonal Drought Outlook map issued by the Climate Prediction Center (<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>), valid for the period from March 7th through May 31st. Green areas are where further improvement is expected, brown areas show where drought is expected to persist or worsen, and yellow areas show where drought is forecast to develop. Keep in mind that this, like any forecast, can be wrong; last fall the outlook didn't predict any drought improvement for Georgia at all.

State of the state

Recently, Georgia CoCoRaHS got our 900th station signed up, which is exciting. Of that number, about 400 stations have been closed over the years due to observer request or inactivity. A total of 366 stations have made at least one report so far in 2013; about 200 have reported so far today.

There are active CoCoRaHS stations in 119 of Georgia's 159 counties. In recent months, the first observers signed up in Long, Pike, Towns, Wilcox and Ben Hill Counties. We still have quite a few counties that have either lost all their observers or have never had any. Time to recruit! Speaking of which...

The other March Madness

CoCoRaHS is having its annual recruiting drive during the month of March. If you have any friends you think might be interested in becoming CoCoRaHS observers, now's the time to talk to them. An easy and fun way to introduce people to CoCoRaHS is to show them the YouTube video "The Story of CoCoRaHS", available at this link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yHmz5IyjV80&list=PLBD28578BA99D402A&index=3>

CoCoRaHS has lots of other things on YouTube as well, such as training videos and educational shorts on water-related topics. You can browse the selection at www.youtube.com/cocorahs.

Mitchell County gathering

From Mitchell County Coordinator Dillon Blount: "On Saturday, February 16, Mitchell County had its first ever CoCoRaHS meeting. The meeting was a great success with members and nonmembers attending. Overall there were about 15 people. We also had a very special guest come down and speak to all of us. His name is Jay Polk and he is the meteorologist on WALB channel 10 in Albany. He talked about his journey to becoming a meteorologist and also many other funny stories about himself. Thanks to all those who attended and we look forward to having another one."

Thanks, everyone, for all you do in support of CoCoRaHS! -- Chris McGehee, State Co-coordinator