

Southeast Louisiana CoCoRaHS Newsletter

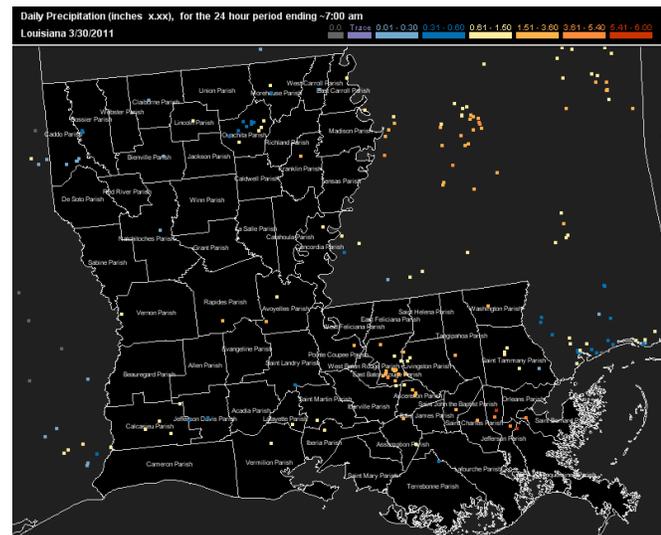
April 7, 2011



East Gets Deluged, West Remains Dry

March featured two very wet days across Southeast Louisiana that amounted to about 90 percent of the monthly totals. March 9th saw considerable amount of rainfall and more than enough severe thunderstorm activity. Of course, this came on Ash Wednesday as Mardi Gras activities were drawing to a close. Another heavy rain and severe weather outbreak took place on March 29th, featuring 4 to 6 inches of rainfall and about 7 tornadoes in the area. During the month of March, four

locations measured in excess of 10 inches of rainfall, while 18 CoCoRaHS locations had 7+ inches. Meanwhile, the western part of Louisiana was feeling the affects of an ongoing and worsening drought. Fourteen CoCoRaHS sites reported less than 1 inch of rainfall for the entire month, generally across Southwest and West-Central Louisiana. The image to the right is from the morning of March 30, 2011, after the heavy rains of the 29th.



March 29-30 rainfall—Orange dots are 3.61 to 5.40 inches, red dots are 5.41 to 6.00 inches.

March Statistics

- **Wettest Month State & local:**
LA-JF-5 River Ridge 0.7 N
10.94" on 28 reports
- **Driest Month State:**
LA-NT-2 Natchitoches 0.9 NE
0.48 inches on 31 reports
- **Number of Rain Days:** 14
- **Wettest Day State & local:**
LA-JF-1 Terrytown 3.3 S
6.00" on Mar 30th
- **Hail Days:** 2
Mar 26 - 10:45 PM (1/4" Pea)
LA-BV-1 Bienville 0.5 S
Mar 30 5:30 AM (1 1/4" Half Dollar)
LA-CC-14 Lake Charles 4.8 SSE
Mar 30 5:30 AM (1 1/2" Ping Pong)
LA-SL-1 Grand Coteau 2.7 E
Mar 30 6:45 AM (1/4 Pea)
LA-LY-5 Lafayette 7.5 SSW

March Not So Madness

Well after a month of fairly active weather, Louisiana only managed to sign 4 new recruits during the annual March Madness drive. Two were in the southwest part of the state and two were from the north part of the state. Unfortunately, workload issues and busy weather have limited

my recruiting activities lately. Recruiting just doesn't occur in March, however, so the drive to add folks where we are sparsely covered remains a priority. As time allows, I will continue to push for new members in parishes we lack coverage. Meanwhile, wel-

come to the new members. I am sure the shaky economy and other life issues may play a part in getting new recruits. Many thanks to those of you that take the time and effort to volunteer. I hope you enjoy doing this as much as I do.

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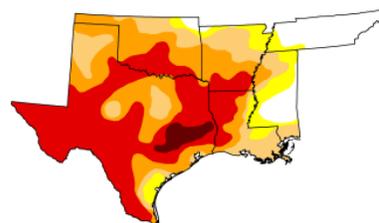
Drought conditions are worsening in Texas and are showing signs of spreading east into Western Louisiana. The National Drought Monitor image below is the latest release, showing D4 or Exceptional Drought conditions emerging over the Texas Piney Woods region. A few heavy rain events in eastern part of Louisiana has slowed the drought spread some, but conditions will have to be continuously monitored for possible deterioration over time.

South

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	10.66	89.34	80.83	63.51	38.29	2.43
Last Week (03/29/2011 map)	8.33	91.67	79.16	60.10	28.53	0.00
3 Months Ago (01/04/2011 map)	12.28	87.72	58.95	31.71	11.37	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12/28/2010 map)	8.86	91.14	67.65	35.21	10.17	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/28/2010 map)	54.23	45.77	20.04	6.79	0.83	0.00
One Year Ago (03/30/2010 map)	95.65	4.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

■ D0 Abnormally Dry ■ D3 Drought - Extreme
■ D1 Drought - Moderate ■ D4 Drought - Exceptional
■ D2 Drought - Severe



Keep those rainfall and hail reports coming!

Reporting Statistics (March)

- **Stations reporting: 104**
- **Number of reports: 2263**
- **Average daily reporting: 73.0**

Busiest Reporting Day

- **Date: Mar 9th**
- **Number of Reports: 87**
- **Average reported rainfall: 0.89"**
- **Max amount: 4.84"**

Wettest Reporting Day

- **Date: Mar 30th**
- **Number of Reports: 86**
- **Average reported rainfall: 1.46"**
- **Max amount: 6.00"**



Baseball sized hail stone fetched from the March 29th severe weather event. This photo was sent from Clinton, LA, forwarded to the NWS office from a Baton Rouge media outlet.