Community Collaborative Rainfall, Hail, and Snow Network

Volume 3, Edition 3

March 3, 2011

Southeast Louisiana CoCoRaHS Newsletter

A Tale of Two Extremes

In Louisiana, a microcosm of much of the south's experience this February, the first 13 days were greatly below normal with several hard freeze mornings due to Arctic air influences. This very cold two week stretch would become neutralized by the other extreme of much above normal warmth the latter two weeks. A prime example was the daily temperature trends at Baton Rouge, LA, where the first 13 days of the month were consecutive large negative anomaly days, averaging 40.2 degrees and ranking the coldest on record for the period Feb 1-13. The remainder of the month tallied 15 consecutive days of above to much above normal temperatures to average 65.9 degrees— 3rd warmest on record for the period Feb 14-28. Similarly, New Orleans International Airport ranked 2nd coldest at 43.9 degrees for Feb 1-13 (1978 was coldest with 43.3), followed by 15 days of above normal for an average of 67.7 degrees—to rank tied for warmest 15 day period Feb 14-28, tied with 1962. It appears the influences of the strong negative phase AO and NAO gave way to allow La Nina winter conditions to return in earnest across the Gulf South.

February Statistics

- **Wettest Month State & local**

  LA-TG-2 Hammond 2.3 WSW
  5.10" on 18 reports

- **Number of Rain Days: 12**
- **Wettest Day State & local:**
  LA-TG-6 Tickfaw 2.0 SSW
  1.75" on Feb 4th
- **Number of Snow Days: 3**
  Feb 4 (6), Feb 5 (7), Feb 10 (5)
- **Hail Days: 1**
  Feb 6 - 9:21 PM (1/4" Pea)
  LA-NT-2 Natchitoches 0.9NE

March Madness

This is the time of the year for spring cleaning, college basketball brackets and CoCoRaHS recruitment—also known as March Madness. Several of you active observers have joined the program as a result of past March Madness membership drives. If you know someone who may be interested in joining, please spread the word during March. There is a national competition to see which state attains the most recruits. Look for details and results in next month's newsletter for Louisiana.

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"Because every drop counts"

Reporting Statistics (February)

- **Stations reporting:** 98
- **Number of reports:** 2043
- **Average daily reporting:** 73.0

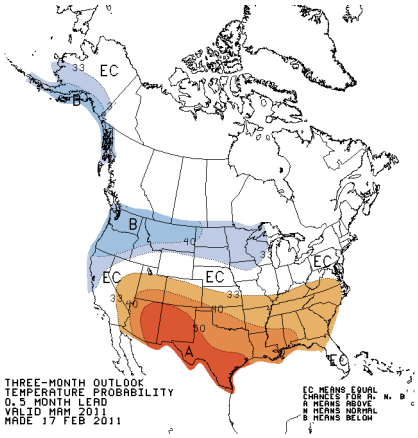
Busiest Reporting Day

- **Date:** Feb 10th
- **Number of Reports:** 83
- **Average reported rainfall:** 0.35"
- **Max amount:** 0.64"
- 5 snow reports on the 10th

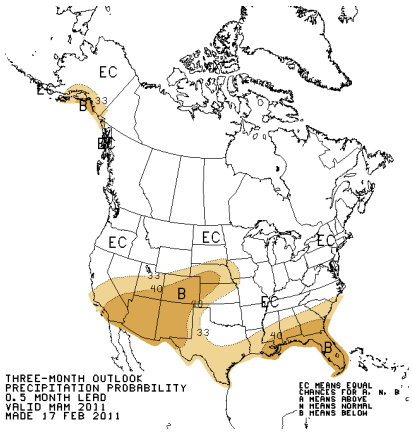
Keep those rainfall and hail reports coming!

Spring Outlook

The winter season featured influences from La Nina across the Deep South. But La Nina was not alone, working in conjunction with another weather phenomenon called the Arctic Oscillation (AO) and closely aligned North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO). These two patterns favored cold air intrusions well into the U.S. from mid-December through early February. Once this cold pattern abated however, typical dry and milder La Nina conditions set in for the latter part of February. La Nina is expected to continue through the spring but in a weakening state heading into the summer months. NOAA Climate Prediction Center is indicating a strong likelihood of above normal temperatures and below normal rainfall across the Gulf States. Drought conditions may actually worsen through the May.



3 month Temperature Outlook
March—April-May 2011



3 month Precipitation Outlook
March—April-May 2011