



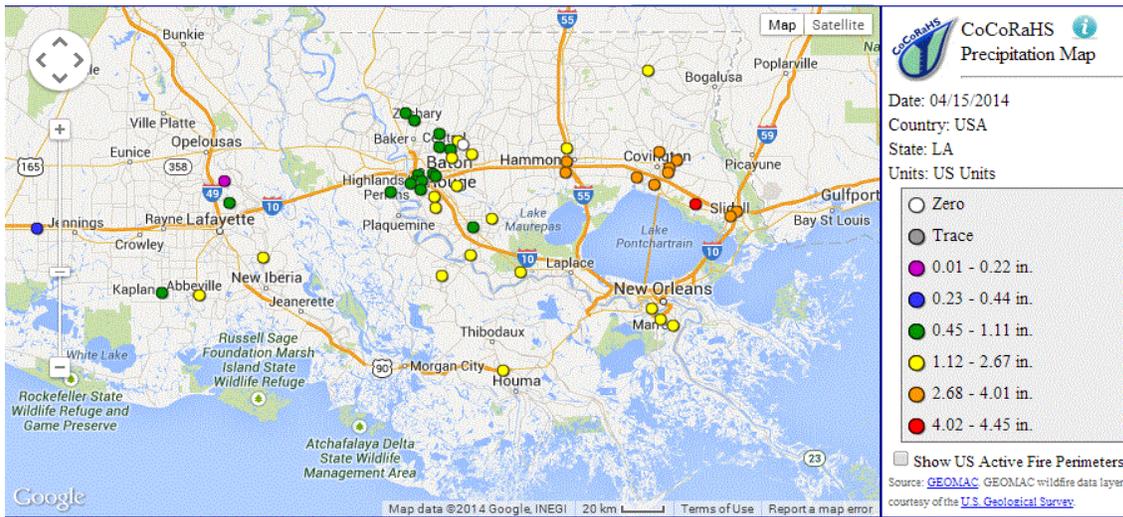
Southeast Louisiana CoCoRaHS Newsletter

May 2, 2014

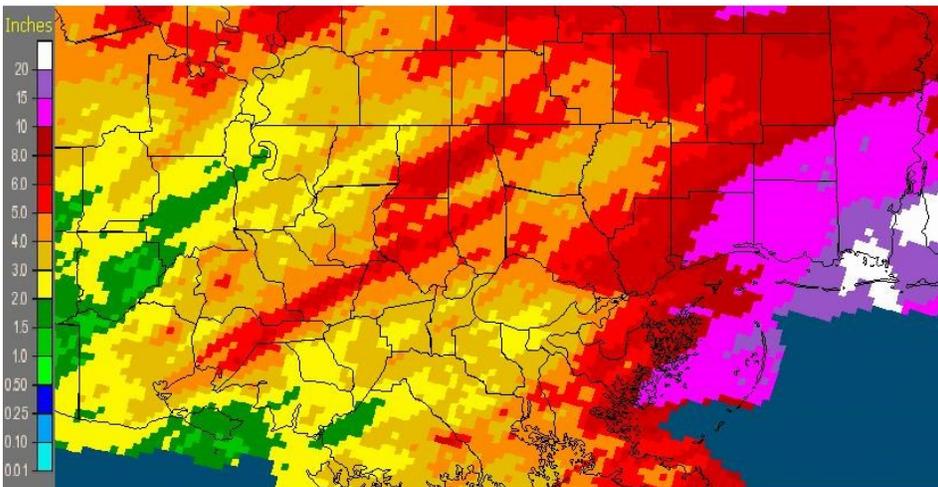
Heavy Rains on the 14th...Widespread Hail on the 8th

April saw about half the days (17 out of 30) receiving at least some rainfall. The wettest day was the 14th as a slow moving cold front focused an area of rainfall mainly over north shore parishes of Southeast Louisiana. The greater Baton Rouge area only received between 0.50" and 2.00", while farther east, 2.50" to 4.50" occurred. Lacombe 1.4 N (LA-ST-8) measured 4.45" on the morning of the 15th. Several streets were flooded in the Slidell area and many of the streams around Covington became swollen. Heavy rains farther north resulted in flooding along the Pearl River that continued into May. The map below are the rainfall reports from the morning of the 15th. The image, far left below, is the monthly rainfall accumulation for the area, showing between 2 and 8 inches (diagonal red streak in center of the image) in April.

About a week prior, a strong upper level disturbance moved through the area on the 8th. Nearly everyone that had a shower or thunderstorm pass over also had pea sized hail mixed in during the afternoon of the 8th.



New Orleans/Baton Rouge, LA (LIX): April, 2014 Monthly Observed Precipitation
Valid at 5/1/2014 1200 UTC- Created 5/1/14 23:38 UTC



Comment of the Month -

From Abita Springs 0.8 WSW (LA-ST-1) on April 9, 2014.

“pea sized hail mixed with rain between 1704-1709; gusts 35 mph.”

This was one of several reports of small hail that fell in many locations on the 8th. This comment at the morning observation time on the 9th augmented what was a timely hail report at the time of occurrence the afternoon before. Abita Springs 0.8 WSW also reported 0.22 inches. This was one of 307 comments submitted from Louisiana observers in April.

APRIL STATISTICS

Wettest/Driest/Hail/Reporting

- ◆ Wettest Month, State - 15.02" on just 10 reports at Lake Providence 0.8 ESE (LA-EC-1)
- ◆ Wettest Month, Local — 7.63" on just 7 reports at Tickfaw 2.0 SSW (LA-TG-6)
- ◆ Wettest Day, State – 5.67" on the 7th at Lake Providence 0.8 ESE (LA-EC-1)
- ◆ Wettest Day, Local—4.45" on the 15th at Lacombe 1.4N (LA-ST-8)
- ◆ Number of Rain Days—17 with at least 0.01" average on a given day in the state.
- ◆ Driest Month, State — 0.66" on 16 reports at Lake Charles 11.5 SSW (LA-CM-3)
- ◆ Driest Month, Local— 1.05" on 19 reports at Brownfields 5.8 NE (LA-EB-9)
- ◆ Hail Reports: 9 reports ranging from pea to penny sizes. Penny hail on one report from the 5th at Gray 0.5 ENE. All the pea sized reports were on the 6th, 3 reports on the 8th, and one each on the 9th, 14th and 24th.
- ◆ Snow Reports: None
- ◆ Stations Reporting: 104; Number of Reports: 2233; Average per day: 74.4
- ◆ Busiest Reporting Day: 15th, average: 1.26", max amount: 4.45", number of reports: 94
- ◆ Wettest Reporting Day: 7th, average 1.98", max amount 5.67", number of reports 85
- ◆ Number of perfect 30 report observers: 30 stations statewide (28.8 percent); 11 locally

Why should I report zero on no rain days?

Since the inception of CoCoRaHS observations, it has been often asked if one has to report even on days with no rainfall. There is a statistical significance in actually having a 0.00" reading on the database, rather than an assumption that it did not rain. In a short-term situation (a matter of a few days to a week), some assumptions can be made across a reporting network. However, as months and years pass, and researches go through historical records, it becomes very difficult to ascertain if spotty reporting is truly an accurate picture of total rainfall just being reported if and when rain occurs—or if it is a result of lax reporting practices. Reporting the zero each day (or at least at the end of the month as a catch-up), removes any ambiguities. Intermittent reporting also adds complications in assessing drought status for an area as lack of reporting may not truly reflect "occurrence only" reporting patterns. This is why determining which stations are the driest in a particular month discards any locations that report less than half the days in that month. Incidentally, NWS Co-operative observers are required to report daily. While not strictly required, volunteer CoCoRaHS observers are always encouraged to send a DAILY report—even if it is 0.00 inches. Over the past several years, usually only 25 to 30 percent of the Louisiana network does so.

Keep those DAILY rainfall reports coming!