



Southeast Louisiana CoCoRaHS Newsletter

September 1, 2013

"Because every drop counts"

A "normal" summer so far!

Have you noticed that August was actually comfortable this year, when compared to the several hotter August months of recent years? Temperatures were running about one-half to one degree below normal, and featured fewer really hot days. At New Orleans, 6 of the first 8 days of the month had readings of 95 to 97 degrees. After the 8th of August, only 8 days managed to even crack the 90 degree mark. In fact, several out-of-season cold fronts moved through the Bayou State to bring drier conditions towards the latter half of the month. On the 18th, New Orleans only reached 83F for a high temperature. On the morning of the 28th, the low temperature was 69, which was the coolest temperature of August. Despite 13 days with measurable rainfall, the Crescent City managed 7.22 inches of rain, which was 1.24 inches above normal for August. At Baton Rouge, temperatures reached 95 degrees or higher on only 5 days, the warmest coming on the 4th and 10th at 96F. Then, like New Orleans, temperatures ranged from the mid 80s to only the lower 90s. A strong cold front in the last week of August brought a couple of cool morning lows in the mid 60s on the 28th and 29th. Rainfall total at Baton Rouge was 3.36 inches, or 2.46 inches below normal for August on only 9 measured rain days.

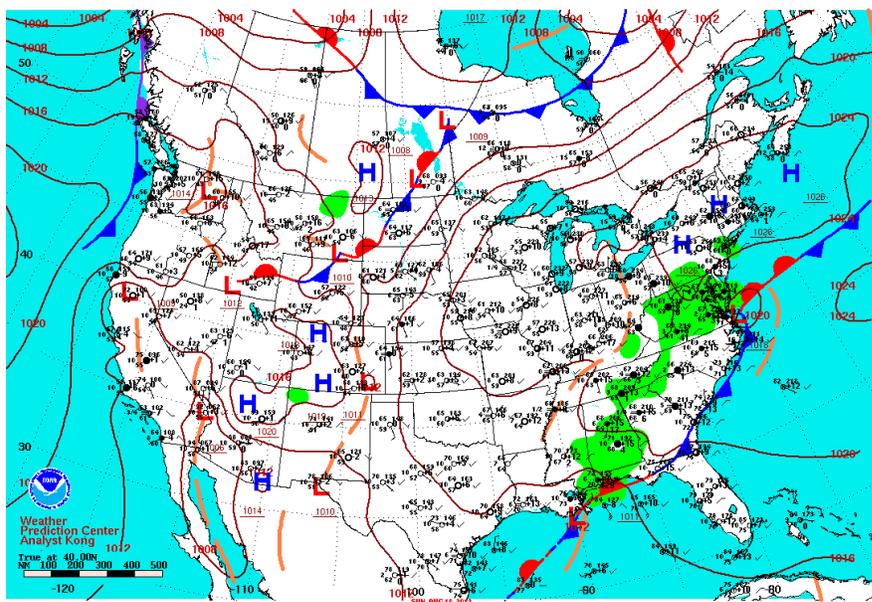
The end of August also meant the end of climatological summer—the 3 month period that climatologists use to compare seasonal trends that includes June-July-August. The average temperature from month-to-month varied only slightly with New Orleans recording a seasonal mean temperature of 82.6F and Baton Rouge, 81.5F. This was +0.1 and -0.8 degrees, respectively for anomalies—quite normal by most measures. The end of true summer comes on the day of the autumnal equinox on September 22nd.

CoCoRaHS observations indicated a few wet days during the month, but nothing too unusual for South Louisiana. Much of the healthier rainfall was associated with frontal boundaries that entered the region out of season. The wettest day was the 14th, where the River Parishes had a few reports in excess of 1 inch of rainfall. Gonzales 4.0 S (LA-AS-5) reported 3.73" for the wettest single day report in the state. This short period of heavy rainfall also attributed to the 8.38" tallied for the month at Donaldsonville 4.0 SW (LA-AP-2) to garner the wettest location in the state for August.

August Comment of the Month From Terrytown 3.3 S (LA-JF-1) on August 18th

"Light rain from tropical wave in Gulf of Mexico"

This was one of 174 comments submitted in August. Although there have been numerous rainy days throughout the month, most location totals were generally below normal. This particular rainy day was attributed to a low pressure system that formed along a stationary front along the Louisiana coast, as shown on the daily weather map image, left. Terrytown 3.3 S reported 0.23" with this comment on the morning of the 18th.



Surface Weather Map and Station Weather at 7:00 A.M. E.S.T.

U.S. Drought Monitor

Louisiana

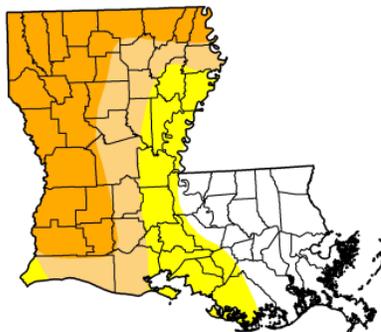
August 27, 2013

Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	24.53	75.47	54.93	35.12	0.00	0.00
Last Week (08/20/2013 map)	19.31	80.69	40.82	3.59	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago (05/28/2013 map)	87.78	12.22	2.64	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	56.27	43.73	1.20	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	81.05	18.95	8.45	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago (08/21/2012 map)	58.78	41.22	26.13	10.77	1.59	0.00

Intensity:

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



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



Released Thursday, August 29, 2013
Anthony Artusa, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

Could drought conditions be returning to the region? A look at the latest U.S. Drought Monitor shows dryness and drought slowly advancing eastward from Texas, where a multi-year drought has been underway. While nearly daily rains have been able to stave off a drought classification thus far, a stretch of dry conditions can easily send Southeast Louisiana into at least a D0 (unusually dry) status as we head into autumn. October is typically a dry month, so any rainfall the area can receive in September would be beneficial. Let's hope it just doesn't come all at once in the form of a tropical storm or hurricane. This will be monitored in coming weeks and an update will be mentioned in next month's newsletter.

AUGUST STATISTICS

Wettest/Driest/Hail/Reporting

- ◆ Wettest Month, State & Local - 8.38" on a perfect 31 reports at Donaldsonville 4.0 SW (LA-AP-2)
- ◆ Wettest Day, State & Local - 3.73" on the 14th at Gonzales 4.0 S (LA-AS-5)
- ◆ Number of Rain Days—24 with at least 0.01" average in the state on a given day.
- ◆ Driest Month, State— -0.05" on a perfect 31 reports at Swartz 2.0 SSW (LA-OC-1)
- ◆ Driest Month Local—2.82" on 29 reports at Hammond 2.3 WSW (LA-TG-2)
- ◆ Hail Reports: None.
- ◆ Stations Reporting: 95; Number of Reports: 2147; Average per day: 69.3
- ◆ Busiest Reporting Day: 14th, average: 0.82", max amount: 3.73", number of reports: 79
- ◆ Wettest Reporting Day: 14th, average: 0.82", max amount: 3.73", number of reports: 79.

No Hurricanes in August (Hooray!) It is a rare occasion when the Atlantic Basin can go through the entire month of August without a hurricane developing. The last time this occurred was the 2002 season, when Hurricane Gustav, the 7th named storm of the season, developed on September 8th. That season had 12 named storms and 4 hurricanes. The previous season, 2001, featured 15 named storms and 9 hurricanes. Again, the first hurricane did not develop until September 1st when Hurricane Erin became the fifth named storm in the open Atlantic. Does a late start mean less development? Not necessarily so. This season already had six storms named, with three of them forming or entering the Gulf of Mexico. Typically, the sixth storm does not form until September 8th, so we are running about 1-2 storms ahead of schedule. The official NOAA seasonal outlook still calls for 13 to 19 named storms and 6 to 9 hurricanes, of which 3 to 5 could become major hurricanes. Once again, it only takes one hurricane to make it an infamous season, no matter how late in the season one may strike. Keep your preparedness plans close at hand for a little while longer (and hope you don't have to use it).