

MARYLAND/DC COCORAHHS

Volume 2, Issue 5

May 2010

April Weather Review

Mother Nature rewarded us with one of the more pleasant Aprils in recent memory. Average temperatures for the month of April registered 3.9 degrees above average at BWI airport making it two consecutive months in a row with well above normal temperatures. The first week of April was exceptionally warm with many locations in the state climbing into the upper 80s to near 90 degrees on both April 6th and 7th. Snow, which has fallen on occasion in past April's was non-existent this April, even in the mountainous areas of Western Maryland. Rainfall was also below normal across most of the state with no reports of rainfall over 4 inches anywhere within the Cocorahs network. The heaviest amounts were reported across northern Maryland where Mary Kay (MD-BL-16) in Towson reported 3.93 inches to claim the top accumulation for the month of April. Most of that came from a line of thunderstorms which struck the area in the evening of April 25th. Mary Kay submitted an intense rainfall report from these storms which produced some minor flooding in her area. An area of showers and thunderstorms developed well south of a cold front that pushed into Pennsylvania on April 5th that affected some parts of Maryland. A few of these storms became quite strong and produced some small hail across the region. In all there were 6 hail reports submitted on that day. The driest readings across the state occurred on the Eastern Shore. Charles (MD-WC-5) near Salisbury recorded the lowest amount of all Cocorahs reports with only 1.04 inches for the month of April.



Meet Your County Coordinators

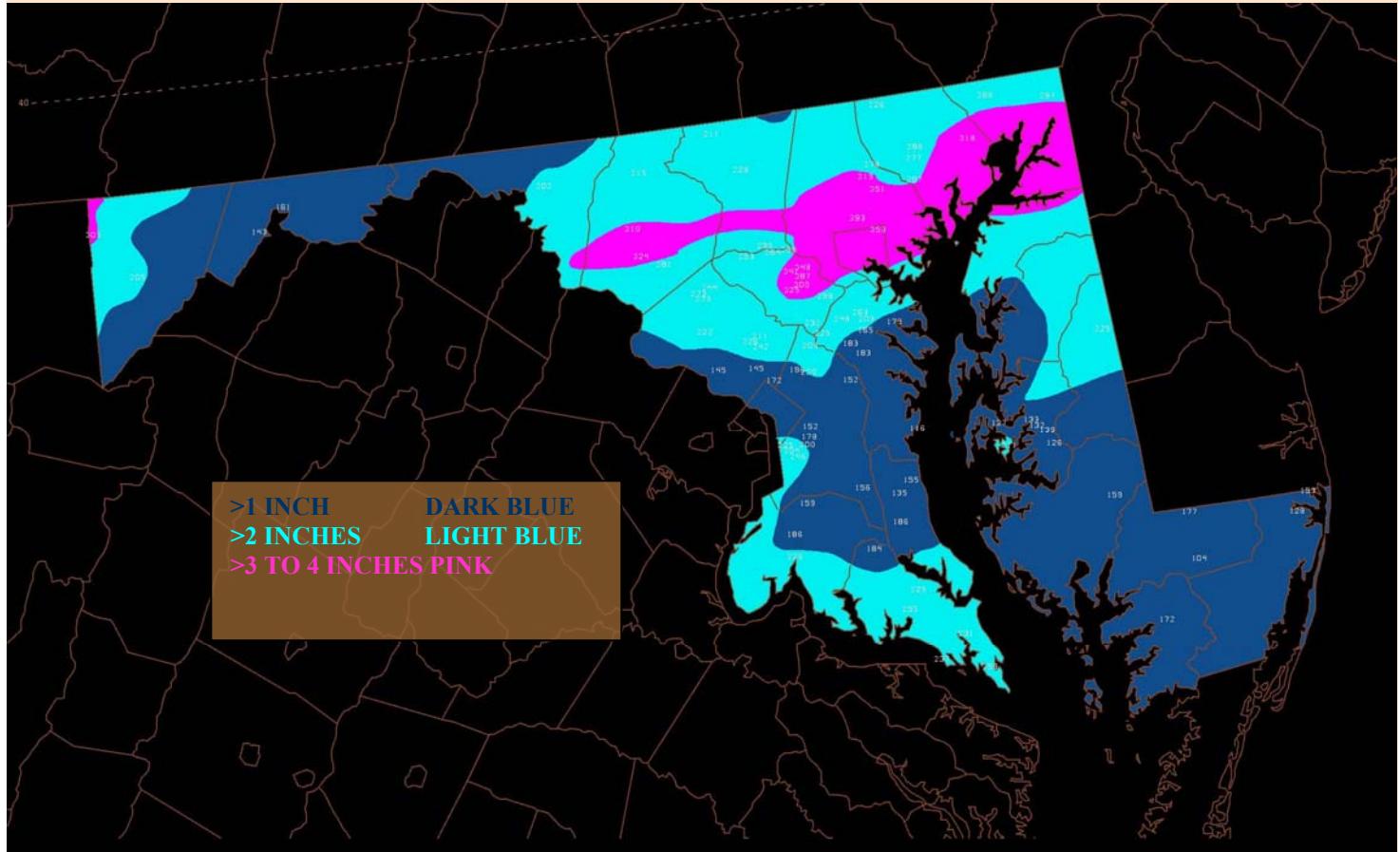
We'll be highlighting some of wonderful county coordinators from time to time and this month we introduce Ralph Ferraro county coordinator of Howard, Carroll, and Frederick counties. Ralph is Chief of the NOAA/NESDIS/Satellite Climate Studies Branch, a group of five NOAA scientists co-located with the University of Maryland's Cooperative Institute for Climate and Satellites (CICS) (about 25 scientists) in College Park, MD. Ralph is a meteorologist by schooling (degrees from Rutgers University and the University of Maryland) and has spent the majority of his 28-year career working with weather satellites. His specialty is using microwave sensors on satellites to retrieve...precipitation! You might ask why we need to do this - the most obvious answers is that rain gauges and radars only cover a small fraction of the Earth's surface. One of the challenges in this work is validating the satellite estimates over regions where we have good surface information, so the CoCoRaHS network has been useful in my own work.

By his own admission, Ralph is a "weather weenie" and still loses sleep at night when a major weather event is bearing down on us, like the big snows of the past winter. Ralph lives in Sykesville, MD where he has been for the past 10 years. He enjoys gardening and landscaping, is an avid bowler (with two 300 games under his belt) and New York Yankee fan (being born and raised in New Jersey, sorry O's fans!). He wants to thank his dedicated observers in Howard, Carroll and Frederick Counties, they do such a great job!



Ralph Ferraro

April 2010 PRECIPITATION



THE APRIL PRECIPITATION ANALYSIS IS FROM COMPLETED MONTHLY
COCORAHS REPORTS AND BY THE ADVANCED HYDROLOGIC
PRECIPITATION SERVICE MONTHLY ANALYSIS.

WELCOME NEW COCORAHС OBSERVERS

ERNIE MD-AA-43

AARON MD-CR-11

WILLIAM MD-BL-25

BRADY MD-HR-17

LES MD-BL-26

ROBERT MD-CR-12

NEIL MD-MG-59

WEATHER PHOTO OF THE MONTH



The above photo was submitted by Marty Brumback, County Coordinator for both Charles and Calvert counties. The low wavy cloud pattern was seen by many in the state on April 13th. What type of clouds are these you ask? They appear to be Stratocumulus Undulatus, similar to the ones seen in the photo to the right taken from www.clouds-online.com, cloud atlas.



If you have any question or comments about Maryland/DC CoCoRaHS or would like to submit something for our newsletter please send to bruce.sullivan@cocorahs.org or bruce.sullivan@noaa.gov