

## **Messages of the Day** **February 2013**

Friday, February 1, 2013

### **The "*Total SWE Monday*" Habit**

The National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center (<http://www.nohrsc.nws.gov/>) utilizes CoCoRaHS reports of precipitation, snowfall, snow depth and the water equivalent of the snow on the ground every day. CoCoRaHS data provide critical "Ground Truth" information that can improve the skill of their products and models. This will improve the accuracy of flood forecasts in the weeks and months ahead.

Their guidance to us has been:

*"The analysts at NOHRSC prefer a Total Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) observation taken once a week on Monday. The simple reason is that digging cores every day ruins your sample snowfield area (unless you have a big yard or open fields nearby).*

*A flood of Monday morning SWE reports gives us a better picture of the overall snowpack instead of a few scattered results trickling in throughout the week. Daily total SWE would be great, but let's make "Total SWE Monday" a habit.*

(Note: If you have the room, more frequent observations are appreciated, especially when conditions are changing. For areas that only infrequently get snow, there is no need to wait for Monday -- report SWE whenever you have the chance). For instructions on how to take core samples and report the snowpack SWE, please view our on-line training materials on snow: [Training Slide Shows](#) or watch the YouTube s short animation on: [SWE](#).

Friday, February 8, 2013

### **New Collaboration with NASA! Attend the free public informational Webinar on Wednesday, Feb 13th. Register Today!**

CoCoRaHS has begun a collaboration with NASA for their upcoming "Global Precipitation Measurement" (GPM) satellite mission. GPM will carry advanced instruments that expand on its predecessor, the Tropical Rainfall Measurement Mission (TRMM) and will provide data that extends to a broad range of applications including forecasting extreme events, improving agriculture models and improving our understanding of hurricanes and cyclones.

CoCoRaHS data will be used to connect what we observe from the satellite to what we experience on the surface. By doing so, we hope to improve our understanding of how ground and satellite products can be used together to help monitor water resources and natural disasters such as floods.

To launch the collaboration, CoCoRaHS and NASA will host a free Webinar on Feb. 13th (1:00 PM Eastern, 12 Central, 11 Mountain, 10 AM Pacific) where two NASA scientists will share details of the

GPM mission and discuss how ground-based observations such as those from CoCoRaHS can contribute to the broader understanding of precipitation processes and interactions between the sea, air and land that produce changes in global rainfall and climate.

Click here to register: ["NASA WEBINAR"](#).

For more information on the mission and NASA's Precipitation Education program, visit: ["NASA"](#).

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

## **Join the USA National Phenology Network! Document how plants and animals respond to local weather conditions using Nature's Notebook**

The USA National Phenology Network is offering CoCoRaHS participants a chance to enhance their observations by also reporting on what plants or animals are doing!

Plants and animals respond strongly to environmental conditions. Trees are cued by warming spring temperatures to begin leafing out. A combination of temperature and soil moisture conditions influence when they flower and produce fruits and seeds. Similarly, birds and insects migrate and complete their life cycles based on temperature and sun angle cues. The timing of these seasonal life cycle events is termed phenology.

Because plants and animal life cycle events are so closely tied to weather conditions, they are being affected by climate change. In many parts of the country, trees and plants are leafing out and flowering earlier than in previous decades. Though the longer growing season can be beneficial in some respects, there are risks and drawbacks as well. For example, early leaf-out comes with a higher risk of plant damage due to late frosts. Spring 2012 was a good example of the widespread damage that can occur from a very early spring - fruit and vegetable crops were decimated in much of the Midwest.

NPN welcomes you to help them better document how plants and animals are responding to local weather conditions. Your observations of plant or animal phenology collected via Nature's Notebook are made available publicly and are regularly used by researchers and decision makers. ***Phenology observations made at the same locations that weather observations are collected are especially valuable!***

Learn more! NPN invites you to join one of their spring campaigns ["http://www.usanpn.org/Spring2013Campaigns"](http://www.usanpn.org/Spring2013Campaigns). They are especially interested in collecting observations for these species. However, you are welcome to collect and submit observations on any of the 900 species of plants and animals for which protocols are available ["http://www.usanpn.org/participate/observe"](http://www.usanpn.org/participate/observe).

Questions? Contact Theresa Crimmins, USA National Phenology Network's Partnerships & Outreach Coordinator at: [theresa@usanpn.org](mailto:theresa@usanpn.org)

Friday, February 15, 2013

## **"Field Photo Weekend" Feb 16, 17, 18 . . . Please take a photo this weekend!**

Do you have a camera? Would you be willing to take a few quick photos this weekend to help a national project that will be looking at how drought or lack of drought (all that snow that may have fallen in your community over the past week) has affected the landscape of our local communities? On February 16th, 17th and 18th you can help by participating in "Field Photo Weekend".

Hundreds of folks participated in our first "Field Photo Weekend" last summer over Labor Day weekend. Many of our landscapes look significantly different this time of year. Thus it's time to dust off your camera and try it again . . . or give it a try for the first time.

Here's all you have to do. Take your camera, find a landscape in your community (streams, lakes, rivers, reservoirs, a tree, a field, etc) and take a single photo or a panorama in four different directions (N, E, S, W) from where you are standing. After that email your photos with your location to: [fieldphotos@southernclimate.org](mailto:fieldphotos@southernclimate.org). That's it. For detailed instructions click here ["FIELD PHOTO WEEKENDS"](#)

Field Photo Weekend is a partnership between CoCoRaHS, the Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program (SCIPP) and the Earth Observation and Modeling Facility (EOMF) to help ground truth through photos, what is going on with our landscapes throughout the country. It's not just drought we are looking for either, it could be flooding, or whatever state the landscape is now in. There is the possibility that we may hold additional "Field Photo Weekends" during the year to show how conditions to your landscape may have changed over time. This should be fun!

In a few weeks this weekend's photos will be posted and you'll be able to see your photos and those taken by other volunteers. Reference "Viewing Photos" on the ["FIELD PHOTO WEEKENDS"](#) page to see how to view the photos.

Remember you don't have to email your photos this weekend, just take them, but we do encourage you to email them soon afterward. That address again is: [fieldphotos@southernclimate.org](mailto:fieldphotos@southernclimate.org)

Just think if all 16,000+ CoCoRaHS volunteers take photos! Wow!!

Thanks in advance for participating and have a great President's Day weekend!

Tuesday, February 19, 2013

## **"Field Photo Weekend" was a great success . . . Remember to email your photos in!**

Thanks to all of you who took the time to take a few quick photos this past weekend. Your efforts helped our second collaborative "Field Photo Weekend" take a look how drought or lack of drought has affected the landscape of our local communities.

Field Photo Weekend is a partnership between CoCoRaHS, the Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program (SCIPP) and the Earth Observation and Modeling Facility (EOMF) to help ground truth through photos, what is going on with our landscapes throughout the country.

In a few weeks this past weekend's photos will be posted and you'll be able to see your photos and those taken by other volunteers. Reference "Viewing Photos" on the "[FIELD PHOTO WEEKENDS](#)" page to see how to view the photos.

Please don't forget to email your photos of this past "Field Photos Weekend" to:  
**fieldphotos@southernclimate.org**

Thanks again for participating!

Thursday, February 21, 2013

### **CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar for March 2013: "I before E" Except in Drought . . . register today!**

Drought will be the focus of our next [WxTalk Webinar](#) on March 7th, "*I before E*" *Except in Drought* presented by Mark Svoboda of the National Drought Mitigation Center located in Lincoln, Nebraska.

*Space is limited to the first 500 registrants*, so register today! We will notify the first 500 who register of their acceptance to the Webinar. Those who aren't able to attend will be able to watch this episode on-line the following day.

#### **REGISTRATION INFO**

**Title: Webinar #15 - CoCoRaHS WxTalk: "I before E" Except in Drought**

Date: Thursday, March 7, 2013

Time: 1:00 PM Eastern, Noon Central, 11:00 AM Mountain, 10:00 AM Pacific

*"Drought is one of the least understood, yet most costly of all disasters. This talk will focus on how all droughts are local and how their impacts affect us and the environment around us. Impacts are the face of drought and they expose our vulnerability to this unique hazard. Special attention will be paid to drought early warning and information systems and the integral role networks such as CoCoRaHS play in feeding useful information to those in decision support and policy making. Tools of the trade will be explored to look into the state-of-the-science in tackling drought in the U.S. in a proactive manner."*

Reserve your seat now by registering here: [DROUGHT](#)

Our April CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar: "*Forecasting the Ferocious: The How, What, Where and Why of Tornadoes*" by Greg Carbin of the NOAA's Storm Prediction Center will take place on April 11th. Stay tuned for an upcoming announcement on how to register.

Sunday, February 24, 2013

## **The "Total SWE Monday" Habit**

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Tuesday, February 26, 2013

## **FAT . . . GUC . . . MOD and don't forget BNA!**

We ran this message last year, but several of you have requested it make another appearance, so here we go!

Have you ever read a weather report and noticed one of those three letter location identifiers like ORD, DEN or RDU representing the place that the observation is coming from? What are they? Those are the Federal Aviation Administration's three letter airport codes for US cities (other countries use them as well). If you haven't seen them on a weather report, you've surely seen them on the tags on your checked airline luggage.

Why is MCI used for Kansas City? ORD for Chicago's O'Hare International Airport? BNA for Nashville? Click here find out why and also learn the history of these codes: [Explanation of Airport Identifier Codes](#).

Below are the three letter codes for several cities across the United States:

ALB - ALBANY, NY  
ABQ - ALBUQUERQUE, NM  
ESF - ALEXANDRIA, LA  
ABE - ALLENTOWN, PA  
AMA - AMARILLO, TX  
ANC - ANCHORAGE, AK  
AVL - ASHEVILLE, NC  
ATL - ATLANTA, GA

AUS - AUSTIN, TX  
BFL - BAKERSFIELD, CA  
BWI - BALTIMORE, MD  
BGR - BANGOR, ME  
BTR - BATON ROUGE, LA  
MBS - BAY CITY, MI  
BPT - BEAUMONT/PT ARTHUR, TX  
BIL - BILLINGS, MT  
BHM - BIRMINGHAM, AL  
BMI - BLOOMINGTON, IL  
BOI - BOISE, ID  
BOS - BOSTON, MA  
BUF - BUFFALO, NY  
BUR - BURBANK, CA  
BTM - BUTTE, MT  
CID - CEDAR RAPIDS, IA  
CMI - CHAMPAIGN/URBANA, IL  
CHS - CHARLESTON, SC  
CLT - CHARLOTTE, NC  
CHA - CHATTANOOGA, TN  
MDW - CHICAGO, IL/MIDWAY  
ORD - CHICAGO, IL/O'HARE  
CVG - CINCINNATI, OH  
CLE - CLEVELAND, OH  
COS - COLORADO SPRINGS, CO  
CAE - COLUMBIA, SC  
CMH - COLUMBUS, OH  
CRP - CORPUS CHRISTI, TX  
DFW - DALLAS/FT. WORTH, TX  
DAY - DAYTON, OH  
DEN - DENVER, CO  
DSM - DES MOINES, IA  
DET - DETROIT, MI/CITY  
DTW - DETROIT, MI/METRO  
DBQ - DUBUQUE, IA  
DRO - DURANGO, CO  
DUT - DUTCH HARBOR, AK  
ELP - EL PASO, TX  
EUG - EUGENE, OR  
EVV - EVANSVILLE, IN  
FAI - FAIRBANKS, AK  
FYV - FAYETTEVILLE, AR  
FLO - FLORENCE, SC  
FAT - FRESNO, CA  
FLL - FT. LAUDERDALE, FL  
RSW - FT. MYERS, FL  
FSM - FT. SMITH, AR  
VPS - FT. WALTON BEACH, FL  
FWA - FT. WAYNE, IN  
GRR - GRAND RAPIDS, MI  
GRB - GREEN BAY, WI  
GSP - GREENVILLE/SPARTANBURG, SC  
GSO - GREENSBORO, NC  
GUC - GUNNISON, CO  
HRL - HARLINGEN, TX  
MDT - HARRISBURG, PA

BDL - HARTFORD, CT  
HNL - HONOLULU, HI  
HOU - HOUSTON, TX/HOBBY  
IAH - HOUSTON, TX/INTERCONTINENTAL  
HSV - HUNTSVILLE, AL  
IND - INDIANAPOLIS, IN  
ISP - ISLIP, NY  
JAN - JACKSON, MS  
JAC - JACKSON HOLE, WY  
JAX - JACKSONVILLE, FL  
AZO - KALAMAZOO, MI  
MCI - KANSAS CITY, MO  
EEN - KEENE, NH  
EYW - KEY WEST, FL  
ILE - KILLEEN, TX  
TYS - KNOXVILLE, TN  
LSE - LA CROSSE, WI  
LFT - LAFAYETTE, LA  
LCH - LAKE CHARLES, LA  
LAN - LANSING, MI  
LRD - LAREDO, TX  
LAS - LAS VEGAS, NV  
LAW - LAWTON, OK  
LEX - LEXINGTON, KY  
LNK - LINCOLN, NE  
LIT - LITTLE ROCK, AR  
GGG - LONGVIEW, TX  
LAX - LOS ANGELES, CA  
SDF - LOUISVILLE, KY  
LBB - LUBBOCK, TX  
MSN - MADISON, WI  
MHT - MANCHESTER, NH  
MQT - MARQUETTE, MI  
OGG - MAUI, HI  
MFE - MC ALLEN , TX  
MFR - MEDFORD, OR  
MLB - MELBOURNE,FL  
MEM - MEMPHIS, TN  
MIA - MIAMI, FL  
MKE - MILWAUKEE, WI  
MSP - MINNEAPOLIS, MN  
MOB - MOBILE, AL  
MLI - MOLINE, IL  
MRY - MONTEREY, CA  
MGM - MONTGOMERY, AL  
MKG - MUSKEGON, MI  
MYR - MYRTLE BEACH, SC  
BNA - NASHVILLE, TN  
HVN - NEW HAVEN, CT  
MSY - NEW ORLEANS, LA  
JFK - NEW YORK, NY/KENNEDY  
LGA - NEW YORK, NY/LA GUARDIA  
EWR - NEWARK, NJ  
SWF - NEWBURGH, NY/STWRT FIELD  
ORF - NORFOLK, VA/INTERNATIONAL  
OAK - OAKLAND, CA

MAF - ODESSA/MIDLAND, TX  
OKC - OKLAHOMA CITY, OK  
OMA - OMAHA, NE  
ONT - ONTARIO, CA  
SNA- ORANGE COUNTY, CA  
MCO - ORLANDO, FL  
OWB - OWENSBORO, KY  
OXR - OXNARD, CA  
PSP - PALM SPRINGS, CA  
PNS - PENSACOLA, FL  
PIA - PEORIA, IL  
PHL - PHILADELPHIA, PA  
PHX - PHOENIX, AZ  
PIT - PITTSBURGH, PA  
PWM - PORTLAND, ME  
PDX - PORTLAND, OR  
PVD - PROVIDENCE, RI  
RDU - RALEIGH-DURHAM, NC  
RNO - RENO, NV  
RIC - RICHMOND, VA  
RST - ROCHESTER, MN  
ROC - ROCHESTER, NY  
RFD - ROCKFORD, IL  
SMF - SACRAMENTO, CA  
SLC- SALT LAKE CITY, UT  
SJT - SAN ANGELO, TX  
SAT - SAN ANTONIO, TX  
SAN - SAN DIEGO, CA  
SFO - SAN FRANCISCO, CA  
SJC - SAN JOSE, CA  
SJU - SAN JUAN, PR  
SBP - SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA  
SBA - SANTA BARBARA, CA  
SMX - SANTA MARIA, CA  
SRQ - SARASOTA, FL  
SEA - SEATTLE, WA  
SHV - SHREVEPORT, LA  
FSD - SIOUX FALLS, SD  
SBN - SOUTH BEND, IN  
GEG - SPOKANE, WA  
SPI - SPRINGFIELD, IL  
SGF - SPRINGFIELD, MO  
STL - ST. LOUIS, MO  
SYR - SYRACUSE, NY  
TPA - TAMPA, FL  
TXK - TEXARKANA, AR  
TOL - TOLEDO, OH  
TVC - TRAVERSE CITY, MI  
TUS - TUCSON, AZ  
TUL - TULSA, OK  
TCL - TUSCALOOSA, AL  
TYR - TYLER, TX  
EGE - VAIL/EAGLE, CO  
ACT - WACO, TX  
IAD - WASHINGTON DC/DULLES  
DCA - WASHINGTON DC/NATIONAL

CWA - WAUSAU/STEVENS POINT, WI  
PBI - WEST PALM BEACH, FL  
HPN - WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY  
ICT - WICHITA, KS  
SPS - WICHITA FALLS, TX  
AVP - WILKES BARRE, PA  
ORH - WORCESTER, MA