

Messages of the Day
September 2012

Monday, September 3, 2012

"Field Photo Weekend" What 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 first collaborative "Field Photo Weekend" take a look how drought or lack of drought has effected 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!

Tuesday, September 4, 2012

**CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar for September 2012:
"So you want to become a meteorologist?" . . . register today!**

What to think about when considering a career in meteorology will be the focus for our next ["WxTalk Webinar"](#) on September 20th, "*So you want to become a meteorologist?*" presented by Dave Changnon of Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois.

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 #10 - CoCoRaHS WxTalk: So you want to become a meteorologist?"

Date: Thursday, September 20, 2012

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

"This webinar will provide an overview what you should consider as you think about becoming a meteorologist. Whether you are in high school, thinking of a second career or have always wondered what does it take to become a meteorologist, this webinar is for you.

If you know of a teacher, guidance councilor, student or someone looking for a career change, please pass the word along and let them know about what will be a very popular Webinar."

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

Our October CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar "When Howling Wolves Greet the Northern Lights" by Jan Curtis of the USDA/NRCS will take place on October 18th . Stay tuned for an upcoming announcement on how to register.

Friday, September 7, 2012

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR)

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Working with the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System , NWR is an "All Hazards" radio network, making it your single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. In conjunction with Federal, State, and Local Emergency Managers and other public officials, NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards including natural (such as earthquakes or avalanches), environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety (such as AMBER alerts or 911 Telephone outages).

Known as the "Voice of NOAA's National Weather Service," NWR is provided as a public service by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), part of the Department of Commerce. NWR includes more than 985 transmitters , covering all 50 states, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories. NWR requires a special radio receiver or scanner capable of picking up the signal.

Click on the following link to find out more about where to listen to NOAA Weather Radio in your area:

[NOAA RADIO](#)

Monday, September 10, 2012

Weather Symbols - What's that "S" with the arrow flying through

it?

Those of you interested in weather will want to learn the 100 weather symbols used today in meteorology. You might recognize some of the more common ones and there will be others that are unfamiliar.

Here is a great list of those symbols by the National Weather Service's JetStream - Online School for Weather. Click here: [Weather Symbols](#).

Weather symbols have been used by meteorologists for many years on surface weather maps, often seen at station weather plots. Click here: [Weather Maps](#).

So the next time you see a comma or set of periods you might think punctuation, but than again you just might think precipitation! By the way, that "S" with the arrow through it . . . that's a moderate duststorm.

Thursday, September 13, 2012

Autumn Leaves

“The falling leaves drift by the window. The autumn leaves of red and gold....” Some of you may remember the old classic song by Johnny Mercer “Autumn Leaves”. It’s that time of year again when the leaves in many parts of the country begin to take on color, the nights are cooler and the pumpkins adorn the porches of many homes.

Have you ever thought to yourself “Why do the leaves change color?”

The US Forest Service has put together a nice web site explaining just that at: [“Forest Service Leaves”](#).

Or have you ever wondered “Does precipitation play a role in leaf color?”

“The amount and brilliance of the colors that develop in any particular autumn season are related to weather conditions that occur before and during the time the chlorophyll in the leaves is dwindling,” says University of Kentucky agricultural meteorologist Tom Priddy. “Temperature and moisture are the main influences. . . .The countless combinations of these two highly variable factors assure that no two autumns can be exactly alike.”

And if you are just trying to find out where the leaves are turning during a certain week or in a certain place in the country, the Foliage Report Network: [“The Foliage Network”](#) keeps track of leaf colors in the eastern half of the country and the US Forest Service keeps you advised on fall colors throughout the US at: [“Fall Colors”](#).

More info the study of periodic plant and animal life cycle events that are influenced by environmental changes, especially seasonal variations in temperature and precipitation driven by weather and climate visit the National Phenology Network Web site at: [“National Phenology Network”](#).

Saturday, September 15, 2012

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Thursday, September 20, 2012

View past WxTalk Webinars from our website!

Many of you have asked us if past WxTalk Webinars are available to watch on-line. Indeed they are and all ten are now available by visiting the [CoCoRaHS WxTalk Page](#).

What are CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinars? CoCoRaHS WxTalk consists of a series of monthly one-hour interactive Webinars featuring engaging experts in the fields of atmospheric science, climatology and other pertinent disciplines. These easy to follow presentations are live and approximately sixty minutes long.

Past Webinars include:

- *Snow, love it, hate it . . . it still falls on us all*
- *Remote Sensing: How weather satellites sense the earth*
- *Who uses weather and climate data and how do they do it?*
- *Understanding and Identifying Clouds*
- *Lightning and Its Impacts*
- *Hurricane Analysis and Prediction at National Hurricane Center*
- *Wind and Wildfire - A Dangerous Combination*
- *Extreme Rainfall, How We Analyze It and How The Data is Used*
- *So you want to become a Meteorologist?*

Monday, September 24, 2012

Weather in Space?

Although outer space has none of the ingredients we usually think of for weather (moisture and temperatures to sustain life), it can still be a stormy place. The source of the storminess is our sun. The sun, like all active stars, is constantly in motion and often produces eruptions of gas and high energy particles into space (sort of like solar burps).

Although solar particles continuously bombard the earth, during a solar eruption the “storm” of particles can be particularly intense. These storms can disrupt communication satellites and power grids on the ground. NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center monitors and forecasts solar activity so that the effects of solar storms can be mitigated.

To learn more about space weather, check out: [SPACE WEATHER](#).

Wednesday, September 26, 2012

CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar for October 2012: "When Howling Wolves Greet the Northern Lights" . . . register today!

An overview of the northern lights (aurora borealis) will be the focus for our next "[WxTalk Webinar](#)" on October 18th, "*When Howling Wolves Greet the Northern Lights*" presented by Jan Curtis of the USDA/NRCS in Portland, Oregon.

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 #11 - CoCoRaHS WxTalk: When Howling Wolves Greet the Northern Lights"

Date: Thursday, October 18, 2012

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

"This webinar will provide an overview of the northern lights (aurora borealis). You will learn: Where do they come from? Where can they be seen? Can they be predicted? How high are they? Can you hear them? What is the most common color? Aurora come in various forms and their evolution follow a typical pattern. Examples of the best northern lights will be shown (taken by Jan over an eight year period from Fairbanks, Alaska)..

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

Our November CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar: Weather Optics - "There are more 'bows' in the sky than just rainbows" by Grant Goodge of the Earth Resources Technology, Inc. will take place on November 8th . Stay tuned for an upcoming announcement on how to register.

Friday, September 28, 2012

CoCoRaHS and the 2012 C. Peter Magrath University/Community Engagement Award

CoCoRaHS, having already won the western regionals, competes for the national award next week in Tuscaloosa, Alabama . . . here's more info:

CoCoRaHS has been recognized by the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities and the National Outreach Scholarship Consortium as a Western Region Finalist for the 2012 C. Peter Magrath University/Community Engagement Award. The regional award will be presented on Tuesday, October 2 at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, AL, where CoCoRaHS will compete for the [National Award](#).

The national winner will be announced during the 125th Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities Annual Meeting Nov. 11-13, 2013 in Denver, CO.

View our two-minute video that will be shown to the judges on Tuesday: [VIDEO](#)

Best of luck CoCoRaHS team!