

Messages of the Day **September 2015**

Thursday, September 3, 2015



"Field Photo Weekend" September 5-7th . . . Celebrate the end of summer and Labor Day Weekend by taking a photo or two!

What does your landscape look like in late summer? Have you participated in the CoCoRaHS Field Photos Weekends before? If not, here's your chance to join hundreds of other CoCoRaHS observers to see what our landscapes looks like. If you have participated before, this is a great chance to go back to your favorite spots and see what has changed. This weekend, September 5-7th, you can help by participating in our tenth "Field Photo Weekend".

All you have to do is take your camera or smartphone, find a landscape in your community (streams, lakes, rivers, reservoirs, a forest, a crop field, a pasture, etc.) and take a single photo or a panorama in four different directions (N, E, S, W) from where you are standing. After that you can either email your photos with your location to: fieldphotos@southernclimate.org, or upload them directly to the Earth Observation and Modeling Facility's photo archive website: "<http://www.eomf.ou.edu/photos>". For detailed instructions, click here: "[FIELD PHOTO WEEKENDS](#)"

If you have a smartphone, you can use the "Field Photo" app, which is now freely available in the "[Apple Store](#)" and "[Google Play Store](#)". You can use your smartphone to take a photo in the field, enter metadata to describe the landscape, and then upload the photo and metadata into the EOMF photo archive website directly from your iPhone when you have access to WI-FI. When you enter metadata, you may add "#CoCoRaHSSep15" keyword.

If you want to see what others have submitted before, go to "<http://www.eomf.ou.edu/photos/cocorahsmay15/>" and click on any of the dots (these photos were from Memorial Day weekend last May). We are working on going back to the earlier events and tagging all those photos so you will be able to easily find all the ones from our past weekends. If you upload photos directly to the EOMF website, you can help us by adding a tag #CoCoRaHSASep15 in the Field Notes section.

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 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. When uploading your photos please include the words #CoCoRaHSSep15 in the notes field.

Thanks in advance for participating and have a great Labor Day weekend!

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Our Labor Day "Field Photo Weekend" has come and gone. Thanks for participating. Please remember to upload your photos or email your photos in!

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

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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.

Please don't forget send us your photos of this past "Field Photo Weekend". You can either email your photos with your location and the words (#CoCoRaHSSep15) to: fieldphotos@southernclimate.org, or upload them directly to the Earth Observation and Modeling Facility's photo archive website: ["http://www.eomf.ou.edu/photos"](http://www.eomf.ou.edu/photos). When uploading your photos please include the words #CoCoRaHSSep15 in the notes field. For detailed instructions, click here: ["FIELD PHOTO WEEKENDS"](#)

Thanks again for participating!

Thursday, September 10, 2015

**IT'S BACK FROM VACATION — The CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar!
September 2015:
The history and uses of volunteer weather observations in the U.S.**

The history of volunteer observing will kick off our autumn season of ["WxTalk Webinars"](#) on Thursday, September 17th. Join us as *The history and uses of volunteer weather observations in the U.S.* is presented by CoCoRaHS founder Nolan Doesken.

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 #40 - CoCoRaHS WxTalk: The history and uses of volunteer weather observations in the U.S.

Date: Thursday, September 17, 2015

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

"Volunteer weather observations have played a large and important role in tracking, mapping and understanding our weather and climate for a long time -- much longer than most realize. Organized weather observing networks date back many centuries in places like China and Korea. Even here in the U.S., famous names like Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson were organizing weather observations already in the 1700s. In this talk we'll look at the history of organized volunteer observing networks such as the Smithsonian Meteorological Network of the 1800s and the US Weather Bureau/National Weather Service Cooperative Observer Network that is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year. The internet has enabled programs like ours, the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow network (CoCoRaHS), to grow and thrive.

We'll talk about what these networks have helped accomplish, and the remarkable importance of the data we (and many others before us) help collect.

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

Be sure to attend our other CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinars coming up this fall:

- Thursday, October 15, 2015 - 1PM EDT: "***The North American Monsoon: It's What Makes Summer Weather Interesting in the Southwestern United States!***", Christopher L. Castro, University of Arizona
- Thursday, November 12, 2015 - 11AM EST: "***Lake Effect Snow***", Thomas Niziol, The Weather Channel
- Thursday, December 3, 2015 - 1PM EST: "***SPECIAL WEBINAR - A Review of Significant Weather Events Occurring in 2015***", Greg Carbin, NOAA/Storm Prediction Center
- Thursday, December 10, 2015 - 1PM EST: "***Radiosondes, it's what's overhead that counts:***", Paul Ciesielski, Colorado State University

Stay tuned for upcoming announcements on how to register for these Webinars.

Sunday, September 13, 2015

It's "Rain Gauge Week" for CoCoRaHS Schools!

For those of you who are not aware, CoCoRaHS has almost 1,000 registered educators located at schools, museums and several home-schools as well. What a great opportunity for students to measure and report REAL data! Most classrooms participate for a short period during their 'weather unit', but Rain Gauge Week gives them an extra incentive to join in a combined effort where schools all over the country are submitting their data during the same week. For this particular "Rain Gauge Week", schools that submit data covering every day of the campaign will be entered into a drawing where CoCoRaHS founder and director Nolan Doesken will provide a classroom video chat with the winning class. We are always looking

for more participants, so if you know a teacher or educator who might be interested, please have them contact our education coordinator at education@cocorahs.org to find out how to get started.

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Preparing your gauge for colder weather as we move into autumn next week

It's mid-September and in the weeks ahead colder weather is inevitable, as many will see frost, freezes and perhaps some sort of wintery precipitation as September turns into October. As you think about the seasons, keep in mind that water left in the inner cylinder of our gauge will freeze and crack the gauge if left outside in prolonged subfreezing weather. For those if you in colder parts of the country, the time will come all too soon to bring the funnel and inner tube inside and catch frozen precipitation in the large outer cylinder. So keep an eye on your temperatures and preserve your inner-gauge parts for another season.

Sunday, September 20, 2015

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 ñ 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](#)

Thursday, September 24, 2015

The CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar!

October 2015:

The North American Monsoon: It's What Makes Summer Weather Interesting in the Southwestern United States!

The North American Monsoon will be the subject of our next ["WxTalk Webinar"](#) on Thursday, October 15th. Join us as ***The North American Monsoon: It's What Makes Summer Weather Interesting in the Southwestern United States!*** is presented by Christopher Castro of the University of Arizona.

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 #41 - CoCoRaHS WxTalk: The North American Monsoon: It's What Makes Summer Weather Interesting in the Southwestern United States!

Date: Thursday, October 15, 2015

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

"The North American monsoon is the period of rainfall and severe weather that occurs during the mid to late part of the summer in the Southwestern United States. The basic cause of the North American monsoon, like its cousin in India, is the thermal contrast between the land and ocean. Though certainly not as dramatic as India, the North American monsoon is associated with regular shifts in circulations, winds, and precipitation. Monsoon thunderstorms are initiated by mountain-valley circulations and follow a regular diurnal cycle. The most dramatic severe weather days are characterized by organized, propagating convection in association with upper-level disturbances. Severe weather hazards during the monsoon unique to the Southwest include flash flooding, debris flows, micro-bursts, haboobs (or dust storms), lightning, and wildfire.

Predictability of the monsoon is challenging, even for daily weather forecasts. High resolution numerical atmospheric models are required to explicitly resolve monsoon thunderstorms, and even the most sophisticated modeling tools will never be able to tell us with certainty if when and where storms will occur at an exact location. When thinking on longer timescales, there are some potential predictable factors which may govern monsoon seasonal rainfall, especially during the onset period. Monsoon precipitation is also likely changing in relation to anthropogenic climate change, with the changes generally conforming to a "wet gets wetter, dry gets drier" paradigm that is observed globally.

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

Be sure to attend our other upcoming CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinars this fall:

- Thursday, November 12, 2015 - 11AM EST: "*Lake Effect Snow*", Thomas Niziol, The Weather Channel
- Thursday, December 3, 2015 - 1PM EST: "*SPECIAL WEBINAR - A Review of Significant Weather Events Occurring in 2015*", Greg Carbin, NOAA/Storm Prediction Center
- Thursday, December 10, 2015 - 1PM EST: "*Radiosondes, it's what's overhead that counts:*", Paul Ciesielski, Colorado State University

Monday, September 28, 2015

Autumn Leaves . . . time for a change of color!

Autumn officially began this past week and it's that time of year again when leaves in many parts of the country begin to change color. Have you ever wondered "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 midwestern and 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”](#).