



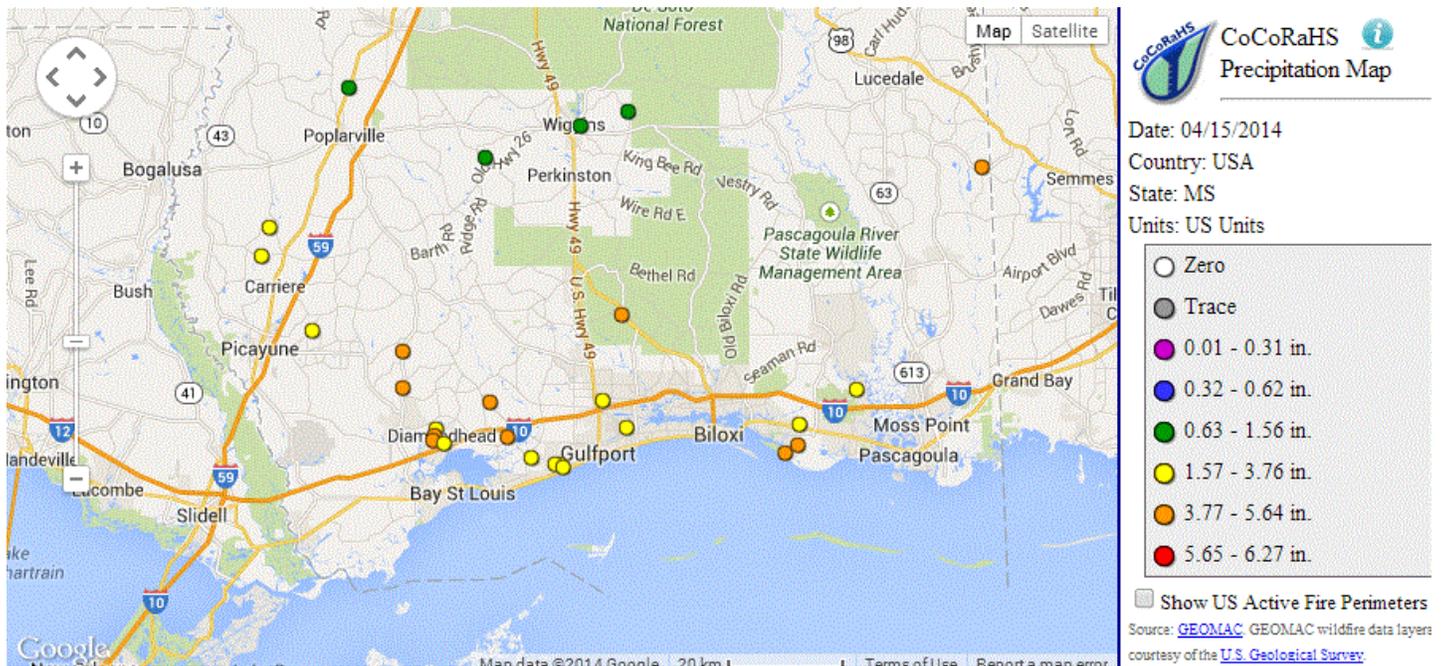
# South Mississippi CoCoRaHS Newsletter

May 2, 2014

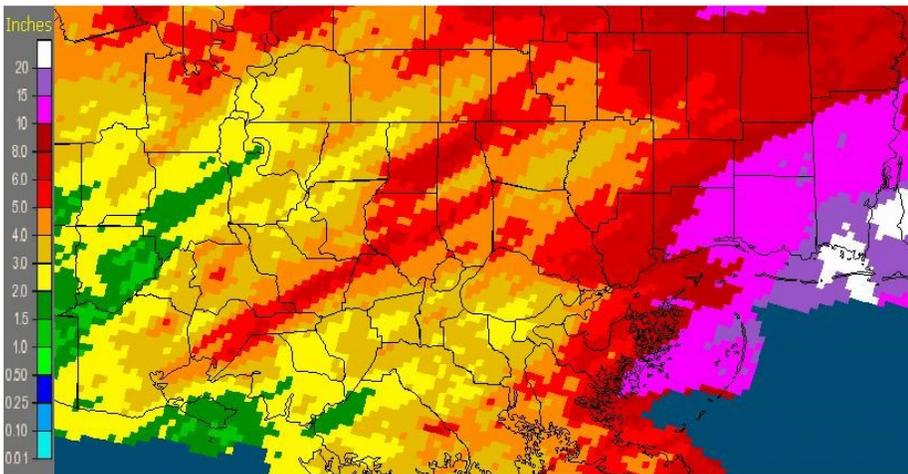
"Because every drop counts"

## Heavy rains on the 14th, Deluge on the 29th in Jackson County

April had 19 days measure some rainfall across the Magnolia State. Two days stood out as particularly wet. April 14th had heavy rainfall along the Mississippi Coast as a result of a slow moving cold front with a low pressure area that passed through the area. The orange dots on the map below ranged from 3.77 to 5.64 inches, the highest report was 5.06 inches at Kiln 3.3 N in Hancock County. Another rainy day unfolded on the 29th that saw another 3 to 5 inches of rainfall across Jackson County. This was the westernmost flank of what turned out to be historical rainfall for the Mobile and Pensacola areas farther east, where as much as 23 inches fell in a 24 hour period—a 200 year rain event. In many ways, this latest episode closely resembled the heavy rains that impacted the gulf coast on May 9th, 1995. Lucedale 13.1 SE in George County saw the brunt of heaviest rainfall in April with a 19.31" accumulation in 29 days. Gulfport 4.3 NNW tallied 13.60" on a perfect 30 reports. Pea sized hail also occurred on the 8th with afternoon showers.



New Orleans/Baton Rouge, LA (LIX): April, 2014 Monthly Observed Precipitation  
 Valid at 5/1/2014 1200 UTC- Created 5/1/14 23:38 UTC



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# APRIL STATISTICS

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## Wettest/Driest/Hail/Reporting

- ◆ Wettest Month, State— 19.31” on 29 reports at Lucedale 13.1 SE (MS-GG-2)
- ◆ Wettest Month, Local — 13.60” on a perfect 30 reports at Gulfport 4.3 NNW (MS-HR-7)
- ◆ Wettest Day, State — 6.27” on the 15th at Bentonia 4.0 N (MS-YZ-2)
- ◆ Wettest Day, Local—5.06” on the 15th at Kiln 3.3 N (MS-HC-9)
- ◆ Number of Rain Days—19 with at least 0.01” average on a given day in the state.
- ◆ Driest Month, State—3.07” on 28 reports at Meadville 0.6 SSE (MS-FK-2)
- ◆ Driest Month, Local—3.86” on 23 reports at Carriere 5.6 NW (MS-PR-9)
- ◆ Hail Reports: pea to marble sized hail on 4/8 3:50 pm at Pass Christian 5.0 N (MS-HR-9)
- ◆ Stations Reporting: 174; Number of Reports: 4126; Average per day: 137.5
- ◆ Busiest Reporting Day: 29th, average: 1.42”, max amount: 4.98”, number of reports: 152
- ◆ Wettest Reporting Day: 7th, average 2.53”, max amount 6.00”, number of reports: 147
- ◆ Snow Reports: none
- ◆ Number of perfect 30 report observers: 59 stations statewide (33.9 percent), 16 stations locally

## Why should I report zero on no rain days?

Since the inception of CoCoRaHS observations, it has been often asked if one has to report even on days with no rainfall. There is a statistical significance in actually having a 0.00” reading on the database, rather than an assumption that it did not rain. In a short-term situation (a matter of a few days to a week), some assumptions can be made across a reporting network. However, as months and years pass, and researches go through historical records, it becomes very difficult to ascertain if spotty reporting is truly an accurate picture of total rainfall just being reported if and when rain occurs—or if it is a result of lax reporting practices. Reporting the zero each day (or at least at the end of the month as a catch-up), removes any ambiguities. Intermittent reporting also adds complications in assessing drought status for an area as lack of reporting may not truly reflect “occurrence only” reporting patterns. This is why determining which stations are the driest in a particular month discards any locations that report less than half the days in that month. Incidentally, NWS Co-operative observers are required to report daily. While not strictly required, volunteer CoCoRaHS observers are always encouraged to send a DAILY report—even if it is 0.00 inches. Over the past several years, usually only 30 to 35 percent of the Mississippi network does so.

**Comment of the Month** - From Kiln 3.3 N (MS-HC-9) on April 15, 2014.

***“Extremely heavy rainfall and thunderstorms occurred for over 6 hours”***

This statement summarized a 6 hour and 40 minute period that started around 5 pm and ended around 2 am, which put 5.06” in the gauge. Mississippi submitted 700 comments in April.

**Keep the DAILY rainfall reports coming!**