



CoCoRaHS Collections

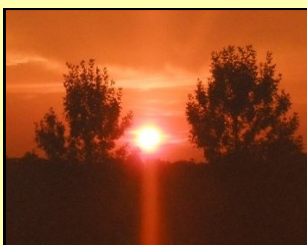
“Because Every Drop Counts”

The Ohio Newsletter

Summer 2011

Observers are Talking About the Summer of 2011

The summer of 2011 had a variety of conditions ranging from cool and rainy to hot and dry. Daily precipitation reports submitted each day told part of the story of the wide variety in conditions experienced across the state this summer. Thanks to the comments in the observation notes section of your reports even more detail could be obtained on what occurred at your location. These comments included everything from temperature information, to sky conditions, to details on the intensity of rainfall, and the time-frame of the precipitation! In all, 1,677 comments were submitted during the summer time frame. These comments act as puzzle pieces that help to reconstruct what the conditions were at a specific point on a specific day. Many thanks to all of you who have taken the extra time to provide this optional, but valuable information to your CoCoRaHS reports. Here are just two of the many comments that were reported. One observer, OH-LR-8 wrote in his comments section, “2 periods of precipitation: July 22/600pm-635pm and July 23/330am and continuing through observation time. Thunderstorm with vivid lightning early this morning. Tree/branches down on (the) road about 3 miles SW of OH-LR-8 observation site. Some street flooding.” OH-SN-3 wrote in one of his reports, “7/18/11– mostly sunny, windy, hot, and humid. High 91F. Heavy thunderstorm developed between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. (.41”), much heavier storms passed to the west and south of my location. Overnight, mostly cloudy, brief heavy downpour around 5:00 a.m., a little lightning and thunder accompanied the rain (.05). Heavier storms passed to the west and south of my location.” Although these comments were on the daily precipitation reports, the daily precipitation report is not the only report that accepts comments. Valuable information comes from comments in hail reports, significant weather reports, multi-day accumulation reports, and drought impact reports as well. Just a reminder that these comments are available to the public and therefore please keep them weather related. You can read the comments that observers have submitted by going to ‘View Data’ on the CoCoRaHS website and then clicking on ‘Daily Comments Reports.’



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A special thank you to those listed below for contributing to this newsletter!

- Julian Turner, CoCoRaHS Headquarters
- Ted Jacobson, Athens County Coordinator
- Ohio Regional Coordinators
- Observer OH-CK-1
- Mike Kurz, NWS





Fall and Winter Frequently Asked Questions

These are some common situations you may encounter as we head deeper into the Fall and Winter months.



1. What is a 'trace' and how do I report it?

-A trace is a few drops of precipitation, whether it is sprinkles or flurries. A trace is entered as a "T". There does not have to be precipitation in the gauge in order to report a trace for your daily precipitation value. If you see a few drops of rain or a few snow flakes outside then you can also report a trace.

2. It has been awhile since I've had to do a snow observation, what exactly do I have to do?

-When snow or freezing temperatures are expected, remove your funnel and inner tube and bring them inside. Measure the depth of new snow on the snowboard to the nearest tenth of an inch. Measure the depth of total snow (new and old) on the ground to the nearest half inch. Measure the total rain and melted snow in your rain gauge to the nearest hundredth of an inch. Remember to report the depth of the total snow (new and old) on the ground until no snow remains. (Optional) A core sample can be taken to enhance your CoCoRaHS observation. The snow/water equivalent ratio is dependent on many factors and therefore it is important to melt the precipitation in your gauge in order to get an accurate measurement. Sleet is reported the same as snowfall, however you can mention sleet in your comments section as well. Freezing rain is reported as rain, however additional information can be added to the comments section on how much ice has accumulated. For an in depth review of snow measuring visit the CoCoRaHS website and click on the Training Slide-Shows or e-mail your local/regional/state coordinator.

3. I have a question about how to report something, who do I ask and where?

-If you have a question, the best mode of contact is to e-mail your local, regional, or state coordinator. Some of the coordinators also have phone numbers available. This contact information can be found on the Ohio CoCoRaHS website under State Coordinators.

4. There has been dew, fog, or frost overnight. Do I measure that as precipitation?

-No, do not measure these as precipitation. You can mention dew, fog, or frost in the comments section of your daily precipitation report.

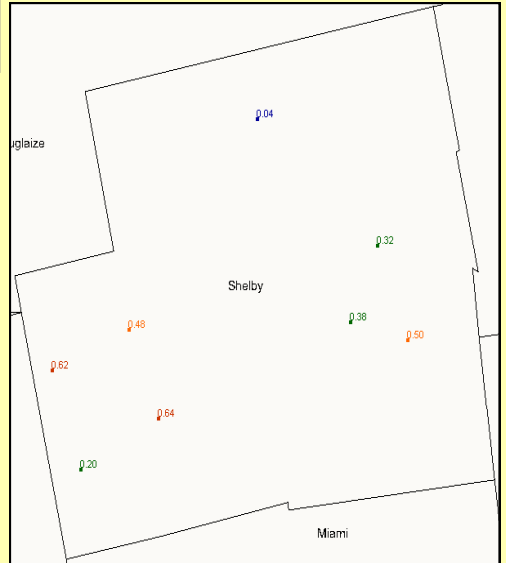
5. When should I report a significant weather report?

-The Significant Weather Report can be used real time to report intense rain or snow. You do not have to wait until your regular observation time in order to submit one of these reports. You would still submit your regular daily precipitation report at your normal observation time as well. What is intense precipitation? Although there is not a strict definition of what to go by, a good suggested guideline to go by for rainfall is if there is greater than an inch of rain in an hour or if flooding is occurring then a Significant Weather Report would be helpful. Some suggested guidelines for submitting a Significant Weather Report for snowfall are if one inch or more of snow is falling per hour, if you receive four inches of snowfall at your site, and/or if your total snowfall at the end of the event is greater than four inches. If you receive ice accumulation from freezing rain of a tenth of an inch or greater, you can put this information in the comments section of the report. These are only suggested guidelines. If you feel that significant weather is occurring at your location then you can use the Significant Weather Report. For those of you who do submit a Significant Weather Report, this is just as good as submitting an e-spotter report or calling your local NWS office and therefore you do not need to call or submit an e-spotter report in addition to this report. If you have questions, please let your coordinator know.



Precipitation Variability

You have probably heard the CoCoRaHS saying “Because Every Drop Counts” and you have probably heard that precipitation is widely variable across short distances. How about across the state? Below are the precipitation totals in inches from our Summer 2011 Honor Roll from the June 1st through August 31st time period. As you can see, precipitation varied greatly across a county and across the state. From this list of observers alone we have values ranging from 4.31 inches to 19.10 inches. Shelby County in one day alone varied by greater than a half inch of rainfall. This sort of precipitation detail would not be possible without you!



| | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| OH-AT-1 | 10.90 | OH-FR-8 | 11.84 | OH-MY-5 | 5.88 |
| OH-AT-5 | 11.89 | OH-FR-24 | 12.48 | OH-OT-2 | 13.62 |
| OH-BT-1 | 6.90 | OH-GG-4 | 11.29 | OH-PB-1 | 4.31 |
| OH-CB-2 | 12.22 | OH-HC-6 | 11.12 | OH-PT-8 | 11.75 |
| OH-CC-1 | 15.24 | OH-HR-2 | 11.15 | OH-PT-12 | 11.86 |
| OH-CK-1 | 10.28 | OH-HY-4 | 9.43 | OH-SD-2 | 10.30 |
| OH-CN-1 | 8.42 | OH-LK-1 | 19.10 | OH-SD-3 | 8.70 |
| OH-CR-1 | 11.92 | OH-LR-2 | 11.81 | OH-SH-4 | 9.01 |
| OH-CY-4 | 17.69 | OH-LR-6 | 11.17 | OH-SH-13 | 6.54 |
| OH-DR-1 | 8.48 | OH-LS-14 | 9.04 | OH-SM-5 | 14.39 |
| OH-FR-1 | 11.89 | OH-MC-1 | 9.48 | OH-SM-16 | 14.89 |
| OH-FR-3 | 12.83 | OH-MM-1 | 10.97 | OH-SN-1 | 9.74 |

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| OH-SN-2 | 15.73 |
| OH-SN-3 | 18.00 |
| OH-TR-4 | 12.57 |
| OH-VN-1 | 11.05 |
| OH-WD-2 | 11.85 |
| OH-WL-2 | 10.22 |
| OH-WL-5 | 8.13 |
| OH-WR-8 | 9.13 |

Pictured Above: Rainfall values in inches during a 24 hour period for Shelby County Ohio

Summer 2011 Honor Roll

From June 1, 2011 through August 31, 2011, these Ohio stations reported everyday. Here are those stations who get a thumbs up for their dedication!

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| OH-AT-1 | OH-CN-1 | OH-FR-8 | OH-LK-1 | OH-MY-5 | OH-SD-3 | OH-SN-2 | OH-WL-5 |
| OH-AT-5 | OH-CR-1 | OH-FR-24 | OH-LR-2 | OH-OT-2 | OH-SH-4 | OH-SN-3 | OH-WR-8 |
| OH-BT-1 | OH-CY-4 | OH-GG-4 | OH-LR-6 | OH-PB-1 | OH-SH-13 | OH-TR-4 | |
| OH-CB-2 | OH-DR-1 | OH-HC-6 | OH-LS-14 | OH-PT-8 | OH-SM-5 | OH-VN-1 | |
| OH-CC-1 | OH-FR-1 | OH-HR-2 | OH-MC-1 | OH-PT-12 | OH-SM-16 | OH-WD-2 | |
| OH-CK-1 | OH-FR-3 | OH-HY-4 | OH-MM-1 | OH-SD-2 | OH-SN-1 | OH-WL-2 | |



500 Club!

Congratulations to our newest 500 Club members! These observers have submitted at least 500 daily precipitation reports since becoming a CoCoRaHS observer. We look forward to adding onto this list with the next newsletter. Way to go!

OH-FF-5
OH-PL-1
OH-CY-8
OH-SH-5
OH-LR-6
OH-WD-10



Newsletter

CoCoRaHS Collections
The Ohio CoCoRaHS Newsletter

E-mail:
Ashley.Novak@noaa.gov

Because Every Drop Counts

www.cocorahs.org



Helpful Links for Ohio CoCoRaHS Observers

Obtain replacement or extra equipment from our official suppliers:

<http://www.weatheryourway.com/cocorahs/store.html>

<http://www.ambientweather.com/strgloteprra.html>

For information on Ohio Climate:

<http://www.geography.osu.edu/faculty/rogers/statclim.html>

<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/>

For Current Forecasts and Severe Weather Warnings:

<http://www.weather.gov>

For river information:

<http://water.weather.gov/ahps/>

For drought information:

<http://drought.unl.edu/dmi/>

<http://droughtreporter.unl.edu/>



Receive Text and E-Mail Alerts
For Your Local Stream Gauge
By: Ted Jacobson, Athens County Coordinator

Earlier this year in April, Ohio had one of the wettest months on record. For many of us this also meant multiple flood watches and warnings. For some CoCoRaHS observers, it may be helpful for you to automatically receive a text or e-mail alert when your local stream gauge reaches a certain trigger level which you define. Many of us use the stream's 'Action Stage' as a good trigger point. The U.S. Geological Survey "WaterAlert" service sends e-mail or text messages when certain parameters, as measured by a USGS real-time data-collection station, exceed user-definable thresholds. The development and maintenance of the WaterAlert system is supported by the USGS and its partners, including numerous federal, state, and local agencies. Real-time data from USGS gauges are transmitted via satellite or other telemetry to USGS offices at various intervals; in most cases, once every 1 or 4 hours. Emergency transmissions, such as during floods, may be more frequent. Notifications will be based on the data received at these site-dependent intervals. For more information and subscription instructions visit:

<http://water.usgs.gov/wateralert/> Select 'Ohio,' then 'Surface Water' as the gauge type.

Free Weather
Knowledge At Your
Fingertips

Are you interested in learning about what causes the different types of weather that impact your rain gauge and you? The National Weather Service has a website called Jet Stream—Online School for Weather that discusses a variety of topics including information on the atmosphere, thunderstorms, Doppler Radar, etc. You can find this information at the website: www.srh.noaa.gov/srh/jetstream/ Click on the different topics on the left hand side and additional information for that topic will display.