

The Catch

COCORAHS—SPRING-LIKE STORMS COME EARLY

FORT COLLINS, CO — Tuesday, January 8, 2008

Wowers -- reports of Midwest heavy rains are "flooding in" this morning -- several reports exceed 5" with much of that falling overnight. Dozens of locations have gotten over 3" of rain.

Just a short note this morning to express appreciation to our observers in Missouri, Illinois and Indiana who have just faced one of the earliest severe weather outbreaks this far north in a long time. Only a few days ago many of these same observers were dealing with snow. Isn't weather amazing!

This morning some of you provided some descriptive remarks about hail, nearby tornadoes, very heavy rains and severe flooding. Thanks very much for this extra effort. Adding your "observation notes" is a great way of adding value and historic documentation to your report. Your "Notes" are greatly appreciated! It is hard to be ready for snow, ice, intense rain and hail all at the same time. Hats off to you!

Reminders about hail and heavy rain/snow

Many of you are new to CoCoRaHS and have not had the opportunity to use some of our additional report forms. We have a special report for reporting hail and heavy precipitation (rain or snow)

<http://www.cocorahs.org/Admin/MyDataEntry/HailReport.aspx>

<http://www.cocorahs.org/Admin/MyDataEntry/IntensePrecipReport.aspx>

These reports are to be used if you are experiencing or just experienced any size or amount of hail, or high rates of precipitation. These reports do not replace your regular daily observation. The advantage is that these reports go directly to your local National Weather Service office to help them monitor severe weather and possibly issue severe weather warnings. We appreciate your comments about hail with your regular daily precipitation reports. Our hail research, however, relies mostly on the hail reports that are submitted using the hail report forms.

Severe Weather Reporting—opportunities and training

National Weather Service offices all over the country recruit volunteers each year to help be their eyes on the ground for spotting and reporting severe weather. Your CoCoRaHS hail and intense precipitation reports go directly to the appropriate NWS office the minute you send them. But when it comes to funnel clouds, tornadoes and other forms of severe weather, it is best to report directly to the NWS. Many offices are holding training sessions for weather spotters this time of year or in the coming months. Please go to <http://www.weather.gov> and then click on your immediate area to go to your local NWS home page. Most will have a link to upcoming severe weather spotter training.

Snow Rulers have arrived

I just got a note from "WeatherYourWay" and, after a few false starts, they now have some custom-made heavy-duty snow rulers available that read in 1/10th inch increments. They worked directly with a manufacturer to get them made for CoCoRaHS. While it may seem that spring is arriving early, I'm sure more winter weather lies ahead. If you would like to check out these new snow rulers there is a picture on their website

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

Good day! Make the best of it. We think the yellow Lab goes home tomorrow. It will be so quiet. We're having an early mud season. The horse corral is not a pretty sight.

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