

The Catch

COCORAHS -- HOW TO USE THE COCORAHHS WEBSITE

FORT COLLINS, CO — Monday, April 15, 2012

Dear rain gauge team,

That was quite the storm system that has been sweeping across the country this weekend. Thanks for all the reports. We WERE looking forward to a soaking rain or even a wet snow here in Fort Collins (Colorado) but somehow it skipped right over us. All we get was a few sprinkles and a lot of wind. After having our driest March on record (in 124 years) we aren't doing much better this month, either. But it was good to see California get some more rain this week and for Oregon and Washington to get a couple of warm, dry days before the next storm moves in. Our Colorado mountains got a much needed snow yesterday and today -- it's been so dry up there. Except for troubles caused by the bout of severe storms, the rains across the Midwest have also been greatly appreciated. Now if we could just get something down to the Southeastern States.

The CoCoRaHS website!

We get tons of questions every week from both new and experienced volunteers about how to access and use various parts of the CoCoRaHS website (logging in, entering data, editing data, viewing maps, retrieving historic information, etc.) We probably should have done this sooner, but at last we are holding a CoCoRaHS Website Tutorial webinar tomorrow evening (8:30 PM Eastern, 7:30 PM Central, 6:30 PM Mountain, 5:30 PM Pacific, etc. for anyone who would like to get better at using the website.

Zach Schwalbe, the CoCoRaHS "answer man" who fields most of our questions, will be presenting this webinar. So if you have the time, the interest and the necessary computer resources, please register and join us this Monday evening (Feb 16th)

Here is the link to register:

<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/832871798>

More volunteers!

Every day, more and more people from all across the country continue to sign up to help measure and report precipitation. This is so great! North Dakota and North Carolina have each added dozens of new observers in just the past few weeks. Arkansas recently acquired 1000 new rain gauges to help their network of volunteers -- amazing! So keep spreading the word and filling in gaps. This summer we don't want any major storms to slip through unmeasured.

Farm stories?

I have plenty to tell, but not enough time. All of our flowering trees (fruit, bushes, etc.) are blooming so early this year it's just far we've dodged the bullet of a late freeze, but that could change tonight. And the dust in the corral -- must be 2" deep. Our mud season was so short this year --only about a week. Would welcome some mud about now.

Best wishes to all, and thanks for sticking with CoCoRaHS. I hope to be with some of you on the website webinar tomorrow (Monday evening).

Sincerely,

Nolan Doesken
Colorado State University