



Georgia CoCoRaHS Newsletter

October, 2012

New Co-Coordinator

Earlier this year, George Wetzel moved down here from Grand Rapids, Michigan, to become the new Observing Program Leader for the National Weather Service in Peachtree City. During his time in Grand Rapids he was a great proponent of CoCoRaHS, and we're happy he's brought that enthusiasm to Georgia with him, along with his wife Shelly and their dogs. George and I are now co-coordinators for Georgia. His job lets him get out and about over much of the state (96 counties of it, anyway), so he's doing a great job of recruiting new observers.

Georgia CoCoRaHS Gathering

We are planning to hold a gathering for Georgia CoCoRaHS observers on Saturday, November 3rd between 12-3pm. It will be held at the National Weather Service building in Peachtree City. Training and time for questions & answers will be provided. Weather and staffing permitting, we're hoping to be able to offer tours of the office. This will be set up like a private Open House – you can visit anytime during the event. We might have a little grilling going on, too, thanks to grill-master George Wetzel. Hope you can make it. More info will follow.

Facebook page

In case you haven't seen it yet, Georgia CoCoRaHS has a Facebook group page just for our observers. It's a great place for us to cheer about good rain totals, lament an empty gauge, and just generally socialize with our fellow observers. It's also a great place to ask questions you may have about CoCoRaHS. Here's the web address: www.facebook.com/groups/GAcoco/ . You choose whether or not you want to receive notification of posts via the Notifications button at the upper right of the page (so this doesn't have to mean you get a bunch of unwanted email.)

CoCoRaHS on YouTube

There are lots of good training and informational videos about CoCoRaHS on YouTube: www.youtube.com/cocorahs . In the Training section of the CoCoRaHS YouTube page, there are videos on getting started with CoCoRaHS, how to use the website, how to measure snow and more. The monthly WxTalk Webinars are recorded and archived here. In the Animations section, there are several

short and entertaining videos introducing CoCoRaHS (good to show your friends when they ask, “Cocoa-what?”) There’s also a great animated video about the water cycle, in case you know someone studying that in school.

Water Year 2012 Reports

When you have a chance, click on “My Account” on the CoCoRaHS home page (in the dark blue bar near the top) and check out your Water Year Summary. There are charts and tables showing your precipitation totals for the year, as well as individual observations – even your comments are included. If you’ve been with CoCoRaHS for a while, you have information for prior years as well, making comparisons easy. At GA-CW-1, I had 63.46 inches from October 2009 through September 2010, 44.30 inches from October 2010 through September 2011, and 39.48 inches from October 2011 through this past September – quite a range.

Multi-Day Observations

Sometimes you’ve just got to get away... but if it rains while you’re gone, how do you report it when you get back? Simple –use Multi-Day Accumulation, on the left-side menu under “Enter My New Reports”. Here’s an example to show how it works:

Nolan reads his rain gauge at 7AM Monday, then leaves for a business trip. When he returns Friday afternoon, he finds 1.37 inches of rain in his gauge. All he knows for certain is that the rain fell sometime after 7AM Monday. On the Multi-Day Accumulation page he enters Tuesday’s date as the start date (because the date on a CoCoRaHS observation marks the end of a 24-hour period of accumulation.) He enters 5PM Friday as the time the gauge was read, and enters 1.37 in the Multi Day Precipitation box. The next morning, he makes his usual 7AM rain reading, reporting any rain that has fallen since 5PM Friday.

Out With The Old, In With The New

GA-CW-1 is about to bite the dust. It’s sad, in a way, because it was one of the two original Georgia CoCoRaHS stations, but my husband and I are in the process of moving across town. Since the new place is in a more rural location, I was hoping we’d fill in a gap somewhere in Coweta County, but as luck would have it, we’re just a half mile from another observer. (But that’s OK! A high-density network is one of the goals of CoCoRaHS.) The compulsive perfectionist in me regrets not ending CW-1 on Sept 30th and then starting the new site on Oct 1st for the beginning of the new Water Year. But heck, we needed that rain Oct 1-3 to have a chance of getting the new post into the ground.

It’s within the realm of possibility, though, that the future owners of the old house might like to carry on the proud tradition of CW-1. I’ll have to tell the realtor to be sure and mention “RAIN GAUGE” in the listing. Talk about an upgrade!

Have a good fall, everyone. Thank you for your dedication to CoCoRaHS!

Chris McGehee, state co-coordinator