CoCoRaHS Collections

"Because Every Drop Counts"

The Ohio Newsletter

Spring 2010

April 5, 2010

During the late afternoon hours on April 5th, supercells developed along a warm frontal boundary across southern portions of the state. Thunderstorm activity increased during the evening hours. The storms developed into multicell clusters and lifted northeast across the southern half of the state. There were multiple reports across the area of hail and damaging winds. Some locations received heavy rainfall for brief periods of time as the storms moved through. Below are hail and significant weather reports that were submitted by Co-CoRaHS observers. As a reminder, these reports do not have to be submitted at your observation time. They can be reported whenever you are safely able to do so. What would constitute a significant weather report for rainfall? Although there is not a strict definition for intense precipitation, a good guideline to go by is if there is greater than an inch of rain in an hour or flooding is occurring. With daily precipitation reports, hail reports, and significant weather reports, a more complete picture of an event can be achieved. Thank you for those complete and accurate reports!

Inside this issue:

Your Hard Work IN ACTION!	2
Honor Roll	3
CoCoRaHS March Madness	3
Get to Know Your Coordinators	3
Helpful Links	4
Reporting Revisited	4

CoCoRaHS Hail Reports

Date	Time	Number	Name	Average	Largest	County
4/5/2010	8:05 PM	OH-CM-2	Goshen 1.2 SW	1/4 Inch	1/4 Inch	Clermont
4/5/2010	9:40 PM	OH-FR-8	New Albany 2.8 SSE	N/A	1/4 Inch	Franklin
4/5/2010	10:30 PM	OH-CN-1	Port William 6.1 W	3/8 Inch	1/2 Inch	Clinton

CoCoRaHS Significant Weather Reports

Date	Time	Number	Name	Duration	New Pcpn	Flooding	County
4/5/2010	8:15 PM	OH-CM-2	Goshen 1.2 SW	20 Minutes	0.35	Minor	Clermont
4/5/2010	8:30 PM	OH-PB-1	Eaton 1.0 N	30 Minutes	0.45	N/A	Preble
4/5/2010	9:52 PM	OH-FR-8	New Albany 2.8 SSE	35 Minutes	0.76	No	Franklin

Drought Impact Report Form

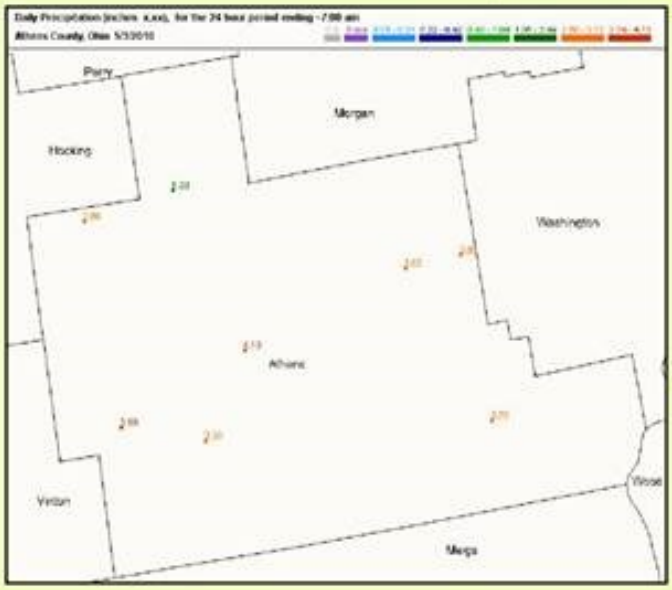
Have you noticed under 'enter my new reports' there is now a report called 'drought impact report?' When you click on this form there is link to a short training presentation on what drought is and how to report it. The significance of drought is tied directly to the impacts that it causes. With this form you can describe when drought develops and how it is affecting you, your livelihood, and your activities.

Your Hard Work...IN ACTION!

Please submit your 'how you use CoCoRahS data' to Ashley.Novak@noaa.gov

Athens County

There are many counties in Ohio that have been very active with CoCoRaHS. One of those counties is Athens County. Athens County has 9 observers that report on a regular basis. These 9 observers have provided valuable information in their reports that have helped the National Weather Service gain ground truth information for floods and flash floods in some regions that are otherwise data sparse areas. Having this data in these regions allows forecasters to diagnose locations in danger of flooding and also allows the National Weather Service to brief Emergency Managers and other county officials so that appropriate actions can be taken to ensure that all of our families are safe. From the beginning of CoCoRaHS in Ohio until the end of May, these nine observers have submitted 2,948 daily precipitation reports. One example of the dedication of the observers was with the rainfall on May 2nd and into May 3rd in which multiple rounds of precipitation impacted the area. There was rainfall that fell both before and after this time frame, however during this 24 hour period alone from around 7 am May 2nd until 7 am May 3rd, rainfall reports from CoCoRaHS observers ranged from 1.33 inches to 4.13 inches over Athens County. Multiple creeks were out of their banks during this event in addition to road closures. With a wide variety of terrain, these reports provide helpful information for where flooding has been or will be a concern. One project in Athens County is an experimental data mapping project that seeks to make local CoCoRaHS data more visible and available to emergency managers, flood plain administrators, and conservancy districts in an easy to use format. The link to the experimental data mapping project can be found on page 4 under 'Helpful Links for Ohio CoCoRaHS Observers.' These 9 observers are just one part of our dedicated CoCoRaHS community. All of you have different motivations for being observers, whether it is for part of a job, disaster mitigation, you are part of another network, or you are a farmer that uses rainfall data for your crops. Some observers have been on the receiving end of river rises and flash floods and know how valuable accurate rainfall information can be. Other observers are part of the network simply because they are doing their part for the greater good. Whatever your motivation is for being a CoCoRaHS observer here in Ohio, know that your hard work is appreciated and is put into action.



Rainfall amounts for Athens County from 7am-7am May 2nd-3rd

A special thank you to Ted Jacobson, David Underwood, and Nicholas Webb for their contributions to this article.

Spring 2010 Honor Roll

From March 1, 2010 through May 31, 2010, these Ohio stations reported everyday. Here are those stations who get a thumbs up for their dedication!

THANK YOU to all of our observers for their consistent reporting!

OH-AL-5	OH-CK-1	OH-DF-1	OH-HM-5	OH-MD-2	OH-PT-8	OH-SN-1
OH-AT-1	OH-CR-1	OH-DR-1	OH-HR-2	OH-MY-5	OH-PT-12	OH-SN-3
OH-AT-2	OH-CB-2	OH-FR-3	OH-LK-1	OH-PB-1	OH-SD-3	OH-TS-1
OH-AT-5	OH-CW-3	OH-FR-8	OH-LR-2	OH-PT-1	OH-SH-1	OH-WD-3
OH-AT-8	OH-CY-4	OH-GG-4	OH-LR-5	OH-PT-5	OH-SM-5	

CoCoRaHS March Madness

The final standings are in from this year's CoCoRaHS March Madness. This year the scoring was based on population density of a state, or "number of new stations per million residents." This scoring method is a little different from last year's method, which was based solely on the number of new observers in a state. Ohio did an excellent job this March with 21 new stations during March. Way to go Ohio! This gave us a total score of 1.8 new stations per million residents or a standing of 25th place. Welcome on board new CoCoRaHS observers! North Dakota came in first place with 32.5 new stations per million residents. Mississippi finished in second with 27.1 new stations per million residents. Wyoming rounded off the top three with a final standing of 18.4 new stations per million residents.

1. North Dakota
2. Mississippi
3. Wyoming
4. Utah
5. Kansas
6. Maine
7. West Virginia
8. New Hampshire
9. New Mexico
10. Kentucky
11. Indiana
12. Montana
13. Oklahoma
14. Wisconsin
15. Idaho
16. Illinois
17. Texas
18. Louisiana
19. Minnesota
20. Colorado

Get to Know Your Coordinators

Ashley Novak is a state coordinator for CoCoRaHS in Ohio. She was born and raised in Ohio. Ashley received her Bachelors Degree in Meteorology from Valparaiso University and her Masters Degree in Atmospheric Science at Purdue University. She began her National Weather Service career in Indianapolis, Indiana. This is where she began working with CoCoRaHS. While there she took CoCoRaHS reports and then became a state coordinator of CoCoRaHS for the state of Indiana. In August, Ashley moved back to Ohio to work at the National Weather Service in Wilmington. Since moving back to Ohio, Ashley has enjoyed becoming a state coordinator for Ohio, writing CoCoRaHS newsletters, and setting up a CoCoRaHS site in her backyard where Ashley's husband helps in taking daily measurements. In her spare time she enjoys fishing, gardening, watching movies, and going for walks with her dog. Ashley is thankful for all the dedicated CoCoRaHS observers in Ohio that have provided their time and effort to giving beneficial quality reports on a daily basis.

Ashley Novak
State Coordinator

Newsletter

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Because Every Drop Counts

www.cocorahs.org

Helpful Links for Ohio CoCoRaHS Observers

Athens County CoCoRaHS:

http://climate.athens.oh.us/oh-at/

http://seorf.ohiou.edu/xx073/floodprep.html

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

For Current Forecasts and Severe Weather Warnings:

http://www.weather.gov

For river information:

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

Reporting Revisited-Multiple Day Accumulation

This summer many people will be packing their bags for vacation. The weather however does not account for this and when you return, your gauge will be waiting for you, filled with rain. What do you do now in order to assure an accurate and quality report? This is where the Multiple Day Accumulation form, on the left hand side of the page under 'Enter My New Reports', comes into play. First fill in the date of the first day of the accumulation period. This day should be one day after your last report. Then insert the date and time the rain gauge was emptied. Now you can input the precipitation amount that was in your gauge. In the future, if you happen to be away from your gauge during the winter, you may also put down how much snow is on the ground and core sample information. Another important part of the form is the notes section, where you can provide more details or an explanation about your report. After completion of the form, all that is left to do is to hit the 'submit data' button. The next day at your observation time you can return to using the Daily Precipitation form. Why can you not enter multiple days worth of precipitation using the Daily Precipitation form? The reason for this is that it is often hard, if not impossible, to determine what precipitation fell on what day while you were away from your gauge. If all the precipitation is entered on one day when it was really a multiple day total, the report will show up as a bulls-eye on the Ohio CoCoRaHS precipitation map and will not provide an accurate depiction of when the rain actually fell. Thank you for those accurate reports and enjoy your vacation!