CoCoRaHS: Weather Enthusiasts Wanted!

WFO Tampa Bay Area Receives Unsung Hero Award

Keeping up with the Latest in Tropical Operations, Virtually

Have the Recent Rains Helped with the Current Drought?

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By: Dan Noah

WFO Tampa Bay Area was the recipient of the 2022 Unsung Hero Award from the Tampa Bay Propeller Club at the 16th Annual Marine Industry Night. The award was in recognition for the dedicated weather services provided to support public safety. Brian LaMarre, Meteorologist-in-Charge of the Tampa Bay Office, said, “Our WFO has a long and proud relationship with the U.S. Coast Guard Sector S. Petersburg and Port Tampa Bay. We actively participate in Port committees and briefings to promote weather awareness and safety. Our office is humbled to be recognized by the Propeller Club, Port of Tampa.”

Photograph from left to right: Mark Valenti, Past President Propeller Club, Brian LaMarre, NWS Meteorologist-in-Charge, Christopher Chambere, President Propeller Club, and Stephen Shively, NWS Meteorologist.

By: Jen Hubbard

It may be the start of spring, but we’re already gearing up for tropical season within the National Weather Service. The first week of spring, NWS Tampa Bay’s own Jen Hubbard served as one of the lead instructors for the intensive Virtual Tropical Operations Training course, leading 30 lead and general forecasters from across the country through this training. This intensive training course includes the main weather impacts seen during tropical season as well as the operational grids and products required for all of those impacts, and the coordination and tie-ins with national centers information into the local products.

How many times have you heard the rainfall report on TV, radio or social media from an official observation and thought to yourself, “That’s not what I got?!?” This is your chance to help! By providing your daily precipitation data, you’re not only helping National Weather Service meteorologists. You’re helping agricultural interests, forestry officials, water management employees, and emergency management personnel.

If you are in an evacuation order is issued, that doesn’t mean that you need to evacuate hundreds of miles away to completely get out of harm’s way. Hurricane evacuations are to some extent a matter of personal choice and area and outside of homes that are not made to withstand the expected winds, such as mobile homes.

Just like us, it’s never too early to start preparing for hurricane season. Now’s the time, while the weather is nice, to make a plan for you and your family. Some considerations are:

1. WILL you need to evacuate? Check your local county emergency management site or flood zone map on the right side of the accompanying picture, the greatest accumulations of rainfall over the forecast area however remain in the D1: Moderate Drought category, with the majority of the area seeing less than 1.5 inches. Hernando Counties were previously in the D1: Moderate Drought category, but are now (as of March 24th) in the D0: Abnormally Dry category. Eastern Polk County has also seen a bit of improvement. The rest of the forecast area however remain in the D1: Moderate Drought category, with the majority of the area seeing less than 1.5 inches from the recent storm systems.

2. IF you are in an evacuation zone, where would you evacuate to? A friend or family member’s house that lives outside the evacuation zone or a local inland hotel? Remember that when our summer thunderstorms start to become a regular occurrence. Until then, be sure to limit water usage as much as possible both indoors and outdoors, and be sure to practice fire safety when camping or enjoying the outdoors. For the latest information, go to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services website.

3. WHAT should you include in your Preparedness Kit? A friend or family member’s house that lives outside the evacuation zone or a local inland hotel? And remember that you do not necessarily need to buy all of these supplies at once. Take advantage of BOGO sales and store them yourself, as it is important to understand just how much rain fell in a particular area. As you can see from the rainfall map on the right side of the accompanying picture, the greatest accumulations of rainfall over the forecast area however remain in the D1: Moderate Drought category, with the majority of the area seeing less than 1.5 inches from the recent storm systems.

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The short answer is, for some areas yes, and for other areas, no. As you can see from the rainfall map on the right side of the accompanying picture, the greatest accumulations of rainfall over the forecast area however remain in the D1: Moderate Drought category, with the majority of the area seeing less than 1.5 inches from the recent storm systems.

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Volunteers may obtain an official rain gauge through the CoCoRaHS website, www.cocorahs.org for about $30 plus shipping. In addition to the 4 inch plastic rain gauge, volunteers are required to take a short online training module and then can use the CoCoRaHS website or mobile app to submit their daily reports (preferably around 7:00 AM EST). Observations are immediately available on maps and reports for the public to view. The process takes less than five minutes a day, but the impact to the community is lifelong. By providing high quality, accurate measurements, the observers are able to supplement existing networks and provide useful results to the National Weather Service, other scientists, resource managers, decision makers and other users.

Given the variable pattern of rainfall over Florida, it’s important to understand just how much rain fell in a particular area. As you can see from the rainfall map on the right side of the accompanying picture, the greatest accumulations of rainfall over the forecast area however remain in the D1: Moderate Drought category, with the majority of the area seeing less than 1.5 inches from the recent storm systems.

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By: Austen Flannery

Do you ever wonder how much rainfall you received from a recent thunderstorm? If so, a volunteer weather observing program needs your help! The Community Collaborative Rain, Relief, and Snow network, or CoCoRaHS, is looking for new volunteers across the state of Florida. This grassroots effort is part of a growing national network of home-based and amateur rain spotters with a goal of providing a high density precipitation network that will supplement existing observations.

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There are the 2022 Names for your familiarization:

Alex, Gaston, Lisa, Richard
Becky, Cole, Ian, Nicole
Colin, lem, Nicky, Trissa
Danielle, Julia, Kaila, Virginia
Earl, Flora, Karl, Paulna
Walter

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From left to right: Mark Valenti, Past President Propeller Club, Brian LaMarre, NWS Meteorologist-in-Charge, Christopher Chambere, President Propeller Club, and Stephen Shively, NWS Meteorologist.

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