

South Carolina CoCoRaHS Newsletter – Summer 2018

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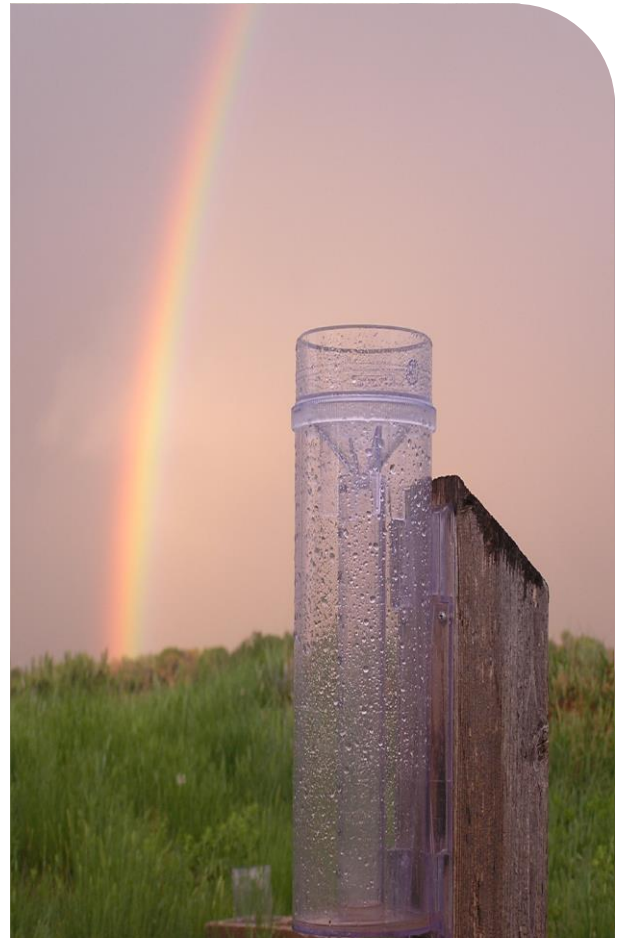
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*Because Every
Drop Counts!*



Melissa at the high water
mark of the Fort Collins
Flood that started the
CoCoRaHS Program.



New State Coordinator

Hello Everyone, I would like to take a quick moment to introduce myself. My name is Melissa Griffin, and I just started as the Assistant State Climatologist for South Carolina. As part of my duties, I will be serving as the State Coordinator for the CoCoRaHS Program. I am originally from Maryland and would spend my summers vacationing along the Grand Strand. I received my degree in meteorology from Florida State University. I worked at the Florida Climate Center, where I served as the State Coordinator for Florida CoCoRaHS from 2007-2015. I look forward to observing the precipitation of South Carolina alongside you. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at GriffinM@dnr.sc.gov or 803-734-9091.

South Carolina Wins The 2018 CoCoRaHS March Madness Campaign

An additional 178 observers join the program to help measure precipitation.



During March, the CoCoRaHS program runs its annual March Madness campaign to recruit additional citizen observers to measure precipitation across the United States. This year, South Carolina won the traditional count, beating out Florida by recruiting the highest number of new observers here in the Palmetto State. The coveted CoCoRaHS Cup has made its way to South Carolina and will remain at the State Climatology Office until we win again next year.

The real winner of the contest is the program which signed up over 1,300 new CoCoRaHS observers during the 31-day event.

Welcome New Observers!

If you are a new observer, we would like to welcome you to the CoCoRaHS program; and even if you have been an observer for ten years, we would like to say 'Hello.'

Here are some quick odds and ends about the program for both new and current observers:

1. **Purchase your rain gauge.** CoCoRaHS has worked with two different vendors to offer the 4" Stratus Rain Gauge used by all of our observers at a discounted rate. You can find the links to the vendors on the [CoCoRaHS Home Page](#).
2. **Review the online training materials.** The CoCoRaHS Team has produced slideshows, PDF documents, and videos to help you make sure you are providing the best possible precipitation observation to the network. You can view them on the [website](#) or the [CoCoRaHS YouTube Channel](#).
3. **Double check your report before you hit submit.** Occasionally you may be contacted by someone at CoCoRaHS HQ, a regional coordinator or myself about a flagged rainfall value. Two of the most common mistakes is entering the time of observation as the rainfall total and misplacing the decimal.
4. **Report your zeros.** Even on days when there is nothing in your rain gauge, that 0.00" value is extremely important to many individuals and agencies. By knowing where it has not rained, the information can help determine developing droughts and potential water management issues.
5. **Check out the Wx Talk Webinars offered by CoCoRaHS.** Each [webinar](#) features a different weather-related topic and gives a chance for our observers to interact with the speaker. You can find the previous Wx Talk Webinars archived on the [CoCoRaHS YouTube Channel](#).



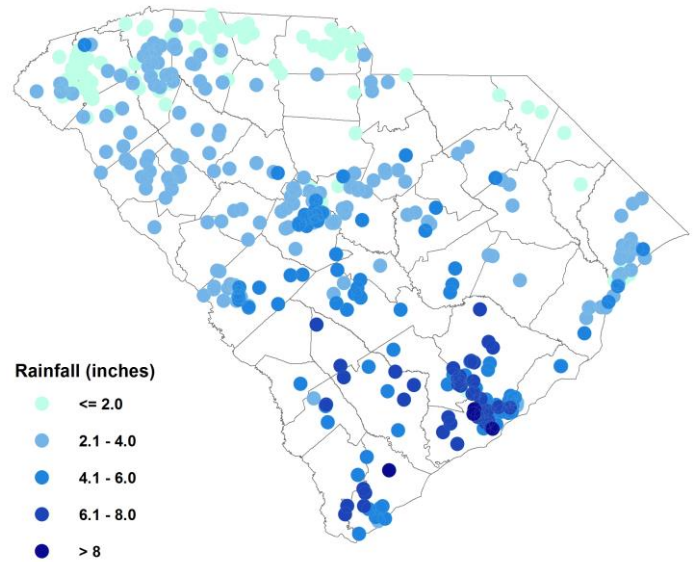
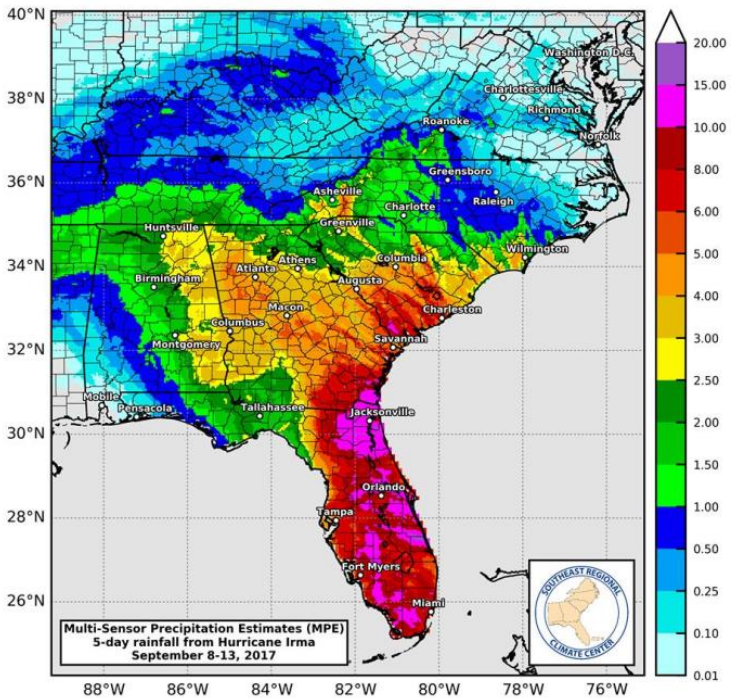
Hurricane Irma - September 2017

In September 2017, Hurricane Irma, a powerful Cape Verde Hurricane, devastated portions of the Caribbean and United States. The storm formed from a tropical wave that moved off the coast of Africa and rapidly intensified to a Category 2 hurricane in just 24-hours. As it moved across the Atlantic, the storm strengthened into a powerful Category 5 hurricane. Hurricane Irma made landfalls in Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Martin, Anguilla, the Turks and Caicos, the Bahamas and Cuba, before making landfall near Cudjoe Key, FL on September 11th and again near Marco Island, FL later the same day. Irma weakened after landfall, and by September 12th, the system became a remnant low as it crossed into Alabama.

In South Carolina, the maximum rainfall total was 9.07 inches, reported by CoCoRaHS station Beaufort 3.6 NNE (SC-BF-35) on 10 to 13 September, while inland locations received rainfall totals between 3 and 7 inches. These rains caused some flash flooding and minor to moderate river flooding in South Carolina. Several water rescues occurred in Jasper County due to the flooding.

“Hurricane Irma paid us a visit! About 12 hours of wind, rain, and some flooding, most of which was around surge and high tides. We sheltered in place with all supplies and hurricane shutters on the windows.”

Bluffton 6.2 WNW (SC-BF-10)



Estimated Rainfall Totals from Hurricane Irma in the Southeast

Rainfall Totals from South Carolina CoCoRaHS Observers



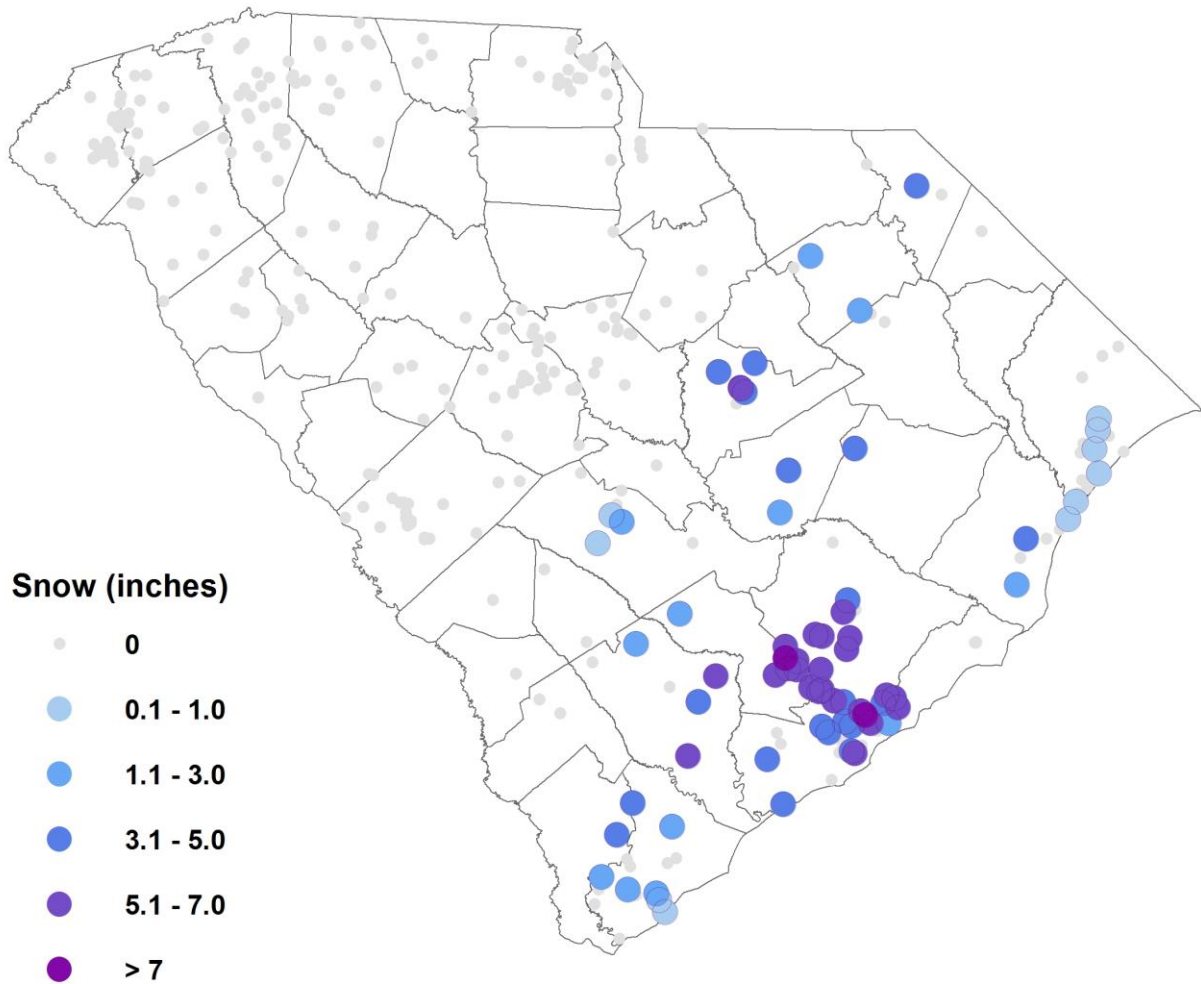
Early January Snow

On January 3, 2018, a low-pressure system developed near the Florida coastline and tracked north along the South Carolina coast. With unusually cold air in place over the state, the rapidly intensifying system created a rare winter storm that affected much of the state located east of the I-95 corridor. The winter storm produced snow, sleet, and freezing rain, creating significant travel disruptions for several days after the event. At Charleston Airport, 5.3 inches of snow was measured, making it the 3rd greatest daily snowfall and the snowiest January on record.

CoCoRaHS Station Daniel Island (SC-BK-49) recorded 8 inches of new snow on the ground the morning of January 4th.

“Freezing rain began at 07:05 am y/day morning and lasted until 12:26 pm when it changed to snow... and it snowed just under 2 hours (02:15 pm) and gave use $\frac{3}{4}$ ” and this has not happened since Dec. 23, 1989 when we got 6” of snow and gave us the first White Christmas in the history of the island. A memorable event this was.”

Daufuskie Island 1.7 SW (SC-BF-23)



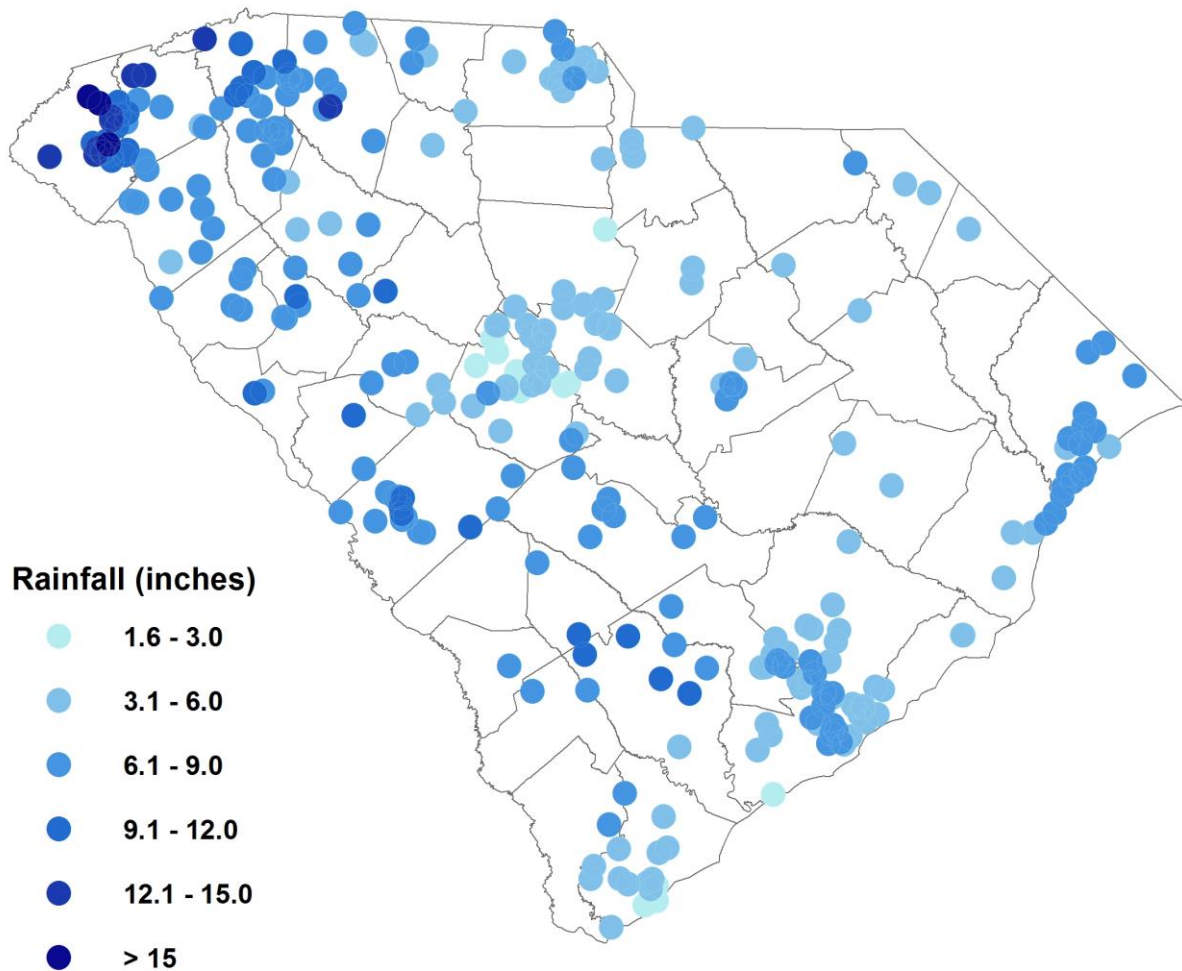


May 2018 Rainfall Totals and Drought Conditions

Above average rainfall over May helped ease persistent drought conditions across the state. According to State Climatologist Hope Mizzell, “The last time the entire state was drought-free was July 8, 2016.” The major reservoirs were near their target levels, and streams, rivers, and ground-water levels were up due to the recent rains, ranging from 5 to nearly 20 inches in different portions of South Carolina. Most of the CoCoRaHS stations in Oconee County reported more than 9 inches of rain during May. Stations in Beaufort reported less than 2 inches during the month.

“Most rain I’ve ever recorded in a 10-hour period since I began recording about 10 years ago.”

Seneca 4.9 N (SC-OC-77) on 05/16/2018



May 2018 South Carolina CoCoRaHS Statistics

Total Number of Submitted Reports	11,498
Highest Monthly Total	20.66" (SC-OC-04)
Maximum 24-Hour Rainfall Observation	5.58" on 05/16/2018 (SC-OC-47)



Help Us Recruit More Observers

Due to the variability of precipitation, amounts measured can be different even cross short distances. South Carolina CoCoRaHS is always looking for new observers to help understand where it did or did not rain. If you know someone that enjoys the weather, encourage them to sign up to participate in this beneficial citizen science project.

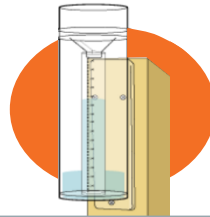
It Only Takes 4 Simple Steps



Register



View Online Training Slideshow



Purchase a Rain Gauge



Record and Report Observations



Observer Comments And Photos

Throughout the newsletter, you saw comments included with each of the events that highlighted an observer's experience. When you enter your observation, there is a space for you to include comments – and we encourage you to do so! Your comments add context to your observation, which can be extremely useful to the variety of people and organizations that use CoCoRaHS data.

If comments are helpful, I am sure you can imagine the impact and information a simple photo could convey. If you have any pictures you took while making an observation – rainfall, floods, drought impacts, beautiful sunrises, and sunsets, or anything else you'd like to share – please send them to me.



Your South Carolina Cocorahs Team

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact myself or your regional coordinator.



Region	Contact
Southeast Region (NWS Charleston)	Julie Packett (julie.packett@noaa.gov) Emily Timte (emily.timte@noaa.gov)
Midlands Region (NWS Columbia)	Leonard Vaughn (leonard.vaughn@noaa.gov)
Upstate Region (NWS Greer)	Chris Horne (christopher.horne@noaa.gov) Jeff Taylor (jeff.taylor@noaa.gov)
Northeast Region (NWS Wilmington)	Josh Weiss (joshua.weiss@noaa.gov)