

CoCoRaHS in Ohio Media Fact Sheet

For Immediate Release
January 22, 2009

- On February 2, Groundhog Day, Ohio will become the 38th state to join CoCoRaHS, the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network.
- CoCoRaHS is a rapidly growing network of volunteer rainfall observers across the country, allowing weather buffs of all backgrounds to play an active role in weather reporting and research using inexpensive equipment in their backyard.
- CoCoRaHS partners in Ohio include, State Climatologist Dr. Jeffrey Rogers of Ohio State University, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Central Ohio Raingage Network (organized by Bob Davis of EMH&T Engineers in Columbus), and the 5 National Weather Service offices serving Ohio.
- The only equipment needed is a plastic 4” rain gage, available through the cocorahs.org site or through other weather equipment companies. Cost of the gage is about \$23. Volunteers must report their precipitation through the CoCoRaHS website.
- How to volunteer? Just go to cocorahs.org and click on ‘Join CoCoRaHS’ to get started. Further steps are then provided, with detailed training also available on the web site, including video instructions.
- Once an observer is registered, a coordinator assigns them a specific identifying ID. No personal information is listed on the cocorahs.org site, only the ID and precipitation amount are displayed.
- The CoCoRaHS network in Ohio will be divided into 6 regions. New volunteers can contact their Regional Coordinator for any assistance. Regional Coordinators:

NE Ohio – Jim Kosarik, NWS Cleveland - james.kosarik@noaa.gov

NW Ohio – Sam Lashley, NWS North Webster, IN - Sam.Lashley@noaa.gov

SW and SC Ohio-- Julie Dian-Reed, NWS Wilmington, OH – Julia.dian-reed@noaa.gov

Central Ohio – Bob Davis – EMH&T Engineers, Columbus, OH - BDavis@emht.com

East Central Ohio – Bob Coblentz, NWS Pittsburgh, PA - Robert.Coblentz@noaa.gov

SE Ohio – Nick Webb, NWS Charleston, WV – Nicholas.webb@noaa.gov

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“CoCoRaHS – Because Every Drop Counts!”