

# Placement and Installation of your Rain Gauge



### LOCATION! LOCATION! LOCATION!



#### **Distance from obstacles**

In <u>open areas</u> strive to be <u>twice as far</u>
from obstacles as they are high.

In <u>developed areas</u> strive to be <u>as far</u>

from obstacles as they are high.

#### **HEIGHT ABOVE THE GROUND**

In **<u>open areas</u>** place the gauge top approx. **<u>2 feet</u>** off the ground.

2

This is to improve gauge

catch by reducing wind speed

In <u>developed areas</u> place the gauge top approx. <u>5 feet</u> off the ground.

This is to improve gauge catch by

reducing the impact of nearby obstacles

### LEVEL AND BEVEL

Make sure your gauge is level







**Bevel** the top of the post to reduce rain splashing into the gauge.



## **REPORTING OBSERVATIONS**

## ON

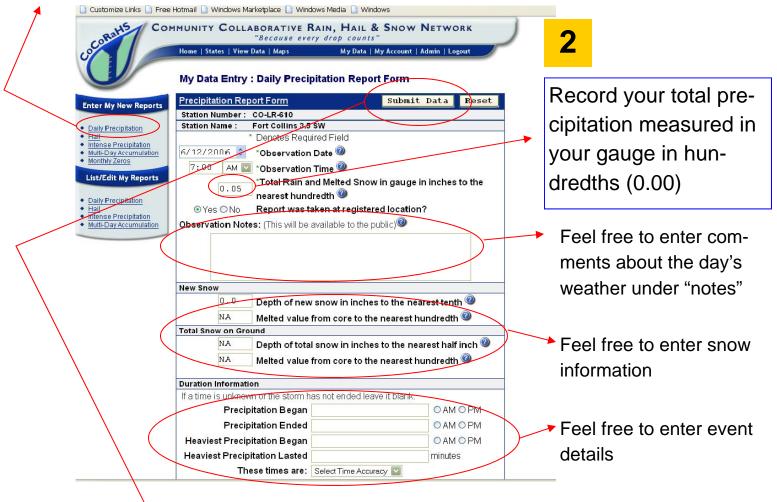
The CoCoRaHS Web site

www.cocorahs.org

**1** Login to CoCoRaHS

3

After you login, the screen will automatically take you to the Daily Precip. Report



Click "Submit" and your data is recorded on our site



2

7

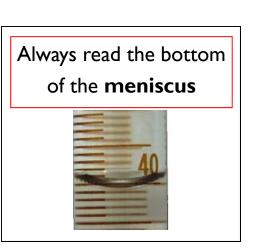
## **MEASURING RAINFALL**

Gauges should be read between 5:00AM and 9:00AM with 7:00AM being preferred

Other times are accepted, but they will not appear on CoCoRaHS maps

Points to remember when reading your rain gauge

- Your most common observation will be **zero**. It is important to <u>please report all zeros</u>.
- When only a drop or two wet the gauge record a **"T" for Trace**



- 3 The inner tube holds 1.00 inch
- 4 Getting the decimal point correct is **ESSENTIAL** There are big differences between 0.04 and 0.40 and 4.00
- 5 Measure rainfall of less than an inch from the inner tube. Measured amounts from the inner tube will be between a few hundredths up to one inch.
- 6 When more than an inch of rain falls the precipitation will overflow into the outer cylinder. The whole gauge has a capacity to hold 11 inches.

To measure greater than one inch ...

- Pour out the first inch from the inner tube and write it down.
- Now pour the remaining water into the funnel & measure using the inner tube.
- Continue until all of the water has been measured. Make sure you keep track of your amounts along the way
- Then add up all of your measurements, for example: 1.00 inch + 0.97 inches + 0.88 inches +0.92 inches = 3.77 inches
- Report the Total = 3.77"



## **MEASURING SNOWFALL**

Gauges should be read between 5:00AM and 9:00AM with 7:00AM being preferred

Other times are accepted, but they will not appear on CoCoRaHS maps

If snow is anticipated, remove the <u>funnel</u> and <u>inner tube</u>, otherwise snow will clog the funnel

#### Measuring liquid water content from your gauge

- When snow accumulates on the rim of the gauge, tap on the top of the gauge with a fly swatter.
- 2 Add some warm water to the inner tube and measure to the nearest hundredth of an inch. Record the value.
- 3 Add the warm water from the inner tube to the snow sample in the outer tube in order to melt the snow sample.
  - Pour melted snow sample into smaller tube and read to the near-est hundredth of an inch.
- 5

4

Subtract the amount of warm water that you initially added to the tube and record your results.







#### **Measuring Snow Depth**

Measure snow depth with a yard stick in an area where the snow falls uniformly.



Preferably use the same location to measure the snow depth throughout the season.



If the snow depth measurement for a given day is greater than the previous day, enter the difference as "depth of new snow".

