There is a Zen saying, "Sometimes in May rain, I can hear my fingernails growing."

Another Zen saying goes, "If you understand, things are just as they are. If you do not understand, things are just as they are."

An old Japanese proverb says, "The reverse side also has a reverse side."

And then, Paul Krassner had this to say: "I used to believe in reincarnation, but that was in a past life."

You may ask what any of these sayings have to do with citizen science and water quality monitoring of our local waterways...you may ask, where does that highway go to? You may ask yourself, how do I work this? You may tell yourself...

OOPS, got in a stream of consciousness loop there.

Anyway, never a dull moment when you are out amongst the lofty oaks and amid the gentle flow of life-giving waters.

Time to really think about water conservation!

Big Chico Creek – Drought of August 2008

Big Chico Creek – Drought of August 2021
Looking forward to seeing you for our next monitoring this **Saturday, August 14** from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Five Mile Picnic Area Parking Lot (Centennial Way).

If you can come, please RSVP by calling 530-342-6620 or by e-mailing me at: timmariehamill@gmail.com.

Our monitoring events always meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Five Mile Picnic Area Parking Lot (Centennial Way). From there, we travel to various sites and complete our monitoring at approximately 12:00 noon.

Don’t be shy! Rest assured – you’ll be teamed up with an experienced Stream Team Leader to show you “the ropes!”

Just bring typical personal items for a 3-hour outing on the creek (water, snack, sunscreen, hat, water shoes, etc…).

The remaining 2021 monitoring events are:

- September 11
- October 9

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**Question of the Month**

What is pH?

pH is a term used to indicate the alkalinity or acidity of the stream water, and affects many chemical and biological processes in the water. pH is measured on a scale from 1.0 to 14.0. Different organisms flourish within different ranges of pH. The largest variety of aquatic animals prefer a range of 6.5-8.0. pH outside this range reduces the diversity in the stream because it stresses the physiological systems of most organisms and can reduce reproduction. Low pH can also allow toxic elements and compounds to become mobile and “available” for uptake by aquatic plants and animals. This can produce conditions that are toxic to aquatic life, particularly to sensitive species.

Got a question? E-mail to: timmariehamill@gmail.com