ALLARM BULLETIN



Edited by Lisa Hovis

June 1987

STREAM RANKINGS

Here is the promised preliminary data analysis. Each stream has been catagorized into groups according to its pH and alkalinity. More analysis is in the works. ALLARM is now in the process of finding trends over time.

ENDANGERED

pH 4.0-5.0 Alk 0-5

County

pH

Collector

| Stream | |
|-------------------|---|
| Kings Gap Hollow, | 1 |
| Kings Gap Hollow, | 2 |
| Laurel Run | |
| Lehigh | |
| Loyalsock | |
| Nescopeck | |
| Red Run | |

VERY VULNERABLE

Stream C Big Bush Kill UI Canbaugh Run F Conewago A Conococheague F Conococheague, E.B. F Duncannon Reservoir Pe Frozen Run L Furnace Run FI Grays Run L Jackson Run Pe Laurel Run Hı Logan Run No Long Run Yo Muddy Creek L Otter Creek Y Pennsylvania Canal Da Pleasant Stream L Poe Valley Lake Ce Powells Creek UI Shavers Creek Hu Sherman's Creek Pe Cu Toms Run Fr Trout Run Trout Run La Walnut Run Lanc.

| Cumb. | Kings Gap Center |
|-----------|------------------|
| Cumb. | Kings Gap Center |
| Perry | Egolf |
| Bucks | Broadbent |
| Bucks | Broadbent |
| Bucks | Broadbent |
| Lycom. | Huggins |
| | |
| H 5.0-6.0 | Alk 0-20 |
| Causta | C-11 |
| Louncy | Collector |
| Unk. | Broadbent |
| Frank. | Dropp |
| Adams | Platt |
| Frank. | Dropp |
| Frank. | Dropp |
| Ferry | Keilly |
| Lycom. | Adame |
| Frank. | Nuaring |
| Porry | Brown |
| Hunt | Long |
| North | Prutaman |
| York | Suppurv |
| Lang | Room |
| Vork | Reilly |
| Dauph | Flataly |
| Lycom. | Huggins |
| Centre | Railly |
| Unk. | Frantz |
| Hunt. | Long |
| Perry | Egolf |
| Cumb. | Herrold |
| Frank. | Eschenman |
| Lanc. | Axelrod |
| Lanc. | Kerchner |

VULNERABLE

Stream Antietam Cr. E.B. Brock Cocalico Creek Conewago Creek Conoy Creek Conoy Creek Hammer Creek Kelly's Run Manada Creek Manada Creek Muddy Creek Neshaminy Penns Creek Pond Rabbit Run Rock Run Sherman's Creek Shover Run Spring Swatara Swatara Tucquan Creek Unnamed Yellow Breeches

SLIGHTLY RESISTANT

pH 6.0-7.5

Alk 20-80

Alk 5-50

Collector

Broadbent

Kerchner

Kistler

Keitsock

Kerchner

Davenport

Longenecker

Longenecker

Nature Center(Pill)

Axelrod Schaffer

Ream Stout

Reilly

Klyce

Reilly

Gahres Dice

Axelrod

Seville

Fetterman

Long

Longenecker

Etchison

pH 5.0-7.0

County

Frank.

Bucks

Lanc.

Lanc.

York

Lanc.

Lanc.

Lanc.

Dauph.

Dauph.

Lanc.

Bucks

Lanc.

Bucks

Perry

Hunt.

Lanc.

Leban.

Dauph.

Lanc.

Dauph.

Cumb.

Chester

Centre

| Stream | County | Collector |
|-----------------------|--------|---|
| Beaver Creek | Dauph. | Davenport |
| Beaver Creek | Dauph. | Mahey |
| Codorus | York | Reilly |
| Conestoga | Lanc. | Bare |
| Hammer Creek | Lanc. | Axelrod |
| Little Buffalo Cr.(Y) | Perry | Reilly |
| Little Buffalo Lake | Perry | Reilly |
| Little Juniata Cr.(m) | Perry | Reilly |
| Mill Creek | Lanc. | Bare |
| Montour Run | Perry | Egolf |
| Plum Run | Adams | Platt . |
| Susquehanna River | Cumb. | Reilly |
| Tohickon | Bucks | Broadbent |
| Yellow Breeches Creek | Cumb. | Reilly |
| | | the set of |

MODERATELY RESISTANT pH 6.5-7.5 Alk 60-120

| Stream | County | Collector | |
|-----------------------|--------|-----------|--|
| Conodoguinet Creek | Cumb. | Reilly | |
| Landis Run | Lanc. | Axelrod | |
| Little Juniata Cr(NB) | Perry | Reilly | |
| Lutman Run | Perry | Reilly | |
| Mill Creek (quarry) | Bucks | Baddeley | |
| Mill Creek (above q.) | Bucks | Baddeley | |
| Neshaminy (above q.) | Bucks | Baddeley | |
| Neshaminy (below g.) | Bucks | Baddeley | |

DID YOU KNOW ...

- 6,000 miles of Pennsylvania's trout streams are now vulnerable to acidification and fish loss, according to Pennsylvania's Fish Commission.
- Poconos' lakes are second only to the Adirondacks in suffering from acid deposition.
- Forest dieback from acid deposition has reached 75% in the Black Forest.
- Liming, a proposed "post-solution" to acid deposition, is temporary, extremely expensive, and often results in peculiar water chemistry and life forms.
- Inhalation of sulfate and nitrate particulates can cause bronchitis, Emphesema, cancer, and cardiovascular diseases.
- Inhalation of SO2 and NOx particles is ranked as the 3rd cause of respiratory cancers according to Dr. Landrigan of the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine.
- The senate majority leader Robert C. Byrd is the most visible opponent to acid rain legislation.
- Canadian environmental minister labeled the majority leader in the U.S. senate as a "Neanderthal".

ALLARM WORKSHOPS

This summer, we plan to have two ALLARM workshops on July 18 and August 8 which are both Saturdays. A workshop on acid deposition is a wonderful excuse to meet fellow volunteers, be updated on the latest happenings with ALLARM and the acid rain issue, and actually visit creeks in the local area. A picnic lunch will top off the workshop. Please try to attend! Watch the mail for more details.

RAIN GAUGES

ALLARM is now expanding our data collection to rain! Knowing the quantity and acidity of rainfall would supplement the stream data in helping to show a relationship between acid rain and its effects on your stream. A rain gauge is very simple to use and costs between \$3.00 and \$6.00. If you are interested in expanding your monitoring to rain and would like to obtain a rain gauge, please call or write to ALLARM.

SPOTLIGHT

We are thrilled to be receiving data from all of our hardworking volunteers. Keep up the good work! ALLARM would like to take this opportunity to recognize some members.

*A warm thanks to our first volunteer, the folks up at Kings Gap Environmental Center who have been consistently collecting data at two sites on King's Gap Run since November 1986.

*Pattie Longenecker, thank you for the beautiful photos of your sites! It sounds like you are measuring alkalinity correctly, so keep a close eye on those low numbers.

*Arnold Mahey, thanks for sharing your vivid observations, the extra information on acid rain that you sent, and the history on land use. Reading your data reports might be as fun as collecting it!

*Thanks for the group collecting effort at Bell Socializaton Services and the Nature Center of Charlestown.

*Randy Axelrod, congratulations on your new jobs. Your consistent monitoring of a 60 mile creek check loop since March has given us some great data!

*A thanks to John Dropp for the documentation of the pH for the June 20th rain storm. Those numbers are scarey! -3.5 pH 15 minutes into the storm (3:30 PM) -4.5 pH 45 minutes into the storm (4:00 PM) -3.5 pH 1 hour and 45 min. into the storm (5:00 PM) -4.5 pH at 10:30 PM.

FUNDING

Since ALLARM receives no outside funding and expenses are starting to mount, we need funding ideas in addition to donations. Do you have any suggestions on funding sources?

NAME THE ALLARM BULLETIN

ALLARM needs your help in forming a title to this newsletter. Please send us your creative ideas.

CALL FOR ALLARM DELEGATE TO PennARC

Would you like to become more active in the fight to save our natural resources from acid rain? A volunteer is needed to serve as an alternate delegate to PennARC. While the time commitment is small, the responsibilities are substantial.

Pennsylvanians for Acid Rain Control (PennARC) is a state wide coalition whose membership entails organizations, institutions, and corporations interested in promoting a comprehensive acid deposition control policy. ALLARM is on its Executive Board.

As an alternate delegate, you would sit on the Board of Delegates with the responsibility of casting ALLARM's vote on all matters when the delegate is absent. The Board meets annually, unless the Chairperson calls additional meetings. By representing ALLARM, you would not only have a say in the strategies for statewide controls on the factors contributing to acid rain, but would also keep our orgaization up to date on the latest developments statewide and on the acid rain issue in general.

Volunteer one day a year. You <u>can</u> make a difference! Interested? Call or write to us for more information.



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TESTING KITS

Many of you have been asking questions concerning the accuracy of the Hawk Creek testing kits. ALLARM feels that for our purposes, these kits are accurate and cost-efficient. The company that makes our Merck Spezialindikator litmus paper claims a margin of error of less than 0.2 pH units. Four independently conducted tests support this conclusion.

In the spring of 1986, three Dickinson students evaluated four kits for testing pH. The HACH, HELLIGE, HYDRION (limited range), and HAWK CREEK kits were compared. They concluded that the color grading on the HAWK CREEK litmus test was the most easily readable.

A year later, other Dickinson students tested our Merck (Spezialindikator pH 2.0-9.0) litmus paper for accuracy. The litmus paper was tested in known buffer solutions covering a wide range of pH by 58 randomly selected students. The average error margin of 0.3 was very good. The most inaccurate interpretations were in highly alkaline buffer solutions. This is not a concern for us, since the pH of natural surface waters, and in fact all ALLARM data, fall below 8.0.

Another Dickinson chemistry major recently conducted a comparison and evaluation of two different Merck pH strips. She found that our litmus paper was more accurate. The only criticism of our litmus paper is that the longevity of the adhesive used to fasten the indicator squares to the strips was less than the other, but we do not leave our strips in long enough to have the squares fall off. However, if this is a problem, let us know.

The final test compared our litmus paper to the Gold Acid Survey Paper by Microessential Labs (pHdrion pH 3.0-6.0). In December 1986, fourth through eighth graders at a Carlisle school were asked to match the color of the indicator squares to the key, in order to determine the pH of known buffer solutions. The conclusions reveal that our litmus paper is more accurate overall. Also at each grade level, the margin of error did not exceed 0.3 in each class. If wrong, these children usually chose the pH lower than the correct pH.

Another method of measuring pH involves an electric pH meter. Aside from possible mechanical problems and extraordinary costs, these meters are very difficult to accurately calibrate. Hence, two identically calibrated electric pH meters often show different pH readings.

pH is easy to measure, yet hard to measure <u>accurately</u>. Nonetheless, our volunteers can feel confident in the quality of their test kit.

TESTING HINT

If the alkalinity is lower than 20 ppm, leave the litmus paper in the sample for 10 minutes, not the usual 5 minutes.



- is one solution for temporarily reducing the acidity of a lake. 1)
- Water that sinks into the soil, where it may be stored forlong times in slowly renewed underground resevoirs. 2)
- rainwater. 4.0 is the pH level of 3)
- A citizens' volunteer organization that is trying to elicit a response from the PA legislation by individually monitoring streams and collecting data. (1)
- their streams on Volunteers should a weekly basis. 5
- to Water with a pH reading of 4.0 is said be (9)
- a lake determines to neutralize or absorb of The ability acidity. 2)
- Acidification can cause leaching of lead water systems due to corroded pipes. and copper into 8)
- primarily from sulfur oxides and partic-ulates produced by the burning of coal and oil in households, industries and partic power plants. 6
- 10) Higher concentrations of metals are present in acidified aquatic systems
- A principal cause of acid rain are: from automobiles. 11)
- When the snow melts in the spring time, the rapid decreases in pH values creates a condition known as 12)
- A type of fish that is most vulnerable to acidification. 13)
- The scientific study of physical, chem-ical and biological conditions in lakes, ponds and streams. 14)
- This type of matter can be found as solid particles, or liquid droplets suspended or carried in the air. 15)
- One of the gasses found in exhausts from automobiles. (9)

ALLARM CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NMOO

- out of the ecosystem. 1) Acid rain leaches necessary
- When we test water using the Haux __(ans. to #12 down) Creat HACH water kit, we test for and 2)
- Another term for acid rain is acid 3)
- Another gas found in exhausts from automobiles. (other than #16 across) (+)
- All of our existing lakes and to the ef fects of acid rain streams are 2

- Wooded area adversely affected by acid rain. (9)
- 5.6 is the pH level of rainwater. 2)
- Acid deposition is not always in the form of rain. It may also be 8) Acid deposition is foundas a
- Fish caught in acid waters in the U.S., Canada and Sweden have high-er concentrations of than fish taken from waters that are not acidic. 6

m.

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the

- 10) A gaseous layer of the earth's atmosphere that is being depleted due to acid rain.
- 11) Acid rain causes serious damage to our aquatic

s

111

- See #2 down 12)
- Acid rain is responsible for the deterioration of the Statue of Liberty and other famous 13)
- fertility 14) Acid rain reduces
- An difference of 7.0 to 6.0 on the pH scale is said to be a increase in acidity. 15)



14)Limnology 16)Sulfur Dioxide 15)Particulate 12)Acid Shock 10) Toxic 9) Industrial 7) Buffering Capacity 13)Trout 11) Emissions 8) Drinking 6)Acidified 5)Monitor 4) ALLAPM 3)Pennsylvania 2) Groundwater 1)Liming ACROSS 15)Tenfold 14)Soil 13)Monuments 12)pH 11)Systems 10)Ozone 9)Mercury 8) Oust Particle 7)Normal 6)Forest 5)Vulnerable 3)Deposition 2)Alkalinity 4)Nitrogen Oxide DOHN 1)Nutrients

ANSWERS

SPEAK UP AND BE HEARD

CONTACT your politicians with a letter or a call at the federal and state levels to urge their support for efforts to curb acid rain.

What is needed is strong legislation reducing emissions from new, as well as existing producers of sulfur dioxides and nitrogen oxides, not more research without action. According to the National Clean Air Coalition, two excellent bills have been introduced at the federal level: Senator Stafford's New Clean Air Act Amendments, S.300 and Senator Mitchell's Acid Deposition Control Act, S.321. NCAC considers the Mitchell bill as the better of the two. Both bills will achieve a fifty percent reduction in acid rain causing pollution and embrace a flexible, least cost approach that allows sources to decide what means they will use to achieve the standards. Both bills are "polluter pays" approaches.

A brand new bill, HR 2666, just introduced by Congressman Sikorski (Minn.) on June 11 reduces SO2 emissions by 10 million tons and NOx by 4 million tons and guarantees utility bills will not increase more than 10%. HR 2666 has a good chance on the House floor if it can get out of Committee. In the Senate, the situation is reversed. Getting the Senate bills out of Committee is not a problem, but with Senator Byrd (W. Va) as Senate leader, the bills will probably have problems on the Senate floor.

At the state level, Representative Broujos from Carlisle, who chairs the Bipartisan Caucus on Acid Rain, hopes to introduce a bill to curb acid rain. ALLARM has been attending information meetings for this caucus every Wednesday.

Your delegates try to be sensitive to the concerns of their constituents, so your voice will be heard. Provided is a sample letter and a list of some of the Pennsylvanian delegates to the State Senate and House of Representatives. A complete list may be found at your local library in the <u>Taylor's Encyclopedia of</u> <u>Government Officials: Federal and State</u> by John Clements or by calling your courthouse. If you do not have the time to write your own letter, feel free to fill in and send the sample letter to your representatives.

SUGGESTIONS ON YOUR LETTER TO YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

1) Make your letter personal!

2) Get friends and neighbors to cosign the letter.

In general, our politicians are ill-informed on the issue of acid rain and seldom receive feedback from the voters. So write a letter and make a difference!

*Send letters to the Senate Post Office (Senators) or the House of Representatives (Legislators).



Dear

I am a member of a volunteer citizens' monitoring group in Pennsylvania called Alliance for Acid Rain Monitoring, ALLARM, and I have witnessed the effects of acid rain first-hand. In my opinion, acid rain is one of the most serious threats to our natural resources. Acid deposition is formed by the air pollutants, sulfur dioxide (SO2) which comes mainly from coalfired power plants, and nitrogen oxides (NOx) which comes mainly from automobiles. Acid deposition may take the form of rain, snow, sleet, dew, or fog; or fall to earth as dry particles.

The consequences of inaction are great. Acid deposition is seriously impacting our forests and surface and ground waters, it is corroding our buildings and monuments, and it even contributes to human health problems, through inhalation of the pollutants or through ingestion of polluted drinking water.

Acid rain is a very real and immediate problem in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania receives the most acid rain in the nation due to its location downwind from the highly industrialized Ohio Valley and Pennsylvania's own SO2 and NOx emissions which are ranked third in the U.S. According to the Pennsylvania Fish Commission, about 6,000 miles of trout streams are now threatened by acidification in our state. In addition to the costs of fish loss, tourism, and industries who rely on forests and fresh water resources, Pennsylvanian taxpayers must bear the brunt of damage to monuments and architecture. For example, the corrosion of the battlefield monuments in Gettysburgh has been labeled "The Melting Popsicle Effect". The dome of the State Capitol last year underwent a \$2.2 million renovation which was caused by acid rain. In fact, nationwide the structural damages due to acid rain is costing us over \$5 billion annually. Furthermore, one cannot put a price tag on the premature deaths of as many as 50,000 people nationwide which are attributed to the pollutants associated with acid rain.

As a concerned Pennsylvanian resident, I ask you to support acid rain legislation. While the problem is not confined by state boundaries, action must be taken to drastically <u>reduce</u> these emissions statewide as well as nationwide. Enough evidence as to the existence, causes, and effects of acid deposition is known. As a representative of the people, it is your privilege and reponsibility to protect our vulnerable natural resources for the future.

Sincerely,

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

| TOWN | VOLUNTEER | COUNTY | SENATE DISTRICT | STATE SENATOR | POL | STATE LEGISLATOR | POL | LEGISLAT DISTRICT |
|--|--|-----------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----|----------------------------|-----|----------------------|
| Atglen | Brendle | Chester | 36 | Noah W. Wenger | R | Art Hershey | R | 13 |
| Everett | Jackson | Bedford | 30 | Robert C. Jubelirer | R | Dick L. Hess | R | 78 |
| Honey Grove | Klinedinst. | Juniata | 33 | William J. Moore | R | Walter F. Deverter | R | 82 |
| Williams- port | Huggins | Lycoming | 23 | Roger A. Madigan | R | Anthony J. Cimini | R | 83 |
| Duncannon Elliotts- burg Landisburg | Miller Thomas Brown Egolf | Perry | 33 | William J. Moore | R | Fred C. Noye | R | 86 |
| Shippens- | Adams Eschenman | Cumber- land | | n L I | | | 10 | |
| Newville | Coates | Cumber- land | 31 | John D. Hopper | R | Fred C. Noye | R | 86 |
| Camp Hill Wormleys- burg | Seville Bowers Wilderman Reilly Reilly | Cumber- land | 31 | John D. Hopper | R | Hal Mowery | R | 87 |
| Grantham Mechanics- burg New Cumber- land | Gehman Petersheim Bonarrigo Cline Grothe | Cumber- land | 31 | John D. Hopper | R | John Kennedy | R | 88 |
| Fayette- ville | Etchison | Franklin | 33 . | William J. Moore | R | Jeffrey W. Coy | D | 89 |
| Waynesboro | Arthur Smith | Franklin | 33 | William J. Moore | R | Terry Punt | R | 90 |
| Carroll Valley Gettysburg Littlestown Orrtanna | Davis Platt Bream Hammett | Adams | 33 | William J. Moore | R | Kenneth J. Cole | D | 91 |
| Dillsburg | Miller Hallisey | York | 31 | John D. Hopper | R | Bruce Smith | R | 92 |
| Loganville | Shoffer | York | 28 | Ralph W. Hess | R | A. Carville Foster, Jr. | R | 93 |
| York | . Kirkwood Long Keitsock | York | 28 | Ralph W. Hess | R | Michael E. Bortner | D | 95 |
| Bird-in- Hand | Bare | Lancaster | 36 | Noah W. Wenger | R | Marvin E. Miller, Jr. | R | 96 |
| | | | | | | | 1 | |

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| TOWN | VOLUNTEER | COUNTY | SENATE DISTRICT | STATE SENATOR | POL | STATE LEGISLATOR | POL | LEGIELAT DISTRICT |
|----------------------------------|---|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-----|--------------------------|-----|----------------------|
| Lititz | Azelrod | Lancaster | 13 | Gibson E. Armstrong | R | June N. Honaman | R | 97 |
| Elizabeth- town | Kistler Longenecker | Lancaster | 13 | Gibson E. Armstrong | R | Kenneth E. Brandt | R | 98 |
| Ephrata Reamstown | Kerchener Ream | Lancaster | 36 | Noah W. Wenger | R | Terry R. Scheetz | R | 99 |
| Lebanon | Gahres | Lebanon | 48 | David J. Brightbill | R | George W. Jackson | R | 101 |
| Harrisburg | Childe Davenport Dice Egenrieder Ibberson Libeck Mahey Shaefer | Dauphin | 15 | John J. Shumaker | R | Pete Wambach, Jr | D | 103 |
| Dauphin Halifar Harrisburg | Corson Flatley Mitzel Frantz Stoner | Dauphin | 15 | John J. Shumaker | R | Jeffrey E. Ficcola | R | 104 |
| Lingles- town | Fetterman | Dauphin | 15 | John J. Shumaker | R | Joseph C. Manmiller | R | 105 |
| Danville | Prutzman . | Montour | 27 | Ed Helfrick | R | Robert E. Belfanti,Jr | D | 107 |
| Tunkhannock | Williams | Wyoming | 20 | Charles D. Lemmond, Jr | R | Thomas J. Murphy | D | 111 |
| Scranton | Haas | Lack- · awanna | 22 | Robert J. Mellow | D | Gaynor Cawley | D | 113 |
| Lehighton | Deebel | Carbon | 29 . | James J. Rhoades | R | Keith R. McCall | D | 122 |
| Yardley | Broadbent | Bucks | 10 | Jim Greenwood | R | James L. Wright, Jr. | R | 142 |
| Newtown New Hope | Baddeley Stout Klyce | Bucks | 10 | Jim Greenwood | R | David W. Heckler | R | 143 |
| Chester Springs | Dailey | Chester | 19 | John Stauffer | R | Peter R. Vroon | R | 157 |
| Devault | Pill . ; | Chester | 19 | John Stauffer | R | Robert J. Flick | R | 167 |
| Hanover | Cubbison Sunbury Zeman | York - | 28 | Ralf W. Hess | R | Donald W. Dorr | R | 193 |
| Boiling Springs Carlisle | Nickerson Withrum Albericic Herrold Spicer | Cumber- land | 31 | John D. Hopper | R | John H. Broujos | D | 199 |
| Dover | Raab | York | 28 | Ralph W. Hess | R | John H. Broujos | D | 199 |

RETURN TO: Candie C. Wilderman ALLARM Dickinson College Carlisle, PA 17013

ALLIANCE FOR ACID RAIN MONITORING DATA COLLECTION FORM

| Collection date: |
|--|
| Time of Day: |
| Name of Monitor: |
| Name of Stream: |
| Air temperature: Water temperature: |
| Weather: 1 Cloudless 2 Partly cloudy 3 Overcast 4 Fog/Haze 5 Drizzle 6 Intermittent 7 Rain 8 Snow Rain |
| Water clarity: 1 Clear 2 Slightly cloudy 3 Cloudy 4 Very cloudy |
| pH ppm |
| Other observations or comments: |
| |
| |
| Collection dave: |
| Time of Day: |
| Name of Monitor: |
| Name of Stream: |
| Air temperature: Water temperature: |
| Weather: 1 Cloudless 2 Partly cloudy 3 Overcast 4 Fog/Haze 5 Drizzle 6 Intermittent 7 Rain 8 Snow Rain |
| Water clarity: 1 Clear 2 Slightly cloudy 3 Cloudy 4 Very cloudy |
| pH ALKALINITY ppm |
| Other observations or comments: |
| |
| Signature: Date: |

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