
Subject: : Beginner Forum

Topic: : Limestone Stream....

Re: Limestone Stream....

Author: : jdaddy

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URL:

Usually a limestone originates as a spring creek which basically is a hole in the ground that gently spews water. As Jay says they are very fertile and as a result create a heavy nutrient base for scuds, shrimp, cress bugs, etc. Again, due to the rich nutrients, one often associates weed beds that you will not find in freestones such as cress, elodea, etc. I have found these weed beds more prevalent in Cumberland Valley limestone streams such as Letort, Big Spring, Falling Spring and certain creeks of VA. My understanding are some limestone streams outside of the Mid-Atlantic region, however most are concentrated in this area. Spring originating limestone streams are generally low gradient. As Jay mentions temp and flows are very consistent. If you want to see something funny, look at USGS gauging site for Big Spring.

http://waterdata.usgs.gov/pa/nwis/uv? ... period=7&site_no=01569460

<.5 celcius temp change and practically no change in flow. That is due to the fact that the spring originates the water, versus being dependent upon run off, snow pack, etc of a freestone.

Note that freestone streams often get shots of cold water from cold limestone creeks. A prime example of this would be Yellow Breaches where "The Run" from the lake dumps tons of cold, hard water into the stream. Someone can correct me on this, but I think LJR and Penns are both limestone influenced freestones as well.

There are a few limestone streams in your neck of the woods (NY). Of course the thing that stinks about limestone is the sinkholes that swallow your house up and the hard water that destroys appliances and pipes. It does make for great farm land, thus all the agriculture in central PA.

If you want a ton of info on limestone creeks, check out Mike Hecks book which is reviewed in the Book section of this forum. It is an amazing work on the subject matter of spring creeks and limestoners.