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Subject: : Beginner Forum

Topic: : Limestone Stream....

Re: Limestone Stream....

Author: : jdaddy

Date: : 2010/9/10 19:23:10

URL:

Quote:

1) There seems to be a lot more water weeds when a stream is open to the sun, and a lot less where there is shade from trees.

Bonnybrook Letort at the Quarry is very heavily wooded with little sunlight but has heavy cress and elodea. Little Lehigh through the park is fully exposed to sunlight for a large portion, yet it has little vegetation. It seems that streams have dense vegetation throughout whatever the variable is. Sections of Letort and Falling Spring Branch are both wooded and meadow, but full of vegetation throughout.

Quote:

2) Low gradient streams tend to have a lot more weeds than limers with higher gradient (steeper, faster).

In the samples I can think of this seems to hold validity. Slow streams with complex currents seem to harbor the greatest vegetation. There are almost no riffles or surface turbulence on heavily vegetated streams that I can think of.

Quote:

3) Substrate makes a difference, and is related to no. 2. Where the gradient is coarse, i.e. cobble size, you don't get many weeds. You see a lot of weeds where the substrate is fine gravel and silt.

Again, I think you may be on to something here. Sandy bottoms tend to foster the vegetation.

Quote:

I have also noticed that smaller/shorter streams have more cress beds.  
EX. Tea Creak is only a mile long and has weeds, but Kish doesn't.

I have not found that length is a determining factor. Also Tea and Kish are not really limestoners, rather Tea appears to be a freestone originating from sandstone that gets limestone influence from limestone springs. You state Tea has weeds. Is it typical limestoner cress and/or elodea or another form of aquatic vegetation?