Subject: : Conservation
Topic: : All central PA streams doomed?
Re: All central PA streams doomed?
Author: : Chaz
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URL:

Acid rain has been here for a long time and went undetected. In the 70's and 80's, at its height the acid rain was as low as 3.7 ph, and is now around 4.5 ph. that is still lethal to nearly everything in our streams. It will not go away soon, but it can be controlled with treatment of streams,
There are 2 types of treatment, passive and active. In a passive treatment limestone sand is dumped into the receiving streams and the sand does it's work. Active treatment is a well or series of wells are built and stream water is piped or channeled to the well that is filled with limestone, the water flows over the limestone and out of the well into the receiving stream.
Some streams have both types of treatment, but usually it's one or the other.
As long as there are coal fired power plants we'll have acid rain. The one positive is that when a plant gets upgraded it is required to get scrubbers installed to limit acid deposition. It was once thought the deposition was far from the source, we now know it can be quite close. PA still has the highest incidence of acid rain and the lowest ph rain as far as I know.
Buffering that has been lost in regions that have acid rain is lost for a very long time, longer than any of us will be alive, so buffering is an ongoing problem. You can help by writing to your politicians when the topics of clean air and water are being discussed, especially if industry wants regulations relaxed. Clean air and water are the key to cleaning up the effects of acid rain. A clean environment is good for the economy. There are a lot of studies out there that prove it.