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| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   **Interesting stories about the Arroyo Del Valle!**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | On our visits to the study site we were a bit depressed. In the past our visits in the Fall revealed a thriving ecosystem with significant diversity. Aquatic insects like dragonflies and damselflies were everywhere. Tadpoles and frogs could be easily seen and in usually large numbers. Many species of fish (black bass, blue gill, creek chub, carp, squaw fish, blue gill) would generally be visible from the creek bank. On our visits this year insect activity was far below what is normally observed, algae was blanketing the creek bottom and floating in abundance on the surface, no tadpoles or frogs could be seen, and the only fish that were observed were a few bluegill at site 6. Nitrate and Phosphate levels were tested to determine if they were exceptionally high and that this may have caused a bloom of algae triggering an imbalance in the ecosystem. The measurements did not reveal abnormally high levels. Some of the possible explanations tossed about by students were: | *Kicknet sample at site 12 reveals only pollution tollerant indicator species* | | * The algae bloom took place and diminished the Nitrate/Phosphate levels and we were now seeing the end result * Higher than normal amounts of organics dumped into the creek during the summer supported significant algae growth * If the creek had relatively low water levels during the summer, extreme summer temperatures could have heated the water beyond the tolerance of the resident organisms * Toxics in the water killed organisms having low tolerance (Killing Arrundo with herbicide - program started late summer early fall) * Because of winter scouring every year the creek experiences secondary succession and there is no telling what the outcome will be like in the Fall | |      |  | | --- | | Copyright © 2008 Amador Valley High. All Rights Reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part in any form or medium without express written permission of Amador Valley is prohibited. | |