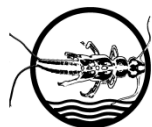


# The Stream Team

## May, 2021 Newsletter



Timmarie Hamill,  
Program Director

Welcome to our 20th season! I can't believe for 20 years our citizen volunteers have been committed to monitor and track water quality trends in Big Chico Creek! Your dedication and proven capabilities are critical to The Stream Team's success. You model the change I want to see – an active, informed, community taking care of our waterways.

I am so glad there are others like me - citizen scientists who are willing make sure our waterways are safe for recreation while providing a healthy environment for fish and wildlife. Thank you!

The data you continue to collect is so important and will inform management decisions needed to ensure water quality in Chico's Creeks are protected into the future. Please know that you have made a real difference! I can't wait to see you all!

Timmarie

**JOIN US**  
For Our First Monitoring Event  
Saturday, May 8 – 9:00 a.m.

The Stream Team's mission is to gather useful environmental information needed to protect the ecological health of the Big Chico Creek watershed, while engaging the local community in effective watershed stewardship.

I hope you can join us from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon at the Five Mile Picnic Area Parking Lot (Centennial Way). Rest assured – you'll be teamed up with an experienced Stream Team Leader to show you "the ropes!" Just bring typical personal items for a 3-hour outing on the creek (water, snack, sunscreen, hat, water shoes, etc...)

Here's the 2021 schedule:

- May 8 (this month!)
- June 12
- July 10
- August 14
- September 11
- October 9

If you can come, please RSVP by calling 530-342-6620 or by e-mailing Timmarie Hamill at [timmariehamill@gmail.com](mailto:timmariehamill@gmail.com).

Thanks! See you there!

## Question of the Month

Q. What is TDS?

A. Total Dissolved Solids. It is the measure of the combined content of all inorganic and organic substances in the stream water. These particles are very small and are not generally considered a primary pollutant. They can be used as an aesthetic indicator in drinking water or, most importantly, as an indicator of the presence of suspended chemical contaminants like calcium, phosphates and nitrates.

Got a question? E-mail to :  
[timmariehamill@gmail.com](mailto:timmariehamill@gmail.com)



## Big Chico Creek Watershed Citizen Monitoring Locations

There are 10 sites that we monitor on a monthly basis throughout the monitoring season (May – October):

Site 1: Highway 32 Bridge

Site 2: Higgins Ponderosa Bridge

Site 3: Reserve Dance Floor Hole

Site 4: Just above Browns Hole at the end of Upper Bidwell Park

Site 5: Just below Bear Hole Downstream of the hazard marker

Site 6: Five-Mile near the picnic area

Site 7: One-Mile at the restoration site

Site 8: Warner Bridge

Site 9: Rose Avenue Bridge

Site 10: Big Chico Creek mouth at River Road Bridge (Sacramento River)



### Deep Water Certification

**Joe Gleason** was quick - too quick! - , to volunteer for taking the flow measurement during last winter's storm event monitoring. Neck-deep proved to be the winning level of this year's prestigious "*Uh-Oh Award.*"  
Congrats, Joe!

### Invisibility Award

**Bill Haley** takes home the honor of being this year's recipient of the "*Convenience Trophy.*" Due to residential good fortune, Bill let's the action come to him. He's lives across the street from the creek...you just never see him!

### The Commute Prize

**Tom and Connie Coffin**, for their unwavering willingness to travel to our most remote site, are hereby bestowed the **2021 "Have Kit Will Travel Medallion."** Thanks, y'all!

### Count-on-Me Award

**Dave and Marsha Missall** haven't missed a monitoring event since the dawn of human history. Though there were signs of cracks in their commitment armor, even "Covid-19" could not sway them from the path. As a result, Dave and Marsha get this year's "*Stamina Plaque.*"

### Monitors of the Year:

The Citizen Volunteer Monitors Association, charged with identifying those volunteers who have gone over and above the call of stewardship, have doubled out two teams for their tremendous efforts this year:

**Cathy and Anton Dressler**, and **Joe and Will Gleason** receive this year's "*OMG Trophy*" for each hitting three sites in one day. Amazing!

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## And, By The Way...

2022 will mark the 50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act — one of the most effective U.S. laws ever enacted and a model for clean water laws across the globe, but whose promise is not yet fulfilled. The Clean Water Act established the right to fishable and swimmable waterways and is meant to ensure every American has access to safe, clean water. By establishing citizens' right to enforce it, the Clean Water Act gave us a powerful tool to end the culture of dumping raw sewage and industrial waste into our rivers without consideration of public health, public use, or ecosystems. It led to improvements in water quality across the country and sparked a revitalization of waterways and waterfront communities that continues to this day. Perhaps the 50th birthday of the Act, in 2022, can bring America's waters closer to the vision the Act's authors had in 1972.

- Waterkeepers Alliance 2020