When It Rains ... 

Henry Lin

When it rains, animals hide, humans stay indoors...and the Blue & White game is ruined.

When it rains, plants thrive, microbes activated...and the Earth is renewed.

When it rains, it is hydopedology in action:

When it rains...water runs down the hill and the soil may be eroded if not properly protected.

When it rains...toxic scums ooze out of the soil in superfund sites and leaky landfills.

When a storm comes...nutrients and contaminants likely flush down to aquifers and pollute streams if no measures are taken to prevent that.

When a hurricane comes...river banks and levees may break and a mudslide or landslide could occur on unstable hillslopes.

After all, whenever it rains, it is a critical moment that nature refreshes itself and the environment is recharged.

So, when it rains, we ought to get out and take students along to observe and learn the real world in action.

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In Memoriam—James DeMent

Dr. James DeMent died October 8, 2006. He had worked as a soil scientist in Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Alaska. He earned a Ph.D. at Cornell University. He worked at the Soil Survey Laboratory at Lincoln, Nebraska until he transferred to Fort Worth, Texas in 1964 to be a correlator on the Southern Region Correlation Staff. He made major contributions to the development of Soil Taxonomy and the development of soil correlation procedures. He retired in 1978. He worked for NASA for a year and for several years for an engineering firm in Dallas, Texas. He moved back home to Bossier City, Louisiana but continued to work on soils information for the surface coal mine industry for several years. His wife, Ruby died several years ago. Jim is survived by two sons. Those who knew Jim will remember him as an excellent soil scientist, and a genial story-teller, friend, and lover of good food.

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