

Stoney Creek Trail Report

April, 2020



2020-04-14
Plum blossoms

As you can see, this is not my usual month-end Litter Report – the Chart is missing. In view of the COVID-19 virus risk, I have been persuaded to stop picking up litter. Hopefully, in the near future Dr. Henry will declare the situation less dangerous and ease restrictions. At that point I will feel comfortable in resuming the task.

During this hiatus, it is obvious that someone is picking up the slack, so to speak. The plastic doggy bag scraps and other items are not accumulating as much as I expected.

There was an unusual “event” on the Trail this month. I call it the *Abbotsford Pebble Festival*. Likely prompted by the #abbycares initiative, painted pebbles began appearing all along the Trail on Easter weekend. Luckily, I photographed most of them before they disappeared – the most attractive ones were gone first, of course. You can see the results in my report, published separately.

Dave Rutherford, Trail Volunteer

In the process of decaying, a fallen alder tree hosts a fungus and moss.



2020-04-14



2020-04-18



Above: a sign of the times.

Above right: some of the branches of the blow-down hemlock tree have been trimmed. Now only the trunk is in the Creek.

Right: to prevent erosion, a drain has been installed below the Coachstone Way entrance.

In less than a week, the City crew installed another new bench in the “Straightaway” south of the Coachstone Way entrance. The bench, apparently un-dedicated, is the second new one this year.



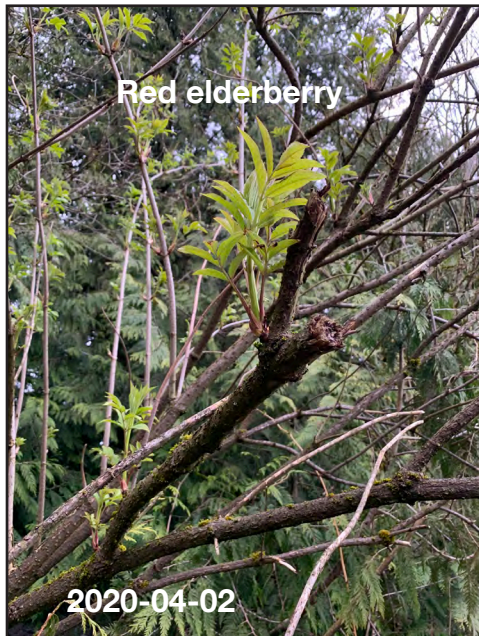
The plant on the right, previously identified by me as possibly a calathea, is actually a variety of Yellow archangel – an invasive species in BC. It is declared a noxious weed and banned in Washington State. This photo shows a large patch of them along the upper (south end) of the Trail. They could have come from someone’s hanging basket tossed over a back fence.

Compared to April 2019, this month was much dryer. The daytime temperatures were about the same, but the nights were considerably cooler. Nevertheless, new growth is “springing” up everywhere along Stoney Creek. It’s a very pleasant time of year to walk the Trail.



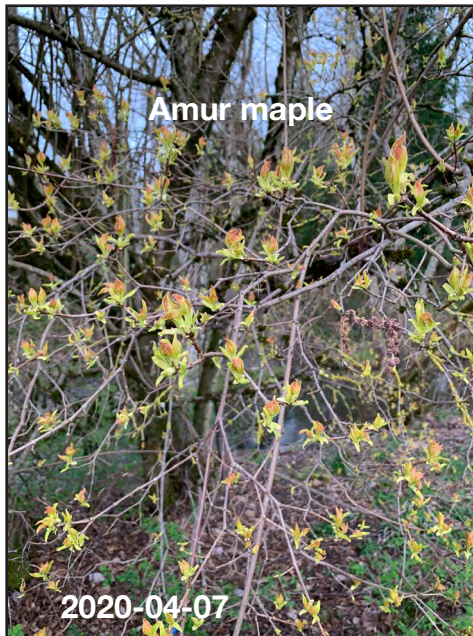
Yellow archangel

2020-04-21



Red elderberry

2020-04-02



Amur maple

2020-04-07



Mountain ash

2020-04-14



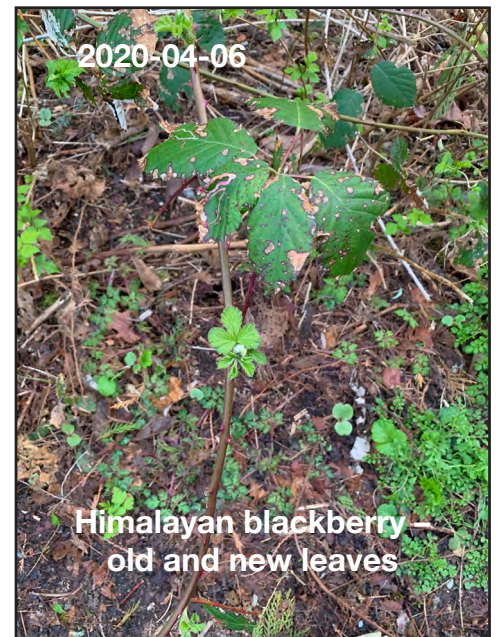
2020-04-14

Broadleaf maple



2020-04-14

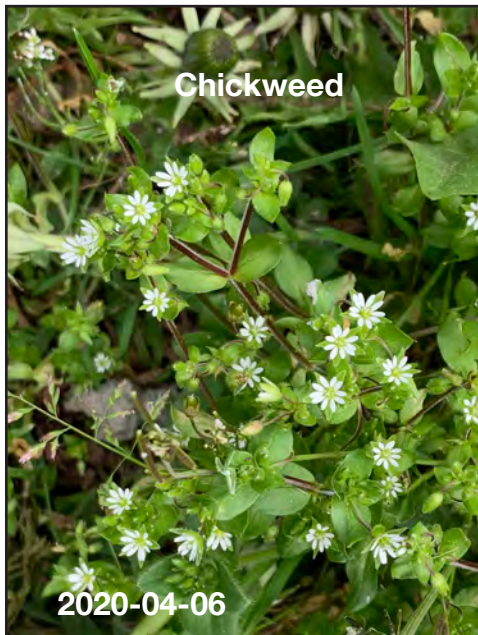
Horsetails



2020-04-06

Himalayan blackberry – old and new leaves

The Pacific Waterleaf, a Species at Risk in BC, does not appear to be at risk here: many new plants are coming up along the south end of the Trail.



This hawthorn is one of the more than 60 shrubs and trees that were planted last year on “Hemlock Hill” (the south end of Trail). Happily, almost all survived the winter. The non-native periwinkle, another escapee, is commonly sold as a bedding plant.

