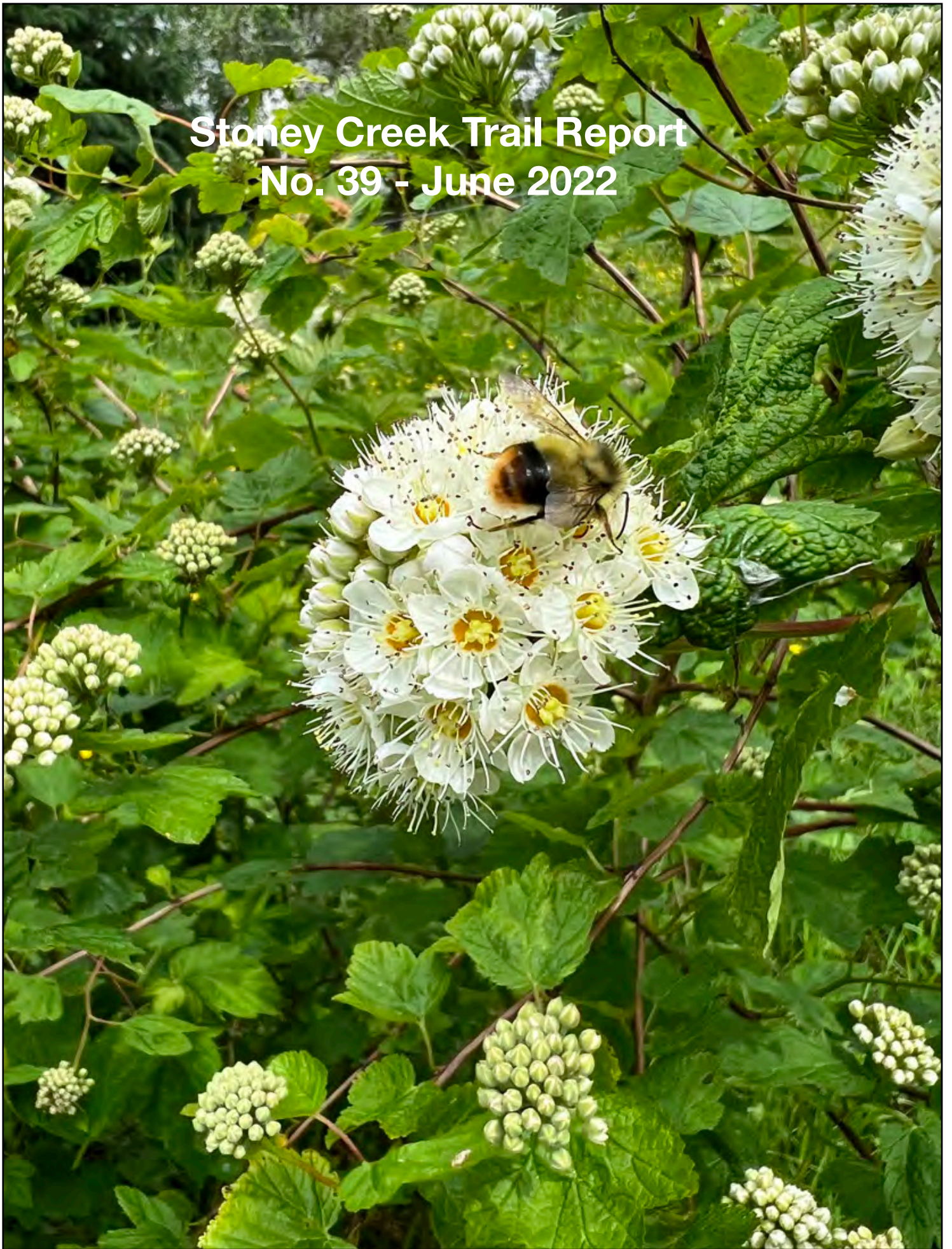


**Stoney Creek Trail Report
No. 39 - June 2022**

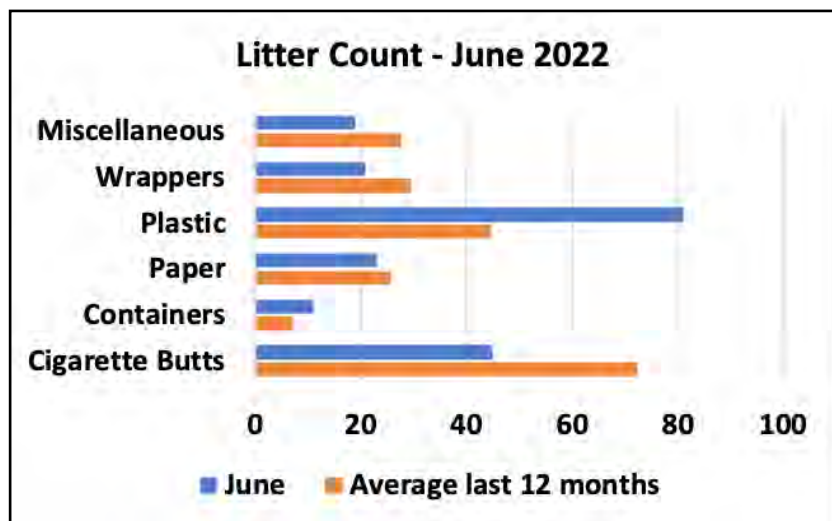


The Front Page photo is of a **Pacific ninebark** on Hemlock Hill. Its flowers are an absolute favourite of bees, as well as other nectar- and pollen-seeking insects. Several of these tall shrubs can be found next to the Dog Corral and along the Straight-away between the Nursery Tree and Bridge Three. They are in full bloom in late spring, but to spot them year round, look for shreddy bark on woody stems (more on page four).

Broken Bridge news: Repairs have been completed on more than 190 damaged sites, leaving over 100 yet to be done. First priority has been given to roads, bridges and dykes. Next, attention will be given to sites that need work in order to prevent future rain-fall damage. I have been told that recovery costs are estimated at \$60 million and rising.

From the City of Abbotsford: *“Replacement bridges require engineering, design, construction and environmental permitting. The project work is expected to be managed by the City of Abbotsford Parks Dept. and performed by Engineers, Environmental Consultants and qualified trades people. Resources will be stretched thin, so the progress will be slow. As well, environmental permits required under the Water Sustainability Act have yet to be acquired. (June 10th:) The City has recently received approval from our insurance provider to proceed with repair and/or replacement of the pedestrian bridges on Stoney Creek Trail. We are in the early stages of design now and expect to move to the procurement phase in the next 60 – 90 days. Any repair or replacement work is subject to regulatory approvals under the Province of British Columbia Water Sustainability Act. It is expected that the regulatory approval process can take anywhere from 3 – 18 months.”*

Special thanks to **Mike Bidal** (Hazel) for contributing the fungus and mold photos on page seven.



Miscellaneous: clothing, glass, chewing gum, balls & fragments, etc.
Wrappers: candy wrappers, foil, cellophane
Plastic: doggy poo bags & scraps, plastic bags
Paper: tissues, napkins, receipts, newspaper, cardboard, etc.
Containers: bottles, coffee cups, cans, juice boxes, bottle tops



Coho fry above Bridge Three

Back issues of the Trail Reports, as well as photos of all the Trail Dogs, are available on:

www.stoneycreektrail.ca

A Visit to the ARPSES Hatchery in May:



These are Coho salmon fry being raised in one of the hatchery's Cap troughs. The residue of feces and uneaten food requires periodic flushing. **Dale Taylor** has opened a drain behind a screen at the near end of the trough and is sweeping the litter towards the drain while the water level drops rather rapidly. These fish hatched in early March from eggs fertilized in January. Because they have been fed as much as they can eat, hatchery fry are bigger on average than those you would see in Stoney Creek. As they grow, they will be given a slightly coarser grade of food, the primary ingredients of which are premium fishmeal and fish oil, supplemented with vitamins and minerals.



The Pacific ninebark:



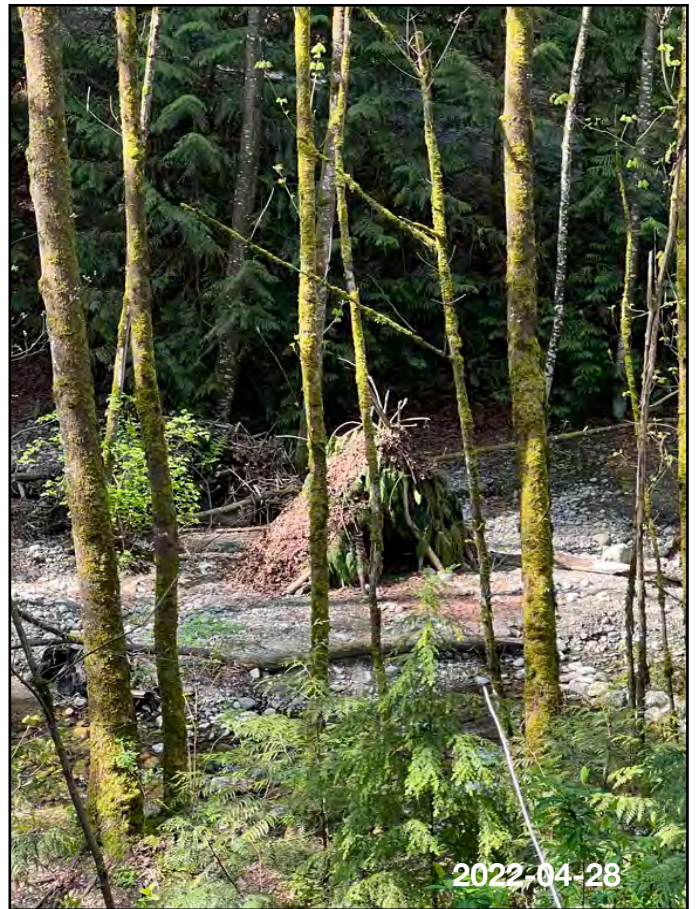
The **Pacific ninebark** prefers to grow in moist or wet streamside areas in partial shade, but will tolerate direct sunlight. Thickets of ninebark provide good cover for nesting birds and small mammals. The fibrous roots help with stream bank stabilization and site restoration. It is aggressive enough to shade out invasive species such as blackberries.

This spreading shrub grows up to 4 metres tall. Its angled, arching branches eventually develop brown, shredding bark. The leaves are shiny on top and have 3 to 5 toothed, deeply veined lobes.

Ninebark blooms, which are actually clusters of small flowers, appear in late spring. They are of special value to native bees. Eventually, they become a mass of reddish follicles holding smooth, yellowish seeds which persist until winter, providing food for birds.



Unusual items to be Identified:



Above: can anyone can tell us who built these two primitive but ingenious huts? The one on the left appeared in March up on Hemlock Hill and the other last month just above Bridge 5.

Left: this mesh bag was one of two that showed up near the Nursery Tree on the Straightaway. It has a string attached and a metal disk stamped with the number 125. It is obviously not a child's toy. Where did it come from and what is it for?

Trail Dogs:



“**Charlie** is a seven-year-old chocolate lab. He was born in Arnold, one of nine puppies. At five years old, he was shocked when he was no longer the baby of the family, but he loves his two-year-old human sister. He loves the snacks and food that gets thrown and sneakily given to him. They are best buds now. He loves it when Lucy, his human sister, blows bubbles, ‘cause he loves to chase them and try to eat them.

“He loves to steal anything that is left on the counter and make his owners think they are going crazy—bowls of cereal left for a second, sandwiches, chicken fresh out of the oven, and the list goes on. He LOVES to swim and burn off calories from all the stolen food. He is looking forward to moving to Powell River with his humans as there are tons of lakes and beaches to choose from.”

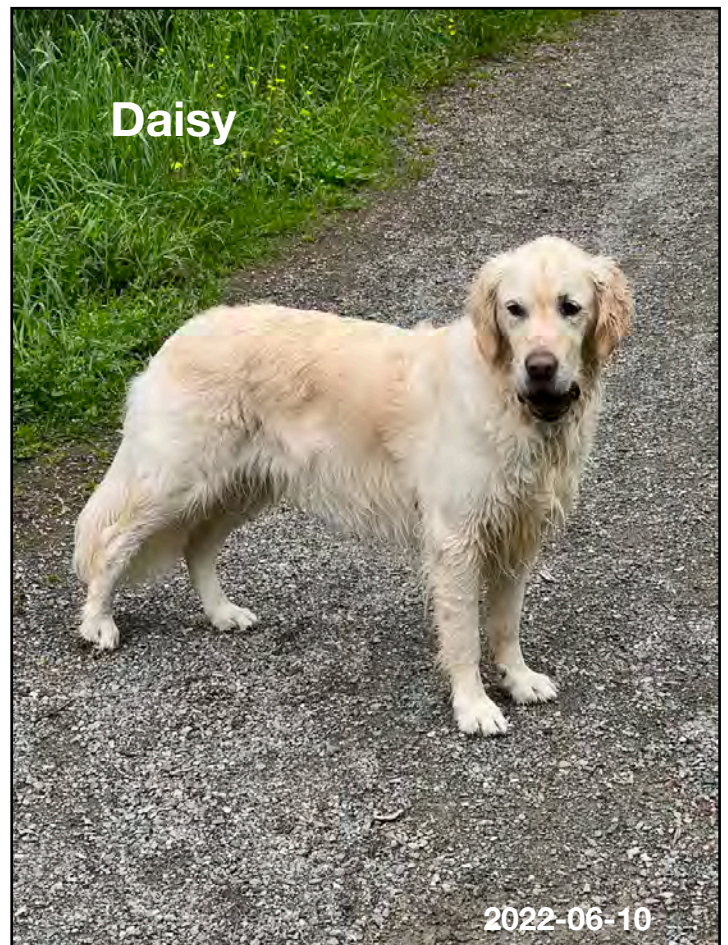
“**Daisy** is an English Golden Retriever who will be four years old in July. She is from a breeder just outside of Seattle.

“Daisy loves walking, hiking, swimming and is obsessed with chasing a ball.

“Every time we are on Stoney Creek Trail, she heads for the creek and chooses a nice big rock to carry up to the grass so she can roll on it.

“Daisy loves playing with puppies (any breed) and is at her happiest when she finds a mud puddle to play in.

“She is a sweet, confident and very loyal companion!”



Fungi and Mold:



Jelly fungi, smuts and rusts are in a sub-kingdom of fungi that includes puffballs.

Mushrooms, also fungi but in a different sub-kingdom, have obvious structural differences.



Myxarium nucleatum (commonly called crystal brain or granular jelly roll) is a jelly fungus in the family Hyaloriaceae. The sporocarps (fruit bodies) are watery white and gelatinous. It is a common, wood-rotting species in Europe and North America, typically growing on dead attached or fallen branches of broadleaf trees.



Slime molds are fungus-like organisms that also reproduce by spores.

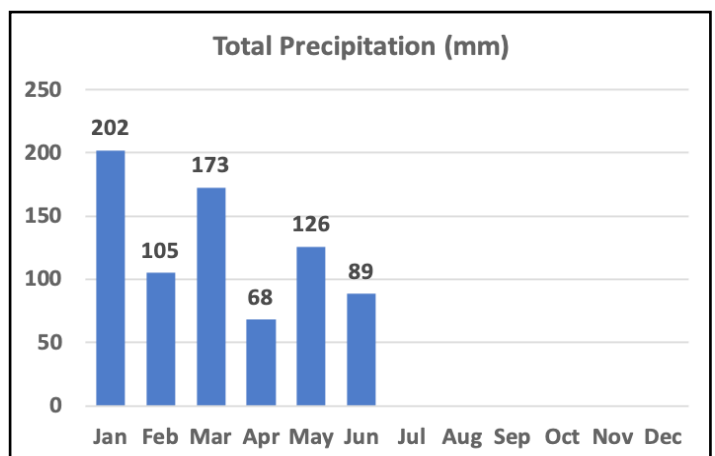
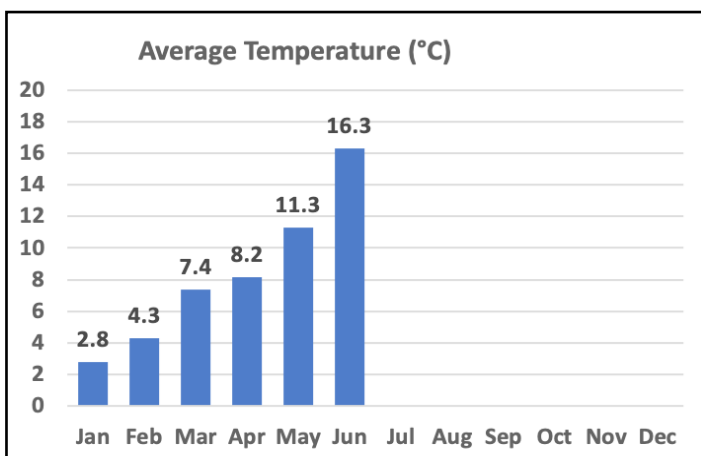
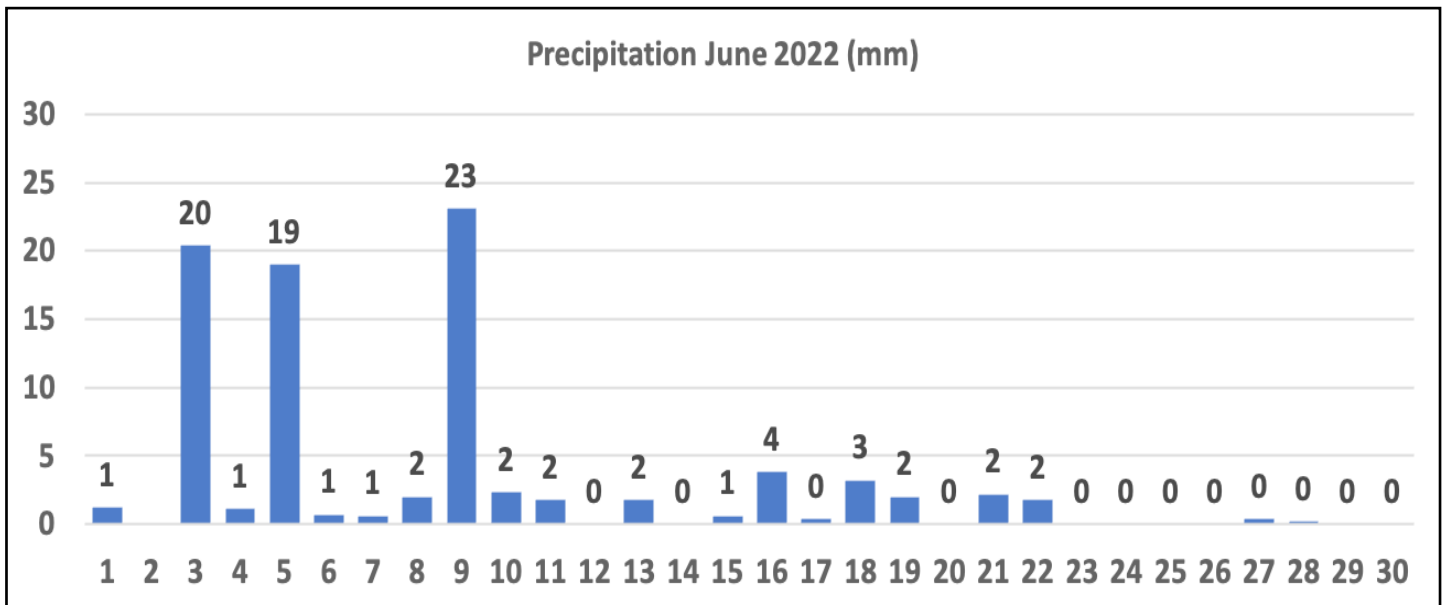
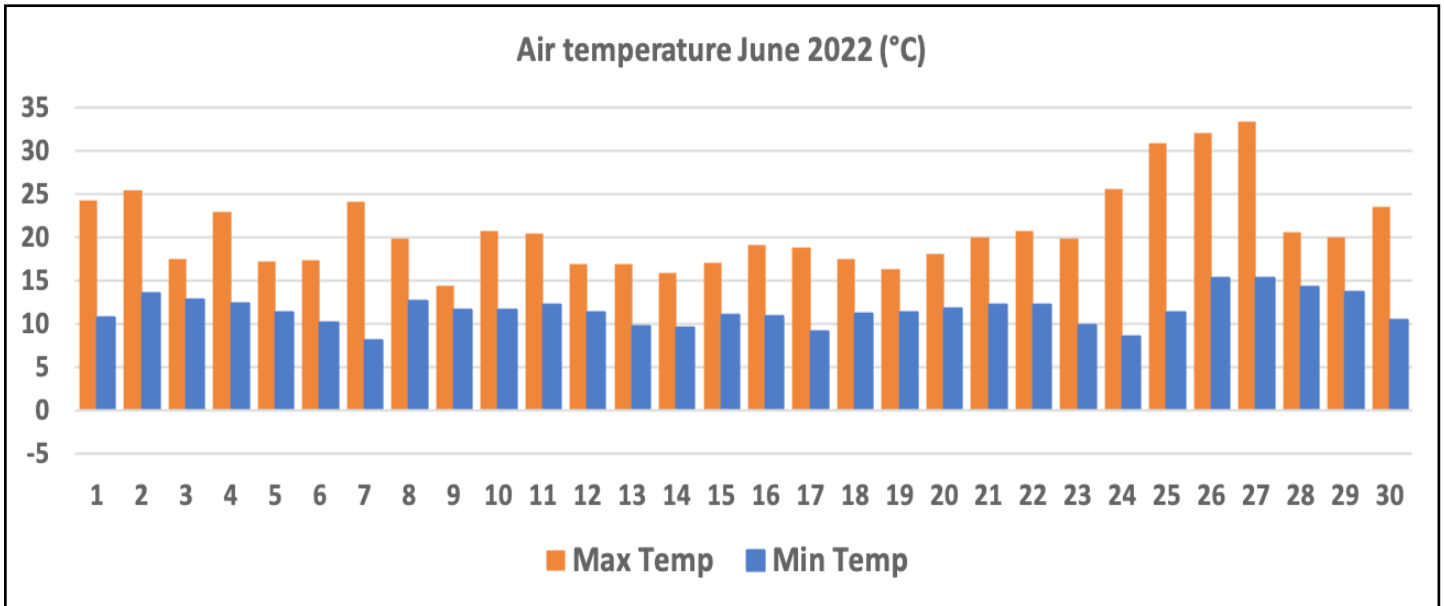
Fuligo septica is a species of slime mold and a member of the class Myxomycetes. It is commonly known as scrambled egg slime or dog vomit slime mold. It is relatively common world-wide, often found on bark mulch in urban areas after heavy rain or excessive watering. Its spores are spread by wind.



Some of the odds and ends seen so far this year:



Weather comments: (The chart data is from YXX). The River Forecast Centre had said that our colder than normal spring meant that the snowpack had accumulated to 165% of provincial normal and the melt was delayed two to four weeks. The sudden hot spell at the end of this month has resulted in a high streamflow advisory in the Lower Fraser Valley and flood warnings in several other parts of the province.



For convenience, I use these custom place-names:

