PCCS Board members pictured above on front steps of the school, clockwise from top left, Jeff Wilson, Michael Domagalski, Suzanne Statler, Ridge Greene, Anne Mann

Covid-19 has impacted all of us in many different ways this year. For the Port Costa Conservation Society, we were forced to close the School, cancel wedding events, cancel our Port Costa Talent Show Fundraiser, postpone memorials, and shift to virtual Zoom conferencing for our monthly Board meetings.

But here's what has happened since our last newsletter and some of our future plans.

FEBRUARY

Volunteers enjoyed a Saturday clearing out and organizing the "Hot Rod Café" and maintenance storage rooms. Huge thanks to Sarah Humann, Tim Humann, Tom List, Anne Mann (all pictured below), Suzanne Statler, Michael Domagalski, and Jeff Wilson.

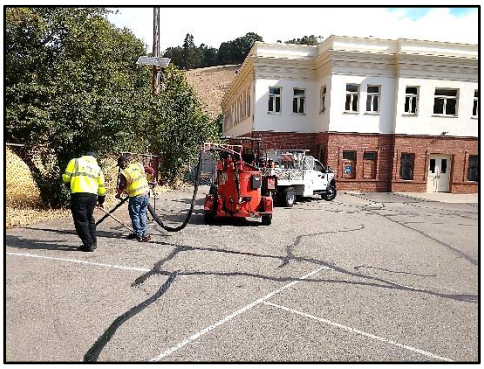
MARCH

School and Schoolyard closed for COVID.

APRIL

Take that, you weeds!

Those darn weeds in the schoolyard were not only ugly, but were damaging the pavement. So with the schoolyard closed, Jeff Wilson, Anne Scheer, Anne Mann, and Suzanne Statler prepped the weedy cracks in the pavement to be filled with rubberized asphalt. Thank you to the Crockett Community Foundation (CCF) for a $1000 Grant toward this is multi-year fix.



JUNE

Green Waste Day

The June Green Waste Day, co-hosted by the PCCS and Contra Costa County Public Works, was once again a success. PCCS Volunteers and two County employees fed the wood chipper for over 5 hours. Jeff Wilson estimated we had accumulated 1/3 more Green Waste than in any of our previous 30+ years.

A huge "Thanks" to our volunteers: Jeff Wilson, Anne Scheer, Veronica Crane, Monica Greene, Tom List, Suzanne Statler, Sercia Mitchell, Adon, and Luigi Barassi!

JULY

PG&E to the Rescue

The Port Costa School had been unable to fly our American Flag since 2019. The halyard had pulled through the top pulley and no ladder was tall enough to restring it. An email to PG&E requesting help was the solution. On July 1st, PG&E employees and their big bucket loader truck showed up at the school gate. David Chamberlin, pictured right with Tom List, rushed down with the halyard and, just in time for the 4th of July, the halyard was re-strung and Old Glory is flying again at the School.

Credit John Mann

OCTOBER

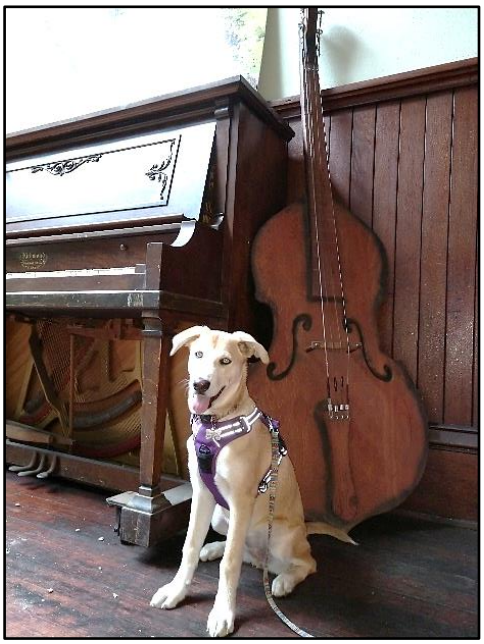
Port Costa Schoolyard re-opens in October 2020.
Because of our diligence in Contra Costa County, we were able to open public outdoor playground – the Board had been waiting for that green light. Hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, doggie poop bags are all in place. Volunteers open and shut the front gate each day between ~9:00 AM and sunset.

Father and Daughter Joel and Ellia Cadena, pictured left, playing in the newly-opened schoolyard with Izzy the pup.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

DECEMBER 2nd, 2020

The PCCS Board is working on an outdoors, Socially Distanced Christmas "Tree Lighting" gathering around the front steps and flag pole on December 2nd. Details to follow. We just can't totally break tradition!



MARCH 27, 2021

Grassroots Bluegrass Gathering – A PCCS Fundraiser

We are planning a Bluegrass Music Gathering with music workshops, jam sessions, and performances at the School on Saturday, March 27, 2021. The proceeds will support the Port Costa School and Museum.

Izzy, pictured right, anxiously awaiting the upcoming Bluegrass event at the school!

SPRING 2021

Port Costa Museum opens to the public for scheduled hours and by reservation in the Spring. Plans include docent tours of the School and town of Port Costa and regional school field trips.

If you're interested in volunteering for the Archive Project, to lead tours, help with displays, or research and write educational curriculum, please contact Suzanne Statler at *PortCostaMuseum@gmail.com*.

Your Donations to the PCCS makes a Difference!

Announcing a Dollar for Dollar Donation Match

With COVID-19 forcing the cancellation of the Talent Show fundraiser and scheduled weddings, the PCCS Board has approved dipping into our reserves to keep the lights on. While we are working on ways to safely invite people back to enjoy the school, we are asking you to help by making a Tax Deductible Donation.

An anonymous group of donors have committed to matching your donation dollar for dollar. This is for any donation made to the Port Costa Conservation Society between now and December 20th up to $750.00.

You can now make your Donations through our website at
PortCostaConservationSociety.org

Donate

Or mail your check to:

PCCS
P.O. Box 36
Port Costa, CA, 94569

Your donations will continue the restoration of the historic schoolhouse, fund the operating expenses, and support the Museum & Archives Project. And will be gratefully appreciated.

November 2020 Newsletter
Port Costa Conservation Society
PO Box 36, Port Costa, CA 94569
pccs.portcosta@gmail.com

PCCS Board Meetings
are held the 3rd Monday of every month via Zoom video conference.
Please email *pccs.portcosta@gmail.com* to join.

Clayton Bailey

March 9, 1939 - June 6, 2020

Clayton Bailey was one of Port Costa's iconic residents. He passed away in June at his Port Costa home at the age of 81. Clayton was easily recognized with his signature long waxed and curled mustache as he rode his electric bike around town and wandered about, with camera in hand, searching for a photo to upload onto his Port Costa Sky Cam.

Originally from Wisconsin, Clayton moved to Port Costa in 1970 with his wife Betty and children Robin and Kurt. Clayton and some artist friends, including Roy De Forest, launched the "Nut Art" movement in California. Beyond the humor and irreverence of "Funk Art", Clayton's work reflects the odd and eccentric.

From 1976 to 1978, the Warehouse was home to Clayton Bailey's World of Wonders Museum where his love for the absurd, science, and humor were on display for visitors of all ages. He also contributed to town by serving on the Port Costa Town Council in the late 1970s, and then on our Volunteer Fire Department.

For the Port Costa Conservation Society, Clayton and his wife Betty, were active volunteers. At the Port Costa School, Clayton hosted "Clay Day" for kids to create ceramics projects. He also designed and made coveted ceramic awards for the PCCS Art Shows and Port Costa 4th of July Parades, pictured right.

To learn more about Clayton's life, go to the website - http://www.claytonbailey.com/. Or Google him! You'll be amazed at his creations and accomplishments – plus there's a link to the documentary "INDISPUTABLE TRUTH" about Clayton's life and work.

Clayton is missed. And fortunately, his Nut Art lives on.