They Came, They Conquered, and Now They Are Leaving

It is with heavy heart that Port Costa will have to say goodbye to Michael Schmutz and Kristen Lucas when they leave town in late August. Michael and Kristen only lived here for 9 years but they managed to set their footprint deep in the heart of our little town.

Michael was a cornerstone in the work of establishing the Community Garden, making it beautiful and keeping it going with ecological produce to support the Port Costa and Crockett community. Michael continuously improved the garden with water-saving drip systems, planting fruit trees, and putting in countless hours of volunteer work, both physically and logistically with paperwork necessary for keeping things on track. He is leaving the Community Garden in good shape with a capital of almost $3,000, on top of all the material improvements.

Kristen was the organizer and responsible for many memorable Community Garden parties and ideas on how to prepare delicious food with vegetables grown in the garden. Her fun Halloween parties for kids of all ages will be remembered fondly for years to come. Kristen also documented the good times in Port Costa in her photos, having an eye for capturing the essence of people and situations.

Kristen & Michael, we are forever grateful for the time you gave us and we wish you all the best on your new journey. Let it be full of the happiness and love you deserve.

2021 Town Wide Yard Sale

The first event held at the Port Costa School after the COVID-19-related lockdown was the May 29th Town Wide Yard Sale.

The Town Wide Yard Sale is such a great day and it was truly missed in 2020. The school rents out spaces for folks on the hill, in Crockett, and other local vendors. We provide parking and access to bathroom facilities, and we are proud to do so.

The atmosphere was like letting calves out on grass in the Spring, everyone was SO happy and eager to talk and catch up. Visitors were also eager to spend some money- all vendors reported great sales! The PCCS had a total income of $1,765.00, from general donations, parking donations, and vendor rental spaces. The Crockett Community Foundation Fundraising Assistance program will add another $1,000 to our total income. Thank you!!

Thank you so much to the Port Costa townspeople for organizing and promoting this wonderful Spring event!

Newest PCCS Board Member: Janet Wood, Vice Chairperson

From her first visit to Port Costa, Janet knew she was meant to live here. 32 years ago, she bought her home and jumped into community life! Janet joined the Port Costa Saturday Morning Recycling crew (the first of its kind in the County) and served on our Volunteer Fire Department. At the School, she has volunteered at work projects, fundraising events, and for the PCCS Talent Show. When she wasn't behind the ticket sales booth, she was on stage in sketches like "*Casey at the Bat*" and as one of the tap dancing KitKatKlub Stray Cats as they were howling to the moonlight on a hot summer night!

Janet recently retired from her Technical Project Management career and ran for the PCCS Board in April 2021. Her expertise in organizational decision-making and team leadership is invaluable to the PCCS. Welcome to the Board, Janet!

Ridge Greene, pictured left, with Janet Wood, right, volunteering at the 2019 PCCS Christmas Party. Photo by Kristen Lucas.

Green Cleanup Day 2021

We had a great group of volunteers and three Public Works employees on May 17th at the School ball field to make short order of chipping the green waste into mulch. Thanks to these volunteers: Luigi Barassi, Veronica Crane, Monica Greene, Tim Humann, Sercia Mitchell, Anne Scheer, Suzanne Statler – and Jeff Wilson for organizing it all!

The Green Cleanup is an annual community service event sponsored by the Port Costa Conservation Society. Most residents have delivered at least some (and often a lot of) tree and bush clippings. Watch for the 2022 date and plan your pruning for next year – and have some fun and get some exercise by coming to help load up the Bandit monster wood chipper!

July 31st – Volunteer Work Day at the School

Volunteers, above, from L to R: Sheller Clark, Fran Fay, Janet Wood, Katherine Ghannam, Jeff Wilson, Ryad Ghannam, Zahra Ghannam, Suzanne Statler, Anne Scheer, Elizabeth Hollandberry. Volunteers not pictured: Olive Ghannam, Michael Domagalski, Anne Mann, Monica Greene, Tom List.

A huge "Thank You" to our volunteers who came to the school with gardening gloves, weed whackers, cob web dusters, and community spirit! For over a year, COVID forced us to keep the school doors closed to events, meetings, and tours, so after some coffee and zucchini bread, we worked together to wake up the building – and had fun doing it!

Pictured left: Sheller Clark. Pictured center: Elizabeth Hollandberry whacking some serious weeds! Pictured right: Anne Scheer, Janet Wood, and Anne Mann.

August 2021 Newsletter
Port Costa Conservation Society
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PCCS Board Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of each month at **7pm**. These meetings are open to the public and are held remotely via Zoom. Please email *pccs.portcosta@gmail.com* for meeting link and agendas.

Monica Greene's Retirement from Volunteer Fire Department

Monica Greene pictured on July 31st in front of the Port Costa Fire Station.
Photo by Kristen Lucas.

On July 31st Port Costa's longest serving volunteer firefighter retired. After 26 years, Monica Greene hung up her turnouts, with a "Thank You" sendoff broadcast across the county-wide tone out system.

When she joined the force, Monica was home schooling her daughter and son and wanted to be a role model for them as a woman in a nontraditional role. The Fire Department is just one place in our community where Monica has made a difference. Long ago (before Republic), Monica was part of the Port Costa Saturday Morning Recycling crew. Tons of recyclables were lifted, sorted, and disposed of by this crew.

For the Conservation Society, Monica prefers to work quietly behind the scenes. Every school clean up and chipper day she has been there to lend a hand. Active for the various fundraisers throughout the years, Monica has chaired the Art Show, helped build sets for the Talent Show, and staffed the ticket booth for just about every Talent Show and Car Show. Going against type, she even stepped onto the Talent Show stage in the "Geriatric Drill Team" number!

Please join us in saying "Thank You" to Monica for being a part of what makes Port Costa the unique and special community it is.