

## Coon Island Clean-up 2022 – hosted by Vandecoevering/Noelcke

Article by Doug Vandecoevering:

What a productive weekend.

Two days of pressure washing the docks and two days of rebuilding and staining picnic tables, mowing and weed eating the trails. There were 9 boats that came out to pitch in.

Thursday began with a quick pressure wash of the docks “So we thought”. Four hours later we had barely made a dent in it with two pressure washers. When Stan arrived with his tug loaded with lumber he graciously volunteered to loan us his pressure washer. Thank goodness he did, we offloaded lumber and hopped into Kens Dinghy to grab the pressure washer. Two days later with 3 pressure washers running nearly 16 hours straight the dock and ramp was clean. Those of us pressure washing got a fantastic spa treatment, otherwise known as a mud bath. Twenty years of dirt building up in the expansion grooves was growing quite the garden of moss and grass, but it was no match for our dedicated crew of blasters. We worked till dusk then spent evenings telling boating stories and sharing beverages with friends on the docks. Saturday was an early start as we prepped for a suicide mission to the island. Deet was sprayed on brave volunteers as they stepped up to the base of the ramp. Columbia County’s team jumped right in stirring up the pesky mosquitos with their brush hog and chainsaws followed by brave volunteers with weed whackers. Myself and five other picnic table engineers followed with our battlegwagon to haul nearby tables back to the dock for repair. We wouldn’t have that luxury for the last five. Some were too far away to haul and others were cemented in. Generators, tools and lumber were loaded into the wagon, and we began our four-hour trek back and forth to tables while the dock crew began prepping for an epic taco feast. By 4:30 we bid farewell to the County work crew who had given every last drop of blood they could spare. Tacos and Cerveza was not enough to keep them from heading back to a hot shower on land. The rest of us proceeded to devour mucho tacos, what an awesome spread it was. After passing around a large bottle of Ibuprofen we settled in for a beautiful night relaxing on the dock. Sunday was back to the island with the generator, tools and 5 gallons of stain for the tables. Three brave NOTS and MCYC members lathered up with bug spray at 7am and charged the island with the battlegwagon and paint sprayer in tow. Others pressure washed the mess left on the dock from the prior of day dismantling and assembling tables. Three hours later the tables were stained, and we were back at the dock for continental breakfast. We visited on the newly cleaned dock then bid farewell to new friends and old. Coon island is now ship shape and ready for guests to enjoy once again.

A shout out to those that braved the mosquitoes to help with the project:

**Dean & Roxanne Sutherland** - NOTS/CRYC

**Ray & Jennifer Gump** – NOTS

**Gus & Annette Noelcke** – NOTS

**Doug & Colleen Vandecoevering** – NOTS

**Joe McCloud** – NOTS

**Rob Davison** - NOTS/Tyee

**Ken & Cheryl Williams** - NOTS/MCYC

**Janette Schwartz** – MCYC







## NOTS BOATING CLUB

**Pat Brown** – MCYC

**Ron Bergman** – MCYC

**John Cernick:** Fellow boater and his boating crew who expressed interest in joining one or more of the clubs that made this fantastic event possible?

Columbia County Commissioner: **Casey Garrett & his 2 daughters Charlotte & Olivia.** His crew - **Jeromy South** and **Pablo Mandujano** with Columbia County General Services. These three have participated in the clean up for the past 4yrs plus or more sacrificing their Saturdays to help out.

**Zach Holtner, Jeromy South** and **Weston Powers:** from General Services performed repairs to the West Dock approach ramp prior to our arrival.

Thanks to **Riley Baker**, Columbia County Director of General Services: for coordinating the project for the County.

**Dahlgren's Building Supply:** for providing materials and delivering to Rocky point to be loaded on the tug.

**Rocky Pointe Marina** and owner **Stan Tonneson** deserve a shout out for delivering the materials with his tug and the use of his pressure washer.



A special thanks to:  
Colleen, Annette and the crew who helped prep for the Taco Bar on Saturday night and the continental breakfast on Sunday.

Last but not least, thank you to Columbia River Yachting Association for the funds to make this project possible and to Doug Romjue and Ken Williams who assisted with planning, equipment and securing materials for this task.

Coon Island is now up to snuff and ready for boaters to enjoy the docks, picnic area and the wonderful trails.

