



**PIONEER VALLEY RIVERFRONT CLUB**  
 Youth & Adult Rowing  
 and Dragon Boaters

# RIVER VIEWS

“ I am a 56 year old masters rower. The Connecticut Rives lets me to pursue my sport in an idyllic and healthy spot of nature. Seeing blue herons, bald eagles and various water fowl makes every one of my rows unique. To sustain and grow these natural resources it is mandatory to clean up the river—this will make all water sports (rowing, kayaking, fishing, ...) safer and even more enjoyable. **Bengt-Olaf Schneider, adult rower**

Back in the 1960s, I remember fishing on the Connecticut River with my father in the Springfield section of the river. In the late 1970s, I began paddling racing canoes on the river and competed in Springfield Public Television Canoe triathlons...by the late 1980s as a Springfield YMCA staff member, we started the YMCA community rowing program at Riverfront Park with corporate support! Our single shell rowing instructional program grew to our current Pioneer Valley Riverfront Club. Rowing, dragon boat paddling, and river clean up programs are luring the community of all ages back to the Connecticut River, Springfield’s greatest natural resource. Our club’s mission to enhance river activity for the community inspires our ongoing, hard work! **Laurie Campbell, adult rower & dragon boater**

I am the senior varsity captain of the youth rowing program at PVRC. The Connecticut River has opened up doors for me that I never knew I could walk through, as last summer I rowed on the Junior National Team and next year will be attending Yale University, thanks to my rowing experience. I hope that one day I can return to PVRC and see the athletes embark on water that is cleaner, safer, and aids our boats in going as fast as they can. PVRC has brought so many people together in the past 5 years, from breast cancer survivors, to teens, to inner city students. A clean and safe river would allow PVRC to continue with its mission to bring the joy of the riverfront to those who would not experience it without. **Hannah Johns, youth rower** ”



Photo by Chris Curtis