

CHARLES RIVER CLEAN UP BOAT



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Charles River Clean Up Boat
2004 - 2019

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CHARLES RIVER CLEAN UP 2019

Our season officially began on April 27th when the Clean Up Boat participated in the annual Charles River Clean Up hosted by the Charles River Watershed Association. Thank you to the many volunteers who helped out!



CAPTAIN SPOTLIGHT

Bob Gaffney



HOW DID YOU GET STARTED WITH THE CLEAN UP BOAT?

I knew Tom McNichol, our Founder, when he was a sailing coach at Nobles Greenough School, and I was a sailing coach at Sharon High School where our teams often competed against each other. When Tom told me in 2003 that he was starting a program to clean up the Charles River, I jumped on board with enthusiasm.

[Click to read more about Bob's story with Clean Up Boat on Wicked Local.](#)

WHAT MAKES THIS CAUSE SPECIAL TO YOU?

As a young kid I spent time enjoying many activities along the river, which was close to my home, and I really wanted to help keep this river clean. So began the wonderful experience I have had of meeting many great volunteers from all walks of life with similar goals to keep the Charles clean, and **I have no intention of letting this experience go.**

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE MEMORIES INVOLVING THE CHARLES AND THE CLEAN UP BOAT?

As a bird watcher I have enjoyed studying the variety of bird life along the river while observing the different changes from year to year. One trip on a very hot day we observed a wild turkey cooling off in the shallows of the river. Other finds along the river include a women's pocketbook floating in the river with her checks in it. I called her, and she was so surprised that after more than a year her pocketbook was found. One trip, two of my crew pulled out a complete traffic light with the green, yellow, and red lights.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF BEING A CLEAN UP BOAT CAPTAIN?

To help others to see the beauty and the enjoyment this river gives people as we travel the eight mile route from Watertown to the railroad bridge near North Station while accomplishing a desire to keep the river clean now and into the future.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Leah Reynolds



HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE MISSION OF THE CLEAN UP BOAT? WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?

Since I spend a couple of hours a day on the Charles working with Boston Duck Tours, why not learn all I can about the river? A great way to do that is the CUB!

What Tom McNichols started fifteen years ago (kind of as a necessity) has grown and if I get a chance to help and have a nice day on the Charles River why wouldn't I?

The climate in the government today is a big motivating factor in why I want to help locally while thinking globally. If I can do a few small things in my little corner of the world to make things better for all of the species on the planet then that is what I will do!

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO SEE THE CUB ACHIEVE IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS?

The Clean Up Boat is doing amazing work. In the next few years I hope the next generations are out there cleaning with the adults. The younger the better because they will be our planet's keepers. I think the Clean Up Boat is a great volunteer activity for school-aged children and can be fun for them to do with friends.



WHAT OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OR CAUSES DO YOU SUPPORT?

I live on the Pawtuxet River in Rhode Island and it was also heavily polluted for most of the twentieth century. We are still struggling with heavy metals on the bottom so I do work with the Pawtuxet River clean up and Save the Bay events as my work schedule allows.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO STAY INVOLVED WITH THE CLEAN UP BOAT?

My motivation comes from the times in which I grew up. As a baby boomer, my formative years were in the 60's and 70's. That should really say it all... I went to the No Nukes rallies, chained myself to the gates at Seabrook in the 80's, and have been to many a march so this is right in my wheelhouse!

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE MEMORY INVOLVING THE CHARLES RIVER?

A special memory for me was the chance to get to one of the fundraisers for the Clean Up Boat on one of the Charles Riverboat Company's boats, which went much farther up the river than we normally do on the Ducks. A full moon over the Back Bay was spectacular! I'm grateful for that opportunity!



A Fresh New Look for Clean Up Boat

To celebrate our 15th year anniversary, we redesigned our boat in purple camouflauge. Be on the lookout for the Clean Up Boat on the river this season!



Over the winter, we upgraded the mechanical and electrical systems on the Clean Up Boat. And while we were doing that, we thought we would add a little pizzazz to the graphics. The new graphics had to be applied on a fairly warm day, with no wind. Since the boat is stored outdoors, we had to find an indoor location. Fortunately, right next door to where the boat was stored over the winter in Waltham is RayTeam Automotive, a full-service auto repair shop, and big fans of the Charles River Clean Up Boat. Frank Ocsai, RayTeam's owner, offered to make room in his shop so we could complete the rewrapping of the boat in a meticulously clean and warm environment. We truly appreciate Frank and all the folks at RayTeam for their willingness to interrupt their day on our behalf in order to have our project completed smoothly.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

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