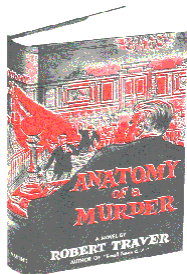




34<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
John D. Voelker  
Foundation  
Report

By Rich Vander Veen

June 24, 2023  
Marquette



## John Donaldson Voelker

- Born in Marquette, June, 1903
  - Educated at Northern Michigan University and University of Michigan Law School
  - Practiced law in Chicago and Marquette
  - Elected Marquette County Prosecutor
  - Michigan Supreme Court Justice
  - Author of *Anatomy of a Murder*, ten other books, and numerous short stories
    - See “On His Own Terms” published in *Traver on Fishing*, Lyons Press 2002
- UP Cribbage Champ!



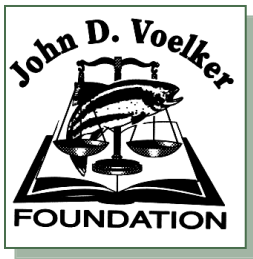
## John D. Voelker Foundation



I fish because I love to; because I love the environs where trout are found, which are invariably beautiful, and hate environs where crowds of people are found, which are invariably ugly ...

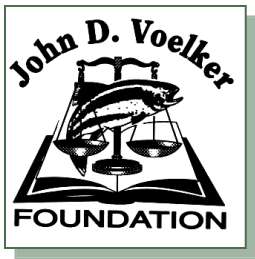
because only in the woods can I find solitude without loneliness; because bourbon out of an old tin cup always tastes better out there.

*John Voelker*  
The Author



## John D. Voelker Foundation, 34<sup>th</sup> Year

- 1989 Founded: MI Nonprofit; Achieved 501 c(3) Status  
Focused on New Members and Watershed Restoration Projects
- First, we received John's permission and republished limited editions of Laughing Whitefish or Trout Madness; Fred Baker & I borrowed \$10,000. John signed by the Acknowledgements & the Native American Law School Scholarships were initiated with George Hyde, 1990
- We recovered rights for five of John's 11 books from a "Publishing Pirate"
- We commissioned John's Michigan Supreme Court Portrait
- We collaborated with TU, Anglers of the Au Sable to Protect the "environs where trout are found" for future generations
- We founded the Robert Traver Fly Fishing Award 1994. collaborating with FR&R and THANKS to David Van Wie, the AMFF

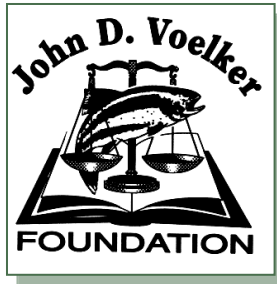


## John D. Voelker Foundation, 34<sup>th</sup> Year

- The Foundation has been blessed with the leadership, time, talent and treasury of our generous Members, talented Board of Directors, Scholarship Committees and Traver Award Judges
- THANK YOU, Fred Baker, for 34 years as Secretary-Treasurer!!

Board Members have included:

- John Voelker, Charles Kuralt, Hon Jim Washinawatok, Nick Lyons, John Frey, John Cummiskey, Walter Abbott, Woody, Peter and Paul Strom, Kelly Keenan, Gigs Gagliardi, Page Graves, Fred Baker, Jim Graves, Julie Voelker Cohen, Grace Voelker Wood, Hon Matthew Fletcher, George Hyde, Hon Michael Petoskey, Hon Michael Anderegg, Karrie Biron, Glen Blackwood and David Van Wie!



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Rich Vander Veen, President

Fred Baker, Secretary/Treasurer

George Hyde, VP

James Graves

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Michael Petoskey

Karrie Biron

Matthew Fletcher

Mike Anderegg

Glen Blackwood

David Van Wie

John D. Voelker (1903 – 1991)

Charles Kuralt (1934 – 1997)

Jim Washinawatok (1924 – 1997)

John W. Cummiskey (1917 – 2002)

Walter Abbott (1929 – 2005)

John Frey (Emeritus)

Nick Lyons (Emeritus)

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**Contributors of \$1,000 or more**

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**Joe Kimble**  
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**Anglers of the AuSable**  
**Fred & Irene Baker**  
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**Tom Brokaw**  
**Alfred Cambridge, Jr.**  
**The Charlevoix Community Fdn.**  
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**George Duffy, Jr.**



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**Contributors of \$1,000 or more**

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**Grace Taylor Voelker**

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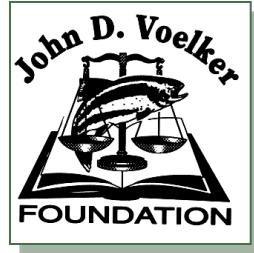
**Dr. Frank R. Wheeler**

**Karrie Biron**

**Lester Wolff**

**Grace V. Wood & Ernest B. Wood**

**MI Supreme Court Historical Society**



# John D. Voelker Foundation, 34th Year

Voelker Scholarships; Now Endowed within the Marquette County Community Foundation > Calendar 2023-2024 Events

**Chi' miigwetch to our Scholarship Committee Chairs:**

- **Hon Jim Washinawatok, Walter Abbott & Hon Michael Petoskey**
- **Members: James Washinawatok, George Hyde, Karrie Biron, Hon JoAnne Cook, Hon Matthew Fletcher; recommending 2 New Scholars!**

**+2 6/24/23 = 35 Scholars (21 Women & 14 Men)**

**12 MI & WI Tribes**

**11 Law Schools**

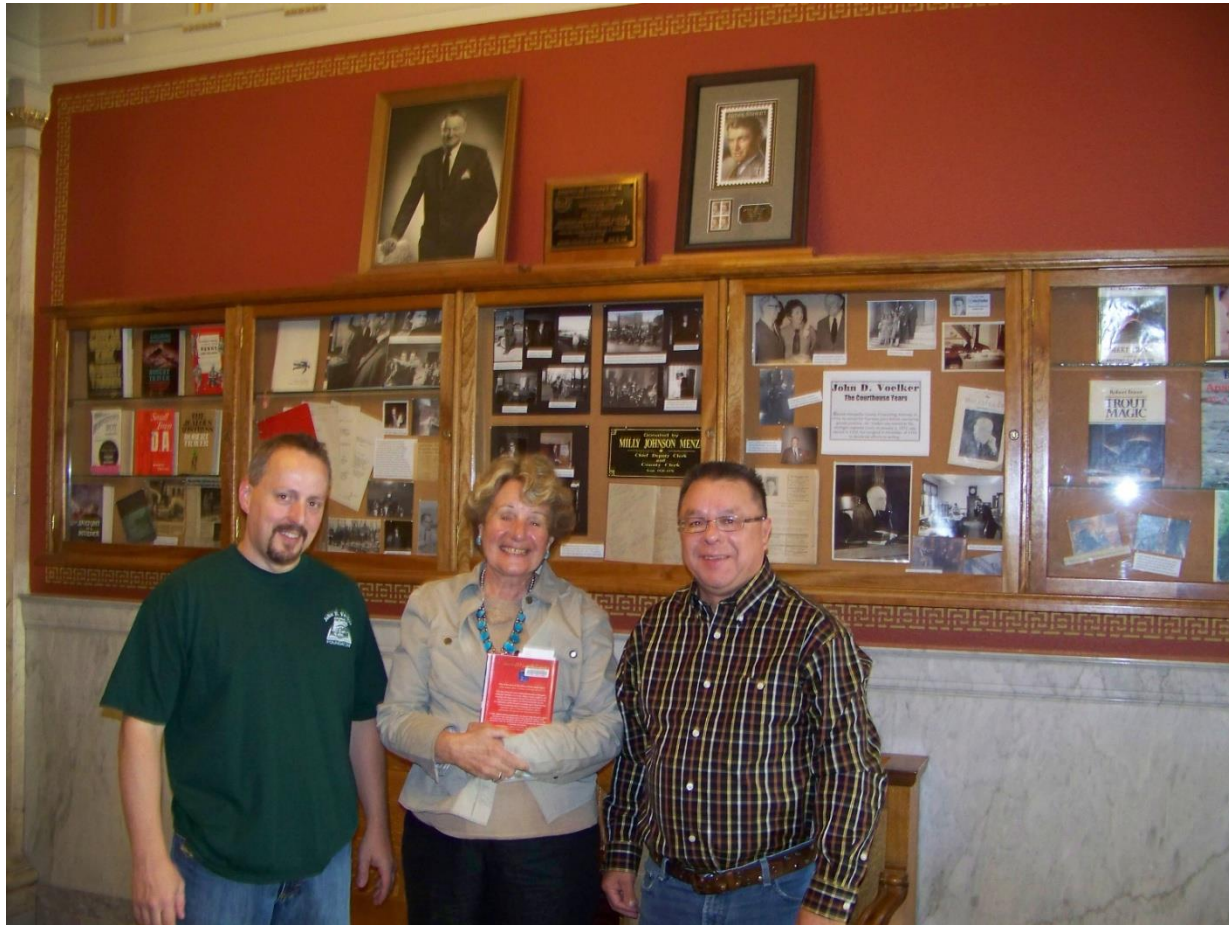
**32 Warrior Lawyers dedicated to Wellness, Sovereignty Principles**

# Voelker Scholars, 1990-2023+ from 12 Michigan & Wisconsin Tribes

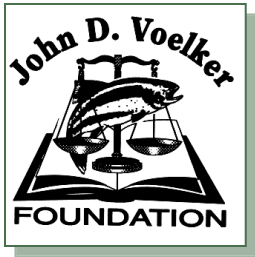


# Voelker Scholars, 1990-2023+ Graduated 11 Law Schools





George Hyde (1<sup>st</sup> Scholar) with Grace Voelker Wood and Scholarship Committee Chair, Hon. Michael Petoskey



- **John D. Voelker Foundation, 34th Year**
- In 1994, Nick Lyons, *Fly, Rod & Reel*, and friends of John D. Voelker collaborated with John Frey and the Voelker Foundation to create the *Robert Traver Fly Fishing Writing Award*. Nick and friends have been entrepreneurs, founders and visionaries whose creative powers deserve our praise. *Fly Rod & Reel*, 1994-2016
- Many thanks to David Van Wie for initiating, collaborating and catalyzing the Voelker Foundation's relationship with the American Museum of Fly Fishing [www.amff.com](http://www.amff.com) in Manchester, Vermont! *AMFF Journal*, 2019 >
- Thank you, AMFF Trustees, Ex. Director, Sarah Foster, Editor, Kate Achor, and the Traver Award Writers, Judges and Supporters of Fly Fishing Literature & the future protection of trout waters, art & the sport
- 65 2023 Entries now being Judged; September 2023 Announcement
- A Third Traver Award Anthology?



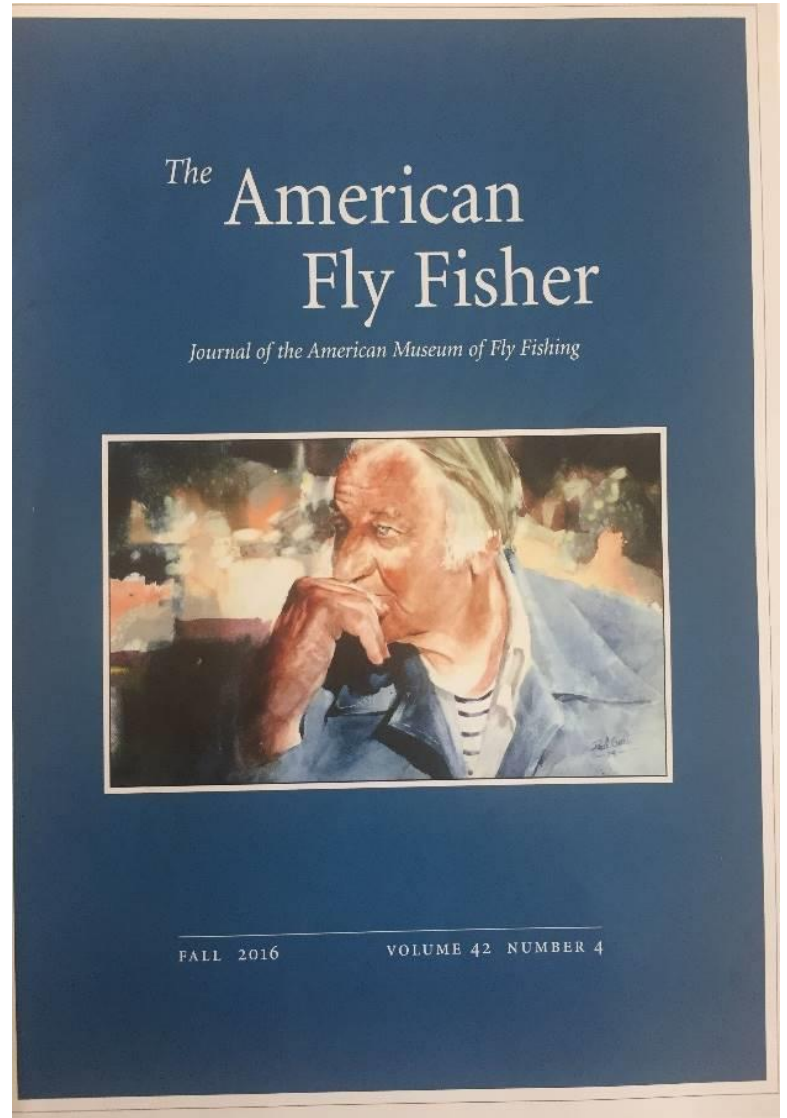






John D. Voelker in his home office at Ishpeming, Michigan (ca. 1961), wearing a favorite French sailor shirt as an undershirt. MSS-39: John D. Voelker Papers, Photographic Series. Used with permission from Kitchie Hill, Inc.

d, Short Course about Writing Fishing English that makes your fascinating to



# The American Fly Fisher

Journal of the American Museum of Fly Fishing



WINTER 2023

VOLUME 49 NUMBER 1

## Traverful

From Genio C. Scott,  
Fishing in American Waters  
(New York: The American  
News Company, 1875), 167.



ALMOST A YEAR ago, this query appeared in my in-box: "Has anyone ever written a definitive history, or at least a fairly detailed account, of the Traver Award, not only about how it came to be . . . but also including a list of which stories won each year, and the names of all the honorable mentions and runners-up?" As far as I knew, no one had. So Jody Martin, who had recently received the honor, did.

In 2019, after the folding of *Fly Rod & Reel* two years before, the museum became the publisher of the Robert Traver Fly-Fishing Award, created in 1994 by Nick Lyons and the John D. Voelker Foundation. Martin—with the help of four others who have important connections to the foundation, the award, and its history—gathered and reviewed nearly three decades' worth of information to present in one place. The result, "The Robert Traver Fly-Fishing Writing Award: An Annotated History," begins on page 4.

We're especially pleased to publish that history alongside the 2022 winner of the Traver Award: "A Dog Named Fish," by Frank Sargeant (page 10). For a list of finalists and a web link to the honorable mentions, turn to page 12, where you will also find a call for submissions for the 2023 award. The deadline for entries is May 31.

The Vermont sporting camp known as Quimby's, with a claim to being the oldest in the state, has a rich history. Hortense Quimby spent her growing-up summers there, took over the business after the death of her father in 1919, and ran the place until she sold it to a group of guests in 1965. Camp scrapbooks were kept from 1894 through 1938, and, basing much of his research on these, Tim Traver presents a history of the camp and its "sport camp owner, fly-fishing promoter, and conservationist from the wilds of Vermont's Northeast Kingdom." In "Hortense Quimby,

Vermont Fisheries Pioneer" (page 14), Traver highlights Quimby's push for conservation, which necessitated "convincing residents that protecting fish and game and building up the tourism trade was in their best economic and personal interest."

That Tim Traver's article should appear in the same issue as the Traver Award is more serendipitous than deliberate. I asked Tim if he was related to the lawyer/novelist. He replied that he used to joke that his own pen name was John Voelker, but the fact that Traver was Voelker's mother's name was news to him (therefore, the jury's still out).

One of the creators of the Traver Award, Nick Lyons, also contributes to this issue (page 13), remembering his friend, the great Dave Whitlock: "a quiet man with an enormous talent, an artist, fly tier and innovator, writer, and skilled practitioner whose love of fly fishing never flagged."

Each winter we like to feature a painting from the museum's collection. In "Water Stories: Two Landscapes" by Thomas Aquinas Daly, Collections Manager Kirsti Scott Edwards doubles down and offers up two watercolors, one of which, *The Quiet Wiscoy*, can be found on the cover. To read more about Daly and these works, turn to page 2.

In November, the museum headed back to New York City for the first time in three years to host our Heritage Award event. The 2022 award honored the thirtieth anniversary of the film *A River Runs Through It* and featured stories from reunited cast and crew (page 24).

And Curator Jim Schottenham, planning new exhibits, is in search of particular angling artifacts. Maybe you can help. Be sure to take a look at the wish list on page 23.

KATHLEEN ACHOR  
EDITOR



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We welcome contributions to the *American Fly Fisher*. Before making a submission, please review our Contributor's Guidelines on our website ([www.amff.org](http://www.amff.org)), or write to request a copy. The museum cannot accept responsibility for statements and interpretations that are wholly the author's.

# The Robert Traver Fly-Fishing Writing Award: An Annotated History

by Jody Martin, David Van Wie, Seth Norman, Richard Vander Veen III, and Frederick M. Baker Jr.



John Voelker fly fishing for brook trout at Frenchman's Pond circa 1939. Photo courtesy of the John D. Voelker Foundation.

The Robert Traver Fly-Fishing Writing Award is annually the only writing prize given specifically to authors of stories that have as their primary focus the sport of fly fishing. It has been called "the most prestigious outdoor writing award in the nation" and is now administered jointly by the John D. Voelker Foundation and the American Museum of Fly Fishing. Its much has been written about the life and times of John D. Voelker, for whom the Traver Award is named, that it seems unnecessary to give much detail here. But an introduction to at least one of his grandsons, to understand the history of the award, that now bears his name—now correctly, his first name. In this article we outline that history, beginning with a brief overview of the life and writings of John D. Voelker, and then list for the first time all winners of the Traver Award since its inception in 1974.

## JOHN D. VOELKER

John Voelker (1897-1964) was a successful lawyer, writer, and fly fisherman born and raised in Ishpeming in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The direct descendant of German immigrants who settled the Upper Peninsula to establish fur-trading posts, he was the sixth son of a laborer who worked as a saloon owner in the village of Ontonagon and learned to speak the Ojibwa (Chippewa) language before school. Voelker's mother was a public-harbor music teacher who modeled to him a love of the written word. His father taught him how to fly fish for brook trout in the local streams, a skill that would come to play an increasingly important role throughout Voelker's life.

John Voelker attended Northern Michigan Normal School (now Northern Michigan University) and then the University of Michigan Law School, where he met his future wife, Grace Taylor. Ap-

parently has start as an attorney was not promising; at one point, based on his poor grades, the faculty at the university advised him to withdraw from the school and apply elsewhere. Voelker repeated a reexamination, improved his grades to the point that he could graduate the following year (1921), and later that year passed the Michigan bar.

After graduating and passing the bar, Voelker returned to Marquette County and joined a local law firm. In 1926, he moved to Chicago to be closer to Grace (they were married that year and would eventually have four children). He disliked Chicago and all cities intensely. The once remarked that it was "better to starve in Ishpeming than to wear smelly clothes in Chicago". In 1932 he and Grace returned to Ishpeming where he opened his own law office. The next year he was elected prosecuting attorney of Marquette County (the first Democrat to hold that office since the end of the U.S.

Civil War), where he served from 1933 through 1941 and again from 1945 to 1950, while also maintaining his private law practice. A defeat in the polls returned him to private practice in 1931. His practice slowed in the following years, and he ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Congress in 1934. In 1936, he was appointed associate justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, where he served until 1960. Voelker was a member of the Marquette County Bar Association and served as its president from 1939 to 1941, and he was on several committees of the State Bar of Michigan.

Although interested in writing his entire life (an anecdotal story tells of him writing a story at age twelve titled "Last All Night in a Swamp with a Bear"), Voelker's career as a published writer began with the short story "Iron," which appeared in the February 1924 issue of the *American Scene* (now defunct) while he was working as a county prosecutor. Fearful that voters might think he was writing novels on company time, Voelker published his early works under the pen name Robert Traver, adopting the first name of a brother who died of influenza while serving in the Navy in World War I and his mother's maiden surname. The first of his eleven books written under the name of Robert Traver was *Trout-Making*, published in 1927.

Whether authoring legal opinions (including dissent, he pointed out) during his brief tenure on the Michigan Supreme Court, courtroom dramas, or fly-fishing stories, Voelker (Traver) was, and still is, nearly universally lauded as a great writer. "You can't get more than a paragraph into any of Traver's books without knowing immediately that a stream of plating wit awaits you, that behind the words there's a man with whom to share a stretch of water and, later, a drink and a well-wrought joke, told in the high-voiced manner of someone who knows that spinning yarns, like fly-fishing, is a kind of legalized deceit."

As a popular writer, he is most remembered for his best-selling novel *Anatomy of a Murder* (1958), based on an actual murder case and later (1959) made into a highly successful motion picture starring James Stewart, Lee Remick, Ben Gazzara, and George C. Scott, with a musical score by the incomparable Duke Ellington. The movie is still regarded as one of the best legal thrillers of all time, and it provided Voelker with the financial freedom to devote less time to the law and more time to writing and fishing. Indeed, in late 1959, the same year that the movie appeared, he resigned from the Michigan Supreme Court, telling then-Governor G. Mennen "Soapy" Williams

that "other people can write my opinions, but none can write my books. I have learned that I can't do both as profitably I must quit the court." In early 1960 he stepped down, never to practice law again.

Apart from *Anatomy*, Voelker (as Traver) also published several more books about court cases. One, which he always insisted was his only historical novel, *Laughing Whirlpool* (1963), was about a nineteenth-century Ojibwa woman's legal battle to claim shares in the Jackson Mine promised to her father and became the basis—as well as the initial source of funding—for the Voelker Foundation's first mission (see below).

Fans of fly-fishing literature know Robert Traver best, however, as the author of *Trout-Making* (1926), *Anatomy of a Fisherman* (1964), *Trout Maps* (1934), and other essays and writings, many of which were compiled (with some previously unpublished works) in Voelker's seventh book, the posthumously published *Traver on Fishing: A Treasury of Robert Traver's Best Stories and Essays about Fishing for Trout*, edited by Nick Lyons and published in 2002. "In his foreword to his first published compilation of the first two published compilations of Traver Award competition fly-fishing stories, Richard Vander Veen III quoted Voelker as saying, "I do most of my writing during the winter months when thick ice covers my favorite fishing spots. There isn't any good writing; only reviewing. Observe, observe, observe. Then, perhaps your work." Vander Veen, who had the honor of knowing Voelker, continued, "His *Anatomy of a Fisherman* and *Trout-Making* have been described as the best fishing books since Izaak Walton's seventeenth-century *The Compleat Angler*. Voelker's numerous articles on the joys of fly fishing attest to his great love of the outdoors and establishment of the sport of American fly-fishing. David Fisher of the Detroit News wrote, "Voelker could put into words the inner thoughts that few trout fishermen can express. He could draw vivid pictures of rising trout, the dash of a brookie as a fly, and the mystery of what trout fishing is all about."

In the words of the editors of *Fly Rod & Reel* magazine in 1974, "When John Voelker died at the wheel of his Jeep in March of 1964, at the age of 67, we lost one of the finest wordsmen in this sport has ever seen. Few writers equal his ability to convey the charm and magic of fly-fishing many think none surpassed him." A famous obituary from his book *Anatomy of a Fisherman* (1964), "Testament of a Fisherman," has been reprinted so widely that it has become a source of facts for

all who fly fish, adorning the walls of family dens, fishing lodges, and cabins throughout North America.

John Voelker was posthumously inducted into the National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame in Hayward, Wisconsin, in 1997.

## THE JOHN D. VOELKER FOUNDATION

The idea of creating a foundation to honor John Voelker and his legacy came from Frederick M. Baker Jr. and Richard Vander Veen III in 1984. Several years before, in 1978, Vander Veen had purchased a copy of Robert Traver's *Small Trout* (DA from Larry McMurry, owner of the store Booked Up in Washington, D.C. Vander Veen, an avid book collector with a special interest in the works of Robert Traver, wrote to Voelker, and by return post received the first of more than 200 handwritten letters exchanged with Voelker, who wrote each in his characteristic green pen on yellow legal paper. Vander Veen and his wife, Lee, met Voelker in 1978. In 1974, Voelker invited Vander Veen to visit him. Vander Veen brought his friend Fred Baker along. The two Lansing attorneys met Voelker at Paulie's Rainbow Bar in Ishpeming, where Voelker asked them to wait while he played a previously scheduled cribbage match with a miss still red with ice on one dent just coming off his shirt. Voelker, who sometimes proclaimed himself the U.S. cribbage champ, came from behind to win the game on the last hand, Baker recalls.

John's status overlapped to produce a further invitation to "come see the pond" (the famous Frenchman's Pond, a brook passage often featured in the Traver stories). We were struck dumb by his look and accepted without hesitation. After treading up to a beautiful bay of woods, stream, old-fashioned fishing, and exploration at the pond, John saw us off at the bank crossed with a wave of his hand and a gentle admonition to "Come again later, but not too soon."

A few years later, Vander Veen and Baker approached Voelker with the idea of creating an endowment to honor Voelker's writings and legacy. Voelker was at first less than enthusiastic about creating a foundation named after himself, professing that it made him feel "a wee bit embarrassed." After the Voelker Foundation was incorporated in 1976, Voelker donated the right to publish and sell a special edition of *Laughing Whirlpool* limited to 200 volumes, which he agreed

to sign. Vander Veer and Baker cosigned a \$10,000 personal loan to pay St. Martin's Press to print it with Voelker's signature bound in, reasoning that, at worst, they would find themselves the owners of two books signed by Voelker if they did not sell at the high price necessary to repay the loan and fund the scholarship program that Voelker chose as the foundation's first mission. To their surprise (and that of Grace Voelker, who said, "You boys have got rocks in your head if you think anyone will pay for a book just because John signed it"), the books sold briskly, allowing them to pay off the note and grant the foundation's first Native American scholarship in 1951.

Early board members included Baker, Vander Veer, literary pioneer Nick Lyons, philanthropist and conservationist John Frey, and the *American Journalist* Charles Kuralt (who referred to John Voelker as "about the nearest thing to a great man I've ever known"). The foundation's mission, then and now, is "to pay tribute to John Voelker, the artist for which he stood, and the values that his life and writings exemplified." According to Baker:

Rich and I asked John to tell us what he wanted us to do with the foundation he had allowed us to create to do "a few good things" with his name. Obviously, we had learned enough on the sides of the limited edition of *Laughing Whitefish* that St. Martin's helped us publish (what I called to my 2 if they could produce the limited edition, the editor said, "John built that house—of course we will help") to pay all the personal note that Rich and I had signed to pay for it, and we had some money in the pile. John was quiet for a moment and then he named three things in order of importance to him. Create a scholarship to help Native American go to law school, because "Right now Indians have to beg to get a law degree, and they need to be able to demand what is rightfully theirs." Create an outdoor writing prize that will encourage fishermen like him to "spit words." And, finally, if there was anything left, he wanted us to help preserve "the most beautiful trout are found."

To date, in keeping with Voelker's wishes, the John D. Voelker Foundation has awarded more than thirty Voelker Scholarships to Native American students from Michigan and Wisconsin who went to attend law school, funded primarily through sales of a special edition of *Laughing Whitefish*. It has awarded twenty-three Robert Traver Fly-Fishing Writing Awards, and is working with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources,



John Voelker signing copies of the special edition of *Laughing Whitefish* and to fund the foundation. Photo courtesy of the John D. Voelker Foundation.

the City of Interpacing, Trout Unlimited, and the Anglers of the Au Sable to create the Trout Habitat Program to encourage a love of fly-fishing and "the outdoors where trout are found" by restoring and protecting trout habitat."

### THE ROBERT TRAVER FLY-FISHING WRITING AWARD

In 1964, largely at the urging of Charles Kuralt, noted editor and publisher Nick Lyons worked with new Voelker Foundation and board member John Frey<sup>16</sup> to create the writing award that would fulfill John Voelker's original vision. The purpose of the Robert Traver Fly-Fishing Writing Award is "to encourage and recognize distinguished original stories or essays that embody the implicit love of fly-fishing, respect for the sport, and the natural world in which it takes place;" the submitted stories "must demonstrate high literary values in one or more of these categories: the joy of fly-fishing; personal and philosophical experience; nature; knowledge and protection of the natural world; humor; piscatorial friendships and fun on the water."<sup>17</sup>

The award is given to a short work (1,000 or fewer words) of fiction or nonfiction in the English language not previously published commercially in print or digital media. Originally called the Robert Traver Fly-Fishing Fiction Award, the word *Fiction* was changed to *Writing* in 2005 in light of high-quality entries that

were essays or nonfiction.<sup>18</sup> The award includes \$2,500 from the Voelker Foundation (increased from \$1,000 in 2006).

The first competition was held in 1964 and it attracted nearly 300 entries both around the globe. In the early years, the bulk of early editing was undertaken by the editors of *Fly Rod & Reel* magazine, notably Jen Butler as one of Traver's earliest and most supportive fans, followed by Paul Guernsey, Joe Healy, and Greg Thomas. These editors for several years received all Traver Award entries, read each, and winnowed them down to their top ten. These were then sent to the judges for review and discussion via conference calls. Early judges included Lyons, Frey, Kuralt, Vander Veer, Baker, and Jon Grasm. Joined eventually by Ted Lemson, Seth Newman, and other past winners of the award, From 1964 through 2016, the winning stories were published in the summer or annual Reading Issue of *Fly Rod & Reel*, a magazine known for a more literary and philosophical approach to the sport than its contemporary rivals, which ironically probably helped lead to its sudden demise in 2012. One trend in the award was that many stories were published in other fly-fishing stories were published in the same issue, but it was not always indicated whether these stories arose from the Traver competition. As noted earlier, Kuralt at one point referred to the Traver Award as the most prestigious outdoor writing award in the nation, and the competition and the award have only grown in recognition and prestige over

the years. Two anthologies of Traver-recognized stories have been published to date: *In Henningway's Meadow* (2009) and *Love Story of the Trout* (2016).<sup>19</sup> No award was given in 1999 or 2000, in the words of *FRRR* editor Jim Butler, "Simply put, the well of outstanding fly-fishing fiction seems to have run a bit dry of late. . . . so we've temporarily suspended our fiction annual so the well can have a chance to fill up again."<sup>20</sup> For the same reason, no award was given in 2007.<sup>21</sup> In 2013, the editors of *FRRR* announced that after awarding more than \$40,000 to Traver-winning writers, the endorsement supporting the award was exhausted, and they made a plea for donations to keep the competition afloat.

The end of *Fly Rod & Reel* created something of a vacuum for publication of the Traver Award stories. Writer David Van Wie, in the process of retracing the steps of well-known fly-fishing authors for his book *Strived Waters*,<sup>22</sup> had met with Kathleen Acher, editor of the *American Fly Fisher*, at the American Museum of Fly Fishing in Manchester, Vermont. Later, while in Michigan on that same trip, he met Grace Voelker Wood, John Voelker's daughter, and her husband Woody; indeed, the entire Strived Waters journey was the result

of an invitation from Grace to visit the Woods in Michigan. In Van Wie's words, "We went to dinner at Rich and Sue Vander Veer's house in Marquette. Rich, who is a founder and president of the [Voelker] Foundation, was hinting that they were having to look for a new partner to administer the Award."<sup>23</sup> Van Wie accepted the challenge, discussed the situation with several possible partners among his contacts in fly-fishing and literary circles, and eventually, with considerable help from the AMFF's Acher, established a partnership between the foundation and the American Museum of Fly Fishing. This partnership ensured that the competition would continue and that future winners would be published in the pages of the *American Fly Fisher* and made available on the museum's website. And so in 2013, after a two-year hiatus, the award was re-launched.

Some of the rules have changed over time. Today, a previous winner may not enter the competition again, but this was not the case in the past, which allowed some excellent writers (e.g. Richard Chappine, Seth Newman, Pete Fromm, Kent Cowgill, E. Donald Thomas Jr., and Michael Dubert) to receive recognition more than once. Stories submitted to the

competition today must not have been published previously, but this was not true in past years. Well-written entries that did not win have been variously termed finalists, runners-up, honorable mentions, or given second place in the past; today the categories used are honorable mention and finalist, with the former being published along with the winning entry on the webpage of the AMFF. Additionally, the evaluation process now involves three separate rounds of review. There are five reviewers in round one, five different reviewers in round two, and four more in the third and final round, such that fourteen people must independently approve of a story for it to score highly. All entries are treated anonymously in all three rounds. The first published list of all Traver Award winners, honorable mentions, and finalists since the inception of the contest appears on page 9.

### GOING FORWARD

Today the Robert Traver Award Committee's goals are essentially unchanged. Announcements for the annual competition are issued each spring on the Voelker Foundation website, in the pages of the *American Fly Fisher*, and elsewhere, and

### THE TRAVER AWARD

When I was a child, I used to read the pages of the Traver Award magazine, *Fly Rod & Reel*, and I would read the stories of the winners of the award. I would read the stories of the winners of the award, and I would read the stories of the winners of the award. I would read the stories of the winners of the award, and I would read the stories of the winners of the award.



## Home Before Dark

M  
y name is Pete Fromm, and I'm a writer from Michigan. I'm honored to have won the Robert Traver Fly-Fishing Writing Award. My story, "Home Before Dark," is about a fly-fishing trip with a friend and a woman I love. It's a story about the beauty of the outdoors and the power of nature.



The first Traver Award winner, "Home Before Dark" by Pete Fromm, as it appeared in the July/October 1994 issue of *Fly Rod & Reel*.



# IN HEMINGWAY'S MEADOW

Award-Winning Fly-Fishing Stories



Edited By Joe Healy  
FlyRod&Reelbooks

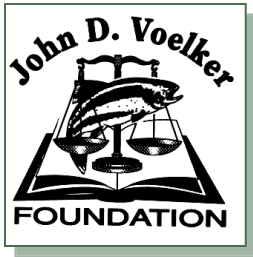
# LOVE<sup>story</sup> *of the* TROUT

Award-Winning Fly-Fishing Stories Volume 2



Edited by Joe Healy  
Introduction by John Gierach





# *2023+ Initiatives*

*Empowering, connecting, Linked In, Facebook*

- *Council of Michigan Foundations: Capacity-Building Grant? November 2023*
- *New Voelker Foundation Members & Board Members*
  - *Protecting the “environs where trout are found” for future generations*
  - *Connecting the Great Lakes Watersheds with Climate & Global Health*
- *35+ Voelker Scholars = Warrior Lawyers*
  - *Sovereignty, Wellness, Tribal Govts., Intertribal Councils*
  - *Educating, Catalyzing, Creating for Good*
  - *2024 Event: Marquette Community & Voelker Foundation*
- *25+ Traver Award Writers*
  - Traver-Signed Copies of “Trout Madness”: Sponsorships & Anthologies*
    - *Distinguished Original Stories & Essays: Joy of FF, Ecological wisdom, humor*
- *Convening Strategic Events*
- *Informal Reaching Out to Public, Private and Nonprofit Sectors*