



# TIN CUP TIMES

The Newsletter of the John D. Voelker Foundation



## VOELKER SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

### Voelker Scholarship Award

Michael Petoskey, our Voelker Scholarship Committee Chairman, announced that since 1989, Foundation Members who subscribed to Laughing Whitefish have helped six Native Americans to attend law school. We are proud of these Voelker Scholars. Responding to the Foundation's Scholarship Matching Funds Challenge, three Michigan Tribes so far exceeded our grant challenges that the tables were turned: By digging deep, the Foundation was able to leverage a total of \$25,500 in matching Tribal grants to three scholarship recipients. Our goal is to endow future scholarship awards by raising \$250,000.

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*Voelker Scholars Excel*

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*!Traver on Fishing  
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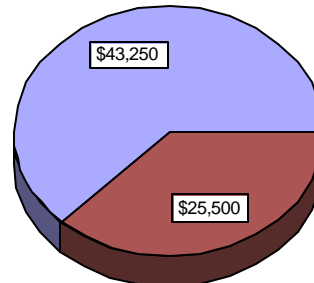
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## John Voelker Scholarships

Totaling \$68,750



■ Voelker Foundation  
■ Matching Tribal Grants

### Alize Jo Schlector, U.S. Attorney

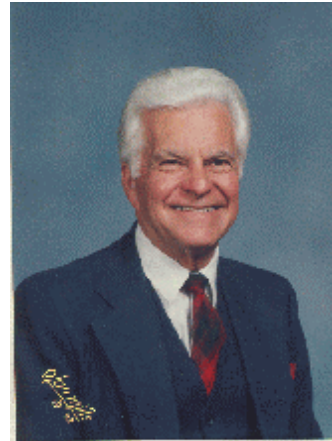
We are pleased to announce that our forth Voelker Scholar graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in May, 2000. She is actively working with the U.S. Department of Justice.



**JoAnne Miller**, our fifth Voelker Scholar, grew up in the Grand Traverse Band of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians in Peshabastown, Leelanau County. JoAnn is in her third year at the University of Wisconsin Law School. Ms. Miller earned an Associate of Applied Science - Paralegal from Northwestern Michigan College (1989) and a Bachelor of Science - Business Administration from Ferris State University (1995). She also attended the Indian Law Institute preparatory program at the University of New Mexico. Ms. Miller is a former Associate Tribal Judge with the Grand Traverse Band, and brings to her studies the wisdom and experience gained from that position, as well as from over a decade of tribal involvement and motherhood. She and her husband, Andy and have three boys.

She is the elected President of Indian Law Student Association at Wisconsin for next year and was elected as Area 4 Director for the National Native American Law Student Association at the Federal Bar Indian Law Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She expects to graduate in 2001 and work for her tribe in Michigan.

She states, "This has been a rewarding and challenging experience and I want to thank



everyone at the John D. Voelker Foundation as a recipient of the scholarship."

**Damian Fisher**, our sixth Voelker Scholar, is a member of the

Saginaw Tribe of Chippewa Indians, based in Mount Pleasant. He attends Thomas Cooley Law School. Damian serves on his tribe's Constitutional Reform Committees, and in 1998 he was selected as the recipient of the Susan J. Ferrell Scholarship at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Sovereignty Symposium, held in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Damian Fisher had considered the MSU program in English literature. However, when he read about John Voelker's life, he realized that studying the law and his love of writing and literature were not mutually exclusive. "Beyond the shadow of a reasonable doubt," he said, "the Foundation's support and John Voelker's story have been responsible with my decision to complete my legal studies." Damian will graduate in 2001.

**Walt Abbott Passes the Torch to the Honorable Michael Petoskey**

Since its formation, the Foundation has included on its Board a Native American, to ensure that their voice was heard in selecting our Native American scholarship recipients and to guide our work with the Michigan and Wisconsin tribes.

The first Native American representative on the Board was John's old friend, the late Jim Washinawatok (who appeared in John's story "My Friend, My Friend"). Please see [Traver on Fishing](#), our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Report and our tribute to Jim's marvelous daughter, Gwen Washinawatok on our web site:



[www.voelkerfdn.org](http://www.voelkerfdn.org).

When Jim's health began to fail, he nominated as his replacement his old friend, Walt Abbott, a long time educator (he taught and served as principal for many years at the Hannahville Indian School) and one-time Michigan Senate candidate, on whose campaign Jim came from Wisconsin to work tirelessly in the 1960s.

When Walt, in turn, began to feel the effects of time, he helped us find a wonderful replacement to fill his seat on the Board, where he has worked hard to expand the Foundation's Native American scholarship program. It was during Walt's tenure on the Foundation's Board, and with his good offices, that we succeeded in reaching our matching fund grant arrangement with the Michigan tribes, which has doubled the impact of our members' gifts to the scholarship fund and made it possible for us to assist as many as three scholarship recipients simultaneously. Our gratitude to Walt for all he has done cannot be measured, but perhaps his greatest legacy is the assistance he provided in persuading the Honorable Michael Petoskey, Chief Judge of the Grand Traverse Band's Tribal Court and of the Little Traverse Bay Band's of Odawa Indian's Tribal Court, to take his seat on our Board.

**Hon. Michael Petoskey** It is, perhaps, a measure of the high esteem in which Judge Petoskey is held in his own community, and of his reputation for integrity and impartiality, that two of Michigan's tribes have chosen him to preside over their courts. His pedigree is a long and storied one: Born in "Indian Town" in Harbor Springs, Petoskey is the thrice-great grandson of the Ottawa Chief Pe-Taw-Se-Gay (whose name became "Petoskey," after which the familiar Northern Michigan community is named), a signator of the 1855 Treaty of Detroit that reversed the federal policy of removing Michigan Indians from their aboriginal territory to "Indian Country" west of the Mississippi. When Judge Petoskey was born, however, the Anishinabek of Northwestern Michigan were essentially landless, having lost the few tracts reserved to them under a succession of one-sided treaties. He grew up in the same impoverished conditions common to most Indian families in Michigan after tribal lands were lost.

It has been no small satisfaction to him, then, to participate in the process that culminated in 1980 in the Grand Traverse Band's securing federal recognition. It was education that empowered him to help achieve that goal. Judge Petoskey was not only the first person in his family to attend college (he is an MSU alumnus -- although he was accepted at both the University of Michigan and Michigan State University, he chose MSU "sight unseen," because his family could not afford to visit both campuses), but after finishing his degree in economics, he went on to attend the University of New Mexico Law School. He returned to Michigan to work as a staff attorney at Michigan Indian Legal Services and participate in the framing of the GTB's tribal constitution.

He literally invented the procedures of the tribal courts over which he now presides, and has made enormous contributions to his prospering GTB

community. He has taught (at Northern Michigan University), written, spoken, and served on countless boards, committees, and task forces, serving as a voice for his people and the advancement of their causes. A thoughtful, quiet spoken man, he brings to our Board a wealth of insight and wisdom, as well as a highly credible link to Michigan's Native American community.

We consider ourselves lucky, and certainly we are grateful, both to Walt, for helping us to enlist Michael Petoskey to serve on yet another board, and to Judge Petoskey for agreeing to do so. Already, he has undertaken his work with typical imagination and energy. With President Rich Vander Veen, Michael is preparing a proposal to the Kellogg Foundation for a challenge grant to the Foundation's scholarship fund. We only hope that the assistance the Foundation has provided to his associate tribal judge, Voelker Foundation Native American scholarship recipient JoAnne Miller, will pay some dividends for him and the Foundation: When she completes her studies at the University of Wisconsin Law School, she plans to return to reassume her duties with the Tribal Court, which will provide Judge Petoskey with some much-needed assistance in carrying out the Court's business and, perhaps, free up some time to spend on the Foundation's work.

Please help us endow the Voelker Scholarship Fund by contributing to our \$250,000 endowment fund goal.

## Conservation Summit

Foundation Member John Rohe, Petoskey attorney and author, spearheaded the June, 2000 Conservation Summit with former Governor William Milliken, Attorney General Frank J. Kelley. Board Members John Frey and Rich Vander Veen participated. The Foundation is actively exploring conservation and sustainable development projects which “protect the environs where trout are found,” as Robert Traver captured in his “**Testament of a Fisherman.**” We look forward to hearing



from the Voelker Foundation Members on conservation projects we should consider in 2001 - 2002.

*John Voelker at Frenchmen's Pond.*

Photo by Norris McDowell

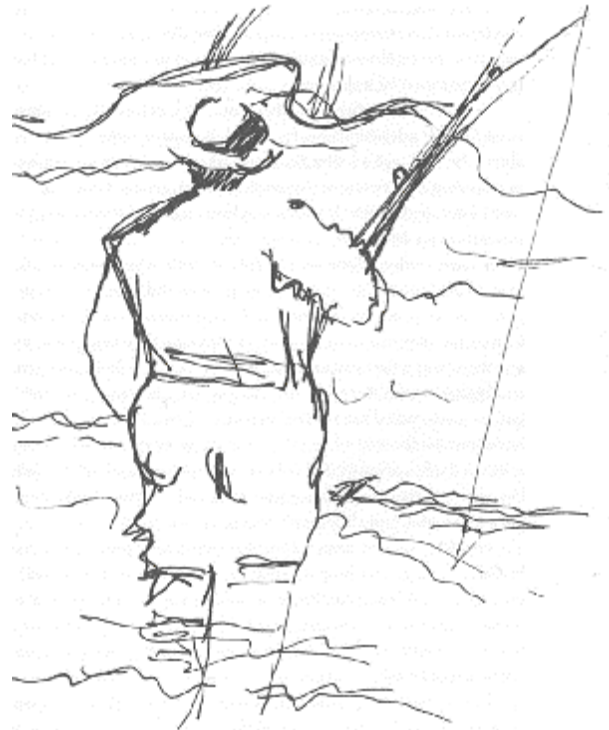
## Robert Traver Fly Fishing Writing Award 2001

In 1991, John Frey and Nick Lyons developed the Robert Traver Fly Fishing Fiction Writing Award, presented to “A distinguished original work of short fiction that embodies an implicit love of fly-fishing, respect for the sport and the natural world in which it takes place, and high literary values.” The five Traver Award winners include Pete Fromm, Don Thomas, Harry Humes, Gary Whitehead and Seth Norman. We are grateful to Nick, John Frey and Fly, Rod & Reel's editors Jim Button and Paul Guernsey who have helped judge, illustrate and publish the Traver Award.

**We are pleased to announce an increased prize: \$2,500 for the 2001 Traver Award!** Please submit your entry by March 31, 2001 to Fly Rod & Reel Traver Award, Box 370, Camden, Maine 04843. See <[www.flyrodreel.com](http://www.flyrodreel.com)>.

## Traver on Fishing

The Voelker Foundation is grateful to have Nick Lyons' expertise and experience applied to selecting, editing and publishing Traver on Fishing: A Treasury of Essays and Yarns by the Author of Anatomy of a Murder. This new book, which may include photos of John and selected short stories will be available from the Lyons Press <[www.lyonspress.com](http://www.lyonspress.com)> in the Spring, 2001. Some of the best short stories John Voelker penned under his pen name Robert Traver will be made available, together with selected manuscripts, secured from



Northern Michigan University's Voelker Archives.

*Nick Lyons  
on the Water.* Drawing by Mari Lyons, 1992.



Reproduced with permission from  
SpringCreek.

We thank the Voelker Family for their willingness to publish this “12<sup>th</sup> Book.” And, we also thank Nick and Tony Lyons for graciously agreeing to edit and publish Traver on Fishing. We are taking advance orders for the limited, signed edition which we anticipate will be hand-bound achieving equal or greater quality as our hand-bound edition of Trout Madness. Those who pledge \$1,000 or more to the Voelker Foundation will receive one of the 25 limited, signed editions, made possible by the fact that John signed 25 extra pages for the limited, signed edition of Trout Madness. These have been kept in a vault since his death in 1991. This new book will make a wonderful complement to every Robert Traver collection.



### **Board Members in the News**

#### **John Cummiskey “Father of Pro Bono”**

Voelker Foundation Board Member, John Cummiskey was honored by the State Bar of Michigan with a

resolution given by the State Bar’s Access to Justice of All Task Force. The resolution recognizes John Cummiskey’s devotion to the goal of access to justice for all has led him to be called the “Father of Pro Bono.”

John Cummiskey received his law degree from the University of Michigan in 1941, 15 years after John Voelker graduated from that same law school. John Cummiskey was elected President of the State Bar of Michigan in 1956 - 1957 and served during the first year of John Voelker’s tenure on the Michigan Supreme Court.

John founded Miller, Johnson, Snell & Cummiskey, P.L.C. in 1959 <[www.millerjohnson.com](http://www.millerjohnson.com)>. John has, for the past 40 years, had a distinguished career in employment law and has won state and national awards for his unwavering devotion to legal justice and full funding for Legal Aid.

He was honored by the State Bar of Michigan in 1983 when they established the John W. Cummiskey Award, given annually to a member of the State Bar determined to have made a contribution to providing legal services to the poor (Fred Baker was its 2<sup>nd</sup> recipient in 1984). John currently serves on the boards of the Michigan State Bar Foundation, Kent County Aeronautics and Aquinas College. John and his lovely wife, Eleanor, reside in Grand Rapids, Michigan

#### **Nick Lyons**

Nick Lyons will receive the Medal of Honor of the Anglers' Club of New York which is given to someone “whether member or nonmember who has rendered outstanding service in the field of conservation, ichthyology, and the sport of angling.” The previous award winners are:

Herbert G. Wellington, Jr. (1993)  
John M. Olin (1974)  
Donald L. McKernan (1974)  
Roy C. Wilcox (1969)  
Herbert Hoover (1964)  
W. J. M. Menzies (1960)  
Durward Allen (1956)

Congratulations, Nick!

#### **Jim Graves**

Jim Graves was elected President of the Ingham County Bar Association's Board of Directors in July. He will complete his term in office in June of 2001. The Ingham County Bar Association was founded in 1894. It is one of

the largest and most active local bar association's in Michigan. Nearly 1,000 attorneys and judges are members of the ICBA. The ICBA's Executive Director's offices which administers the ICBA's activities including, Lawyer Referral and coordination with Legal Aid of Central Michigan, are located in the Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing. The Ingham County Bar Association website may be found at <[www.inghambar.org](http://www.inghambar.org)>.

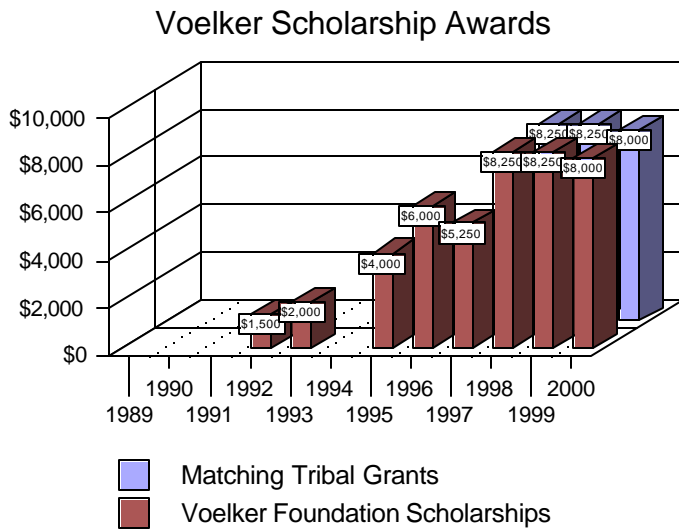
**John M. Frey Elected to CMF Board**

John Frey was elected to the Council of Michigan Foundations Board of Directors at their 2000 Annual meeting. The Voelker Foundation, a new CMF Member co-sponsored the TU Fly Fishing School Oct.1. See <[www.cmif.org](http://www.cmif.org)>.

which has been providing Pro Bono legal services to seniors since 1978.

**Businesses for Community**

The Voelker Foundation is proud to be a member of Businesses for Community. The Grand Rapids-based organizations strengthens and understands the relationship between two vital sectors of our economy: for-profit companies and non-profit organizations. Businesses for Communities is managed by the Issue Network Group and East Grand Rapids Mayor, the Hon. Judy Frey (sister-in-law to Board Member John Frey). See



<[www.businessesforcommunity.org](http://www.businessesforcommunity.org)>.

**Fred Baker**

Fred Baker was recently awarded at the Ingham County Bar Association's (ICBA) Camille S. Abood Distinguished Volunteer Award. This Award, established in 1985, is awarded each year to an ICBA member who distinguishes himself or herself by making voluntary contributions of time and talent for the benefit of others. Fred has been very active as a Pro Bono Volunteer Attorney for many years. He was also instrumental in establishing and administering the Sixty Plus Legal Aid Clinic

**Voelker Portrait Dedicated**

On October 12, 1999, in the old Supreme Court chambers of the State Capitol Building, the Voelker Foundation, in cooperation with the Supreme Court Historical Society, presented to the members of the Supreme Court, sitting in special session, a magnificent portrait of John Voelker.

Voelker, a former justice of the Supreme Court. John was always reluctant to attend public ceremonies of any sort and reticent when it came to accepting praise or recognition for what he had accomplished, so it is unsurprising that it was nearly 40 years before his portrait finally was added to the Supreme Court's collection of Justice portraits. Indeed, when John was invited some few years before his death to come to Lansing for a formal dedication of his bust, which is displayed in the anteroom of the Supreme Court hearing room in the Law Building, he politely declined. Not worth the trip to a city.

The portrait is based on a photograph of John taken at the height of his legal career chosen by his wife Grace Voelker, and vividly reflects the intellect, vigor, and humor he brought to his work on the Court. Although, sadly, Grace passed away only a little more than a month before the portrait was presented, she lived to see and approve the artist's initial rendering, and pronounced herself well pleased with it. The artist, Rod Crossman, took the commission at a reduced rate, because, as a long time admirer of John and his work, he counted it a privilege to be chosen to do it. (Rod has also illustrated several of the Traver Fiction Award-winning stories published in *Fly Rod & Reel*). Fortunately, even though stricken with a mysterious syndrome that, for a time, deprived

him of his sense of balance, Rod was able to complete the portrait in time for the presentation. (He has since recovered, and, although he was unable to attend the presentation, his ears pinkened when he viewed a videotape of the presentation and heard the encomiums his work received).

After remarks by Rich Vander Veen and Fred Baker, who, with David Nelson (an old Voelker acquaintance), chaired the joint Voelker Foundation and Supreme Court Historical Society Committee that raised subscriptions to fund the portrait, John's daughter, Julie Voelker Cohen, spoke movingly of her father and his work on the Court, and of how pleased she knew her mother Grace was to see his portrait join those of the other Justices of the Court in its collection. (The text of the presentation ceremony remarks can be found on our website).

The portrait now hangs in the Supreme Court chambers. The portrait will then be placed in Michigan's new Hall of Justice, construction of which is now underway. It was particularly appropriate that the portrait could be presented in the Old Supreme Court chambers in which John sat, and where, as the most junior justice, he once confided, he used sometimes to look out the window next to the end of the bench and yearn for his beloved U.P.

Thanks go to the Supreme Court Historical Society, which was kind enough to include the *Tin Cup Times* in a mailing to solicit contributions to the portrait fund from its members, and to those members of both organizations who subscribed. It took nearly 40 years, but John's portrait now hangs with those of his fellow justices, and, if you look closely, you will see that the Foundation's logo (book, scales, and leaping trout) are subtly included on the bookends, and that John's hand rests on his 11 books, some of which he left the Court to write. As John said, when asked why he would give up a seat on the State's



highest court, "While others may write my opinions, they can scarcely write my books."

Subscribers to the John D. Voelker Portrait Fund:

Gracie Voelker Wood  
Grace Voelker  
Sommers, Schwartz, Silver & Schwartz  
(and partner David Nelson, Co-Chair,  
Portrait Fund Committee)  
Honorable Damon Keith  
Anthony & Joanne Gagliardi  
Frederick & Irene Baker, Jr.  
Black and Black Law Offices  
Walt Sandberg  
Donaldson Associates, P.C.  
Thomas W. Cranmer  
Eugene D. Mossner  
Leon Schurgin  
Alfred E. Crambridge, Jr.  
Dean Donald LeDuc  
Brian Sheridan  
Stewart & Sheridan  
Rich & Susan Vander Veen  
George Hyde, III  
James & Shirley Graves

The John D. Voelker Foundation is pleased to provide an inscribed Certificate of Appreciation evidencing the Foundation's sincere gratitude for the valuable contribution our members have made towards continuing to meet the Foundation's goals. Our new Foundation decal reflects their support of the Foundation's important work. Please reserve the weekend of June 15 - 17, 2001. We are planning a 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in Marquette, Michigan.

None of the Scholarship, Traver Award, Traver on Fishing or future conservation projects would be possible without your financial support. In order to continue the Foundation's important work, your continued support is needed. In addition to your tax deductible cash donations, other methods of gift giving are available to you at your option that have favorable tax benefits. **Please consider a gift of cash or appreciated stock by December 31, 2000. This creates an affordable and tax-advantaged gift deductible in CY 2000.**

Over the longer term will bequests, gifts of life insurance, gifts of appreciated property are key

means to endow the Scholarship and Writing Award funds, and future projects. The Foundation would be pleased to assist you and your professional advisor in your gift giving.

In closing, the Foundation's Board sincerely thanks our members for their ongoing support of the John D. Voelker Foundation. Their financial help is key to the Foundation's success.

The Foundation is now online at  
[www.voelkerfdn.org](http://www.voelkerfdn.org)

The Foundation thanks Spud Software, Inc. for creating and maintaining our web site. Derek Sommer of Grand Blanc, Michigan, is a network, Internet and software consultant. Please email us your email address [richv@voelkerfdn.org](mailto:richv@voelkerfdn.org).

*We are grateful to our Members and encourage others to join us with their support.*

**Robert Traver Circle**  
***(Contributors of \$1,000 or more)***

Grace Taylor Voelker  
John Frey

The Frey Foundation

Charles Kuralt  
Fred and Irene Baker  
Julie Voelker & Marty Cohen  
Alfred Cambridge, Jr.  
Kenneth D. Foster  
Anthony & Joanne Gagliardi  
James F. Graves  
Nick Lyons

Lyons Press  
Richard Sutcliffe  
Mr. & Mrs. David G. Taylor  
Elizabeth Voelker Tsaloff  
Rich & Susan VanderVeen  
Ernest & Grace Voelker Wood  
Jim Butler & Paul Guernsey,  
Fly, Rod & Reel  
Lester Wolff  
Derek Sommer

***Frenchman's Pond Club***  
***(Contributors of \$500 or more)***

John W. Allen  
Rudolf B. Becker, III  
Tom Brokaw  
Dr. George J. Chatas  
George Duffy, Jr.  
George J. Freeman  
Dr. Anthony V. Hoots  
Hon. Damon J. Keith  
Louis Kollar  
Don LeDuc  
Dr. W.L. McCullough  
Victor Pribanic  
Nathaniel P. Reed  
Walt Schaefer  
Dr. Thomas D. Sharples  
John W. Stegeman  
Trout Unlimited  
Dick and Marion Vander Veen  
Dr. Frank R. Wheeler

**JOHN D. VOELKER FOUNDATION**

**Board Members**

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Charles Kuralt (1934 - 1997)  
Jim Washinawatok (1924 - 1997)  
Richard F. Vander Veen, President  
James F. Graves, Vice President  
Frederick M. Baker, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer

John W. Cummiskey  
Anthony Gagliardi  
Grace Voelker Wood