

TIN CUP TIMES

Fall 2006

The Newsletter of the John D. Voelker Foundation

November, 2006



Photo by: Gjon Mili

New Robert Traver Writing Award Created \$2,500 1st Place Prize

Nick Lyons & John Frey,
Co-Chair, Traver Award Committee

To date, the Voelker Foundation has awarded eight Traver Awards which were published to an audience of approximately 70,000 in *Fly, Rod & Reel (FR&R)*. This year, more than 120 entries were reviewed and three stories submitted to the Judges Committee.

The Judges concluded that none of the three 2006 stories met the standards for the Traver Award, defined currently as “*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.*”

FR&R promised in its November/December 2006 issue [Editor's Notes] that they and the John D. Voelker Foundation have come up with a new and exciting way to honor Robert Traver (a.k.a. John Voelker) and reward good writing about fly-fishing. In 2007, for the first time, the Traver Award competition will be open to essays about fly-fishing as well as short stories on the same topic. This means that if you are better at philosophizing or telling real-life fishing stories a la Sparse Grey Hackle, John Gierach or Robert Traver himself, you now have as much chance of winning our annual award as any of the fiction writers who will be entering.

In recognition of this change, we will now be calling our contest The 2007 Robert Traver

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John D. Voelker (1903 – 1991) Charles Kuralt (1934 – 1997)
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Fly-Fishing Writing Award. And, yes, the prize, which will come courtesy of the John D. Voelker Foundation, will be \$2,500.

As for the contest rules, the winning 2007 Traver Award essay or story must be:

"A distinguished original essay or 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. The Traver essay should demonstrate high literary values in at least one of three categories:

- A) *The joy of fly-fishing: Personal or Philosophic.*
- B) *Ecological: Knowledge of the natural world leading to its protection.*
- C) *Humor: Piscatorial friendship and fun on the water."*

You and all of your literary friends are invited to send in a typed, double-spaced manuscript of no more than 3,500 words to *Fly Rod & Reel*, Robert Traver Award, P.O. Box 370, Camden, ME 04843. The winning story or essay will be published in the November/December 2007 issue of *FR&R*.

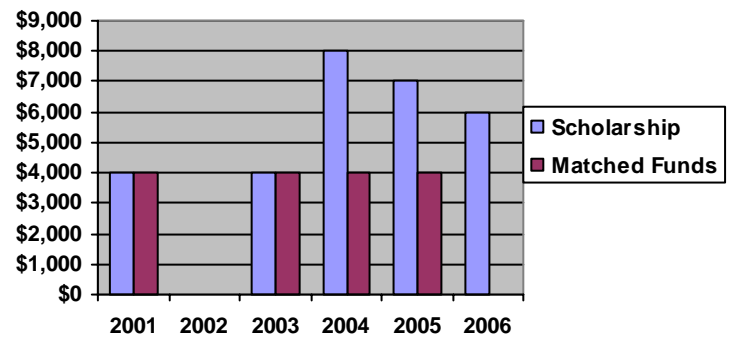
Submit your manuscript on a disk along with a hard copy, and include an oversized self-addressed stamped envelope. No e-mail submissions will be accepted. Enter only once. The deadline is June 15, 2007. Good luck!

Our goal is to encourage a variety of interesting writing – some of which is challenged in the age of "How to." We think that *FR&R* is one of the few magazines that stand up for imaginative and literary writing for the sport. We thank Paul Guernsey and *FR&R* for their support.

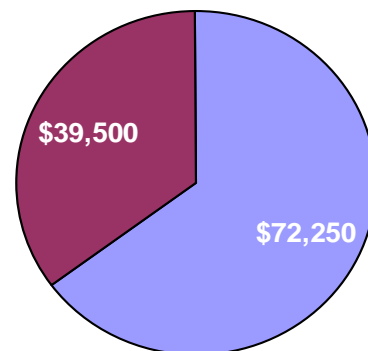
Robert Traver was the pen name of John D. Voelker, the Michigan Supreme Court Justice and beloved author of 11 books, including Trout Madness, Trout Magic, Anatomy of a Fisherman and Anatomy of a Murder. The John D. Voelker

Foundation has raised all of the Robert Traver Award money through donations of Foundation Members. Please join with the Voelker Foundation in helping them to maintain this valuable national writing award that pays tribute to John Voelker/Robert Traver.

Native American Scholarships



1989 - 2006 Scholarships



■ JDVF Scholarships ■ Matched Funds

Voelker Scholar Updates



Damon Fisher

Our 1998 Voelker Scholar, Damon Fisher is now a sole practitioner working in General Practice and Contract Work with the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. Damon has been involved in advising the Enrollment Commission and serving as in-house counsel to the Enrollment Department. He has conducted commission hearings, drafted commission decisions, drafted legislation & policy for the Little River Band, ensuring compliance with ordinance & regulations while representing the Commission in Tribal Court litigation.

Damon is also currently organizing the establishment of a legal clinic on the Isabella reservation that will serve the Indian and non-Indian community in Mt. Pleasant, in both Tribal and State courts. He writes, "I hope to not just serve under-represented litigants (civil & criminal) but to serve as a facility for practical legal education for law student, paralegals and tribal lay advocates."



Elizabeth Cook

My name is Elizabeth Cook, a graduate from the University Of Kansas School Of Law, May 2006. I am a member of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and live in Peshawbestown, Michigan. I have taken the Bar Exam in July 2006 and expect results from my bar exam in late November.

I am currently working for the Grand Traverse Band Economic Development Corporation (EDC) as an

Attorney. I work with and under the supervision of the General Counsel for the EDC in all aspects of the business and economic ventures of the Tribe.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Foundation for its support in assisting me in successfully completing Law School. I feel very fortunate to be working in Indian Law for my Tribe and in my own community. Thanks again.



Joanne Cook

Since graduating from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 2001, I have been involved with tribal courts. After graduation, I began full time as Chief Judge for the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa Chippewa Indians. My appointment was from 2001-2005. During my term, I was able to assist in the development of Odeswaning Inama Mikana (Healing to Wellness Court) and the continued development of the court.

After April 2005, I began a part-time position with Michigan Indian Legal Services (MILS) as a staff attorney and assisted tribes with peacemaking efforts I also did consulting work from home. I did begin full time employment with MILS until May 2006. On June 13, 2006 I was sworn in as Chief Judge for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians in Harbor Springs, Michigan. My term will be June 2006-2010.

I still reside in Peshawbestown, Michigan with my 3 sons, Joe (who is a sophomore at Western Michigan and is considering law school), Austin (who is in 7th grade) and Carson (who is in 1st grade). We continue to live and be a part of our native community and attend cultural events. Since graduating from law school, I have been able to mentor and speak with other native people who are considering attending law school. I think

that we owe that to others that are interested and have the desire to take on this endeavor. I want to say Megwetch (Thank you) to those who made the scholarship possible as it has helped me achieve my educational and professional goals.



Karrie S. Wichtman

In the fall of 2005, I took a break from law school to complete my Master of Public Administration degree from Western Michigan University. My final submission, a project paper, is due November 2007. My expected graduation date is December 2007.

In November 2005, I was accepted as a transfer student at Michigan State University College of Law. I have enjoyed the transition and was welcomed by the MSU Native American Law Student Association (NALSA) and the Director of the Indigenous Law & Policy Center. I have successfully completed 28 credits toward my Juris Doctorate. In the short time I have attended MSU, I have had two opportunities to write papers dealing with issues affecting Indian Country. I have attached both to this e-mail for your information.

I continue to work full time as the executive assistant to the United States Attorney for the Western District of Michigan in addition to my studies. In regard to Indian Country, I am responsible for the development and publication of the United States Attorney's Office (USAO) Indian Country newsletter, *Bedohgeimo*, and the compilation and publication of the USAO Indian Country Annual Report.

The following are links to both publications.
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/miw/nativenews/2005AnnualReport.pdf>;
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/miw/nativenews/4newsletter.pdf>

At home, when I am not traveling to Grand Rapids or East Lansing, or studying, I enjoy spending time with my husband and two children ages 8 and 9. We recently learned that we will be parents once again. I am hoping to make it to the end of the spring term, take the summer off with the new baby and the kids, and return right back to school and work in the fall of 2007.

Thank you very much for your kind contribution toward my educational goals. With the increased driving back and forth to East Lansing, the rise of gasoline prices, and the outrageous costs of law books, your generosity helps to defray my family's out-of-pocket expenses and makes the hard work of law school that much easier.

Until next year...Ba Ma Pi, Karrie S. Wichtman



Anglers of the AuSable 20th Annual Meeting

Written by: Rich Vander Veen

The Voelker Foundation is pleased to support the Anglers of the Au Sable. On Opening Day 2007 (April 28, 2007), the Anglers of the AuSable will celebrate their 20th Annual Meeting.

As the Voelker Foundation celebrates its 18th Anniversary, we encourage all of our members and your friends to join Rusty Gates and the Anglers of the AuSable at the Otsego Club in Gaylord, Michigan starting at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 28, 2007. There, a fundraiser will be held which will include a limited signed edition of Trout Madness to be donated by the Voelker Foundation.

The Voelker Foundation is proud of the recent achievements of the Anglers of the AuSable and the dedication of time, energy and resources by many, many individuals who love the “environs where trout are found.”

Please see the article on the next page from Jim Graves about the great result achieved by the Anglers of the Au Sable.

Voelker Lake and Otter River Brook Trout Project

Written by:

Peter Strom & Paul Strom, and Gigs Gagliardi

During the summer of 2006, the Voelker Foundation completed the Otter River Brook Trout Spawning Riffle Project in Houghton County. The Voelker Foundation worked with the Boy Scouts of America and the Michigan DNR to foster some of the same principles that John Voelker professed during his life - wild brook trout in healthy brook trout habitats.

The Voelker Foundation approved and sent a \$500.00 gift to Andrew VanDyke, an Eagle Scout candidate, to complete the construction of the habitat improvement project on a tributary to the Otter River in Southern Houghton County. On August 19, 2006, the project was successfully completed. The endeavor allowed Andrew to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, while promoting the production of wild brook trout to the Otter River watershed.

Gigs Gagliardi reports that a number of young U.P. fishermen have taken advantage of Voelker Lake. This is especially true due to Gigs' encouragement and the placement of the new sign which Gigs commissioned and helped place at the trail to Voelker Lake.



Anglers of the AuSable Secure Summary Judgment

Written by: Jim Graves and John Barton

This story was adopted by Jim Graves from the Summer 2006 The Riverwatch. At the John D. Voelker Foundation Board Meeting, the Anglers of the AuSable were granted \$250 to assist in their fight against the proposed drilling for oil and natural gas in the Huron – Manistee National Forest. “If left unchallenged, Traverse City – based Savoy Energy would have been allowed to disrupt one of the most environmentally sensitive areas of Michigan’s lower peninsula by destroying a portion of old-growth forest, jeopardizing endangered species habitat, and sinking an exploratory shaft beneath a portion of the cherished Mason Tract.

“Bay City Magistrate Judge Charles E. Binder found in a remarkably straight forward and sometimes sharply worded 28-page report that the federal agencies’ officials had not only erred in failing to fully examine the potential ramifications of granting Savoy’s drilling request, they also had enacted in an arbitrary and capricious manner by ignoring mandates imposed by the laws and regulations they are supposed to be governed by – the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA), for example.

“The failure to adhere to its own rules, Binder found, led the Forest Service to a defective Biological Assessment (BA) that, in turn, generated a hopelessly flawed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

“ ‘In spite of these explicit mandates, entirely missing, I suggest, from the conclusory statements contained in the BA and the FONSI which flows from it,’ Binder scolded, ‘is any meaningful consideration of the Forest Service’s duty under the ESA to encourage the propagation and diffusion of endangered species.

“ ‘I therefore suggest,’ he added, ‘that while paying lip service to its duties, the BA and the accompanying FONSI for this proposed project amount to arbitrary and capricious action . . . As result, I suggest that the BA and FONSI upon which it relies should both be declared inadequate . . .’”

The Magistrate's Opinion in favor of the Anglers of the Au Sable is currently under review by Federal Judge Lawson in Bay City. The highly anticipated decision by Judge Lawson is expected in the next 30-60 days. The Judge's ruling will determine whether the rare Mason Tract on the South Branch of the Au Sable will remain protected from the harmful intrusions of the oil and gas industry.

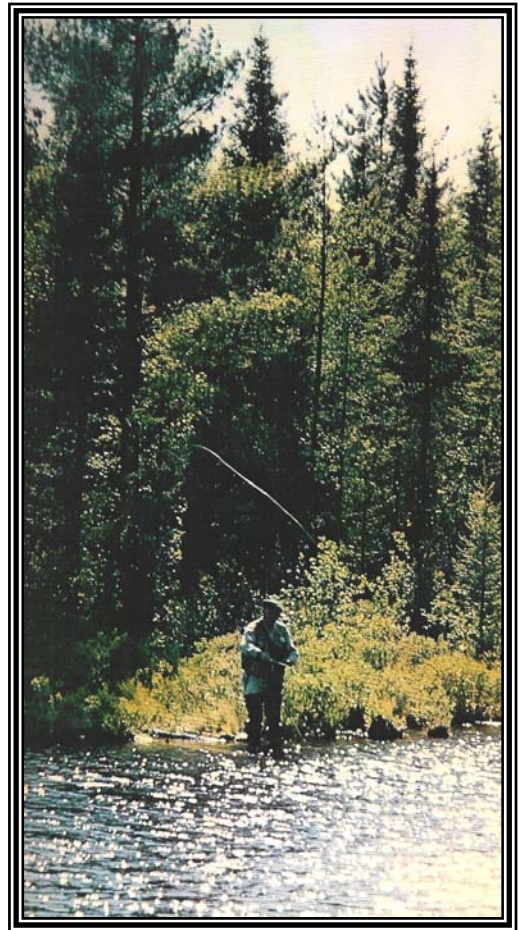
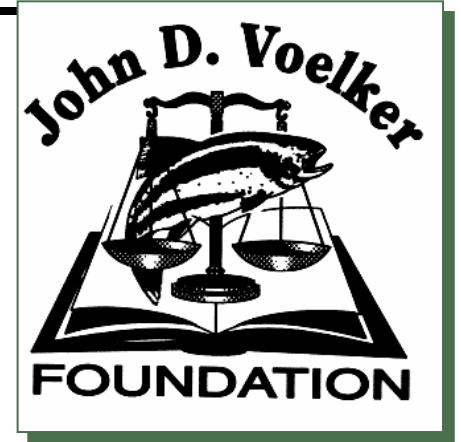


Photo By: Robert W. Kelley

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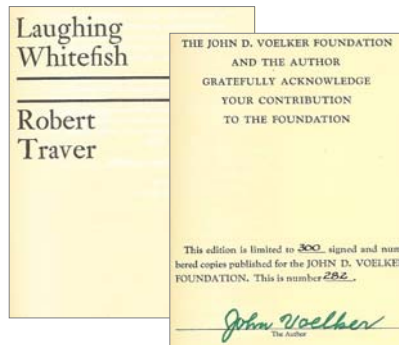
Website:
www.voelkerfdn.org

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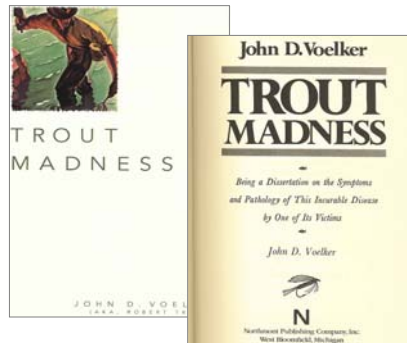
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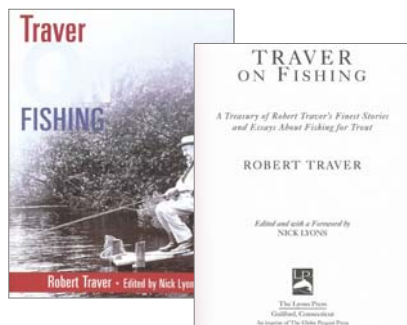
_____ *Laughing Whitefish*
 \$200.00
 (\$165.00 is tax deductible)



_____ *Trout Madness*
 \$200.00
 (\$165.00 is tax deductible)



_____ *Traver on Fishing*
 \$ 30.00
 (New edition; Cover photo
 by Fred M. Baker, Jr.)



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Donations and Gifts are Welcome! Supporters of the John D. Voelker Foundation may allocate donations to any of the Foundation's goals.

I enclose \$_____ to be applied to:

_____ The John D. Voelker Native American Scholarship Fund

_____ The Traver Fly Fishing Fiction Writing Award Fund

_____ The Voelker Trout Habitat Project.

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Postage will be paid by the Foundation. Please allow two weeks for delivery. Send your subscription or contribution and this Membership Form to:

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P.O. Box 15222
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