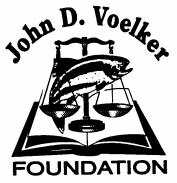


# TIN CUP TIMES



The Newsletter of the John D. Voelker Foundation

December, 2002

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*"I fish because I love to; because I love the environs where trout are found, which are invariably beautiful, and hate the 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; . . ."*

Testament of a Fisherman by Robert Traver (John D. Voelker). Reprinted with permission

## June 15, 2002 — 13th Annual Meeting, Historical Marquette Courthouse

The Voelker Foundation welcomed three new Members to its Board: Paul Strom, Escanaba; Peter Strom, Escanaba; and Page Graves, Haslett. All three are lawyers and have contributed mightily to the success of the Voelker Foundation.

The 2002—2003 Voelker Scholarship was awarded to Jim Washinawatok, III — grandson of Jim Washinawatok, the founding Chairman of the Voelker Scholarship Committee and friend of John Voelker. See "My Friend, My Friend," in *Traver on Fishing*. Jim Washinawatok, III continues his law school studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Second, the Voelker Foundation awarded a \$2,500 first prize for the Robert Traver Fly-Fishing Fiction Award to be published in the Fall Edition of *Fly, Rod & Reel*.

Third, the Foundation undertook a new initiative to create a Trout Habitat.

A summary of the Voelker Foundation's achievements follows. This marvelous article written by Joanne Gagliardi, was presented on June 30, 2002, at the Marquette County Courthouse during the awarding of the Library of Michigan Literary Landmark Award, celebrating John Voelker and *Anatomy of a Murder*.

## LITERARY LANDMARK AWARD

The Library of Michigan and the Friends of Libraries awarded the 2nd Michigan Literary Landmark Award in the name of John D. Voelker at the Marquette County Courthouse on Sunday, June 30, 2002. Presenting the award was Joann Baker. The event was planned and hosted by Kathy Webber, City of Marquette, and Pamela Christensen, Chief Librarian of the new Peter White Library. Master of Ceremonies was Matt Surelle from Northern Michigan University. Readings from *Anatomy of a Murder* were presented by Judge Webber, Marquette County, and Gary Walker, Marquette County Prosecutor. Accepting the Award were Gracie Voelker Wood, Ernest Wood, and John Voelker Overturf. Rich Vander Veen made a brief presentation on behalf of the Foundation and introduced Joanne Gagliardi.



Vote Voelker

Voters watching the 2002 July 4th Parade in Ishpeming saw John's son-in-law, Ernie Wood, in his 1941 Chevrolet, decorated with an "Elect John Voelker for Marquette County Prosecutor" sign. This 1943 campaign sign reminds us that there are many constituents throughout the Upper Peninsula who would gladly "Vote Voelker" this election year. Foundation Members are reminded to (re)read *Hornstein's Boy*, a must-read every election year. There, John Voelker (a.k.a. Robert Traver) recounts his days running statewide for the Michigan Supreme Court, through the character of Walt Dressler. The novel, set in 1960, is a wonderful account of election campaigning, with thoughtful reflections on civil rights, nuclear warfare, and the "dark arts" of getting elected. Dressler's managers in the fictional U.S. Senate campaign are Emil Hornstein and Leon Falcanbridge, modeled after Voelker campaign managers Bill Ellmann and the Hon. Damon Keith.

The Voelker Foundation extends its condolences to the Bill Ellmann Family. He passed away in the Spring of 2002. Rich Vander Veen recalls that in their last conversation, Bill said he was pleased that his role and that of Damon Keith were recounted in, "On His Own Terms," a chapter included in *Traver on Fishing* that Vander Veen and Baker authored.

## JOHN VOELKER'S 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

**On June 18, 2003, the Voelker Foundation will hold its 14th Annual Meeting in Marquette, Michigan, in conjunction with Marquette's celebration of John Voelker's 100th Birthday.**

During the week of June 28—30, 2002, Marquette was decorated in fancifully painted fish illustrating its theme "Trout Madness." In addition, there

were tours of the *Anatomy of a Murder* site, a cribbage tournament, a fly tying competition, fly casting demonstrations and the dedication of the Literary Landmark. The City of Marquette and the Voelker Foundation invite you to John Voelker's 100th Birthday Celebration during the weekend of June 27—29, 2003.

### Plan to join us in Marquette!

That is why law scholarships became the first (and ongoing) main initiative of the Foundation. *Laughing Whitefish* was republished in a limited edition of 300, each signed by the author. To date, Foundation members who subscribe to this and later fundraising projects have provided, in John's name, seven

**John's Perfect Roll Cribbage** law's. scholarships to deserving young men and women.

## The John D. Voelker Foundation by Joanne Gagliardi

When John Voelker was first approached about the establishment of a foundation in his honor, he demurred, stating that the thought of it made him feel "a wee bit embalmed." Besides, being totally unpretentious, he was never one to seek accolades or any of the trappings of fame. What finally won him over was the idea of helping aspiring young lawyers, especially Native Americans, to achieve their dreams. Why? "Let 'em read my book," he declared, pointing to *Laughing Whitefish*.

The Friends of the Ishpeming Carnegie Library became early members of the John D. Voelker Foundation. No doubt they were prompted by a sense of pride, loyalty and affection for Ishpeming's native son and lifelong resident. After all, their home town boy had become an internationally renowned author, a Michigan Supreme Court Judge, and a famous fly fishing expert. Not insignificantly, he also reigned as the U.P.'s self-proclaimed "Cribbage Champ."

The affection between John Voelker and the Ishpeming library was mutual. Remember the glowing tribute he once wrote for a Friend's newsletter? Though he always gave his mother credit for getting him interested in reading, the proximity of his home to the library — only a

block away, was a salient factor. In a young student's 1987 interview with John for the Red Dust booklet of National Mine Middle School, he told her, "As a writer, perhaps one of the most important things in my life was my access from boyhood to so many books."

John Voelker loved the library. He loved books, and he loved words. He advised his young interviewer, Joanna Heliste, to "Read, learn words. Learn what they mean and how to string them together." In her delightful article Joanna concluded that "John Voelker had a full and productive life; his talents were many, and he has made a lasting contribution as an author, lawyer and Justice of Michigan's Supreme Court."

The mission of the John D. Voelker Foundation is to pay tribute to John by perpetuating his memory, the ideals for which he stood, and the values that his life and work exemplified. By means of the scholarships, the Foundation has gone a long way toward achieving that goal in regard to the law.

Just as John Voelker often combined his love of fly fishing with writing, the Foundation has combined those aspects of his life in a second major initiative, a national fly fishing writing contest. Under the pseudonym of Robert Traver, John wrote countless fishing "yarns" and articles. His three fishing books, *Trout Madness*, *Trout Magic*, and *Anatomy of a Fisherman*, and are mostly autobiographical. They are considered classics in their field. The Robert Traver Fly Fishing Fiction Writing Contest was undertaken in 1993 as a meaningful way to commemorate John by encouraging writers (as he always did) and by giving recognition to fine angling fiction. It was underwritten with a special endowment from

director John Frey and the Frey Foundation's matching grant.

The winning prize of \$1,000 was to be given for "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." More than 200 authors responded the first year of the contest. Before long, as [Foundation] director Charles Kuralt wrote, "The Traver Award had become the most prestigious in its field." Winning stories are featured in the fall issue of the nationally distributed magazine, *Fly Rod and Reel*. Last year, the writing award was raised to \$2,500. This generated an even more gratifying level of participation — in quality as well as quantity. And, for the first time, the winner was a woman, Kate Small. Her wonderful, sensitive story [*lateral lines*] was the showpiece of the November/December 2001 edition of *Fly Rod and Reel*.

On September 15, 1999, John's wife, Grace Elizabeth Taylor Voelker, a truly great lady, quietly left all those who loved her so and whose love she returned beyond measure. On October 12, 1999, a special session of the Michigan Supreme Court convened in Lansing. At that time the John D. Voelker Foundation, in cooperation with the Supreme Court Historical Society, proudly presented a portrait of John Donaldson Voelker to the sitting members of the Court. It was high time after forty years!

Gigs and I were privileged to attend the portrait dedication along with family members, Foundation officers, and numerous state dignitaries. It was a moving experience, with impressive proceedings and speeches. The most poignant and difficult remarks of the actual presentation fell to Grace and John's daughter, Julie

Voelker Cohen. Julie spoke tremulously but well about her father and his work on the Court and how pleased her mother would have been to see his portrait finally join the others.

When Julie unveiled the portrait, there was an audible collective gasp, then smiles and exclamations! The portrait was magnificent! It really *was* John! Somehow the artist had managed to capture, in likeness, posture, and facial expression, the very essence of John Voelker's intellect, strength, compassion and humor. Even his hands, resting on eleven books, were beautifully rendered. And if you looked closely, you could make out the Foundation's logo — book, scale, and leaping trout — on the bookends. We of the Foundation are all so grateful to the very talented artist, Rod Crossman, not only for his splendid painting but also for producing it at a generously reduced commission. As he explained, being a long-time admirer of John and his work, he felt honored to be chosen.

Last year's endeavor, the publishing by Lyons Press of an anthology of John Voelker's best fishing stories, *Traver on Fishing*, a companion book to *Hemingway on Fishing*, has been very successful. All of these good deeds and more have been accomplished in 13 years of the Voelker Foundation's existence. Immeasurable and invaluable amounts of time, work, expertise, and money have been contributed by its officers, with assistance from directors and active members. Working together, many treasured friendships have evolved, stimulating ever greater vision and results. But none of it — not the law scholarships, the Traver Writing Awards, and "12th Book," the Supreme Court Portrait, or future conservation projects — would be possible without strong support. The solid base of its membership is vital to the success of any

association.

As of this writing 450 individuals and organizations are on the Voelker Foundation's roster. These members come from all over the United States and a few foreign countries as well. Fans and friends of John who want to honor his memory come also from every walk of life to join in this work. Exciting plans are in the works! New members are always welcome, and their active participation is encouraged. With your help, the John D. Voelker Foundation will continue to grow and to move forward toward its goals for many years to come.

**LETTERS FROM VOELKER  
SCHOLARSHIP  
RECIPIENT, JAMES  
WASHINAWATOK, III AND  
DAMIAN S. FISHER**

*Dear Mr. Baker and all at the Voelker Foundation:*

*Please accept my heartfelt thanks for approving the Voelker Scholarship for my last year of law school.*

*Just for your information, I successfully finished my second year and I am now happily interning with the Ho-Chunk Nation in Black River Falls for the summer. I completed my Indigenous Law Students Association (ILSA) presidency by hosting the annual law conference, pow-wow and banquet. The conference featured the likes of John Echohawk (Director of the Native American Rights Fund), Winona LaDuke and John Trudell. In addition, ILSA hosted the legal Education Opportunities (LEO) Banquet, with hosted NARF attorney, Keith Harper, who spoke about the current federal Indian trust relationship and the Cobell litigation.*

*For the following two weeks I am completing an eight-week internship with the Ho-Chunk Nation. In cooperation with the Land Tenure*

*Center and the Great Lakes Indian Law Clinic at UW-Madison, I was granted an 8 week internship. I mainly work on fee-to-trust land issues, but additionally work on other legal matters that arise.*

*Again, thank you for your support.*

*Warmest regards,  
James Washinawatok*

*Dear Mr. Vander Veen:*

*Thank you for notice of this years' annual meeting. I am writing as a former John D. Voelker Scholarship recipient to update you and the foundation about my current status.*

*Of course, I am thankful, for the support I received from the Voelker Foundation while I was at Thomas Thomas M. Cooley Law School. I graduated in January, 2001, passed the July 2001 Michigan bar, took the oath in November 2001, and after a brief experience in private practice in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan and on the Isabella Reservation, I was hired in December 2001, as a Staff Attorney by Legal Services of South Central Michigan's Lansing Office.*

*I am happily practicing mostly family law. We serve a five county area: Clinton, Ingham, Eaton, Shiawassee, and Barry. The opportunity to practice in such an important area of the law in such a diverse region is personally enriching. Practicing in front of so many different judges in different counties is an exercise in flexibility and accommodation, and an education in the law as it is applied in the real world. I am also happy because there are nine other experienced attorneys in my office. I have the luxury of their combined sum of legal learning and experience to rely upon.*

*As always, I draw from the inspiration provided by John Voelker's example. I am always reminded by his career that you can chase your dreams, keep your day job, and be successful at both. Again, I thank you and the*

*foundation for your past support.*

*Sincerely,  
Damian S. Fisher  
Staff Attorney*

Ed. Note: While a student at Cooley Law School, Damian also served as a student intern at the Sixty Plus Elderlaw Clinic, which was founded by Foundation Director, Fred Baker in 1978. We are proud and delighted that he has chosen to devote a part of his career to service to the disadvantaged.

**TRAVER AWARD  
2002**

From: Rich Chiappone  
richchiappone@gci.net  
To: fmb@honigman.com  
Date: 9/27/02 5:40:13 PM  
Subject: Traver Award

*Dear Mr. Baker*

*Thank you for the prestigious award. It did come as a complete surprise to me. All the involved parties including my editor Judith Schnell at Stackpole books, Paul Guernsey, and even my close friend and fishing partner Will Rice who provided FRR with the photo managed to keep the whole thing secret from me. So I was delighted and thrilled when I opened the mysterious mail packet and found two copies of the magazine and your very generous check.*

*I hope you will convey my sincere appreciation to everyone at the Voelker foundation. I hope the old judge approves.*

*Yours Truly,  
Rich Chiappone*

Rich Chiappone was awarded the Robert Traver Fly Fishing Fiction Award for his short story, *Opening Day*, which was selected from among over 200 submissions. A copy of the story, as published in *Fly Rod & Reel*, is enclosed with this issue of the Tin Cup Times, which we hope you will

enjoy. We are proud to have Rich join the 6 other distinguished winners of the Traver Award, all of whom have gone on to achieve great things in the outdoor writing field.

Last year's winner, Kate Small, went on to win the Hemingway Fiction Award and a National Endowment for the Arts grant that sent her to Prague this past summer.

At \$2,500, with the bonus of publication in Fly Rod & Reel's annual fiction issue, the Traver Award is now the largest and most prestigious outdoor fiction writing award in the United States. We extend our thanks to our partner in the competition, Fly Rod & Reel, for helping us to encourage budding authors to "spin a few yarns," one of the three goals John chose for the Foundation.

## **TRAVER ON FISHING LIMITED EDITION PUBLISHED**

Using the last 25 of the precious signature pages John inscribed before he passed away, we combined raw pages of the trade edition of Traver on Fishing with pages and pages of photos of John and his friends; a reproduction of a lithograph of John by his friend, artist Paul Grant; a colophon signed by those who contributed to the book (including renowned publisher, author, and editor, Nick Lyons, a Voelker Board member); marbled end pages; a fragrant goatskin cover with raised spines and gold leaf lettering; a fly from John's vest donated by his friend and Voelker Board member Gigs Gagliardi, which is impressed in the cover; and a matching folding box, to create a beautiful collector's limited edition of John's "twelfth

book," Traver on Fishing. Of the 25 books we commissioned from Ann Arbor's Bessenberg Bindery, all but 8 have been subscribed at the \$1000 price we put on them to help fortify the Native American Scholarship Fund's endowment, which has been depleted in recent years when we had the chance to sponsor two recipients (and double their grants with matching tribal funds). The hand bound book was expensive to produce, but \$650 of the subscription price is a tax deductible donation to the Foundation. There will be no more limited editions signed by John, so we are pleased and proud to have produced this extraordinary book as the capstone of the Foundation's limited editions of John's works.

## **SILENT AUCTION: JOHN'S OLD BAMBOO ROD**

It's not much to look at. It is old and battered by years of hard use, jostling in the fabled "trout car," and tromping through the alders and tamaracks lining the streams and ponds of his beloved UP. It was "retired" years before John passed away. It was a gift to Gigs from John, who found it in the garage at the old Voelker home in Ishpeming and "thought [he'd] like it." With his familiar generosity, Gigs has given it to the Foundation to offer in a silent auction restricted to Foundation members. A letter of provenance will accompany the rod, attesting that it belonged to John. The minimum bid is \$1000. Bids are due by Monday, December 16, 2002, at the Foundation's PO Box. Think about whether this fits into your year end gifting plans! (See the enclosed silent auction bid form for a photo of the rod).

## **FOUNDATION**

## **DONATES TMs TO MICHIGAN LIBRARIES**

As part of the settlement we negotiated to get the rights to five of John's books back to the Voelker Family and make possible the publication of Traver on Fishing, the Foundation obtained a large supply of remaindered trade editions of Trout Madness and Trout Magic. Among the uses to which we have put this trove, the Foundation has made replacement copies of these titles available to several Michigan public libraries. We were surprised to find that many UP libraries no longer had either title in their collections: they had either "walked away" or been worn out! If your local library does not have either title, let us know and we will donate replacements, to ensure that the pleasure of reading John's yarns is available to all!

## **SECRET TROUT HABITAT PROJECT ESTABLISHED: KEEP YOUR FINGERS CROSSED!**

Two of our newest Board members, Escanaba attorneys Paul and Peter Strom, have poured an astonishing amount of time and effort into establishing the third goal that John chose for the Foundation. They worked in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (profound thanks and a hat tip are due to DNR personnel John Driver, Mike Donofrio, Steve Scott, Ginny Pennala, Jim Ekdahl, Mike Herman, Kelly Smith, Richard Harrison, George Madison, and DNR Director K.L. Cool, and many others, as well). They also enlisted the volunteer assistance of an expert in trout habitat, Mr. Jerry Peterson, who generously donated his consulting services, and tireless help from Gigs Gagliardi. "The

Strom Boys" (as Grace Voelker fondly called them) orchestrated the testing of a potential new trout habitat at a (for the time being) secret location not far from John's home town, Ishpeming. After several possible locations were found unsuitable, a likely one was identified, and oxygenation studies were performed during the winter of 2001-02 to determine if brookies could survive during the long UP winter freeze. With a convenient trail, good access, and clear cold water, the selected habitat will be perfect for the youth fly fishing instruction and competition we hope to sponsor if all goes well, but because the oxygenation studies were not clear cut, the initial stocking of 300 8-10 inch adult brookies has been kept a secret until a population study can be performed in the spring of 2003. If too many anglers did not discover the new population and deplete it, and if the population survives the winter of 2002-03, the Foundation will have assisted in establishing a new brook trout habitat in the UP and will seek to rename the body of water after John.

We can only imagine the hundreds of details that had to be attended to to accomplish this result. For their tireless efforts to accomplish this, the Strom brothers, Peter and Paul, deserve heartfelt thanks and praise from one and all, which the Board expressed at its 2002 annual meeting by inviting both to join the Board as its newest members. Thank you Peter and Paul!! And thanks, too, to all at the DNR, and for the support of the City of Ishpeming and City Manager John Korhonen!

As a footnote, "the Strom Boys" held a special spot in the hearts of the Voelkers: Their father was one of the two UP lawyers considered and interviewed for appointment to the Michigan Supreme Court in 1957 by then Governor G. Mennen Williams - - the seat for which John was chosen. So you see, they come from good stock! And both were students of the Foundation Director, Fred Baker, when they matriculated at Cooley Law School.

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### John D. Voelker Foundation

#### Board Members

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## *Tin Cup Times*

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