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**2024 Robert Traver Fly-Fishing Writing Award Winner Announced**

The John D. Voelker Foundation and the American Museum of Fly Fishing (AMFF) are pleased to announce the winner of the 2024 Robert Traver Fly-Fishing Writing Award: **“Last Salad on the Gairezi” by George Rogers**. This is a personal story of fly fishing for nonnative trout in Zimbabwe that provides insightful context for destination fishing in a country with a complicated history.

The winning entry will receive a \$2,500 prize and is available to read on the American Museum of Fly Fishing’s website at [www.amff.org/traver-winners-2024](http://www.amff.org/traver-winners-2024) and the Voelker Foundation website at [www.voelkerfoundation.com](http://www.voelkerfoundation.com). “Last Salad on the Gairezi” will be published in the Winter 2025 issue of the *American Fly Fisher*, the journal of the American Museum of Fly Fishing.

George Rogers is a high school science and English teacher who lives in Chateaugay, New York, with his wife, Denise. He spends his summers at his cabin in Cantwell, Alaska, where he owns and operates the fly-fishing guide service Denali Angler. His work has appeared in numerous publications, including the *Boston Globe* and *Los Angeles Times*. He is currently a senior contributor at the *Drake* magazine. His essay, “The Pink Ranchers,” was selected as a notable essay in *The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2023*. His piece, “The Last Good Days of a Very Good Dog,” was voted the *Boston Globe*’s number-one Ideas essay of 2022.

Mr. Rogers commented, “It is an honor to receive the 2024 Robert Traver Award. I would like to thank the Voelker Foundation, the American Museum of Fly Fishing, and the judges for their time and consideration – there were no doubt many deserving entries. I am truly grateful.”

The Traver Award judges also bestowed Honorable Mention recognition on two other entries:

**“Blind Willie’s Pool” by Chris Bishop of Beckenham, Kent, United Kingdom**

**“How to Say Gila” by Joseph Jackson of Anchorage, Alaska**

Both honorable mention stories are available on the American Museum of Fly Fishing and Voelker Foundation websites, and their writers will each received a \$250 prize.

The 2024 competition drew a field of 100 stories and essays. Entries were judged anonymously, resulting in eight finalists. The other five finalists were:

“Beginnings” by David Wickline III of Lynchburg, Virginia

“Following Filleul” by Michelle Werrett of Tiverton, Devon, United Kingdom

“Between the Snow and the Second Line” by Katie MacDonald of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada

“From the Clear Waters” by Mark Cudney of Wayland, New York

“The Man from Leksand” by Moncrieff Cochran of South Orleans, Massachusetts

The Traver Award is named after Robert Traver, pen name of the late John D. Voelker, author of *Trout Madness*, *Trout Magic*, *Anatomy of a Fisherman*, the 1958 best seller *Anatomy of a Murder*, and the fine historical novel *Laughing Whitefish*. Judge Voelker also served on the Michigan Supreme Court as its 74th justice from 1956 to 1960. A collection of Voelker’s finest “yarns” and observations about fishing was published posthumously by Nick Lyons in 2001 under the title *Traver on Fishing*.

The Traver Award was created in 1994 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 winning story or essay must demonstrate high literary values in one or more of these three categories:

- The joy of fly-fishing: personal and philosophic experience
- Ecology: knowledge and protection of the natural world
- Humor: piscatorial friendships and fun on the water

Twenty-five Traver Awards have been conferred since 1994. Two anthologies of the Traver Award winners and finalists have been published: *In Hemingway’s Meadow* (2009) and *Love Story of the Trout* (2010).

The Voelker Foundation and the American Museum of Fly Fishing joined forces in 2018 to administer the Traver Award and publish the winner in the AMFF journal. For more information, see [www.voelkerfoundation.com](http://www.voelkerfoundation.com) and [www.amff.org](http://www.amff.org).

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