

Catch  
The Striper  
Fever!

# TSBA.



*The  
Tennessee  
Striped Bass  
Association*

**January  
2004**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**Reminder:**

**Next Monthly Meeting will  
be held on January 19.**

**See "2004 TSBA Calendar"  
for details.**

**Have you renewed your  
membership for 2004?**

# Letter from the President

I hope that you plan to attend the January 19th meeting at Shoney's restaurant at 5420 Clinton Highway (865-687-4282), as your officers (past & present) have worked hard to develop a list of programs designed to make your club more interesting and important to you. These will be reviewed with you to get your reaction and approval. One of the most interesting new ideas will be a series of educational programs designed to improve your striper-catching skills. For instance, we are going to make video tapes on the following subjects:

- 1 - Fishing the steam plants in the winter
- 2 - Fishing below the dams in the summer
- 3 - How to make and use planer boards and bottles
- 4 - Catch & release techniques
- 5 - Trolling with artificial lures
- 6 - Safe boating and fishing video or seminar
- 7 - Bait tanks & Shad-keeping techniques

These will be designed to be both instructional and entertaining. Hopefully, we will get skillful at making and editing these videos to make them interesting to you. These will be shown at various monthly meetings.

One item that we will review at the January meeting is the situation on Norris lake. Historically, Norris has produced many large stripers every year. However, no one has been catching any big stripers lately and this has become quite a concern for us. This will be discussed again at the February meeting when we hope to have representatives from the TWRA present to go over a proposal we made to them concerning Norris.

Another subject for discussion at the January meeting will be various ways that we can improve our "Catch & Release" techniques to minimize the number of stripers that die after they are released. This will include tournaments.

There are many more issues that we will cover in January and we truly would like to see you attend and give us feedback so we can steer the club in the direction you want it to go.

# February Expectations

Wintertime patterns are expected in all reservoirs as long as the temperature remains well below 50 degrees. Slow catch rates will be on the mid lake and downstream sections. Winter kill off of small bait fish may start to develop as soon as the water temperature drops. The stripers and gulls may occasionally work the surface together. Normally the best fishing is near the large concentration of small baitfish in the main channels, 20 to 40 feet deep. The next few months is when the records have been and will be broken. The steam plants are the premium places to fish until the water warms up in the spring. Skipjack have been the choice bait for most of the past records and trophies; however, the most abundant forage fish will catch the most fish even if they are smaller bait. Planer boards, balloons, sinkers, bottom fishing and artificials all work at the steam plants while the high concentrations of baitfish and all types of game fish are there.

***Password:***

**The current password is:**

**Username: tsba**

**Password: club**

The TSBA web site offers up-to-date fishin' reports to all TSBA members.

Visit the web at: **[www.TNStripedBass.com](http://www.TNStripedBass.com)**

## 2004 TSBA Calendar

*Mark  
Your  
Calendar*

*Please attend TSBA events  
and join us at the meetings.*

Monthly meetings will be held at  
Shoney's Restaurant, 5420 Clinton Highway.  
Get off I-75 at Exit 108, head west for about  
one mile. Turn right onto Clinton Hwy. Shoney's  
will be on the right. See map on the next page.

**January 19:** Monthly meeting

Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM

**February 15:** Annual Kingston Tournament

Kingston City Park at first safe light

**February 16:** Monthly Meeting

Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM

**March 15:** Monthly meeting

Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM

**April 19:** Monthly meeting

Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM

**May 17:** Monthly meeting

Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM

**June 21:** Monthly Meeting

Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM

**July 19:** Monthly Meeting

Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM

**August 16:** Monthly Meeting

Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM

**September:** TSBA Fish Fry and Reunion-TBD

**October 18:** Monthly Meeting

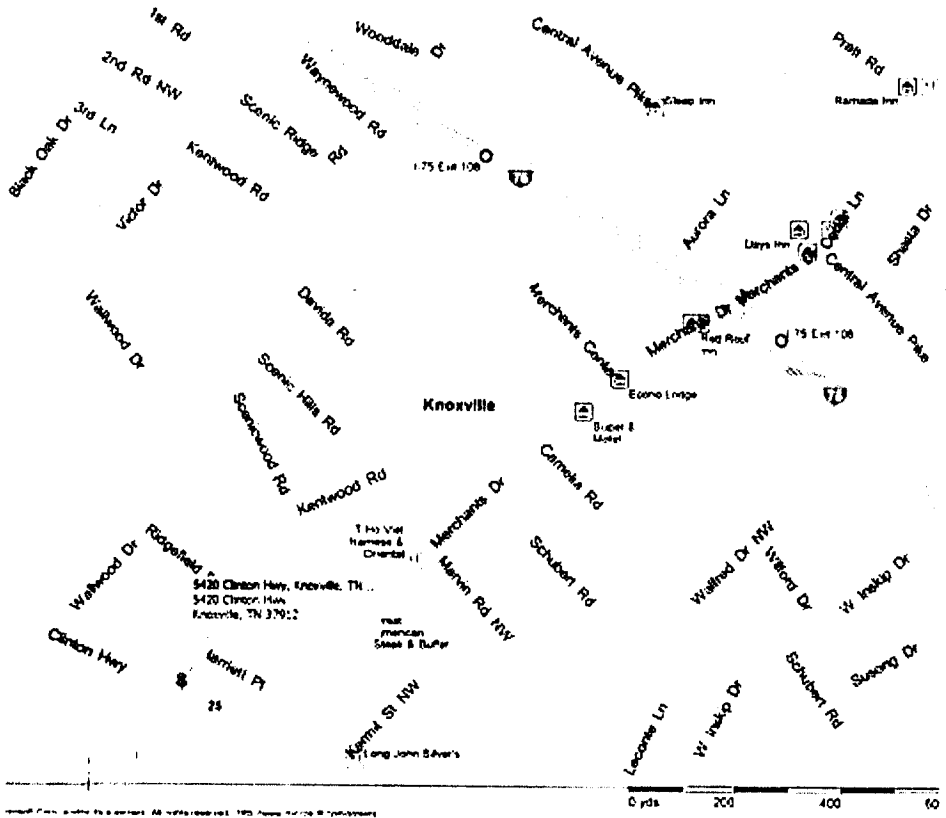
Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM

**November 15:** Monthly Meeting

Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM

**December:** No Monthly Meeting

# Map to TSBA Meeting Place

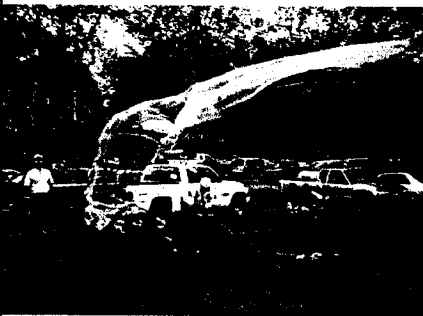


Monthly meetings will be held at Shoney's Restaurant, 5420 Clinton Highway. Get off I-75 at Exit 108, head west for about one mile. Turn right onto Clinton Hwy. Shoney's will be on the right.

## STRIPERS ARE COOL

By Ezell Cox

Stripers really are neat as a large, fresh water fish; but that is not what kind of cool the striper fishermen need to understand to be able to target and catch fish during the summer, warm water months. Large striper patterns and behavior are influenced by water temperature more than anything or everything else. Stripers have been known to stay in a cool water refuge with not enough oxygen until they die of suffocation. The spawn is also directly controlled by the water temperature as the water gets above 65 degrees F. When the temperature exceeds 70 degrees, they also try to seek out cooler water. If the lake has a thermocline, you can bet the stripers will be in the cool water just below it only to run up and feed occasionally. Water below dams with cold water discharges will also collect a lot of the stripers from downstream. It seems like, the larger the striper is, the more it is likely to make every effort to find the cooler water. Striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) are Temperate (true) Bass as opposed to the black bass, which are actually members of the sunfish family. Perfect seems to be around 57 degrees F., and the comfort zone extends a little more than 10 degrees in each direction. Migration to warmer water in the coldest part of winter may be because of the comfort zone or all of the baitfish moved to the steam plant discharge or the spring-fed creeks. For whatever reason, the stripers are not hot or cold but COOL.



More pics from September TSBA Fish Fry - Norris Lake

# Tennessee Conser

By Ro

Recently, I received a letter from the Tennessee Conservation League asking for us to support their efforts to get legislation passed that would allow the TWRA to set license and permit fees instead of the Tennessee General Assembly. Passage of such a bill would make it easier for the TWRA to get much-needed license fee increases to maintain their present level of service. There is currently a bill (HB1479) before the House, it's passed in the Senate, that would give the TWRA this authority with the following limitations:

- 1 - The amount of any fee increase package cannot exceed the increase in the Consumer Price Index since the last increase.
- 2 - Any proposed fee increase would have to go through a review process and could be killed by the legislature.

The TCL has summarized the following information to support their position that the TWRA not only needs to be allowed to set the various fees under their control but they need a fee increase to maintain their present level of service.

The last hunting and fishing license increase passed by the Tennessee General Assembly came on March, 1990. The TWRA planned for and publicly stated there would be no additional license increases for the next 8 years. That time period has been exceeded for almost 6 years now, and the Agency is experiencing severe funding shortfalls. Here are some financial facts that the TWRA has addressed and faces now.

- 1) In 2003, the Agency cut expenditures 10% to remain within budget.
- 2) In 2004, an additional 11.6% will be cut, to include absorbing \$1.5 million in losses from the wetlands fund the General Assembly diverted to cover part of the State's budget deficit.
- 3) Since the last increase in 1990, inflation has increased by 44.7%
- 4) Should the TWRA not receive a license fee increase by March 01, 2005, the Agency will have to further downsize their organization to absorb a 20 to 25% cut ( \$10.1 million ), which will necessitate terminating full-time law enforcement, biologist, and support personnel.

# **vation League (TCL)**

bert Leach

5) Currently, over 50 Tennessee boards and commissions have the authority to set their own fees. Twenty-six state fish and wildlife commissions in the United States set their own license fees.

6) The Agency experiences a " Catch 22" when a project is cut that qualifies for Federal Aid ( Pittman-Robertson / Wallop-Breaux funding). For every \$100 the Agency cuts in a Federal Aid Partnership program, the Agency loses \$75 in federal funds.

7) Federal Aid dollars can't be spent for law enforcement activities. Thus to make significant program cuts without losing federal money, the Agency will have to slice law enforcement operations severely.

8) Unlike many other states, the TWRA does not receive any funds from the state government.

Most of the hunting and fishing clubs participating in symposiums put on by by the Tennessee Conservation League have expressed strong support for more and not less enforcement of hunting and fishing laws. The present and past officers of the TSBA strongly support this proposed legislation change. Specifically, the League has asked us to do the following:

A - The TCL is sponsoring a survey to determine how much grassroots support there is for the proposed change. If you have a computer go to [www.conservetn.com](http://www.conservetn.com) and complete the short survey. Hopefully, you realize the gravity of this situation and you support the TCL and the TWRA in this matter.

B - They want the TSBA to send a letter to the TCL indicating that we support the TCL on this issue. We will do that.

C - They would like for every concerned outdoor enthusiast to write or call their local representative and ask them to support this issue. See "Tennessee House Members" on the following page.



## Tennessee House Members

<b>DST.</b>	<b>Counties</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>
2	Sullivan	N. Vaughn	615-741-6867
3	Johnson, Sullivan	J Mumpower	423-989-3234
8	Blount, Sevier	J McCord	865-984-5881
10	Hamblen	J. Litz	615-741-6877
13	Knox	H. Tindell	865-524-7200
14	Knox	H. Bittle	865-693-5599
15	Knox	J Armstrong	865-532-6374
16	Knox	B. Dunn	865-687-4904
17	Jefferson, Knox	J. Hagood	865-523-8683
18	Knox	S. Buttry	865-584-6155
19	Knox	H Brooks	615-741-6879
20	Blount	D. Overbey	865-681-8236
22	Meigs, Polk, Bradley	J. Newton	423-338-7630
24	Bradley	D. Bunch	423-472-9181
32	Roane, Loudon	D. Ferguson	865-882-5930
33	Anderson	J. Hackworth	865-457-5266
35	Claiborne, Grainger, Jefferson	D. Roach	865-828-4356
36	Campbell & Union	W. Baird	423-562-6636
38	Clay, Jackson, Pickett, Scott	L. Winningham	423-286-9090
41	Fentress, Morgan, Overton	J. Windle	931-823-3970
47	Coffee, Warren	J. Matheny	615-741-7448
64	Maury	J. Dubois	615-741-7444

### **TSBA Annual Kingston Tournament**

Be there at first safe light to join in the fun on Watts Bar Lake. February 15, Kingston City Park. Lots of parking and good ramp, so this would be the place to launch. For map, check the website [TNStripedBass.com](http://TNStripedBass.com), Club Info, Tournaments. For details, contact Felix Taylor at 865-981-2827. E-mail: [Felix@TNStripedBass.com](mailto:Felix@TNStripedBass.com).

## "Gill Maggot" Infestation of Tennessee Striped Bass

Anglers have occasionally reported catching striped bass with what looks like maggots attached to the tongue, gills, and/or the roof of the mouth, according to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA). What they are finding is a parasitic copepod in the genus *Achtheres*. "There is no cause for alarm, however, since these unsightly critters have not been linked to any fish mortality in Tennessee. They are also not harmful to humans since they are destroyed by cooking and are not found in the flesh of fish", said Jim Negus, TWRA fisheries biologist.

*Achtheres* is one of several genera of external parasitic copepods that attach to the oral cavity of numerous North American fresh and saltwater fishes. During severe infestations, it appears as if the fishes' mouths are full of maggots; hence the common term, "gill maggots". Several species of parasitic copepods can inflict great harm and even kill fish, but *Achtheres* is not considered to be one of them.

"Generally, the adult female copepods attach to various places in the oral cavity of fish and can remain there for extended periods," continued Negus. "They feed off the soft tissues present and produce eggs which are released into the water after developing into nauplii. The larvae hatch into the first copepodid stage, which is free swimming. A second copepodid stage develops and the females attach to fish by an attachment filament. After mating, the male clings to the body of the female and the second copepodid stage becomes an adult to start the process over again."

The first known record of *Achtheres* in Tennessee is from samples taken from largemouth bass from Tellico Reservoir in 1981. While working as a creel clerk, TWRA's Rick Bivens identified the parasites taken from severely infested largemouth bass. The infestation did not seem to hurt the population and went away quickly.

The critter surfaced again in 2000. This time it was not in largemouth, but in striped bass from Watts Bar and Tim's Ford Reservoirs. Samples of these parasites were sent to Auburn University and Tennessee Technological University for identification. There was no cause for alarm since they were the "good" copepod, *Achtheres*, and the striped bass appeared to be in good condition.

Recent outbreaks have occurred in Old Hickory and Norris Reservoirs. Parasites from Old Hickory were sent off in 2002 and were identified as *Achtheres*. Samples from Norris will be taken in January of 2004, but they also appear to be the "good" copepod. *Achtheres* should not cause significant harm to healthy fish. One would suspect, however, that heavy infestations could lead to secondary bacterial and fungal infections in fish already compromised by poor water quality or poor condition. These secondary infections could lead to a limited amount of fish mortality. For this reason, they are being intensely studied and monitored by TWRA biologists.

Anglers are encouraged to report sightings of this parasite in any reservoir not mentioned in this release, or in species other than striped bass, to their local TWRA Regional Office. Pictures of the parasites and additional information can be found on the [Region IV reservoir website](#) .

## TWRA Attractor Program

Each year during the winter months the TWRA takes advantage of the low water level on several of the east Tennessee lakes, and they install fish attractors on the exposed shoreline. They are asking for volunteers willing to assist them in this task. The time periods for this effort are January 21-23, January 28 & 29, and February 3-5. If you are able and willing to assist them, then please call Russell Young at 423-586-9460 (Home) or 865-828-5944 (Work) for details. You will have to sign "Hold Harmless" agreement to satisfy their legal department. It's a worthwhile project and we all know that the TWRA will appreciate any help they can get.

*Bob Leach*

Please

Support

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# Fishing Hot Spots



## Cherokee Lake

**Condition:** Good

**Location:** Spread out all over with a good number of fish near Hwy 25 Bridge. Fish are hitting top water baits. Birds are diving on the schools of shad driven up by the stripers.

**Bait:** Live Shad and Top Water

**Notes:** Fish are going back.

## Norris Lake

**Condition:** Slow

**Location:** Stripers may be found farther upstream in the creeks. Use alewife and gizzard shad near the surface on drift lines or downriggers to 30 feet. Cast artificials into the breaking fish.

**Notes:** Fish are going back and there is some top water action.

Bait, as always, is impossible to catch. Bring bait with you.

## Watts Bar Lake

**Condition:** Fair

**Notes:** Fish near the Kingston Steam Plant in the warmer water. Remember to keep your boat within the buoys where designated in the Fishing Regulations.

## Melton Hill Lake

**Condition:** Fair

**Location:** Bull Run Steam plant or the Upper Clinch is the place to try with gizzard shad and cut-bait. Top water baits are definitely an option.

## Our

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# TSBA Merchandise



Hats are gray w/ a Striper on the front & the letters TSBA in green. Adult T-shirts are gray or tan depending on availability in sizes w/ a Striper and Tennessee Striped Bass Association embroidered in green. Kids shirts are gray. Sweatshirts are hunter green with TSBA in gray on front & Catch the Fever on the back with a Striper & fishing rod.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Hats**      Number of **Winter** T.S.B.A. Hats \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

                  Number of **Summer** T.S.B.A. Hats \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Kids Shirts**

Number of Shirts (*kids size medium 10-12*) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$8.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Shirts (*kids size large 14-16*) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$8.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Adult Shirts**

Number of Shirts (*adult size small*) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$12.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Shirts (*adult size medium*) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$12.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Shirts (*adult size large*) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$12.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Shirts (*adult size xtra-large*) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$12.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Shirts (*adult size 2X*) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$14.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Shirts (*adult size 3X*) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$16.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Adult Sweatshirts**

Number of *adult size medium* \_\_\_\_\_ X \$22.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of *adult size large* \_\_\_\_\_ X \$22.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of *adult size xtra-large* \_\_\_\_\_ X \$22.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of *adult size 2X* \_\_\_\_\_ X \$24.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$5.00 to ship 1 to 2 items or \$8.00 3 or more items    Shipping \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Order Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to the "TSBA". Do not send cash!*

## YOUR 2004 TSBA OFFICERS AND STAFF

**President:**

Robert Leach 865-471-1365  
Robert@TNStripedBass.com

**Vice President:**

Felix Taylor 865-981-2827  
Felix@TNStripedBass.com

**Treasurer:**

Janine Johnson

**Secretary:**

Dave Johnson

### TSBA STAFF

**Newsletter:** Janine Johnson Janine@TNStripedBass.com

**Public Relations:** Ezell Cox 423-626-9547

**Merchandising:** Allan Franklin 865-694-8888

## **T.S.B.A. 2004 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

As a member: \*You'll receive a monthly newsletter.

- \* You'll help support Striped Bass Fisheries & Wildlife Agencies.
- \* You'll be informed of new regulations & information that affect Striper fishing.
- \* You'll develop a network of "Striper friends".
- \* You'll learn new methods to improve your Striped Bass fishing effectiveness.
- \* You'll be able to call officers for fishing reports.
- \* You'll be able to attend monthly meetings with informative programs.
- \* You'll have access to all areas of the TSBA web page.

Is this a renewal \_\_\_ or a New Membership \_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ # of minor children in family \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Referred By: \_\_\_\_\_

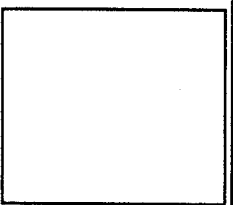
***Enclose a check for \$20.00***

**Mail to: T.S.B.A. PO Box 962  
Norris Tennessee 37828**



The TSBA is a non-profit organization, that supports WRA & its Striped Bass, & Cherokee Bass programs. We come together to provide a unified voice for the Striped Bass & the Cherokee Bass programs in the state of Tennessee. We educate the public & share our knowledge with fellow Striped Bass anglers.

The Tennessee Striped Bass Association  
PO Box 962  
Norris, Tennessee 37828



**Please check the date on the mailing label above to see if you need to renew for 2004.**