

**Catch
The
Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



**Tennessee
Striped Bass
Association,
Inc.
Newsletter**

**March
2006**

**Kingston Tournament Winner Feb. 18
Jason Hoffmeister 21 lb. 12 oz.**



President's Letter

In my letter to the club this month, I would like to thank everyone who came to the tournament in Kingston. It was a very miserable day to be out, and those who came had to deal with snow and high winds most of the day. I would also like to congratulate Jason Hoffmeister for winning the tournament that day with 21 lbs. 12 ozs. Jason earned that one for sure. He, like some of the others, came early that day to acquire bait. Around 9:30 or 10:00 that morning was when we had the worst of it. Snow was blowing sideways and the wind had to be 20 to 25 MPH. It really took some determination to stay out in that to catch bait. Hopefully, the weather will be a little better on March 11 for the next tournament that will be held on Cherokee.

I also would like to recognize young Brandon Davis; Brandon's picture is in the most recent edition of the Striped Bass Magazine. You may have seen the picture on the TSBA website already, but you should try to find a copy of the magazine. Brandon and his dad were fishing below Melton Hill Dam on June 17, 2005 when they hooked up on a 15 lb. striper. If you haven't seen the picture, you should check it out on the club website under the 2005 striper pictures. Brandon was 4 years old at the time, and you can tell that both Brandon and the striper had their hands full.

I know it was just recently that we had to change our password for Fishing Reports, and it is necessary to once again change it. I hope that we don't have to do this very often, but this time it is necessary. Starting on April 1, 2006 the Username will be changed to _____ and the Password will be changed to _____ both the old and new Password will work until April 1; then the old one will go away.

Username: _____
Password:

In the last part of the letter this month, I would like talk about our Fishing Reports Forum. When we changed our web hosting account just over a year ago, we had to change the software that operated Fishing Reports. I looked around and found the best free one that I could. This has served us okay, but just recently our web host has started offering a better Forum, and it is included in our regular web hosting plan. I have made it available on the website. I would like for you to try it out and give some feedback for me. I know that, when we changed the last one, we lost all the history that was on it. That will not be the case this time. I have provided a link on the main menu that is called "Old Fishing Reports." You can still go there and read all the posts over the past year or so. When you go to the new forum, you will be asked for a Username and Password to get to the page. Once you get to the page, you can view all the content. However, if you want to post a message or reply to a message or participate in a poll, you will need to register a Username and Password. This Username and Password will be yours and only you can use it. There are many great features on the new forum that make it much better than the old one. When you first get on it, it looks a little complicated, but really it is quite simple. If you have any trouble or have a question about it, feel free to send me an email (jseiber@tennstripedbass.com), and I will be glad to help you out.

Good Fishin'
John Seiber

FISH SENSES

Fish have sight, sound, smell, and taste. Unlike, we humans, theirs is a basic sense instinct of survival. Eat or be eaten. Last month, I talked about sight, and that is a very important factor as far as fish survival is concerned. Fish hear by an inner ear and a lateral line. The inner ear will hear things farther away, and the lateral line will detect a closer sound plus be able to give the fish a direct area through feeling where their prey is. Smell is through nostrils. The water goes in the front and comes out the back of the nostril. In the nostril there are fibers that analyze the amino acids and send a signal to the fish's brain of exactly what the fish is smelling. As far as taste is concerned, it is the final judgment that the fish uses to determine if it's going to eat or not eat what's presented to it. Motor oils, gasoline, and Buddy's barbeque sauce are not natural to a fish. It would be beneficial to rinse your hands to keep those scents off your hands.

Now two true stories regarding sound - about 30 years ago I motored out close to the hot spot on a lake in Northern Wisconsin and rowed the last quarter mile as quietly as I could. I prepared my presentation and then Janine's Uncle Richard motored up close by. He told his son, Ricky, to throw the anchor in and I whimpered, "Oh, no!" I then watched the anchor sail through the air like a cannon shell, rope attached, and land in the lake. The sound factor continued with Richard yelling at the top of his lungs, "Why did you do that?" On the same lake, different vacation, I got up at the break of dawn, motored out to my spot, and was sitting with my back to the shoreline. Not hearing it or seeing it, suddenly over the ridge from behind was a B52 Bomber practicing hedge-hopping!

Another thought as far as sound is concerned - I do not think that Scruffy's barking affects the fishing for stripers, but what about catfish? Does Ezell catch catfish?

If you really want to catch fish . . . sight, sound, smell, and taste are very important; but the one thing that a fisherperson needs to rely on the most is common sense. Use your common sense.

Dave Johnson

TSBA NEWSLETTER

We have made some changes to the way we produce the monthly newsletter. You can get on the website and see that the archives are now available with color photos. As we have been working with new and better software to produce it, we have discovered the ability to produce the files that you can now view on the website. The files are in pdf format and viewable with a program called Adobe Acrobat Reader with which most all computers are equipped. This has made archiving much easier and the viewing quality much better; however, if you don't have Acrobat Reader you will not be able to view the files. There is a fix for that by going online to: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html> and you can download the free program that opens and views these files.

Now, after having shifted our thinking to the money saving mode, we started to kick around the idea of emailing some of the newsletters. Considering the cost of printing and mailing plus the time that is involved, there is the potential for helping out a lot. I recently posted a question on Fishing Reports about this and several people were in favor of giving it a try. For those who would rather have a paper copy mailed to you, we will gladly continue to mail your newsletter as we always have. For anyone who would like give it a try, I will ask that you just simply send an email to jseiber@tennstripedbass.com and ask for an emailed copy. Be sure that you include your name and the email address in the text of your message where you wish this to be sent. If you have not seen and are not sure about the pdf version of the newsletter, just go to the TSBA website and click the newsletter link at the top of the page. You will be required to provide the same password that is used to access Fishing Reports. Once you get to the newsletter page, a link is provided for each month of the archives. Only the newsletter archives since January 2006 are the color versions; this is what you would receive in your email box once a month. The older newsletters 2005 and back are scanned versions of old printed newsletters and should not be considered in making a decision about this.

If you would like to give it a try and then decide later that you would rather have the regular mailed copy, then all you would need to do is contact me by email and let me know. I really hope that we get a good response from this, and hopefully you will continue to enjoy your TSBA newsletter.

If anyone has any ideas for the newsletter or if you would like to submit an article, please let Janine or me know. It doesn't have to be an article about technique or some scientific fact. You may want to just share a funny or interesting experience that everyone else would enjoy.

Newsletter questions, suggestions, or pictures can be submitted to:

Janine Johnson: janine@tennstripedbass.com

John Seiber: jseiber@tennstripedbass.com

Good Fishin'
John Seiber

Fishing Hot Spots



Cherokee Lake

The stripers often feed on the surface in April. The gulls will still indicate where to cast. Stripers are scattered all over the lake. Fort Patrick Henry Steam Plant will attract many prespawn fish. Point 17 upstream to Point 21 always holds a lot of baitfish and stripers. Mossy Creek at Point 1 is always good with the alewife spawn. Night fishing with the alewife spawn in progress is at a premium.

Norris Lake

The Loyston/Lost Creek area at Point 19 and near Hickory Star Marina is excellent upstream to Point 28 at Straight Creek Marina. Pull the baitfish over the shallow humps and near the bank with your planer boards. The stripers will run into all of the major creeks including Cove Creek, Big Creek, and Cedar Creek - Davis and Sycamore also.

Watts Bar Lake/Melton Hill Lake

The best action will still be at the steam plants, but migration will continue upstream to the tailraces. Bull Run Steam Plant on Melton Hill will be off-line for a month.

April Expectations

Caution is needed more in the spring as the reservoirs and rivers are on the rise. That causes a lot of floating debris that can damage, injure, or worse. The new fishing license and 2006 regulations are in effect. Top water action in shallow water can be wonderful. Water temperature will rise above 50 degrees F. and above 60 degrees F. in some of the shallow, sun-warmed coves. The baitfish begin to spawn this month. The striper's movement and activity will be related to pre-spawn and warming water temperatures. Migration upstream to the rivers and major feeder creek currents will also keep the attention of the striper. The pre-spawn bellies will stay big through April in the natural rivers. As the 70 degree F. water temperature is reached, the spawn will take place, and the big stripers will slowly start back downstream. The tailrace below the dams will develop and only get better through the spring and summer. Large live and artificial baits presented on top will create some very large explosions. Records and trophies are caught this month. On Norris Lake, the creel and size limits change to 2 fish at 15 inches starting April 1.

Password will be changed April 1.

The TSBA web site offers up-to-date fishin' reports to all TSBA members. Visit the web at: **www.TNStripedBass.com**

The current password is:

Username: _____ Password: _____

Oxygen

The atmosphere from which we breathe has around 20 to 24% oxygen that we utilize to sustain life. Oxygen is a nonflammable gas; however, it increases combustion greatly. All animals and fish require oxygen to keep from expiring. Our blood exchanges oxygen and expels CO₂ from our body through our lungs. If air breathing animals are submerged in water, they cannot utilize the oxygen, although it may be highly saturated. The fish removed from water cannot survive on atmospheric oxygen. If you place an air tight plastic bag over your head the oxygen would soon be used up and death would occur. Likewise, fish placed in a small tank with no oxygen transfer would have the same problem. So what we need to do for our bait is add oxygen into the water through aeration.

Aeration is the process of adding oxygen to water, although hopefully the exchange of unwanted gasses takes place also. A gentle, one direction water flow with the total exchange of water in the tank should be around 5 exchanges per hour. Oxygen transfer to the water takes place anytime the water is exposed to it. The best aeration method is a lot of very small bubbles injected into the water because they stay suspended longer to dissolve. Salt water contributes to smaller air bubbles because it has a higher density. The temperature of the water will determine how many parts per million of oxygen it is capable of absorbing. The warmer the water, the less oxygen it will hold. Five parts per million or more should be the goal for most fish. Be cautious not to cool the water temperature more than seven degrees F. or they will die from shock or stress.

If pure oxygen is diffused into the water, it will insert a higher percentage than normal atmospheric air bubbles. This will allow for higher quantities of fish in the same amount of water but, some cautions need to be observed. The O₂ bubbles will not absorb the CO₂ or ammonia to remove it from the water. If a closed live well does not have the ability to aerate and remove the CO₂ and ammonia, the fish will suffocate. The fish will become hyperactive if the O₂ levels are too high and extremely lethargic when put back in normal conditions.

There are other oxygenating methods to put pure oxygen into the water through chemistry. In a simplified explanation, the separation of hydrogen and oxygen from water molecules into their elementary parts allow the lighter hydrogen molecules to rise and escape into the atmosphere and the oxygen to dissolve into the water. This method does not work well when other chemicals are needed in the live well.

Ezell Cox

Question of the Month

The lake you fish most often, is it closest to home?

60% responded yes

40% responded no

The highest lake for "no" was Norris with five and surprisingly the highest with "yes" was Melton Hill with eight.



Ethan
McClanahan

22 lbs.

Phillip
McClanahan

24 lbs.



Phillip
McClanahan

31 lbs.





Ronnie
Shrader

23 lbs.

Paul
Lyons

17 lbs

Feb. 11



Dale
Lockhart

23 lbs.

Hickory Star Marina & Campground

This month we are highlighting the Hickory Star Marina strategically located on beautiful Norris Reservoir just four miles East of Maynardville on Route 144. Hickory Star really is a complete facility with a full-service marina, motel, campground, full-service restaurant, and rental cabins. At Hickory Star, there is always something new and exciting to do at this beautiful facility.

Marina - If it's fishing or any water sport, you will find everything that you need at the Hickory Star Marina. Whether it's houseboating, canoeing, water skiing, or fishing, this marina is well equipped to provide you with endless fun in the sun. You can launch your own boat at their ramp or take advantage of their professional guide service.

Motel - After a long day on Norris, why fuss with loading your boat and making the long drive home. Instead, park your boat at the dock and walk to your air-conditioned room at the Hickory Star motel. This would make a great getaway for you and your significant other to spend a little quality time together while you still get to fish in the early morning and at dusk.

Restaurant - Hey! You really owe it to yourself to visit the Nordstrom's Galley at Hickory Star. They are open April 15 through September 1 from 4 PM to 10 PM from Thursday through Saturday and from 1 to 9 on Sunday. This place is first-class and it has everything from sandwiches to steaks.


Campground & Cabins - If you are interested in camping, they have everything you need - rustic & new cabins, camper hookups, and tent sites and their fees are quite reasonable.

Please call 800-235-6866 (toll-free), 865-992-5241, or go online at fishnorris@aol.com to get more information or make a reservation. These are really nice fisherman-friendly folks, and you will have a great time during your stay at Hickory Star.

Ranger of the Year

Mike Scott, a ranger at Norris Dam State Park since 1992, was named Tennessee State Park Rangers Association's Ranger of the Year. Mike is a 20-year veteran of the state park system. This honor recognizes rangers deemed to be performing service above and beyond the call of duty.

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KIDS' FISHING DAY

Hey everyone, it is that time of year again. The *StriperBowl* will be here very soon, and I would really like for everyone that can to be there. It is a very important event for our club. All the money from the *StriperBowl* goes to buy the door prizes for the Kids' Day out. Without your support, our kids will be the ones that lose out. If you can't come and fish the *StriperBowl* with us, you can still help by donating money or some type of fishing gear for the kids. It is very important to keep our kids involved in striper fishing, or we may lose our sport to the nonsporting in the future. So please help me and the club support our kids.

StriperBowl - April 30
Kids' Fishing Day - June 11

Thank you in advance for your help and support.

Allan Franklin

Super 8 Motel
2430 E. Andrew Johnson Hwy.
Morristown, TN 37814



(423) 586-8880
<http://www.super8.com>

See you along the way.
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YOUR 2006 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND STAFF

President:

John Seiber 865-945-3716
JSeiber@tennstripedbass.com

Vice President:

Eric Rauch 865-494-0304
ewrauch@bellsouth.net

Treasurer:

Janine Johnson

Secretary:

Dave Johnson

TSBA DIRECTORS

Wes Adams, Ed Baker, Ezell Cox, Billy Davis,
Allan Franklin, Chet Moore, John Seiber

TSBA STAFF

Newsletter: Janine Johnson Janine@tennstripedbass.com

Web Site: John Seiber 865-945-3716

Public Relations: Allan Franklin 865-694-8888

Ezell Cox 423-626-9547

Sponsor Coordinator: Eric Rauch 865-494-0304

Tournament

Coordinator: Billy Davis 865-300-0392

Kids' Fishing Day: Allan Franklin 865-805-3120

Door Prizes: Dave Johnson Dave@tennstripedbass.com

Merchandising: Kept In Stitches 865-379-8278
Email at clsbull1@aol.com



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Minutes of the February Meeting

The new revision of the Bylaws was signed by the officers.

Warren Turner, President of the National Striped Bass Association., was our guest speaker. Warren spoke of how he started fishing for stripers in 1988. He gave us a history of the striped bass in America and how the striper shows the American spirit. He brought to our attention how the pilgrims in 1614 survived on striped bass and how the First Act of the Continental Congress was to make stripers illegal to use as fertilizer. Warren spoke of building partner relationships and how we all have a vested interest to promote, preserve, and protect striped bass fishing. Be involved in your sport because of various political challenges that will present themselves in Tennessee and other states that could eventually affect us. The officers and members of the TSBA wish to thank Warren for his generous donation of magazines and door prizes for this meeting.

Dave Johnson, TSBA Secretary



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***Full Service Dock
on Norris Lake
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Maynard & Delbert Brooks

March Speaker:

**Dave Bishop
On History of
Striped Bass**

2006 TSBA 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.

March 11:	Tournament - Cherokee
March 20:	Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM
March 25:	Open Fishing
April 17:	Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM
April 22:	Open Fishing
April 29:	Tailgate Party/Open Fishing
April 30:	StriperBowl - Cherokee
May 15:	Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery
May 20:	Open Fishing
May 27:	Tournament - Cherokee
June 10:	Cherokee Tournament/Campout
June 11:	Kids' Fishing Day
June 19:	Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM
June 24:	Open Fishing
July 8:	Tournament - Fort Loudoun
July 17:	Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM
July 22:	Family Day/Open Fishing
August 21:	Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM
August 26:	Open Fishing
September 9:	Annual TSBA Fish Fry & Reunion
September 16:	Open Fishing
October 16:	Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM Officer and Director Nominations
October 21:	Open Fishing
November 11:	Tournament - Cherokee
November 20:	Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM Election of Officers and Directors
November 25:	Open Fishing
December 18:	Board of Directors Meeting, Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM

TOURNAMENTS

The word "tournament" sets some of the hard core conservationists into some excited state of mind. So being slightly liberal-minded on both issues, I hope not to offend anyone on my views. There are those that think you should not kill anything, and those that would bring back a limit or more 365 days in a row if they could. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (P.E.T.A.) are the extremists farthest to the left in their beliefs. Don't hurt, use, eat, or kill any fish or animal including not to use eggs, milk, meat, furs, and the like. Don't catch fish because it hurts them. The other extreme is the hunter or fisherman that would kill, catch, and keep all that he can disregarding the laws of the land that are designed to manage for the benefit of the species and the largest number of users of the resources equally. Hunters that use a gun instead of a camera cannot choose to release their game like the fishermen that can often catch, photograph, and release fish alive. Let's migrate back to the middle of the road from these extremes.

When we talk about striper tournaments, everyone thinks of killing fish. A few short years ago, this was mostly true but not necessarily now, especially in the winter months. Well, so what if we do harvest some fish since I think that is why they are stocked, as long as we go by the creel and size limits to manage the fishery for equal opportunity. I do think we need to be aware of our personal impact on the fishery we are using. For instance a guide that fishes 300 days a year would be cutting his own throat to kill all the fish that would be legal. On the other side of the picture, a person fishing once a month would not damage any fishery by taking the maximum creel limit.

I will harvest about 30 fish each year mostly in the summer. At the Hickory Star December tournament the only legal fish weighed in was released alive. The NSBA now regularly releases a high percentage of tournament stripers alive. The striper tubes do work in the winter. I also try to release the larger fish that I catch and try to harvest the smaller fish when I'm meat hunting since the lake has a lot more invested in the larger fish. I am also able to target the lakes that have the most to give without damage when meat hunting.

Be aware of your impact and let your good conscience be your guide. It is a long story so I will just tell you that tournaments on Norris Lake years ago are likely the only reason that Norris is still stocked with stripers. I like the old saying "nothing in excess, everything in moderation."

Ezell Cox

T.S.B.A. 2006 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: _____

I have read and agree to abide by and be bound by the Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc. (TSBA) Bylaws*.

* A copy of the Bylaws can be found on the TSBA website at www.TNStripedBass.com or at the offices of the corporation.

(Signature)

(Date)

Enclose a check for \$20.00

Mail to: Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc

P.O. Box 24442

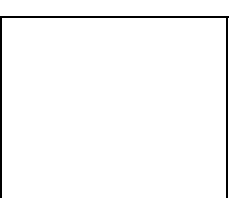
Knoxville TN 37933

Note: All members must sign and submit this membership application with the 2006 dues. Yearly dues are due in January each year. New members that sign up in Oct., Nov., or Dec. will get credit for the remainder of that year and the following year.



The TSBA is a non-profit corporation that supports TWRA & 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.

**Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 24442
Knoxville, TN 37933**



March 1 - New Fishing License Required

March 11 - Tournament - Cherokee

April 1 - Norris Lake - Creel and Size Limits Change