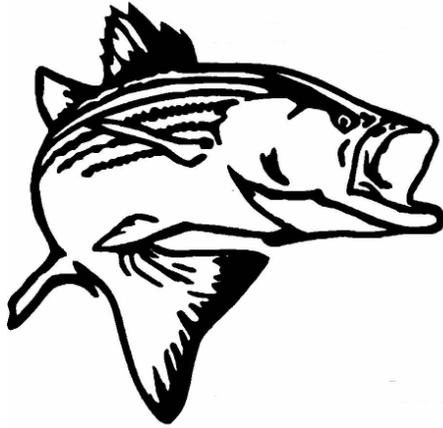


**Catch
The
Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



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

**February
2008**

February 18th Meeting Speakers:

*Tim Adrian from Johnson City
Monster Stripers DVD*

*Rene McComb
Umbrella Rigs*

March 17th Meeting Speaker:

*Ken Cutsinger
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
Officer*

President's Letter

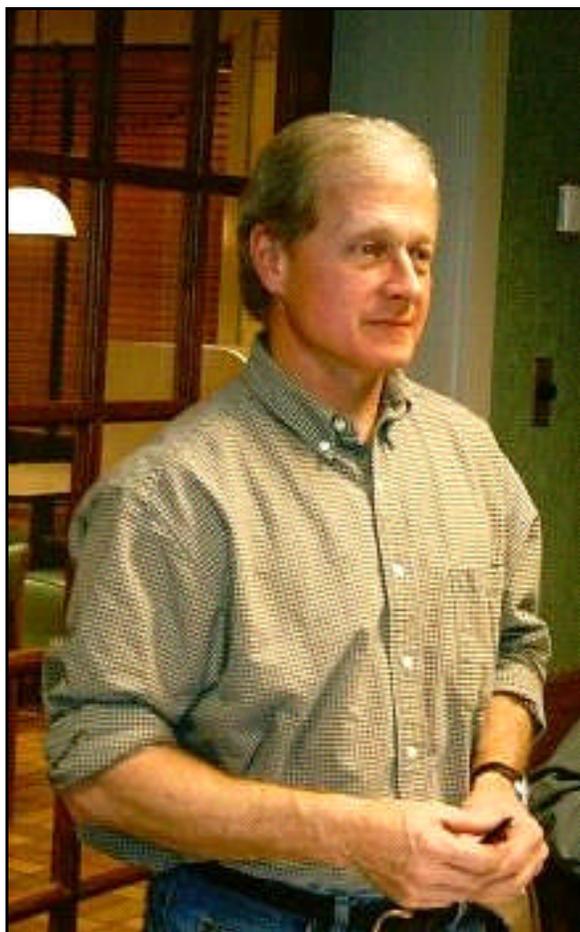
Our last meeting was a great example of why the TSBA exists. Obviously, we have a vested interest in promoting striper fishing throughout the region. In a bigger context, as our speaker, Chad Whittenburg, told us, the Tennessee Wildlife Federation is a coalition of people working together to ensure that our fish, wildlife, and sporting traditions are protected and professionally managed in Tennessee. It is only by all sportsmen and women working together that we can ensure that future generations will have the same opportunities we enjoy today.

Chad discussed the Camouflage Coalition, the purpose of which is to organize sportsmen and women across Tennessee and keep them informed of legislative activity affecting our wildlife management and outdoor recreation interests. If you are interested in joining the Coalition, log on to the TWF website at www.tnwf.org and sign up. It's very easy to do and is a good way to help get our messages across to our legislators.

The discussion we had about umbrella rigs was very valuable to many members. It's a method of fishing that is new to many anglers and has proven to be successful, especially during the winter months. The fact that we have members who are willing to share their knowledge with others is a key reason many of us originally joined TSBA. There is a lot to learn about striped bass fishing and this kind of sharing can cut years off the learning curve for people new to the sport. It is greatly appreciated by all of us.

The Kingston Tournament will have already occurred by the time this news letter is out. I hope the weather cooperated and we had a large turnout. Our next tourney will be the StriperBowl on April 26. Mark your calendars now to be sure you can join us.

Eric Rauch
TSBA President





Hunter Morales, and His Dad Tony,
Fishing with His Papaw Dennis Bryant
December 30, 2007





Hunter Morales
Fishing with His Papaw Dennis Bryant
December 30, 2007

Scale

To use a thin, curved knife to remove the overlapping bony ridges found on the outer skin of many fish and distribute them over the countertop, the sides of the cabinet doors, the floor, the walls, and the ceiling of a kitchen.

Minutes of the January Meeting

The new TSBA President Eric Rauch opened the meeting with a thanks for the past three years leadership from John Seiber. Eric asked for about six first time visitors to be recognized and introduced. Thirty people attended the dinner meeting. Eric then introduced Chad Whittenburg, Certified Wildlife Biologist with the TENNESSEE WILDLIFE FEDERATION, as guest speaker. Ezell Cox inserted the fact that they were known a few years ago as the Tennessee Conservation League and came to the assistance of the Striped Bass fishermen in the political Striper Wars of the 1990's when there was political effort to stop the stocking of stripers in Tennessee. Chad came to ask for support from the TSBA and its members in the work they do of conserving our wildlife and natural resources since 1946. He explained the different methods that we could help and how they can help us.

Rene McComb was to speak and show umbrella rig methods and have a supply of products to rig them with. As a first time grandfather that came early, Rene had to cancel and was rescheduled for the February 18 meeting with Tim Adrian. A number of people in the meeting had been using umbrella rigs of their own design with three examples from Tom Elmore's boat to pass around. Trolling speeds, colors, depths, equipment, and other related discussion was very informative. Dennis Bryant had pictures of the fish caught this year on u-rigs to show.

The drawing for door prizes was next, and then Allan Franklin's plaque for winning the StriperBowl tournament and Wes Adams' plaque for winning the Kingston tournament were awarded before break.

President Eric Rauch then discussed some TSBA business about our calendar of events. He asked for a volunteer to be a Sponsor Coordinator for the TSBA. He also asked if there was interest by the club of becoming involved in a church sponsored sportsman's outreach scheduled for March 15th. If there is, get in touch with him. Oliver Hurst won the 50/50 drawing.

Fishing reports from Cherokee stated that gulls were diving around the islands at mid lake. Norris had some catches around the 33 Bridge on umbrella rigs. Bull Run steam plant report was that it is dead with a discharge temperature of 64 degrees. Kingston steam plant has had some activity over the last week in the discharge area with reports of a few fish being in the 20 to 30 pound range.

Ezell Cox
TSBA Secretary



Fishing Hot Spots



Cherokee Lake

The downstream end of the lake will have good fishing from Point 19 to the dam. Look for surface breaks and feeding gulls. Large schools at times can be found in very shallow water. Live bait is easy to catch in most of the warm coves. The Fort Patrick Henry steam plant will be good all month.

Norris Lake

The Hickory Star area and upstream will be good. The sunny side of the shallow banks will catch some top water fish in the afternoon. Spring Dock near Point 11 and upstream on the Powell River side will be good. Look for the warm water that attracts bait fish. Pull a planer board close to the bank.

Watts Bar Lake/Melton Hill Lake

The steam plants at Kingston and Melton Hill will have the most predictable catches. The contrast in water temperature will dictate how good the fishing is.

Fishing Regulations

New fishing licenses are required to fish starting March 1. It is each fisherman's responsibility to know the rules and stay legal. Changes are normal in the management of our fishing each year, and those changes become effective on March 1. Each river or lake may have exceptions you need to be aware of before exposing yourself to a fine. Go on line to Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency at www.tnwildlife.org or pick up a 2008 Fishing Regulations book at sporting stores or TWRA offices.

March Expectations

New fishing licenses are required to fish in March. March is a transition month for the prespawn stripers. Early month, the stripers roam the deep open water in large schools feeding on small bait. The winter pattern in the early month cold water of about 45 degrees F. may change to upper 50 degrees F. by month end in the shallow sun-warmed longer days. Migration into the shallow incoming rivers and major feeder creeks will develop around the large concentrations of bait fish. The gulls are still worth watching; also look for herons feeding on the sun-warmed shallow flats. Much larger baits start to work well pulled behind planer boards along the bank. Most fish will be caught in the top 20 feet, and the surface action can be good. The steam plants will continue to attract stripers.

On Norris Lake, the creel and size limits change from 1 fish with a 36-inch minimum size limit to 2 fish at 15-inch size limit starting April 1.

FOR SALE

2002 Sea Ark 20 foot center console Jon Boat. This is the "Bay Runner" model powered by a 2002 115 HP Yamaha Four Stroke with less than 100 hours. Has a dual axle galvanized trailer with surge brakes. Lowrance LCX 111HD recorder/GPS and Minn Kota trolling motor. Priced at \$17,000.00, stored at Louisville Marine on Topside Road off Alcoa Highway. Stop by to see it or call 865-977-0061 Guy Scoggin

Underwater Structure

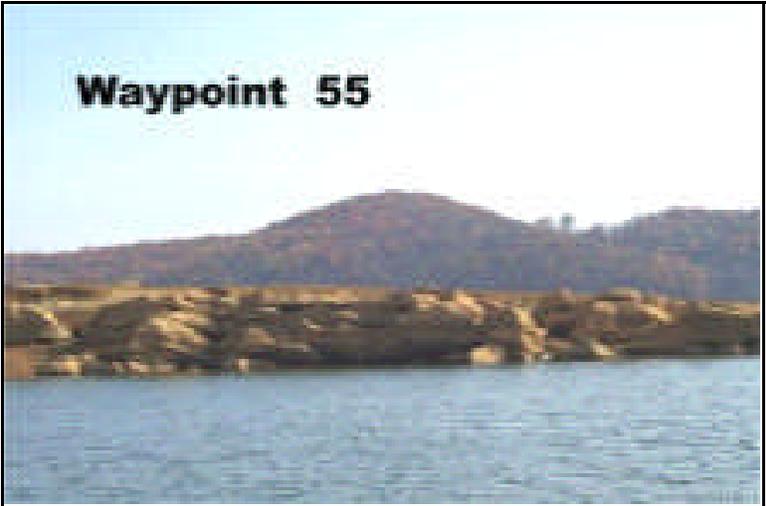
As most of you know, East Tennessee has been suffering through an extended drought for some time now. As a result, the water levels on most of our reservoirs have been extremely low throughout the summer and winter months. While this is a concern for striper fishermen, it did present me with an opportunity to learn more about the structure that lies beneath the surface when the lake is at summer water levels. If you don't fish much in the winter, you would be amazed at the ridges and rock formations that are visible then. I thought that, if I studied these areas, it would give me an edge next spring and summer after Cherokee, hopefully, fills back up from spring rains. To accomplish this, I patrolled my favorite fishing holes on the lower end of Cherokee to see exactly what was down there and I tried to pinpoint the areas that looked the most promising. I snapped and cataloged many pictures and identified the interesting structure in them with GPS readings. An example of this is shown in the picture identified as SU02. The water level in this picture is about 25' below summer pool so all of this structure will be totally submerged. The areas to the left and right of the picture are heavily strewn with huge boulders. This picture reveals two passageways through the rocks that have a fairly clean bottom. Also, this area forms a neat underwater bowl. I expect that the stripers and hybrids will concentrate in these open areas between the heavy rock formations. Also, I would expect that smallmouth bass will concentrate in the crevices within the rock formations.

Another example of interesting structure is shown in the second picture and identified as Waypoint 55. This structure is in the middle of the lake, and I had no idea it was there. I've recorded GPS readings at both ends of this ridge so I can troll it just off the drop-off. I have never fished this area so it will be very interesting to see if this ridge attracts rockfish.

At this point in time, I have no idea whether I have recorded a lot of valuable information that will help me next spring or if I've wasted a lot of time. In any case, I did have a lot of fun gathering this data.

Another side benefit in doing something like this is that it helps you identify potentially hazardous areas. During my patrols, I identified and marked, with GPS readings, underwater structure that might make navigation hazardous at higher water levels. Again, I was surprised at the number of rocks and sand bars that are lurking below the surface waiting to destroy your propeller or worse.

Bob Leach



Hickory Star Marina & Campground

This month we are highlighting the Hickory Star Marina, strategically located on beautiful Norris Reservoir, just four miles West 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) or 865-992-5241, email them at fishnorris@aol.com or go online to www.hickorystarmarina.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.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

WHAT DID YOUR LARGEST 2007 STRIPER WEIGH
AND IN WHAT MONTH DID YOU CATCH IT?

We had 23 fishermen respond to this question with the following results:

The largest reported Striper caught in 2007 was 42 pounds. With two fishermen reporting 42 pounds, one in March and the other in August.

The best month to search for a "Trophy Class Striper" would be August based on this informal survey of TSBA members and guests. We had nine fishermen report that they caught their largest Striper of 2007 in August, with the next best months only having 3 each. The average big Striper caught in August weighed 22.2 pounds. It certainly looks like sweating in August may increase your odds of catching that trophy. It would be nice if these fish came from cool water rivers that would also increase the odds of these fish living if they were released.

The months of March, July, and November came in second with 3 each per month. The average weight of the year's largest fish for these 23 fishermen was 24.6 pounds.

Thanks,

Jim Blazier

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: "striper" Password: "club"

The password will be changed on April 1.

You will find the new password in your March newsletter. March newsletters will be sent only to members who have renewed their memberships for 2008.



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Treasurer:

Janine Johnson

Secretary:

Ezell Cox

Assistant Treasurer:

Allan Franklin

TSBA DIRECTORS

Wes Adams, Billy Davis, Erik Engebretsen,
Janine Johnson, Chet Moore, Eric Rauch, John Seiber

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Kids' Fishing Day: Allan Franklin 865-805-3120
Door Prizes: Billy Davis 865-300-0392
Tournament Coordinators: Erik Engebretsen, Allan Franklin
404-683-0181, 865-694-8888
Merchandising: John Seiber 865-945-3716

STRIPER NOSTALGIA CORNER

NORRIS MONSTERS COME IN PAIRS

Ezell Cox's double on striped bass, Wednesday, was remarkable in its own right. But the one he kept was the catch of a lifetime for the veteran Tazewell fisherman.

Ezell's fish weighed 58 pounds, 4 ounces. Although the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency does not keep individual lake records, the huge striper was almost certainly the largest hauled out of Norris Lake, and may be the second-largest striper ever caught in Tennessee.

The current state record for stripers is Gary Helms' 60 pound, 8 ounce fish caught from Melton Hill, February 13, 1988. Prior to that, the record was a 55 pound, 8 ounce specimen which Wade Cordell hauled out of Melton Hill a year earlier.

Cox's fish hit a 15-inch gizzard shad shortly before 6 p. m. While Cox was occupied reeling in the striper, another of his reels began screaming. After fighting the exhausted fish to the side of the boat, Cox set the rod in a rod holder, locked the reel down, and left the fish floating in the water beside the boat while he directed his attention to the second rod. Some minutes later, Cox reeled in a second striper of similar dimensions.

After a quick comparison of size, Cox let the second and livelier of the fish swim off. The one he kept measured 46.5 inches long and had a 34-inch girth.

Paul H. Shaw, February 16, 1997

2008 TSBA Calendar

Please attend TSBA events and join us at the meetings.
Monthly meetings will be held at Shoney's Restaurant, 2405 Andersonville Highway. Get off I-75 at Exit 122 (Hwy. 61 - Clinton/Norris), head east. Shoney's will be on the left.

February 18	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
March 17	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
April	Hickory Star Tournament
April 21	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
April 26	StriperBowl
May	Norris Lake Advisory Committee Meeting
May 19	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery
June 7	Kids' Fishing Day
June 16	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
July 21	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery
August 18	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
September 13	TSBA Fish Fry - Anderson County Park-Norris Lake
October 20	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM - Nominations for Directors and Officers
November 17	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM - Election of Directors and Officers
December 15	Board of Directors Meeting - Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7PM



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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 2008 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 TW/RA & 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**



In order to be sure to receive your March newsletter, please see that your membership dues for 2008 are paid. Thank you. Your expiration date is on your mailing label.