

Tennessee Striped Bass Association

Get Hooked !



December 2019



Thrill of the hunt!

Monthly Meeting on first Mondays:

Puleo's Grill, 110 Cedar Lane off Merchants Rd. at I - 75

TSBA web site <http://tnstripedbass.com/> for the latest news.

Submit news items to tsba.newsletter@gmail.com

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TSBA Board of Directors Meeting Summary

A meeting of the Board of Directors (BOD) of the Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc. was held on December 2, 2019 at Puleo's Grill, 110 Cedar Lane, Knoxville, TN at 7:00 pm.

Directors present and their ending date for their terms were Chairman Allan Franklin (2022), Cory Malabey (2022), Bill Ballou (2020), Jim Blazier (2020), Eric Rauch (2020), Bob Biscay (2021), Steve Nichols (2021), and Hal Basdekis (2021). James Pierce (2022) was absent. Members Tim Blanton and Bruce Danley also attended the meeting.

Officers/Key Staff Positions: The 2019 officers agreed to continue in their existing roles with one change. Keith Shannon volunteered to pick up the Secretary function from Eric Rauch. TSBA Officers/Staff for 2020 include:

President:	Keith Shannon
Vice President:	Steve Nichols
Treasurer:	Eric Rauch
Secretary:	Keith Shannon
Newsletter Printing/Distribution:	Jim Blazier/Bill Ballou
Newsletter Editor:	Keith Shannon/Beth Willis
Sponsor Coordinator:	Justin Rose
Membership:	Eric Rauch
Web Site:	Bob Biscay
Public Relations:	Ezell Cox
Facebook Coordinators:	Allan Franklin, Steve Nichols & Eric Rauch

A considerable amount of discussion focused on attendance at and frequency of meetings. The BOD decided to hold meetings mostly on even months including February, April, June, August and November with the BOD meeting in December. We will continue to hold most meetings at Puleo's Grill on the 1st Monday of the month.

Topics for the meetings will be:

Feb: How to use planer boards.

April: Live Bait – catching and keeping; bait nets.

June (Saturday event): Kids Day at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery followed by lunch at Shoney's (I-75/Hwy 61 location). Eric will reserve a room. Topic will be fishing in dam tail waters/summer fishing.

Aug: Mike Smith of TWRA regarding stocking levels achieved for 2020.

Sept: The annual fish fry will be held on Sept. 19 at Anderson County Park. Eric will reserve the pavilion for the fish fry.

Nov: Umbrella rigs and winter fishing techniques

Hal volunteered to coordinate a club tourney on August 29 on Cherokee Lake. We will also use this event to collect fish for the club fish fry.

Eric Rauch shared information on membership and club finances. As of Dec. 2, 2019 TSBA had a total of \$8,190.38 in its accounts. We had 85 paid club members at the end of 2019.

The BOD discussed potential club donations for 2020. It was agreed that we will make the following donations in 2020:

TWRA Kids Fishing Day - \$500
4-H (via Allan) - \$250
Boy Scouts (via Jim) - \$250

Regarding newsletters, the BOD decided to publish them 6 times a year, sending them out a week or two before each meeting.

Submitted by: Eric W. Rauch
TSBA Secretary 2019

November 2019 Meeting

Cold Weather Fishing Safety—Keith Shannon

Accidents are unexpected and you can quickly end up in frigid water. Here are some tips to keep in mind the next time you are on the water:

- Wear your life jacket at all times.
- Bring a change of clothes in case you take an unexpected swim.
- Don't fish alone. It's difficult to pull yourself out of the water with layers of water-logged clothing.
- Be extra careful peeing over the side of the boat. Many winter drowning victims have their fly down when their bodies are recovered.
- A wet boat deck may freeze and become extremely slippery.
- When traveling from one boat launch to another in below freezing temperatures, do not unhook the boat until it is in the water. Boats can easily slide off frozen bunks.

Late Fall and Early Winter Techniques for Striped Bass

East Tennessee is fortunate to have several lakes with good striped bass fishing. This article summarizes my experience on Watts Bar in the late fall and early winter. I really enjoy fishing this time of year . After a scorching summer of sweating through my clothes, the cool weather is a welcome relief . The crowds of fishermen and pleasure boaters are gone. Wildlife is abundant on the banks and in the air and fishing is good.

When

In the summer and early fall, when the water temperature is in the mid 70s or higher, most striped bass are enjoying the cooler water in the Tennessee and Clinch River arms of the lake. As the water temperature cools and fall progresses, fish leave the river arms and return to the main lake to feed heavily. By the end October, huge schools of shad move to the back of mid and lower lake feeder creeks and large coves. Shortly thereafter, flocks of seagulls show up to eat the shad and, fortunately for us, show us where the striped bass are.

Where

Your best bet to find striped bass is to find seagulls. When striped bass feed, they push shad to the surface, making them easy prey for seagulls. Seek out creeks and coves that consistently have large numbers of gulls. A pair of binoculars helps. Unlike you and I, gulls fish all day everyday. They know which creeks are frequented by feeding striped bass and spend most of their time there. They are essentially playing the odds, in gamblers' parlance. Every morning and evening, striped bass and gulls have feeding frenzies on Watts Bar. However, the frenzies don't occur in the same place everyday. If you don't see fish breaking and birds diving shortly after sunrise or within an hour or so of sunset, move. You are in the wrong spot. If fish don't break by a certain time known only to the birds, they will leave a particular creek to find breaking fish. Gulls know when to hold em, when to fold em and when to fly elsewhere to look for breaking fish. You should too.

How

Shad on freelines, planer boards and down lines will all catch fish in late fall and early winter. In the early morning and late afternoon, when fish typically come up near the surface to feed, planer boards and freelines are most effective. When the sun is high, and especially so on sunny days, downlines are most effective. Watch your graph and note the depth at which you see fish and rig your rods accordingly. I always keep two rods

rigged with artificial baits to target breaking fish, One is rigged with a topwater bait like a popper or wakebait, the other with a swimbait or similar soft plastic.

Striped bass can be very size-selective as the water gets colder. When striped bass are feeding on tiny baits, they will often not take larger baits. The solution is to downsize you bait and tackle. When the water is in the high 40s, a three inch shad on ten pound line and a #4 hook is often required to get bites. Don't overlook tiny artificials in cold water. They will frequently outfish live bait. In cold water, striped bass' strike zone gets very small. Live bait is smart. Its stays out of the strike zone. Artificial baits are dumb. Tiny artificials will generate a reaction bite when it gets in the strike zone.

Keith Shannon



Tim Blanton shows off a fine striper catch!

Creel and Size limits

CHEROKEE LAKE

Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass:

2 per day in combination, 15 inch minimum length limit

NORRIS LAKE

Striped Bass

April 1–October 31: 2 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

November 1–March 31: 1 per day, 36 inch minimum length limit

WATTS BAR

Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass:

April 1–October 31: 2 per day in combination

November 1–March 31: 2 per day in combination, only one may be a striped bass.

Striped Bass:

April 1–October 31: 15 inch minimum length limit.

November 1–March 31: 36 inch minimum length limit

Hybrid Striped Bass:

15 inch minimum length limit

MELTON HILL

Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass:

2 per day in combination, including Clinch River upstream to Highway 61 bridge in Clinton. 15 inch minimum length limit

Striped Bass:

32–42 inch PLR; only one fish may be over 42 inches

Outlook for current fishing spots

CHEROKEE LAKE

The stripers/hybrids are in large schools roaming the lower half of the reservoir below the 25E Bridge. The water temperature is around 50 degrees so much of the large concentrations of baitfish have moved into the deep main channel where the temperature is most stable. The metabolism of stripers and baitfish has been slowed by the cold water, making bait easier for the stripers to catch and the feeding times shorter. Find the gulls to be in the feeding zone with breaking fish on the surface being likely. The stripers have completely recovered from the summer stress and are putting on the weight. Catch and release will be successful so we should see some 25 pound stripers in Cherokee by spring pre-spawn.

NORRIS LAKE

Find the large schools of baitfish by locating gulls whether feeding or not, and looking for surface feeding fish. Other bait-eating birds are scarce on Norris, but the gulls and a good fish finder will get you in the right area on the lake. The premium locations will be in or near the main channel where the water is deepest with less change in temperature around mid-lake and downstream. Water temperature will be in the high 40's. Good catch and release practice is successful even with the largest of stripers in the cool waters of the winter months. The best fishing is around the gulls in the large deep coves and main channel.

WATTS BAR & MELTON HILL

The striped bass bite in the tail race often moves downstream for the coldest months of winter in front of the major coves or where you find the most baitfish. The Kingston Steam Plant often has large concentrations of baitfish, especially if the warm water discharge influences the areas water temperature. The steam plants have not produced the warm water discharge like in past years so the fishing has suffered around them. The baitfish will often find the warmest water. The cooler longer nights will equalize the temperature in the coves and river to allow the bait to use the river more, so look for the sun warmed banks and the gulls. The survival of released fish in the winter months is great.

— Ezell Cox



Mark your calendars for the first Mondays & make a point to join us for our semi monthly meetings.

Other events may be added if interest is shown. Get involved and participate in TSBA to make sure it reflects what is important to you!

Feb 3: How to use planer boards.

April 6: Live Bait – catching and keeping; bait nets.

June (Saturday event): Kids Day at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery followed by lunch at Shoney's (I-75/Hwy 61 location). Topic will be fishing in dam tail waters/summer fishing. Date TBA.

Aug 3: Mike Smith of TWRA regarding stocking levels achieved for 2020.

Aug 29: Club Tourney on Cherokee Lake

Sept 19: The annual fish fry will be held on Sept. 19 at Anderson County Park. Eric will reserve the pavilion for the fish fry.

Nov 2: Umbrella rigs and winter fishing techniques

Don't Forget to Renew

Renewing is easy! New address is below:

Enclose a check for \$20.00

Mail to: TSBA

P.O. Box 7303

Knoxville, TN 37921

YOUR 2019 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND STAFF

President: Keith Shannon

Vice President: Steve Nichols

Treasurer: Eric Rauch

Secretary: Eric Rauch

Board Chairman: Allan Franklin

TSBA DIRECTORS

Bill Ballou, Jim Blazier, Steve Nichols, Cory Malabey, David Powell, Eric Rauch, Allan Franklin, Bob Biscay, Hal Basdekis

TSBA STAFF

Newsletter Printing: Jim Blazier, Bill Ballou

Distribution: Jim's email jblazier@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor: Beth Willis tsba.newsletter@gmail.com

Membership: Art Muchow arthurmuchow@yahoo.com

Web Administrator: Bob Biscay tennstripedbass@gmail.com

Facebook Coordinator: Allan Franklin/Steve Nichols

Sponsor Coordinator: Justin Rose

Public Relations: Ezell Cox

Advisors: Ezell Cox/Allan Franklin

Simplified Renewal Note: Returning members with no changes to their contact information are not required to fill out the application. Just send a \$20 check to the address above. Be sure to include the member's name on the check. When you send in your check, please provide TSBA with an email address where we can send your club newsletter. Yearly dues are due in January each year. New members who sign up in Oct., Nov., or Dec. will get credit for the remainder of that year and the following year.

TSBA Sponsors

TSBA appreciates all the support we get from our sponsors. If you would like to see your business listed in our newsletter please consider adding or renewing for 2020. TSBA can provide newsletters for our sponsors to distribute. Thanks!



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T.S.B.A., Inc. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

As a member:

- * You'll receive a newsletter periodically.
- * 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, Inc. web page.

Is this a renewal ___ or a new membership ___

Your name _____ -- _____
Spouse's name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone(_____) _____
E-Mail address _____

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

* A copy of the Bylaws can be found on the TSBA, Inc. website at <http://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 7303
Knoxville, TN 37921

Simplified Renewal Note: Returning members with no changes to their contact information are not required to fill out the application. Just send a \$20 check to the address above. Be sure to include the member's name on the check. When you send in your check, please provide TSBA with an email address where we can send your club newsletter. Yearly dues are due in January each year. New members who sign up in Oct., Nov., or Dec. will get credit for the remainder of that year and the following year.

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