

# Tennessee Striped Bass Association

Get Hooked !



January 2018



Monthly Meeting First Monday at Puleo's Grill,

110 Cedar Lane off Merchants Rd. at I - 75

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

Join our Facebook group [Tennessee Striped Bass Association](#)

As Chairman of the TSBA Board of Directors during 2017, I want to thank all of our officers and those who handled key club functions throughout the year. Several individuals put in a lot of hours to keep our club going.

At our December BOD meeting I was pleased to see several members step up to assume new leadership roles, including Keith Shannon as President, Steve Nichols as Vice President, and Allan Franklin as the new BOD Chairman. Art Muchow will continue to serve as Treasurer and Membership Coordinator. These are a couple of extremely important functions. I am shifting to club Secretary.

Jim Blazer and Bill Ballou will continue to print and distribute the newsletter. Bob Biscay has agreed to administer our web page, as we evaluate how we will use it in the future. Thanks to Terry Reintz for handling this for us for several years. Since Bob has picked up this new responsibility he will cease being the newsletter editor after the January edition is published. If we are going to continue to have a newsletter we will need to have someone take on that important function. If we don't, then we will have to cease its production. Allen Franklin will continue to be the club's Facebook administrator and Justin Rose will help Allen with that effort. Justin will also continue as Sponsor Coordinator.

The BOD has set up a very good schedule for our speakers for 2018. Due to the fact that January 1<sup>st</sup> is also the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month, we won't have a meeting in January. Our next meeting will be on February 5. We hope that more members will attend our monthly meetings at Puleo's. For those who live outside of the Knoxville area and can't reasonably drive to meetings or who have work/family commitments, we have decided to start recording our meetings again. There will be a lag in posting the recordings but members will be able to hear the presentations once again.

Please support your officers and other club leadership so that we can have a wonderful 2018.

Eric Rauch

Last year the club donated \$500.00 each to the 4H club, The Boy Scouts of Jefferson County, and Children's Hospital. For 2018 the BOD decided to donate \$500.00 to the 4H club and \$500.00 to the Boy Scouts. By keeping the donations at the local level all the money goes to the designated club.

This might be the last newsletter the club sends out, unless of course someone comes forward and volunteers as editor. I have taken on additional duties with the Shelter Animal Rescue Group therefore resigning as newsletter editor moving to the position of web administrator.

If any members have ideas for club speakers or events throughout the year please bring it up at the meetings. Have a great year!!Get out and fish!

Bob Biscay



Dues are due!!! Please support the club by paying your dues in a timely fashion. Membership information is on page 15.

The club accepts PayPal payments at:

[tennstripedbass@gmail.com](mailto:tennstripedbass@gmail.com)

# 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

## January / February Expectations

The baitfish will be in the warmest water they can find. Smaller bait will begin to work better as the water temperature falls below 50 degrees. The gulls return for the winter and can be a great help in locating the baitfish, as the striper will be where the bait is most abundant. Artificial baits can be more productive, so consider jigging, casting or trolling. Umbrella rigs have become a favorite method the last several years. This can be a very enjoyable time on the water if you go prepared for the cold weather and are aware of the hazards to avoid. Prepare to make your cold weather, cold water fishing trips safe and successful by planning well and telling someone where you are going and when you will be back. Ezell Cox

The club is in need of a member to take over the position of **Newsletter Editor** starting January 2018. If interested please contact one of the board members.

# Club Meeting: Speakers for 2018

January 1st. The 1st. Monday falls on New Years Day. No meeting

February 5th. Eric Burnett– Boat Maintenance

March 5th. James Everett– TVA. River Forecast Center

April 2nd. Keith Shannon, Alan Franklin and David Powell- discussion on finding, catching, and keeping live bait

May 7th. Fuzzy Lambert- Humminbird/ Minn Kota Electronics and trolling motors

June 4th. Captain Chadwick Ferrell- Fishing the boils and tailrace tips and tricks

July 2nd. Bill Ballou– Reel Maintenance

August 6th. TWRA Mike Smith- Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery discussion on striper stocking

September 3rd. Meeting falls on Labor Day. Meeting to be determined?

October 6th. Club Fish Fry (no regular club meeting) Fish Fry will be at Grainger County Park, October 6th.

November 5th. Jay Girardot– Umbrella rigs when and how.

December 3rd. Board of Directors meeting (no regular club meeting)

# Spring fishing to kick the winter blues

## Norris Lake

The Clinch and Powell are natural rivers that have no upstream dams. Information about these two rivers can often be applied to other natural rivers in the area that have these same species available. Walleye and sauger are the first game fish to make the spring run. These species typically stage in some of the deeper pockets of water a few miles downstream from the rivers in the uppermost shallow coves. This can start as early as mid-February but is ultimately controlled by environmental triggers including water temperature and length of daylight. When the sun's angle and length of day have warmed the rivers to around 60 degrees, the walleye and sauger move into the rivers to spawn. Spawning starts in March and continues through April. The white bass (stripe) are the next to spawn and move up into the rivers in late March. The striped bass (striper or rockfish) begin to show up around the first of April through the first half of May. Keep in mind that the "typical" spawning season can vary slightly from year to year. Not all of these fish will make the spawning run every year and there are also other game and non-game species making spawning runs up the rivers during this period. Some of the hatchery raised fish have become confused and disconnected from normal spawning behavior and may just move into any incoming major creek.

Lake elevations on Norris Lake are in transition during most of this time period. The winter pool level is 1000 feet. Beginning in March the elevation is raised 10 feet, with another 10-foot increase in April to bring the level up to a maximum summer pool elevation of 1020 feet. Access to the Clinch River is good from Highway 25E. Lone Mountain Dock, Sycamore, 25E River Road, and Beach Grove have access for boat launch. There is good bank fishing access where the Clinch River crosses 25E River Road and also on Indian Creek at Bullen Valley Road.

Continued on pg.10

When the boat leaves with a load of bananas there are always a few monkeys around.



Steve & Ezell have breakfast while Mike catches fish



Ezell, Mike and Steve enjoying the day at Cherokee



The Powell River is a lot more remote, but has a lot of local fishing traffic this time of year. There is a gravel launch ramp at Lonesome Valley Road out of New Tazewell and a small boat can sometimes be launched at Gap Creek Road off of Highway 63. Earl Hollow Road has a launch ramp also off of Highway 63. These ramps and roads are not suitable for larger boats. Limited bank fishing access can be had from Gap Creek and Lonesome Roads.

My experience and knowledge is best about the striped bass and how to catch them. My favorite way to fish is to use the large gizzard shad, that are also in the river to spawn, as bait. I am limited to a water depth that allows me to use my aluminum boat with a prop without damaging it. I use monofilament line 20 pound test and smaller with no weight tied straight to a 4/0 octopus hook. I hook the large gizzard shad thru the upper lip only, then let out about 15 feet of line before attaching a redi-rig float or side planer board. I use my electric trolling motor to pull the side planer close to the bank and let out 75+ feet on the redi-rig float behind the boat. My electric trolling motor speed is normally less than 1 mph.

Artificial baits are also very successful this time of year also. Large hair jigs with curly tail, top water plugs, and wake baits are some of the most common used for striped bass.

This abbreviated version of, what, when, and where on the spring spawn run may get you started on a cure for spring fever.

— **Ezell Cox**

# New Members List: Welcome to the club guys

Robert Metz - Harrison, Oh

Frank Zimmerman - Stow, Oh

James Rigney - LaFollette, Tn

Michael Carter - Knoxville, Tn

Michael High - Knoxville, Tn

Lawrence Douglass - Crossville, Tn

Joseph Campbell - Russell Springs, Ky

Jason (Chris) Stansberry - Seymour, Tn

Stuart Bilbrey - Jacksboro, Tn

Melvin Brook - Lily, Ky

Robert Fuller - Charleston, Wv

Rob Trenkamp - Hamilton, Oh

Jacob (Jake) Plasters - Gallipolis, Oh

Josh Treadway - Rockford Tn

Columbus Whaley - Sevierville, Tn

John Galliher - Norwood, NC

Dale Zimmerman- Talbot, Tn.

Clay Haselton - Kingsport, Tn

Jim Wallace - Knoxville, Tn

John Vincenzo - Knoxville, Tn

Tommy White - Sevierville, Tn

Sam Lanning - Rogersville, Tn

Jacob Lanning - Rogersville, Tn

David Maurer -Guilford IN

Gary Conley - Chapmanville WV

Tracy Templeton - Dandridge, Tn

Brian Oaks - Maynardville, Tn

Darrell Owen - Mooresburg, Tn

Harvey Perricone - LaFollette, Tn

Dan Hall - Loudon, TN

Larry Owens -Tazewell, Tn.

Richard Brogan - Loveland, Oh.

Kenny Witt -Maryville, Tn.

Jamey Loy -Knoxville, Tn.

Christopher Owens - Tablott, Tn.

# Hot Spots

## **CHEROKEE LAKE**

Catch and release works great until summer with cool temperatures & good dissolved oxygen at all depths. Look for the gulls to find the bait and fish. Top water action is often good, so keep something to cast handy. Stripers/hybrids can migrate to any part of the lake with the temperature and oxygen comfortable everywhere, so look for large concentrations of bait fish, herons, gulls, or breaking fish. Some of the best action is often in the deep open waters on the lower half of the lake where the water temperature is most stable attracting the bait fish schools. Artificial and small lively bait do well in the coldest water of winter.

## **NORRIS LAKE**

SIZE (36 INCH) AND CREEL LIMIT (ONE) in effect on NORRIS November 1<sup>ST</sup> until April 1<sup>st</sup>. Best fishing can be found mid-lake and downstream around the large coves & creeks in open water with bait fish abundant. Top water action can be good early mornings & late evenings so take something to cast. The bite can be fast and over quickly in the coldest part of winter. Artificial and small lively bait do well in the coldest water of winter. Catch and release is very successful now.

## **WATTS BAR & MELTON HILL**

SIZE (36 INCH) AND CREEL LIMIT (ONE) in effect on Watts Bar November 1<sup>ST</sup> until April 1<sup>st</sup>. Look for the gulls. Look for the stripers in front of the major coves or where you find the most bait fish and bait eating birds. The steam plant's warmed water attracts bait that attracts game fish. Catch and release works great. The fish in Watts Bar & lower Clinch Watts Bar have contamination warnings so should not be harvested.

*Ezell Cox*

# YOUR 2018 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND STAFF

**President:** Keith Shannon

**Vice President:** Steve Nichols

**Treasurer:** Art Muchow

**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](mailto:jblazier@comcast.net)

**Newsletter Editor:** Open

**Membership:** Art Muchow [arthurmuchow@yahoo.com](mailto:arthurmuchow@yahoo.com)

**Web Administrator:** Bob Biscay [tennstripedbass@gmail.com](mailto:tennstripedbass@gmail.com)

**Sponsor Coordinator:** Justin Rose

**Advisors:** Ezell Cox 423-626-9547

Allan Franklin 865-805-3120

# 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 renewing for 2018. TSBA can provide newsletters for our sponsors to distribute. Thanks!



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# TSBA 2018 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.

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Please provide an e-mail address to receive the monthly newsletter:

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

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](http://www.tnstripedbass.com) or at the offices of the corporation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

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

***Mail to: TSBA***

**2954 Lake Forest Circle**

**Talbott, TN. 37877**

**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 that sign up in Oct., Nov., or Dec. will get credit for the remainder of that year and the following year.

Tennessee Striped Bass Association  
2954 Lake Forest Circle  
Talbot, Tn. 37877

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