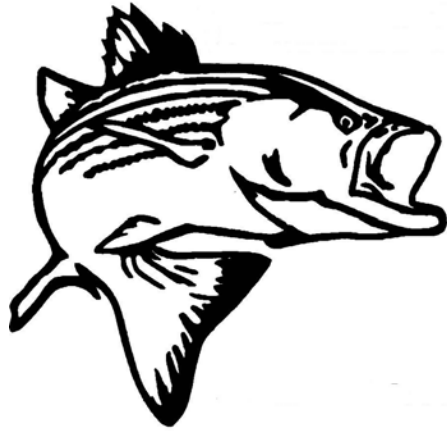


**Catch
the
Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



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

**January
2012**



Allan Franklin, fishing with Ezell Cox on Norris Lake, landed this beauty using umbrella rigs. Be sure to come to the January meeting to hear about Ezell's tips and suggestion for make fishing a year round sport.

President's Letter

Greetings everyone,

The arrival of the New Year brought with it new appointments for TSBA officer positions at the annual Board of Directors' meeting. I was pleased to accept the appointment as President; Cory Malabey, Vice President; Keith Shannon, Secretary; and Bud White as Treasurer/Membership.

The TSBA had a great 2011 marked by an increase in membership, good tournaments, a well-attended fish fry and expenditures within our income. The club has had great leadership and growth under the guidance of former President Erik Engebretsen (3 years) and Vice President Jim Blazier (4 years). We owe both of them a big "THANKS" for their efforts in making TSBA the club it is today. Fortunately for TSBA, both Erik and Jim have agreed to continue to serve our club as board members. Jim will also continue his role coordinating the newsletter content, printing and mailing.

I have been a club member since 2006 and the club's treasurer and membership coordinator for the last 3 years. A major passion in my life since 2005 has been striped bass fishing and our East Tennessee fisheries. Before I caught the fever for fishing, I was into water skiing and wake boarding. I had no knowledge or desire to learn how to fish for stripers. Through the club, and more importantly through reaching out to individuals, my catch rate has improved tremendously. Striped bass fishing is not an easy sport. Our club is an invaluable resource available to anglers and I believe that the more you put into the sport and our club, the more you will get out of it.

We plan to provide you with an interesting line-up of fresh meeting topics for the upcoming year. We will also be proposing a few tournaments for 2012 based on the success of the 2011 events. Our tournaments can be a great way of learning a new body of water with all the sharing of information that has been available.

Finally, I would like to emphasize a serious concern on behalf of our directors and officers. We have been following a proposal made to TWRA to expand commercial fishing operations for several of our East and Middle Tennessee lakes. I urge all members to take a little time

and review this important issue: the future of our sport fisheries could be gravely affected. Links and statements will be provided on our fishing forum and also in our newsletters.

I would like to wish everyone Happy New FISHING Year!

— Doug Steffe

Be informed and prepared to voice your opinion

If you are keeping up with the TSBA forum online, then you are already aware that TWRA is in the public comment phase of a study examining the effects of opening more public waters in East and Middle Tennessee to commercial fishing. Please familiarize yourself with this issue by visiting the following links:

<http://news.tn.gov/node/7871>

<http://news.tn.gov/node/8179>

<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2011/dec/10/bob-hodge-something-fishy-about-push-for/>



Important Reminder

It is time to renew your TSBA membership. When you renew, please select email as your preferred method of receiving the newsletter. Over 35% of our club dues go to printing and mailing the newsletter. Those trophy shots look so much better when viewed online! Make the switch this year and see what you have been missing.

The membership application can be found on page 15. Returning members can use the express renewal option described at the bottom of the page. When returning members renew, please e-mail Doug Steffe at dougsteffe@centurytel.net and let him know you would prefer to receive the newsletter by e-mail.



Don't put away your tackle just yet! Winter can be a rewarding and enjoyable season to be out on the water. Be sure to attend this month's meeting to learn methods to maximize your winter fishing opportunities.

January Meeting

Please join us on January 16, 2012 for the TSBA monthly meeting. Our guest speakers this month will be Ezell Cox and Doug Steffe. Ezell will lead the group with an informal discussion regarding winter-time fishing methods. Doug will provide an update on the potential changes in commercial fishing regulations, an issue of great concern that club officers have been monitoring.

TSBA's monthly meeting will be held in a private room at the Flatwater Grill restaurant in Oak Ridge. This room is best entered through the side door near the railroad bridge. The buffet dinner will start at 6:00 p.m., with the meeting to follow at 7:15 p.m. The cost is \$15, which includes a drink and gratuity. (Note that payment is cash or check only).

How I became a better fisherman

My name is Nathan Bailey. I am 34 years old and originally from London, Ky. I grew up fishing the banks of Lake Cumberland with nearly a dozen notorious uncles and cousins who were legendary bass fishermen (as far as I knew). I began to go on serious bass fishing trips with my dad when I was about 7 years old and have been learning the ropes ever since.

In the early 1990's, I became interested in fishing for striped bass. I was able to catch some strippers on Lake Cumberland using artificial lures at night; I had some success on Norris Lake as well. In 1997 I began to fish the Powell side of Norris lake on a regular basis, and this is where I was able to catch my personal best: a 34-lb striped bass. In the years to come, my striper fishing skills would continue to improve - but at a snail's pace.

This is the story of how a little luck and a few good friends changed my fishing forever.

One day while traveling home from work, I was involved in a minor car accident near Pineville, Ky. While getting a ride to the gas station to get help, I noticed a small business card in the floor of the truck. I was able to see a picture of a big striped bass on the card, but that was about it. I asked the driver for the card and he gave it to me. I put the card in my wallet where it would stay for the next few months until, while planning a fishing trip for my birthday, I remembered the card and decided to call the number. It was that day when I met the first of many striper fishing friends to come.



The author with a nice catch made on Cherokee Lake this past November.

The number on the card belonged to the professional guide service officially known as The Striper Slayers, but to me they are now just "Mike and Bud." They offered to take me anywhere in East Tennessee for my birthday trip. According to Mike, they were catching 30-lbers left and right on Watts Bar that week. I told them that for my birthday I wanted them to come to my back yard, to look at my fishing holes and teach me how to fish those spots. Lucky for me, they offer this service. Since the Striper Slayers do not fish the Powell River side of Norris very much, they contacted Doug Steffe, who lives on the Powell, to assist with my education.

Bud, Doug and I set out of Flat Hollow Marina at daylight to begin my first fishing lesson. It was probably an hour or two before we wet the first line, but that didn't matter to me because I was learning. By the end of that first day, my fishing knowledge had taken a huge leap forward. Although I was already a pretty decent striper fishermen, the knowledge shared by Bud and Doug increased my ability ten fold.

After the birthday trip, I joined the TSBA. Since joining the club, I have made at least a dozen friends who I talk to often. Sometimes I get advice, sometimes I give advice, but that is how it works. It is great to have a network of "lake friends" to not only get reports from but also to recognize as familiar faces on the water. My association with the TSBA has not only improved my fishing ability but has also introduced me to new fishing waters that I would never have considered fishing. I now feel that I can catch fish 365 days a year, somewhere, somehow. I don't keep my newfound fishing skills to myself. These days, I actually only reel in one of about every ten fish that enter my boat because I am usually taking out family members or friends who are interested in fishing with me. I think Ezell Cox said in a recent website post, "we are all better because we share." I agree 100%. The fishing knowledge I possess was generously given to me by others and I intend to pass it on. I have more than one friend who is re-modeling their boat this winter to make room for a bait tank!!!!

I recently took a group of 7 guys on 2 boats fishing on Cherokee near Point 18. There was a bunch of TSBA members around that day, either close by or on the radio. The fish were biting and we had a blast. During the day we talked from boat to boat and Ezell shared some bait with us. It was a total group effort, which turned the experience into one of those really great days out on the water. On the way home, my group could not believe how friendly and helpful everyone on the lake



Nathan isn't the only one benefitting from his time spent bending poles with The Striper Slayers. These days Nate, pictured above left, finds himself in the role of the teacher. Family and friends, who are frequently guests on his boat, are now learning from Nate the essentials for trophy striper fishing.





Nate's father, Gary, on Cherokee Lake.

had been to each other. They were totally impressed and wanted to know how to join the club.

As for me, I'm looking forward to starting 2012 at full speed. I look forward to hearing the fishing reports and sharing a few myself. My son Cooper just turned 7 and I look forward to teaching him some serious stuff this year. **I WILL BREAK THE 34-lb MARK THIS YEAR** (I'm lookin' at you Bud White)!

See you on the water ...

— Nathan Bailey

A new sponsor

TSBA would like to welcome **Tornado Alley 3 Minute Car Wash** as the newest addition to our family of newsletter sponsors. Members Fred England and Mark Lohr have opened this new business on Hwy 61, across from the Anderson County High School. You can visit their website at www.tornadoalley3minutecarwash.com. They are offering TSBA members a \$1 discount: just enter the code FISH before paying. Pick-up trucks are welcome!



Meeting minutes for the 2011 Annual board of directors' meeting

All officers and board members were present for the 2011 board of directors meeting, ready to set the stage for the 2012 season. First order of business was to discuss officers and board members terms. Vice president Jim Blazier resigned, but will continue with the TSBA newsletter. Bill Ballou and Keith Shannon will continue to serve on the board. After a lengthy discussion on the matter, Erik Engebretsen stepped down as president and Doug Steffe was voted in. Bud White stepped down as secretary and Keith Shannon was voted in. Bud White and assistant Ann Howe were voted in as Treasurer. Cory Malabey stepped up and was voted in as vice president. Some officers are currently serving on the board and will give up these positions as other TSBA members are willing to take over these positions.

A complete list of the 2012 officers and members on the board of directors can be found on page 12.

There was a discussion on a proposed TWRA regulation for limiting winter-time fishing access in the warm water Bull Run steam plant canal and cove. This is being investigated to protect the trophy musky fishery that has experienced abuse in the past, mostly from live bait bank fisherman. The possible future regulation would limit fishing in a defined area off of the main channel. The effect to striper fisherman is that they would not be able to fish the area with live bait during a specified time, currently December through the end of March. Everyone agreed that TSBA should support this regulation for the protection of all trophy fish, including the striped bass that are caught and killed in this area. The group was also in complete agreement that a restricted fishing zone, similar to one enforced at Cherokee dam during the summer, would be the most effective way to protect against abuse in this area.

The next topic on the agenda was the commercial fishing expansion proposal currently under consideration by TWRA. All present were urged to send their thoughts to TWRA before Jan 11, 2012, during the public comment phase of the proposal. The group also discussed if it was appropriate to use the TSBA newsletter as a means of publicizing this political issue to the group. Because information has already been shared on the fishing forum and in monthly meetings, everyone was in agreement that the using the newsletter for this purpose was acceptable and needed. It


was noted that as an incorporated non-profit, we should publish only facts and information, maintaining a politically neutral position on the state legislation actions.

Guest speakers were set for several upcoming meetings. The line-up for 2012 can be found in the calendar on page 13. Members had a discussion about other potential guest speakers, including Tim Adrian, Warren Turner and a friend of Ezell's who might be able to speak to the club about downriggers.

The final topic of the evening was tournaments. Tournament coordinators Todd Asher and Allan Franklin are working on the tournament schedule and will give updates at future meetings. It was stated that these events are a good learning experience and proven to be good fun.

Our club remains strong with a surplus of funds and an increase in membership for the year. We hope that the stage is set once again for another great year. Please keep up the great support and attendance at meetings and events. Let's keep the TSBA strong!

— **Bud White, secretary**



Don't touch that dial!

TSBA member Billy Davis will be featured on an upcoming show of "The Hunt for Big Fish."

This unique fishing show is about finding and capturing huge fish all over the world. The show's host, Larry Dahlberg, is a former guide and Fishing Hall of Fame inductee.

The show can be found on Channel 448 NBCSP from 7:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Outlook for current fishing spots

Cherokee Lake

Because baitfish seek out warmer water, your best bet will be to target sun-warmed banks and deeper water after a cold night. The gulls will help to show where the best bait locations are to be found. Top water breaks can be common this time of year, so go prepared to cast into them. Large schools can often be found on the fish finders; jigging works well also. Looking for the large concentrations of baitfish and bait-eating birds is a good way to find stripers/hybrids as well as looking for breaking fish on the surface. The premium locations are normally downstream of the German Creek area.

Norris Lake

Look for the gulls for advice on where large schools of baitfish are located. Another key to successful fishing during the coldest part of winter is to keep an eye out for surface feeding fish. Remember the creel and size limits have changed on stripers as of the first day of November to a 36-inch minimum size and a one fish creel. The largest concentrations of striper will be on the lower half of the reservoir often in the middle of the lake over the old river channels.

Watts Bar and Melton Hill

The bait fish will start to show up around the steam plants as the water flow slows in the rivers and more steam is needed to produce electricity. The game fish will follow quickly. Watts Bar creel and size limits have changed on stripers as of the first day of November to a 36-inch minimum size and a one fish creel.

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.

YOUR 2012 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND STAFF

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dougsteffe@centurytel.net

Vice President:

Cory Malabey 865-659-3947
cmlabey@charter.net

Treasurer:

Bud White
423-754-0541

Secretary:

Keith Shannon
keith.shannon@gmail.com

Asst. Treasurer:

Allan Franklin
865-805-3120

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Allan Franklin 865-805-3120
Ezell Cox 423-626-9547

Tournament Coordinator: Todd Asher 865-789-1991
Allan Franklin 865-805-3120

Co-op Supplies and

Raffle Prizes: Steve Nichols kidchevy@comcast.net

Advisor:

Ezell Cox 423-626-9547

2012 TSBA Calendar


Please join us at TSBA meetings and events. Monthly meetings are held at the Flatwater Grill at 100 Melton Lake Peninsula in Oak Ridge, Tennessee (<http://theflatwatergrill.com>).

- Jan 16 Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m.
The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge
Speakers: Ezell Cox - Winter fishing methods
 Doug Steffe - Status on the commercial fishing issue
- Feb 20 Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m.
The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge
Speakers: Billy Davis/Todd Asher - The hunt for big fish
- Mar 19 Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m.
The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge
Speaker: Clay Cunningham - artificial lures
- Apr 16 Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m.
The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge
Speaker: Bill Carson - Fishing methods
- May 21 Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m.
The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge
Speaker: Mike Smith, Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery
- Jun 18 Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m.
The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge
- Jul 16 Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m.
The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge
- Aug 20 Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m.
The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge
- Sep 17 Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m.
The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge
- Oct 6 Annual fish fry - No monthly meeting

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TSBA 2012 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 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 163
Sharps Chapel, TN. 37866

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 monthly 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.



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 163
Sharps Chapel, TN 37866**



**January 16, 2012: Monthly Meeting
Flatwater Grill
100 Melton Lake Drive, Oak Ridge
Dinner at 6:00 p.m.; meeting at 7:00 p.m.**