

Tennessee Striped Bass Association

Get Hooked !



Sept 2019



Nate Reinitz (age 10 with his first striped bass!) and dad Cody Reinitz on Norris Lake.

Monthly Meeting every first Monday:

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

Join us on Facebook [Tennessee Striped Bass Association](#)

September 28 - TSBA Fish Fry & Swap Meet

Join us on Saturday, September 28 for the Annual Fish Fry!

Anderson County Park—2191 Park Ln, Andersonville, TN 37705—on Norris Lake.

Please bring a covered dish to share; the club will provide fish, hush puppies and drinks. We'll eat around 2:00. There will also be a castnet competition for women and for men. Bring any old tackle collecting dust for the swap meet! Its always fun to see folks, especially those from out of town who can't make our meetings. We hope to have a great turnout this year!





September Expectations

Expect to find the thermocline developed and getting deeper in the stratified calm waters with 80 + degrees on the surface. Water quality reports sometimes become available by region 4 TWRA biologists on Norris and Cherokee reservoirs in July, August, and September; these are worth looking at to see suitable temperatures with dissolved oxygen at depth.

Striped bass are temperate bass so they seek out the deeper, cooler temperatures until the water column homogenizes top to bottom. The gizzard and threadfin shad will seek out the warmest water they can find and the striper will follow them to feed, then return quickly to their thermal refuge. The alewife will also seek out deeper, cooler water. They can be found by using a good fish finder. The striper and bait-eating birds will be where the bait is most abundant.

Artificial baits can be very productive this time of year. You may want to try jigging or trolling. Umbrella rigs have become a favorite method the last several years. Be safe and aware of the extra activity on the lakes as the other large boats with skiers, wake boarders, and swimmers come out to play also. September is the transition month when school begins, cooler weather and other activities like hunting and football can make the water more enjoyable for fishermen. Large live bait is working well again and normally easy to catch this time of year. Catch and release is questionable in most places.

Ezell Cox

August 2019 Meeting

Annual TWRA Stocking Report—Mike Smith

We had the pleasure of hosting Mike Smith from TWRA's Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery for our August meeting. As in the past, Mike shared with us the successes and difficulties that he and his team from TWRA had this year in stocking striped bass, hybrids, and other species in Tennessee lakes and rivers. Across the state TWRA stocked 2.1 million striped bass and hybrids. In our region Boone received 11,000 stripers, Cherokee received 60,000 stripers and 40,000 hybrids, Norris received 110,000 stripers, and Watts Bar received 197,000 stripers. Natural reproduction likely occurred on Watt's Bar, Chickamauga and Kentucky lakes. For the first time in 33 years no striper fry were spawned at Eagle Bend due to difficulties in collecting spawning fish. However, Eagle Bend was able to obtain fry from the Normandy Fish Hatchery for rearing in their ponds. Mike noted that TWRA's hatchery system is continuing to expand with a hatchery at Morristown slated for expansion next. Of course TWRA also stocks other species of interest such as walleye, trout, and crappie. The group thanked Mike and the other TWRA staff for the tremendous work that they do on our behalf. Without them we wouldn't have a sport fishery in Tennessee.



Three generations of Reinitz's out for their annual fishing trip on Norris Lake with striper guide Doug Cheek. Pictured are Cody Reinitz (son), Terry Reinitz (grandmother) and Nate Reinitz (grandson age 10).

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 seasonal migration away from the thermal trap that the larger fish have been surviving in during the late summer months has begun as the lake turnover & mixing is underway. The water quality remained good enough this summer for great survival of the larger stripers. Good dissolved oxygen & temperatures can be found anywhere so the striper / hybrid will head for the most abundant bait. Catch and Release will also be optional. Top water activity can be noticed on the calm mornings. The largest concentration of bait happens in the upper end of the reservoir and the back of major coves & creeks. The gulls will start to arrive by the end of October & other bait-eating birds will help find the game fish until then.

NORRIS LAKE

Water quality remained great all summer, so survival was excellent. Lake turnover & mixing is well underway, so migration of the stripers from deep water around the lower portion (dam end) of the lake has begun. Bait can be seen on the surface along with breaking game fish feeding in it. Stripers can be found around the most abundant bait in the headwaters of major creeks, coves, and rivers. The low water and flow has allowed the stripers to remain scattered much farther upstream than normal this summer. Good Catch and Release practice now becomes optional. The gulls are expected back to help find the fish at the same time the size and creel limits change on November 1.

WATTS BAR & MELTON HILL

Look for the stripers in front of the major coves or where you find the most bait fish and bait-eating birds. Catch and Release works good in the cool water months. The fish in Watts Bar & lower Clinch Watts Bar have contamination warnings so should not be harvested.

— Ezell Cox



Mark your calendars for the first Mondays & make a point to join us for our 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!

September 28th - TSBA Fish Fry (Anderson County Park)

October 7th - No meeting

November 4th - Captain Jay Girardot on u-rigs and artificial bait

December 2nd - BOD meeting

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

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.

YOUR 2019 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND STAFF

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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

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TSBA Sponsors

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As a member, you will:

- * Receive a monthly newsletter.
- * Help support Striped Bass Fisheries & Wildlife Agencies.
- * Be informed of new regulations & information that affect striper fishing.
- * Develop a network of "striper friends."
- * Learn new methods to improve your striped bass fishing effectiveness.
- * Be able to call officers for fishing reports.
- * Be able to attend monthly meetings with informative programs.
- * 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: TSBA

P.O. Box 7303

Knoxville, TN 37921

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