

Tennessee Striped Bass Association

Get Hooked !

April 2016



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: [Tn Striped Bass Association](#)

TSBA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

TSBA received an award on March 15 at the TN Chapter of the American Fisheries Society banquet held at Montgomery Bell State Park. The nomination for the award was made by TWRA for our work for several years supporting ORNL in procuring striped bass from Norris Lake. These fish are used as base-line data to compare against Watts Bar striped bass, specifically regarding PCB concentrations in the fish flesh. There is more about this award later in the newsletter. However, I want to thank the work of Ezell Cox in partnership with Paul Shaw of TWRA for their leadership in making this happen. It really shows how strong our relationship is with TWRA. Many of their leaders in the fisheries management area were at the ceremony. Accepting the award on behalf of TSBA were Ezell, Ron Gabler, Art Muchow and me. By the way, I recently learned that our own Allan Franklin received this same award several years ago for his efforts to implement the no fishing zone at Cherokee Dam in the summer. TSBA truly is blessed to have so many active members who work hard to improve striper fishing in our area.



Receiving the award were (left to right): Art Muchow, Paul Shaw (TWRA), Ezell Cox, Eric Rauch & Ron Gabler.

I want to thank Keith Shannon for his “Keeping Bait Alive” presentation at our February meeting. I always learn something new from Keith when he talks about this subject. Last month we had Eric Burnett of Marine Outboard Specialties talk about outboard maintenance. He was very knowledgeable and answered many questions from our members. He inspired me to get my Mercury unit serviced.

Everyone should have paid their annual membership renewal of \$20 to Doug Steffe by now. If not, please see Doug at the meeting or use PayPal to do so. Don’t forget to get your new fishing license too. By the way, take a look at page 22 of TWRA’s 2016/2017 Fishing Guide. You’ll see our ad at the bottom right. It is designed to promote TSBA and hopefully will attract new members. I think you’ll agree that Ezell is very photogenic in the ad.

We’re getting more of our members to sign up to be part of our Facebook group at: “TN Striped Bass Association”. All you have to do is be a TSBA member, request access at the group site and you’ll shortly be able to exchange information about fishing hot spots, techniques, etc. This is easy to do and is finally getting some traction.

We plan to have a club fishing day on Cherokee in April. The date will be announced at the April meeting. It is intended to be a fun day of fishing and an opportunity for all of us to get to know more members. Also, remember that our annual TSBA Fish Fry will be held on Saturday, Sept. 17 at Granger County Park.

Our next meeting will be on April 4th at Puleo’s Grill (110 Cedar Ln, just east of the I-75/Merchants Road exit). Dinner is at 6 pm and the meeting is at 7 pm. Allan Franklin will discuss catching bait and, weather permitting, demonstrate how to throw a cast net. If you’re new to catching bait, this is a must to see and a great way to learn how to properly throw something much better than a taco!

Cover photo: Bob Biscay

Members Photos



Larry Scott

Ron Gabler



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.

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

Hybrid Striped Bass: 15 inch minimum length limit

2016 Meeting links

January Speaker: Ezell Cox Topic: Winter fishing tips

<https://youtu.be/u70F-rTdoOw>

February Speaker: Keith Shannon Topic: Keeping bait alive

<https://youtu.be/UemqyFIN7Vs>

March Speaker: Eric Burnett Topic: Outboard motor maintenance



Fishing the Coldest Part of Winter

CAUTION & PLANNING are suggested during the winter months more than any other time of year. Top water action is common. Artificial and small lively bait do well in the coldest water of winter. Umbrella rigs have become very popular in winter & effective over the past several years. The bite can be fast and over quickly in the coldest part of winter. Catch & Release is very successful this time of year. The Gulls will be effective until the winter kill begins on the threadfins. The kill begins to takes place normally around the last week of February.

A great way to find the right places to look for fish is from past history. Look at the last few years of information available on fishing websites, articles, pictures, and magazines. Many times the best clue is to find the largest baitfish concentrations that will seek out the warmest most stable temperatures with nutrient rich water that is normally murky. Fishing shows & preparing fishing equipment for spring are common winter time entertainment when the weather is just ugly.

—— *Ezell
Cox*

As briefly discussed in the President's Letter, TSBA accepted the Friends of Fisheries award at the Society's awards dinner on March 15th at Montgomery Bell State Park. Following is the nomination that was written by Paul Shaw (TWRA) and Michael Jones (ORNL) and submitted to the Society.

“Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) annually collects striped bass from Watts Bar and Melton Hill reservoirs for PCB analysis. The Melton Hill fish, being upstream of any discharges from U.S. DOE operations in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, provide reference tissue which is relatively free of PCB contamination. A fish consumption advisory is in effect on Watts Bar for striped bass because of elevated PCB levels in those fish.

Over time, it has become increasingly difficult for ORNL researchers to obtain suitable-size reference fish from Melton Hill. Striped bass have not been stocked in this reservoir for many years, and remaining Melton Hill stripers have grown exceptionally large. This reservoir has produced several fish in excess of 60 lbs., and at one time held the world angling record for landlocked stripers.

The ORNL researchers, headed up by Dr. Teresa Mathews, study the effects of bioaccumulation of heavy metals and other contaminants in numerous fish species and much of their data are used to help establish fish consumption advisories. By 2012, it had become apparent that Melton Hill stripers were simply too large to serve as suitable reference fish.

ORNL researchers contacted TWRA for help in locating striped bass from Norris Reservoir with smaller body mass than those generally found in Melton Hill (and from locations free of PCB contaminants). During the collection period, striped bass on Norris are usually too deep to collect with electrofishing gear, and gill netting would produce undesired bycatch mortality. Another technique was needed. Ezell Cox, a member of the Tennessee Striped Bass Association (TSBA), was contacted. Almost immediately, Ezell rounded up a half-dozen conservation-minded club members who volunteered to take the ORNL personnel and some TWRA observers fishing on Norris. Because of stringent chain-of-custody and scientific collection requirements, ORNL employees accompanied each TSBA boat. The outing of the winter of 2012/2013 was the first in what has become an annual event.

The TSBA volunteers are extremely efficient at locating and catching striped bass that meet ORNL's needs. The rod-and-reel collection method eliminated bycatch mortality; stripers of undesired size and non-target species are released. Instead of days spent electrofishing, the TSBA volunteers' expertise has reduced the process to hours. A remarkable spirit of cooperation has developed between TWRA, TSBA, and ORNL, with all personnel and volunteers now looking forward to this annual event. Without question, each organization has benefitted from the knowledge and expertise gained from the other cooperators, making this collaboration a resounding success.

The TSBA members have been participating in this annual project at personal expense, donating equipment, fuel, oil, and time. During some years, boats have traveled 70 miles to complete the requisite sampling. Despite the expense, time requirement, and often inclement weather, the vol-

unteers have maintained an enthusiastic attitude and willingness to participate in this ongoing project. The TSBA hopefully recognizes the importance of their contribution and the role they now play as ambassadors in fisheries conservation and stewards of human health as it relates to fish consumption advisories. We can think of no one more deserving of the Friends of Fisheries award than the outstanding membership of the Tennessee Striped Bass Association.”

The relationship that exists between TWRA and TSBA is very good we should all be proud of this. It is the result of hard work by many of our members over the years and needs to be continued in the future. Clearly, we wouldn’t have our sport without TWRA. Following are a few pictures of our collection efforts and a photo of the award.

Eric and Ezell with poster describing TSBA award



2016 Friends of Fisheries Award



Dr. Mathews
ORNL.

The weather forecast for Monday February 22 was cold and cloudy. I was hoping the high winds we had over weekend would finally let up. It was time for the Oak Ridge National Laboratory to collect Striped Bass from Norris Reservoir. ORNL wanted six adult Stripers in the 30” range for their annual contaminant testing. Our club was able to team up with the people from ORNL and an officer from TWRA who was on board to verify the catch.



Ezell Cox put out the call for five boats, each one to take a guest along and assist in the harvest. Thanks captains: Ezell Cox, Gary Harris, Steve Nichols, Eric Rauch, and Bob Biscay for volunteering your time and effort.

February 22, 2016 Striper harvest. Joe Asher assisting Michael Jones with Jason Lankford



Allison with Bob Biscay



Striper harvest with ORNL Feb. 22 2016



Trent Jett with Steve Nichols

I think the folks from ORNL enjoyed the day out of the office



YOUR 2016 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND STAFF

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erauch01@gmail.com

Vice President:

David Powell

Treasurer:

Art Muchow

Secretary:

Keith Shannon

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Bill Ballou, Jim Blazer, Steve Nichols, Ron Gabler (Board Chairman) Cory Malabey, Larry Nowell, David Powell, Eric Rauch, Allan Franklin

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Ezell Cox 423-626-9547
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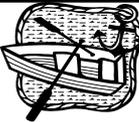
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As a member:

- *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.

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 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, Inc
P.O. Box 163
Sharps Chapel, TN. 37866

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