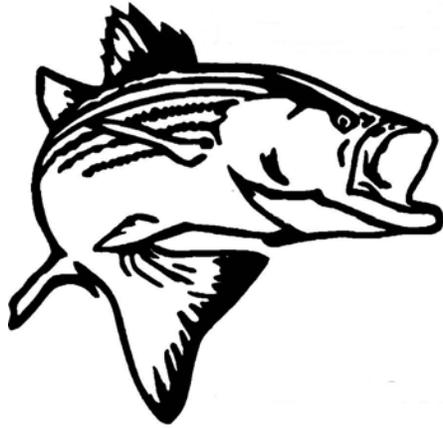


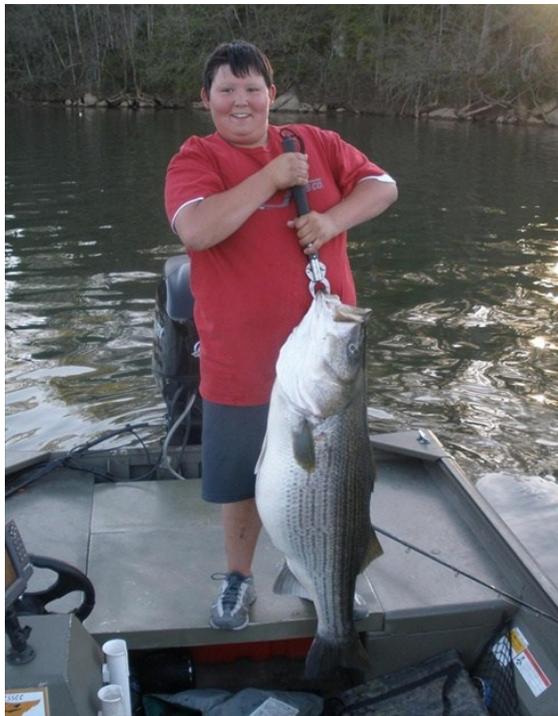
**Catch
the
Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



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

**January
2011**



***Cody Daniels,
age 15, lands
his personal
best: a 47
pounder.
Read more
about Cody's
fishing ad-
ventures with
member Billy
Davis on
page 10.***

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello everyone!

I hope everybody had a great New Year and you were blessed with a lot of new striper toys from Santa Claus! We had a very productive business meeting in December and now have a majority of the year planned out. Many of our monthly meetings will feature exciting speakers that are sure to help everyone gain more knowledge on how to better target striped bass.

I am excited to announce that this year we have added 2 more tournaments to our schedule. We believe this will draw many more fishermen, ultimately leading to increased payouts and the opportunity for everyone to catch quality fish. In April, we will have the first tournament on Watts Bar Lake; check back next month for details on time and launch site. In July, we will have a tournament below Melton Hill Dam. We will also have some rule changes coming for the Melton Hill Dam tourney that will promote catch and release to help protect the fish. I hope to see a great turn out for all of these events!

Below are some random bits of information and reminders that were discussed at the business meeting:

- In order to access the website's fishing reports, you will need to have your 2011 membership dues paid by March 1st. After this deadline, web site privileges will be suspended until they are paid.
- We are still looking to cut cost of delivery of the newsletter. If you are able to receive an electronic version of the newsletter, please get with me or Doug Steffe to set this up. The electronic version has many enhanced features including a larger print size and higher quality photographs.
- We hope to spruce up the fish fry this year by having a band provide entertainment for us. More details to come soon on this.
- If you have pictures you would like to share, please e-mail them to me and I will get them printed in the newsletter.

I look forward to seeing everybody at our January meeting. We will be discussing tactics and sharing stories on winter-time fishing.

Take care and tight lines,

— Erik Engebretsen



Jason Perry caught this 46 pound striper using an 8-inch gizzard shad (12-lb test line with no weights) on a planner board pulled along the bank. Where was this fish caught, you might ask? Ezell Cox, who took this photo, was kind enough to leave a clue in the photo background.

ATTENTION: January Meeting

TSBA's monthly meeting will be held on January 17, 2011 at the Flatwater Grill restaurant in Oak Ridge. The meeting topic will be a group discussion about winter fishing methods.

Our meeting will be held in a private room, which is best entered through the side door near the railroad bridge. Dinner will start at 6:30 p.m., with the meeting to follow at 7:15 p.m. The dinner is a special buffet that owner Dean Russell is organizing for us. The cost is \$15, which includes a drink and gratuity. (Note that payment is cash or check only).

**Please support TSBA and
renew your 2011 membership today!
See page 19 for details on the simplified renewal process.**

Changing with the seasons: minutes of the TSBA November meeting

The TSBA November meeting was held at the Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge with around 30 club members in attendance.

Our guest speaker was Mr. Ezell Cox, a member of TSBA who is well known and respected in the fishing community. Ezell, who has been in pursuit of striped bass for over 40 years, generously shared his knowledge of East Tennessee striped bass in a presentation entitled "Changing with the Seasons".

Tennessee is blessed with several great fisheries which are abundant in bait fish and yield impressive numbers of fish. Quality stripers can be found in just about every river system. Understanding the behavioral changes of stripers throughout the year will enable you to select the best fishing technique for that time of year.

Natural flowing reservoir systems

When fishing in the fall season, you will find stripers upstream in rivers on the hunt for big gizzard shad. Triggered by changes in temperature and currents, stripers are naturally drawn to this food source.

As fall turns to the colder winter months, downsize your bait. Use your sonar to locate large concentrations of bait headed downstream into warmer depths of the lake. The colder months are a great time to watch the birds! Sea gulls, long necks, diving birds - these birds will locate roaming schools of stripers for you.

Warm water discharges from places like Bull Run, Kingston, and Gallatin steam plants are great places to fish in winter months. Bait fish are attracted to these areas and this draws in the game fish.

In the spring, stripers start moving out of deeper water as the combination of warming water temperature and currents cue the fish to move upstream and spawn.

Summer months will find the stripers heading back into the main lake searching for cooler water with plenty of dissolved oxygen. Stripers will congregate in these areas as they seek summer refuge habitat. These areas can be found at depth usually in the main lake.

Tailrace influenced systems

Tailrace influenced systems are quite different from natural flowing systems. In spring you will find stripers moving up-stream similar to a natural system.

As the lakes warm, these fish will remain in tailraces through summer months. These tailraces provide good dissolved oxygen and cooler water just like thermoclines can.



In late fall these tailrace stripers generally head back into the lake, following bait fish into warmer depths.

Ezell suggests that you should take up bird watching! Use flocks of birds feeding on baitfish as a natural "fish finder" for locating schools of stripers.

In closing, Ezell emphasized the importance of fishing responsibly. Don't eat everything you catch: only consume smaller fish that are 10-lbs or less. Stay within creel limits and practice catch and release. Good information is key to finding stripers on a daily basis. Utilize information gathered and shared between fellow fisherman, newsletters, forums, wildlife agencies, and your local guides.

Erik closed the meeting with a vote on 2011 Officers to fill open seats. Billy Davis, Bud White and Erik Engebretsen all received unanimous vote for these positions. The meeting went on to end with the 50/50 drawing won by Bill Ballou. Then each member in attendance received a door prize.

Doug Steffe, treasurer, reminded everyone that it is time to renew our memberships.

— **Bud White**

Braving the elements on Norris Lake

Big brother John Kosmak and little brother Austin Ball came to fish with me again. The normal is for the big brother to adopt the little brother, but I just had to adopt both of them. John is a great mentor because I have seen positive developments in Austin just over this past summer. Austin is now taking opportunities to make positive outcome in his own life.

The fishing trip started early for them since they had an hour and half drive from Kingsport, TN to meet me at my home by 7 a.m. After stopping by a fast food restaurant for breakfast sandwiches, we headed on to the boat ramp on Norris Lake. With the wind chill and low 20's for temperature, we put layer after layer on and were still pleased we did not have to travel far in the boat.

We started fishing a little before 9:00 a.m. There was no sun or wind for most of the morning. We found the gulls that were also fishing and started catching striped bass within a few minutes on the umbrella rigs. The striped bass were from just less than 10 pounds to the high teens. Little brother Austin landed all the fish including a large smallmouth that was around 5 pounds. I think he had almost as much fun as big brother John and myself, but we realized he was getting cold so it was time to go to a friend's home very close by to warm. Gary and Terry Reinitz welcomed us into their home as we warmed our shivering bones. We fished a short time after returning to the boat and then decided it was time to get the big and little headed back to Kingsport Tn.

— *Ezell Cox*

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A very cold mid-December morning out with Ezell Cox rewarded Little Brother Austin Ball with some very nice striped and small-mouth bass.



Minutes of the December 2010 board of directors meeting

The directors meeting was held on December 20 at 6:30 p.m. at Flatwater Grill. In attendance were Erik Engebretsen, Cory Malabey, Billy Davis, Keith Shannon, Jim Blazer, Bill Ballou, Doug Steffe, Ezell Cox, Eric Rauch, and Bud White.

Doug Steffe, Treasurer, provided a detailed report on club finances. Our financial status is in good shape with a 2010 surplus of \$583. Doug continues to do a great job as treasurer.

President Erik Engebretsen led a short discussion about how to handle door prizes for 2011. The chief concern expressed was a time issue. In order to better manage time at monthly meetings, we will now give away a gift card or cash as the door prize. In 2011 one lucky member will receive a \$20 door prize at each meeting.

Selecting topics for monthly club meetings in 2011 was next on the agenda. See page 17 for the line-up of topics and guest speakers.

TSBA members have expressed an interest in participating in more club events. In response to this, we have added two striper fun tournaments to the club schedule. One tournament will be held below Loudon Dam on April 23rd. The Striper Bowl will be held on Lake Cherokee on May 7th at Grainger County Park in the afternoon. TSBA will host another tournament below Melton Hill Dam July 9th. Keith Shannon said that the April tournament will present great opportunities to catch a monster. The July 9th tournament below Melton Hill Dam will be held at a prime time as well. The details of the tournaments will be discussed in detail at future meetings. Information will also be posted on the website.

The annual fish fry will be held at Grainger County Park again this year on Saturday, September 24. Live music will be added to the event this year, potentially provided by Doug Steffe's bluegrass band and Tommy White. We also discussed some great ideas for a raffle and door prizes.

Our kid's day event will be held in June, with the date and time to be determined.

The Norris Lake Advisory Committee was discussed. Our club member list and TWRA's list were in need of updates. TSBA members agreed for this advisory were Alan Franklin, Ezell Cox, Kyle Rutherford, Eric Rauch and Doug Steffe.

In the past few years TWRA has changed the restocking program on Cherokee. Their intention was to discontinue the stocking of stripers and use only hybrids instead. TWRA will continue to stock stripers due to the voice of our club. In 2010 Cherokee received 150,000 hybrids, along with 40,000 stripers. TWRA proposal for 2011 is 60,000 striper and 40,000 hybrid. This is a little short of our expectations, but we feel this will be an adequate number for 2011. In upcoming years, TSBA would like to see stocking return to a density of 5 per acre, roughly 150,000 for Cherokee (50/50 striper/hybrid).

Bill Ballou would like to see a new sticker designed for 2011. Members liked this idea, along with printing up new cards for the TSBA for 2011. TSBA can use these cards and stickers to promote new memberships.

Our treasurer, Doug Steffe, reported that membership renewals are down. We hope that you will renew your membership for 2011 at the January meeting. All renewals must be completed by the March meeting. Membership dues and sponsors are the only source of funds for the TSBA. We currently have 195 family memberships, 12 honor members and 2 sponsors. Bud White has recently gained two new sponsors for 2011. They are German Creek Dock and Mountain Awning and Fence. Please try to promote our club any chance you get, as it will be greatly appreciated.

TSBA would like to see more of our members receive the monthly newsletter by email. Seventy five of our current members are receiving via email. Please seriously consider this. It would save TSBA a lot of money as our main expense is printing and mailing the newsletter.

— **Bud White**

Billy's Boys

In 2010 we featured two articles about Big/Little Brother relationships and their fishing trips with TSBA members. The Big Brother/Big Sister organization of Tennessee states "our purpose is simple, but powerful - to create lasting community change by providing adult mentors for the children who need them most." The first issue in 2011 will tell the story of another mentoring relationship built on the water over a shared passion for fishing. This particular friendship is unusual in that it was



not officially arranged by the Big/Little Brother organization. It came about quite naturally at a small boat launch when an experienced angler recognized another die-hard angler fishing from the bank.

At the November meeting I sat down at a table with Billy Davis and introduced myself to a

Friendships being formed on the water while the boys wait for the next big strike.

young man that I thought was a new member. His name was Cody Daniels and I soon discovered that he is the grandson of one of my former neighbors. I asked Cody, age 15, how he got involved with striper fishing and the following is the story of an unofficial Big/Little Brother relationship.

Billy Davis lives in Karns and often launches his boat at Bull Run Park to either fish or collect bait on Melton Hill. While using the boat ramp over several trips he kept noticing the same

young man either fishing or throwing a cast net from the bank. Billy discovered that he was acquainted with the boy's neighbors and that Cody was a good kid who really loved to fish. Sympathetic to the limitations of bank fishing and recognizing that this avid young fisherman had no means to get out on the water, Billy offered to take him out.

Since Cody has never met a stranger, he quickly got permission and hopped on board.



Brandon Davis, left, and Cody Daniels, right, landed many a fine catch over the summer of 2010.

On this first trip Cody watched Billy catch two nice Melton Hill stripers weighing in at 30 and 32 pounds. Cody then hooked his biggest strip-er yet - a 29 pounder.

Beyond landing a trophy striper or two, Billy introduced Cody to musky fishing. He has also taught Cody some important skills such as how to load and unload

the boat, rig the rods, prep the bait tank, keep the bait healthy, help land fish, take quality pictures, and so much more. Billy said he quickly learned that this kid is a true diehard. Billy stated, "Cody has been a great kid to fish with and he is determined to be a top notch fisherman. I probably take him out 3 days a week and he is always willing to go no matter the weather or what we are fishing for."

Cody's fishing record would make an angler of any age envious: this young man has landed numerous big fish in the 30-pound range and has an all time personal best of a



Brandon Davis with another big one on the line.

Continued on page 12

Continued from page 11



Brandon Davis, right, caught this 50-lb striper all by himself. Billy said all he did was use the Boga grip to help get the fish in the boat.

47-lb striper caught in April, 2010. He has yet to decline a fishing trip with Billy.

Most of our club members already know about Billy's son Brandon. Billy stated the following about Brandon, age 10: "Brandon never really had a choice a lot of times to go fishing, and sometimes it was difficult to get him to go, but I think he now realizes he has seen some pretty remarkable things in his young life. I have been in trouble with his mother many times for having him out in the sun too long, out too late at night, or out in the cold but the kid has seen numerous trophy stripers including two 50-pounders. He knows how to handle a big fish, and in spite of his small stature he has learned how to maintain leverage and keep pressure on the fish." And of course, Brandon is also an excellent boat loader. A few days after Cody landed his 47 pounder, Brandon took hold of a screaming reel and hauled in a monstrous 50-lb striper. These boys were extremely excited to see such a huge fish in the boat.

Billy also said, “Some of the greatest moments occur when I get these kids together. They are both excellent skipjack fishermen so all I have to do is pull up to the spot and they will catch the bait we need. They talk with each other about all the good times when the fish were really going. They discuss all sorts of fishing topics. I just sit back and listen to them while they cut up and just enjoy the time on the water. I don't know if they realize that their best fishing days are ahead of them.

I wish that more guys would get kids involved with fishing, especially striper and musky fishing. With all the computers, video games, and other options available, I want to show these kids that fishing can be something they will enjoy their whole lives and I have tried very hard to show them that. It may take a little patience but I have tried to lead by example. I truly enjoy getting these young men out on the water and usually they are the first ones I ask to go. It is not impossible to get kids, even small children interested in chasing the trophies. It just takes a little more patience at times.”

— *Jim Blazier*



Billy Davis with wife Sarah

Outlook for current fishing spots

CHEROKEE LAKE

The downstream end of the lake will have good fishing from Point #19 to the dam. Look for surface breaks and feeding gulls. Large schools at times can be found in very shallow water. Live bait should be easy to catch in most of the warm coves. Casting and trolling artificial lures may still be the most effective methods. The John Sevier steam plant may be off line and not producing warm water, so the early season bite may no longer develop there.

NORRIS LAKE

Mid lake from Hickory Star on the Clinch and Springs Dock on the Powell River and downstream should have the best fishing to offer. Look for the gulls and the warmest water that is attracting bait fish. Artificial lures are still very effective but with some warmer water to be found on sunny days live bait could also be pulled along the shallow sun-warmed banks with planner boards.

WATTS BAR & MELTON HILL

The steam plants at Kingston and Bull Run Creek will have the most predictable catches. This will depend largely on the contrast in water temperature in the Clinch River around the steam plants.

— *Ezell Cox*

The TSBA web site has been rebuilt by Keith Shannon. Access it at www.TNStripedBass.com, logging in with your real name to register and your own unique password.

How to Contribute to the Newsletter:

Please send in any pictures or news that you think would interest club members – we are always glad to hear from you. You can e-mail photos and reports to: engebretsenerik@yahoo.com
We usually put the newsletter together around the end of the month, but send your information any time and we will work it in.



Erik Engebretsen and friends with a triple catch this past fall. The fish range in size from 23 to 32 pounds.

February 2011 Expectations

Seasonal changes are starting to develop. This is the time of year when threadfin shad winter kill starts to show up. Striped bass start to put on the pre-spawn weight by gorging. Early in the month the striped bass roam the deep open water in large schools feeding on small threadfin shad that are struggling. Migration into the shallow incoming rivers and feeder creeks will begin as the water warms first there with the longer days of sunshine. The surface action can be great and the gulls are still very much worth following. Most fish will be caught near the surface to 20 feet depth. The area around the steam plants will continue to attract the bait fish and striped bass.

— **Ezell Cox**

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Tournament Coordinator:

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Door Prizes:

[vacant]

Advisor:

Ezell Cox 423-626-9547

2011 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. 17 Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:30 p.m., meeting 7:15 p.m.
The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge.
Topic: Open discussion about winter fishing tactics
- Feb. 21 Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:30 p.m., meeting 7:15 p.m.
The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge.
Topic: Artificial Baits and Fishing Tackle, speaker TBA
- Mar. 21 Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:30 p.m., meeting 7:15 p.m.
The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge.
Topic: Catching and Keeping Live Bait,
Speakers: Alan Franklin and Ezell Cox
- Apr. 18 Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:30 p.m., meeting 7:15 p.m.
The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge.
Topics: Umbrella Rigs, Speaker Mack Farr
Graph Reading, Speaker Bill Carson
- Apr. 23 Tournament: below Loudon Dam. Details TBA
- May 7 Tournament: Striper Bowl at Grainger Co. Park. Details TBA
- May 16 Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:30 p.m., meeting 7:15 p.m.
The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge.
Topic: TWRA Stocking
- Jun 20 Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:30 p.m., meeting 7:15 p.m.
The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge.
Topic: Artificial Baits and Fishing Tackle, speaker TBA
- Jul 9 Tournament: Details TBA
- Jul 18 Monthly Meeting; details TBA
- Aug 15 Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:30 p.m., meeting 7:15 p.m.
The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge.
Topic: Artificial Baits and Fishing Tackle, speaker TBA
- Sep 24 Annual Fish Fry, Grainger Co. Park

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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.

Is this a renewal ___ or a New Membership ___

Your Name _____

Spouse's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone(_____) _____ # of minor children in family _____

E-Mail address _____

Referred By: _____

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)

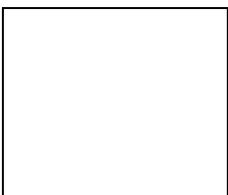
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Simplified Renewal Note: Membership renewals with no address or info revisions may send **just a \$20 check** with member's name, to the address above. Filling out the application is not required. Yearly dues are due in January each year. New members 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 17, 2011: Monthly Meeting
Flatwater Grill
100 Melton Lake Drive, Oak Ridge
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.; meeting at 7:15 p.m.
Reminder: Pay your 2011 dues this month**