

*Catch
The Striper
Fever!*

T.S.B.A.



*The
Tennessee
Striped Bass
Association Newsletter*

*March
2003*



**2001 Striper Bowl Winner Pat Kneiss
Hands Over the Striper Bowl Cup To
2002 Striper Bowl Winner Larry Atchley**

Letter from the "Prez"

Hello striper gals and guys.

The February meeting was a good one for those of you that missed it. Ezell Cox and Bill Cate got together and decided to play the fishing videos of Oneil Williams and Myself. Everyone seem to enjoy them.

For those of you that did not know I had filmed two shows with Oneil. The first one was in late spring of 2001 on Cherokee, and the second one was filmed on Norris in December of 2002. If all goes well I plan on filming one more with him in July of this year in the boils below either Melton hill Dam or Ft Loudoun Dam.

Just a reminder to those of you that fish here in Tennessee, your fishing license expired on the 28th of February. So don't forget to get your new ones.

Most everyone knows what kind of rain we have had here in the last month and the fishing has not been as good as it should be this time of the year. I hope it settles down soon and gets fired up. I am really looking forward to the Hybrids on Cherokee this spring. They should be in the 8 to 10 pound range by spring.

Ok, it is STRIPER BOWL TIME. I hope everyone has marked their calendar and will be fishing in the biggest event of the year. Remember, ALL the money raised in the tournament goes to buy the door prizes for the youth striper tournament in early June. Plus, if you win the Striper Bowl, you have bragging rights for the next year and you get to keep the prized Trophy for a whole year.

If you have not been fishin by the time you get this news letter, shame on you. So, get out there and take a child fishing.

Your striper friend and Prez. **Allan**

2003 TSBA Calendar

Attend TSBA sponsored tournaments & join us at the meetings.

March 31st: Monthly meeting. MOUNTAIN LAKE LODGE at Mountain Lake Marina on Norris Lake. Dinner: 6PM. Meeting: 7PM

April 6th: TSBA Annual "StriperBowl" Tournament on Cherokee

April 28th: Monthly Meeting. MOUNTAIN LAKE LODGE at Mountain Lake Lodge on Norris Lake. Dinner: 6PM. Meeting: 7PM

May 26th: Monthly meeting. MOUNTAIN LAKE LODGE at Mountain Lake Marina on Norris Lake. Dinner: 6PM. Meeting: 7PM

Striper Bowl 2003

Okay everyone, the Striper Bowl is coming soon. Last year we had a great turn out and this year we would like to have even more of you come out and have a good time with us. We all need to come out and try to win the trophy from last year's winner, Larry Atchley from Knoxville.

The money from the Striper Bowl goes toward the kid's tournament we will be having this summer. The tournament will be held on Cherokee Lake at Oak Grove Boat Launch. We will not be having a tailgate party this year. The tournament will start at 6:00 A.M. or safelight. Please be at Oak Grove by 5:30 to sign in and find out the rules for the tournament. The tournament will end at 11:00. For those of you who want to bring a bag lunch, we can meet after the tournament.

Directions to the tournament are as follows; Coming from Exit 8 on I-81, Go north on 25 to Morristown. Go through Morristown and cross over Cherokee Lake. You will see Lakeshore Road on your left a few miles after crossing over the lake. Take Lakeshore Road approximately 2 miles until you see a brown boat launch sign on your left. Take a left on that road and the boat ramp will be at the end of the road.

April Expectations

The Stripers movement and activity will be related to pre-spawn and warming water temperatures. Migration upstream to the rivers and major feeder creek currents will also keep the attention of the striper. The pre-spawn bellies will stay big thru April in the natural rivers. As the 70 degree water temperature is reached, the spawn will take place and the big stripers will slowly start back down stream. The tailrace below the dams will develop and only get better thru the spring and summer. Large live and artificial baits presented on top will create some very large explosions. Records and trophies are caught this month.

Fishing Hot



Spots

Watts Bar & Melton Hill Steamplants

Current Rating: Poor

Notes: A few small fish are being caught at the steamplant.

Location: Best from the steamplant up to Melton Hill Dam.

Cherokee Lake

Current Rating: Good

Notes: Now is topwater time. Shad are available in creeks everywhere

Location: Fish point 14 upstream to the steamplant.

Norris Lake

Current Rating: Fair but Improving.

Location: Point 19 to 27 on the Clinch. Point 11 to 14 on the Powell. The major creeks have also had some reported catches.

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The TSBA web site offers up to date fishin' reports to all TSBA members. Visit the web at:

www.TNStripedBass.com

Draw The Line (Or is it Stripe) by: Shawn McNew

We spend thousands of dollars on equipment. Things like boats, motors, depthfinders, bait tanks, rods and reels. But when it comes right down to it, what is the weakest, yet the most important link between you and your quarry? Your line. Lets discuss a few basic things to know about your line. For some, this is new material, for others it's just a review.

What kind of line to use poses perhaps the most philosophical aspect of fishing as we know it. Fishing line makers have decided to complicate the matter beyond recognition. In the past 15 years, many lines have come and gone, some have come and stayed. Most of the older lines are still around, usually with a "new and improved" formula. Materials such as nylon, dacron, steel, kevlar, and a host of other trademark "space age" materials have been spooled on reels around the world. Your job as a fisherman is to experiment, talk to other fishermen, and eventually find a line that works best in your situation

Not all lines are created equal, that's why you have to make a decision. Ask yourself some questions. Am I fishing open water or is there structure such as standing timber or shoreline cover? What type and size bait am I using? How big are the fish I am expecting to catch? Why am I talking to myself?

Most open-water anglers use significantly lighter line than those who can ill-afford to let a 40 lb fish run 50 Or more yards in the opposite direction. Open waters such as Cherokee and Norris Lakes in East Tennessee are light-line friendly lakes. You can use 10-17 lb line and land most of the fish you hook. On the other end of the spectrum, the upper ends of some lakes and on the river systems, light line is considered 20 to 25 lb test. Some anglers choose braided lines up to 100 lb test in order to keep the monster fish from running into the timber-strewn banks of many of these fisheries. The best choice is to use the lightest line your fishery will allow. This will allow you more line capacity, less drag on the lines while trolling, and it will allow baits to act more lively on the hook.

Your bait will make or break your trip. If you are fishing in the winter, chances are good that your bait is under 6" long. The relative inactivity of fish and slowed metabolism has reduced their need for nutrition, thus they will not expend as much energy as they would in warmer water. **Continued on page 7**

Draw The Line....continued

The heavier, thicker fishing lines will reduce the amount of vibration put out in the water by your bait. It is this vibration that the fish home in on. Try reducing to as little as 8 or 10 lb test monofilament. If you have trouble staying attached to the fish, decrease your drag, or try a little heavier line.

What are the differences in different kinds of line, and why are there so many colors? Many of the newer lines range from clear to green to camouflage pattern. There are pinks, yellows, oranges, blue, black, and bright green. There is regular nylon, nylon copolymer, fluorocarbon, low stretch, abrasion-resistant, low-memory, spinning, casting, and many other kinds of line. There is line that is inexpensive and there is line worth its weight in precious gems. It is very easy to get overwhelmed. Start with something that has withstood the test of time. Lines like Stren Original and Berkley Big Game are field tested and guide approved. New lines on the market like P-Line and Suffix offer some high-performance lines for a few dollars more. New innovations, too numerous to mention, and different types of materials guarantee a wide variety of selections for the future.

Use all of your high-dollar equipment to the best of your ability, but always remember that the ONLY link between you and the fish is the least expensive—a few yards of very thin line. Don't get caught up in the whirlwind, just quit talking to yourself and go fishing.

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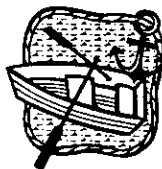
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Striper Bowl



2001 - 2002



Fever by: Ezell Cox

A few days of warmth and sunshine have a way of curing that awful fever(cabin). The medicine continues with the trees budding to a reddish tint before the pale yellow-green. The turkey, whippoorwill, and all birds start the wild songs of nature's mating call. Our boats and other fishing gear come out of the long periods of hibernation ready for action. We have read the new fishing regulations and are ready to try out our new fishing license. Hope we get our money's worth this year! The pre-spawn stripers are as much as 20% heavier, so it is a good time to catch big fish. Top water action in shallow water is often awesome to see or experience. Bait fish can often be caught in the same shallow water where the stripers will explode behind the planer board when the bait is being pulled there later. The pre-spawn stripers start to migrate upstream to the rivers and major creeks as early as mid-February in Tennessee. The trigger that makes the spawn happen seems to largely related to warmer temperature. At about 65 degrees F, the spawn takes place, and the adult stripers look for cooler water when it gets to 70 degrees F. The spawn is over as early as mid-April in some waters and may be delayed until the first of June. Some fish may not spawn if they stay in cool water below the thermocline or a tailrace below the dam. A 61 1/2 pound striper was caught on August 17th that had not spawned in 2002. Biologists say that those fish absorb the spawn back into their bodies and start again the next spring. The spring spawn run is unsuccessful for the stripers in all Tennessee Waters. Stripers must be stocked by the T.W.R.A. to maintain the fisheries. "Catch and release" also works great in the pre-spawn and early post-spawn periods. (If it were not for the fever, we could not enjoy the cure)

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Hats are gray w/ a Striper on the front & the letters TSBA in green. Adult T-shirts are gray or tan depending on availability in sizes w/ a Striper and Tennessee Striped Bass Association embroidered in green. Kids shirts are gray. Sweatshirts are hunter green with TSBA in gray on front & Catch the Fever on the back with a Striper & fishing rod.

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TSBA
Page

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TSBA Merchandise

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Web Site: Andrew Bradbury

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As a member: *You'll receive a monthly newsletter.

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* You'll be informed of new regulations & information that affect Striper fishing.

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* You'll learn new methods to improve your Striped Bass fishing effectiveness.

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The TSBA is a non-profit organization, 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.

**The Tennessee Striped Bass Association
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**Striper Bowl 2003
April 6, 2003
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