

**Catch
The Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



*The
Tennessee
Striped Bass
Association Newsletter*

**December
2003**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

*Wishing
You And
Your Loved
Ones A
Very Merry
Christmas
And A Safe
And
Prosperous
New Year.*



Letter From the New President

Well, the elections are over and the nominated slate of candidates were unanimously elected as follows: President - Bob Leach; Vice President - Felix Taylor; Secretary - Dave Johnson; Treasurer - Janine Johnson. All of the new officers are eager to get started and we are looking forward to the next meeting which will be Monday, January 19, 2004. The first order of business was to change the location of the monthly meetings to a more centrally located site. The theory is that the monthly attendance will increase if the average member did not have as far to drive. The facility selected, is the Shoney's restaurant on the Clinton highway just north of Merchants road. The best way to get there is to get off 175 at exit 108 and head west on Merchants road for about one mile. Turn right onto Clinton highway and the Shoney's is on the right a couple of blocks to the north. This facility was the best all-around choice considering location, meeting room accommodations, and food service. All food will be served starting at 6PM in the meeting room. You can order off the menu or visit the buffet. A gratuity of 15% will be automatically added to each bill which is common for large groups. The meeting will start at 7PM just as it has in the past. Please try to attend this meeting as we will outline our tentative plans for the upcoming year. Also, we are soliciting input from you as to what you want out of your club in 2004. If we don't hear from you, we won't really know what you think is important. Besides, there are many members out there that the officers would like to meet. It is your club so come to the meeting, meet new friends, and learn where we are headed. It is my strong belief that the primary purpose of the club is to attempt to maintain the striper fishery so that we can all go fishing in our lakes for years to come and enjoy the same if not better success than we have today. This will not be an easy task as the fishing pressure will increase every year and many of the factors that control the fishing success are not directly under our control. The technique that I plan to use is to have a general brainstorming session at the end of the January meeting and develop a list of all of the factors that effect the quantity and quality of the stripers and hybrids in our lakes. All ideas will be identified, discussed, and then prioritized. We will then analyze the pros and cons of each idea and decide whether or not each idea should be pursued. My initial reaction is that we can make the most positive contribution in the area of maximizing the survival rate of the fish that we throw back when we practice "Catch and Release". I am in the process of searching the internet for research studies concerning this very topic. As it turns out, there are several studies competently performed by fishery biologists in different states. I will present the results of my efforts at the January meeting on the 19th. I would like for each of you to email me at Robert@TNstripedBass.com with any ideas that you feel are important.

Another topic of discussion for the next few meetings will be to develop ways to make the meetings more important and interesting to the members so they will want to attend. Again, we will use the

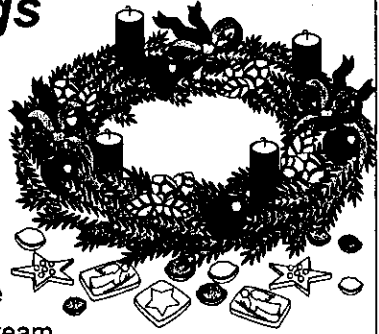
same technique in developing a thorough list of ideas and then we will select the best ones.

I plan to meet with the other officers before the January 19th meeting so that we can put together both of these lists. Again, it's your club so let's hear from you.

Bob Leach

Seasons Greetings

From the New Vice President



Hope you all have a wonderful holiday season. It's a wonderful time of the year to fish everywhere. Stripers are hitting the beaches and inlets along the North Carolina Outer Banks if you want to brave the surf. As the temperatures drop, steam plants should be attracting bait and the stripers will be there to eat their favorite food. There should be good topwater action on Cherokee Lake beginning around the US 25 bridge. There will be no ski boats and pwc's to contend with and very few joy riders at this time of year. The best news is the fishing should be great.

President Robert, the other officers and I are communicating a lot of ideas to get 2004 off to a good start. I am excited about the prospects and opportunities we have to make our club all that it should be. We will most likely make a few mistakes and hope to do some things right. We all need, and I ask for, your input and support in 2004. The outgoing officers have left us at a tremendous starting point and I thank them for all their hard work over the past years. We will do all we can to make the meetings and events in 2004 exciting and worthwhile. I challenge you all to attend and participate whenever possible. If you would like to see a meeting, program, or event on a particular topic in the new year, please let us know and we will try to get it done. We will be asking you to do some things in the next few months so be ready to be challenged. My first request is for you to bring a sample of the hooks you use to the January meeting. We are going to do some work with hooks and ask you to try some new things. See you in January.

Felix Taylor

TSBA Meeting - November 24, 2003

By Dave Johnson

The November TSBA meeting was attended by 28 members. Our new officers are: President - Robert Leach, Vice President - Felix Taylor, Secretary - Dave Johnson, Treasurer - Janine Johnson.

The fishing is generally slow with heavy fishing pressure on Cherokee Lake. Ezell Cox has expressed serious concern that the large stripers were hard to find - virtually nonexistent. The parasite problem may be more serious than we anticipated and is in the process of further investigation..

Ezell spoke of a new launch ramp on the Powell in Claiborne County. He is working with the TWRA and Claiborne County to make this happen.

This having been our last meeting at Mountain Lake Marina, we wish to thank the people at Mountain Lake Marina for their generous hospitality.

Also, we gave our thanks and deep appreciation to the outgoing officers.

They did a tremendous job.

Our new President, Bob Leach, set a goal that our club will do everything in its power so that five years from now striper fishing will be better. He posed the question for each member to consider: What is hurting striper fishing, and what can we do ourselves to remedy the situation.

TSBA Treasurer for 2004

By Janine Johnson

Thank you for the privilege of being your TSBA Treasurer. I will be responsible for depositing income from memberships and other asset building drives, paying debts, maintaining financial and membership databases, and keeping electronic backups and hard copy files, as appropriate. I will also be continuing my role on the newsletter staff producing final drafts of articles written by TSBA members and collecting photos of events. Hope to see you at the meetings.

2004 TSBA Calendar

Please attend TSBA events & join us at meetings.

January 19th: Monthly meeting. Shoneys Restaurant at 5420 Clinton Highway. Dinner: 6 PM. Meeting: 7 PM.

February 16th: Monthly Meeting. Shoneys Restaurant at 5420 Clinton Highway. Dinner: 6 PM. Meeting: 7 PM

March 15th: Monthly meeting. Shoney's Restaurant at 5420 Clinton Highway. Dinner: 6 PM. Meeting: 7 PM.

April 19th: Monthly meeting. Shoneys Restaurant at 5420 Clinton Highway. Dinner: 6 PM. Meeting: 7 PM.

May 17th: Monthly meeting. Shoney's Restaurant at 5420 Clinton Highway. Dinner: 6 PM. Meeting: 7 PM.

June 21st: Monthly Meeting. Shoneys Restaurant at 5420 Clinton Highway. Dinner: 6 PM. Meeting: 7 PM.

*Other dates will be added.

*Mark
Your
Calendar*



Janire Johnson - Treasurer
Dev Johnson - Secretary

Live Bait For

by Ezell

1. What kind of live bait should I use? 2. Where and how can I get some bait?
3. How can I keep it fresh and lively? These are just a few of the many questions that a beginner, novice, or infrequent live bait fisherman would ask. My first experience as a beginner was 30 years ago & there were no books, articles, internet, or striper clubs from which to draw information for fresh water live bait. So the progression from novice to experience has taken 30 years & I continue to learn. If your opinion differs much from mine, let's go fishing in your boat.

1. The most common baits used are somewhat in this order in Tennessee: gizzard shad, alewife shad, threadfin shad, shiners, bluegill, skipjack, and trout. The stripers diet has been studied more than any other game fish because the striper has been falsely accused of eating only the other fisherman's choice of game fish. All of the professional studies show the diet to be greater than 95% clupeids(shad), although any bigger game fish will feed on a smaller fish that is on a hook and in trouble without asking if it is a shad. Studies also indicate that stripers are more species and size selective in their diet than other game fish. When the water temperature is above 55 degrees F., I recommend using baitfish sized to match the most abundant forage fish in the lake or river you are fishing. When the water temperature falls below 50 degrees F, small bait like shiners are very productive. So, give them what they want.

2. It is difficult to purchase good shad, so the best plan is to learn how to use the largest, legal, cast net you can open well and throw a good number of times. PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE until you can open it fully every time. I recommend 3/8 mesh for bait less than 5 inches and 5/8 mesh for larger bait. Gizzard and threadfin shad will find the warmest, ugly, murky, shallow water that is full of plankton when it is time to feed. This is also the easiest water in which you can catch them because they can not see you. Be as quiet as you can in the boat and throw the net as far as possible. A visual sign like flipping on the surface is always my first target to sneak up on. The second target is the water I just described when I see cranes or other fish-eating birds waiting for a meal. The third choice is to find shad so thick on your fish finder that you throw over them and let the net sink through them. Alewives like water that is much cooler than gizzard and threadfin. It is easiest to catch them under lights near the main channel. A

or Stripers

Cox

large, fast sinking net with a small mesh cast just as the light is turned off is the easiest way that I have found to catch them, after they have been drawn to the light. Shiners are the easiest baitfish to purchase and are easy to keep alive and healthy. Bluegill are easy to catch and keep alive, but you must be where there are many, hungry stripers to have a good days catch. Trout and skipjack are caught and work well normally in tailrace waters below dams. Possessing trout requires a license or receipt to show where and when they were purchased. Skipjack are best caught and put on a hook as they are difficult to keep alive and healthy. My recommendation is to use the first four baitfish mentioned for your best success rate.

3. The key to catching stripers with live bait is to make sure they are healthy and lively. The best bait is caught out of the coolest waters where you can find them. During the summer months, that is below most of the dams. With the exception of skipjack, all other baitfish can be kept in a good bait tank, sometimes for days with proper care. The water temperature should never change more than 7 degrees F. If you change the water to be cooler, it is OK to add ice but be cautious about adding water or ice with chlorine in it. Chlorine kill is available. The only chemicals i use are rock salt @ one cup per 25 gallons of water. You need to use some other chemicals under certain conditions. Foam off is needed if your tank has a spray bar or ring to put oxygen in through the surface. Amonia kill may be used if your bait stays in the same tank of water up to 12 hours. Tranquil works to catch or transport large quantities of bait eliminating stress until you can get them into a large basket or holding tank. Your bait tank should be as large as your boat will allow. It should have a pump that will pass the water through the filter about 7 times an hour. (A 35 gallon tank needs a 500 gallon per hour pump). Insulate and control the temperature in the tank. The best aeration is to inject atmospheric oxygen into the tank through a venturi tube. If you plan to keep the bait in the tank more than four hours, never have more than one bait per gallon of water. If the baits are large, maybe half that number.

January Expectations

Water temperature is the best knowledge to take striper fishing during the coldest month of the year. Stripers have a comfort zone from about 45 degrees F to 70 degrees F, but the colder the water gets, the less they eat. All fresh water fish are cold blooded, therefore the colder the water, the slower they can metabolize. It is easier for the stripers to digest small bait so the colder the water, the smaller the bait. Baitfish will seek out the warmest water they can find. Warm water discharges from steam plants and spring fed creeks will collect most of the baitfish. The warmed water will also draw the stripers and helps raise their metabolic rate. Temperatures of ground springs are usually around 57 degrees and Steam plant discharges are around 70 degrees. Winter temperatures often take major waterways to 40 degrees F. "Chase the birds." Keep your eyes and ears tuned for gulls feeding and quickly head for that spot but stay at least a full casting distance away. Stripers feed on large schools of baitfish and push them to the surface. This is the best month for Catch and Release.

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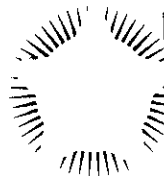
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Cherokee Lake

Condition: Good

Location: Spread out all over with a good number of fish near Hwy 25 Bridge. Fish are hitting top water baits. Birds are starting to dive on the schools of shad driven up by the stripers.

Bait: Live Shad and Top Water

Notes: Fish are going back.

Norris Lake

Condition: Good

Location: The upper half of the lake just off the main channel seems to have the best concentration of fish. They are spread out and seem to be most active to the warm discharges.

Notes: Fish are going back and there is some top water action.

Bait, as always, is impossible to catch. Bring bait with you.

Bait: Shad.

Watts Bar Lake

Condition: Fair

Notes: The Steam Plant will soon be the place to be. Plan to make a cold weather trip to fish the discharge.

TIME TO RENEW?

Remember to renew your TSBA Membership. Your expiration date is printed on your mailing label. If you have already renewed, allow time for mailing. You should see the date change on your label next month

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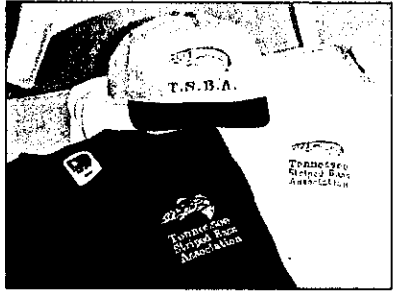
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TSBA Merchandise



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.

Name _____

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Hats Number of **Winter T.S.B.A. Hats** _____ X \$10.00 = \$ _____
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\$5.00 to ship 1 to 2 items or \$8.00 3 or more items Shipping\$ _____

Order Total \$ _____

Make checks payable to the "TSBA". Do not send cash!

President: Robert Leach
Robert@TNStripedBass.com

2004
TSBA
Officers & Staff

Vice President: Felix Taylor
Felix@TNStripedBass.com

Treasure: Janine Johnson
Janine@TNStripedBass.com

Secretary: Dave Johnson

Newsletter: Tom Knable Tom@TNStripedBass.com

Use this application to renew now.

T.S.B.A. 2004MEMBERSHIP 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.

Is this a renewal ___ or a New Membership ___

Your Name _____

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Referred By: _____

Enclose a check for \$20.00

Mail to: T.S.B.A. PO Box 962
Norris Tennessee 37828



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
PO Box 962
Norris, Tennessee 37828**



Please check the date on the mailing label above to see if you need to renew for 2004. A renewal envelope is enclosed.