

**Catch
The
Striper
fever!**

T.S.B.A.



**The
Tennessee
Striped Bass
Association
Newsletter**

**April
2004**

April 18th is

Striper Bowl



Time !!

Details inside.....

President's Letter

Norris Lake Die-Off - The TWRA has responded to our E-mail asking them to develop an action plan to counter the large-striper die-off that occurred on Norris last year. Basically they are still studying the situation, and they will reveal their plans to us at the next Norris Lake Advisory meeting that is now scheduled for May. We will wait patiently until then and hopefully we can reach a solution that we all can enthusiastically support.

Membership - We are developing two new cards advertising the TSBA. The first is a 3"x9" double-sided card designed to be placed in the racks you see at businesses to advertise local attractions. The second is a new business card which we plan to distribute to local bait shops, marinas, etc. These are designed to get the attention of potential new members. Finally, we are developing a new TSBA decal for our boats. See Page 3.

Percy Priest Visit - Ezell Cox, Felix Taylor, and I attended the March meeting of the Percy Priest Hybrid And Striper Club in Nashville. The purpose was to establish better relations with them and to see if they were doing anything that we should consider for our club. All three of us were impressed with the meeting as it was very friendly and family-oriented. In fact, approximately 1/3 of the people attending this meeting were women and children. In the past, this club has been extremely tournament oriented. They now have a new president and he is adding some noncompetitive events. One of these is an "Open Fishing" day where, once a month, the members gather at a local boat ramp. Generally, they all go out fishing together, but on at least one occasion, they never left the boat ramp. They just sat around and talked. Also, they personally invite each new member, and they make sure they have a way to go out fishing even if they don't have a boat. We will implement such a program here. The dates for our "Open Fishing" will be the Saturday following our monthly meeting.

President's Letter - Cont.

Another thing that impressed us was the completeness of their fishing reports. Each member who made a report, told the group **exactly** where they were catching stripers. They would give you the latitude and longitude if you asked. After hearing their reports, you could go to the exact spot without any trouble. We are always quite vague and say something like from point X to point Y.

Fish Hatchery Tour - The annual fish hatchery tour is scheduled for May 17 at the Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery in Clinton. To get to the hatchery, get off of I-75 at exit 122 and go West on Hwy 61. Immediately after you cross the Clinch River, turn left into the fish hatchery parking lot. Pizza and soft drinks will be served starting at 6 PM. Next we will have a short meeting to discuss upcoming events and then we will tour of the hatchery. In the past, this has been a very popular program, so please plan to attend. Please note that this will be our May meeting and we will not meet in May at Shoney's.

Boating Safety - At the April 19th meeting at Shoney's, Ken Cutsinger of the TWRA will give a presentation on boating safety. If you plan to participate in the Kids' Fishing Day on June 6th, you **must** attend this meeting. We want to be able to tell the parents of the kids that everyone operating a boat for this event has been in a session given by the TWRA covering the Tennessee boating laws and safety precautions. Even if you don't plan to participate in the Kids' Day event, it is a good idea to attend this session and listen to Ken's presentation. You are not too old to learn a thing or two.

Attention

No TSBA Meeting at Shoney's in May

Bob Leach

TSBA Advertisements

Boat Decal


3" x 9" Slot Card

TSBA
Catch The Fever



Tennessee Striped Bass
Association
www.TNStripedBass.com

TSBA
Catch the Fever



**Tennessee Striped Bass
Association**

The striped & hybrid bass fishery in East Tennessee is among the finest in the United States. These fish are exceptionally hard-fighters and they provide excellent table fare. Become a member of the TSBA and join the growing list of fishermen pursuing these magnificent game fish. Learn their seasonal patterns and the optimum striper-catching techniques from the expert anglers in the club. Each month you will receive our newsletter and you can attend the monthly meeting held in Knoxville. Both are designed to keep you up-to-date on striper fishing and what's going on within the club. In addition, the club sponsors many fishing outings - Friendly Tournaments, Overnight Excursions, Family Campouts, Fish Frys and more. Call, E-mail or visit our website for more information. Catch the Striper Fever.

Phone:
E-mail:
Website: www.TNStripedBass.com

TSBA
Catch the Fever



Tennessee Striped Bass
Association

- Learn from the experts
- Monthly Meetings
- Friendly Tournaments
- Excursions & Campouts
- Fish Frys & Much More
- Call, E-mail or go online
- Phone:
- E-mail:
- www.TNStripedBass.com

Business Card

Letter from the Vice President

I have been looking at boats and equipment for the past few weeks. It has occurred to me that this fishing business can get expensive. It has also occurred to me that the outlay of money does not equate to success in all cases. Sure, good tools are important and will help, but the single most important tool I know of is very inexpensive and often overlooked. The most successful fishermen I know all keep some form of a journal. A basic journal can be as simple as a 90 cent notebook and a pencil. Simple or complicated, a personal fishing journal can make you more successful. A good journal includes notes on the time of year, weather conditions, location, techniques used, and results. It should be descriptive enough for you to refer to it a year from now and remember everything. Days that work should be included but so should days that do not. After doing this for a long time you should be able to predict where Stripers will be and what methods will work best. You should be able to cull areas and techniques that did not work in the past given the same time of year and conditions. We have a lot of fishing coming up as a club. It will be a good time to start a journal if you do not already keep one. Be as descriptive as possible. Include pictures and the names of people you fish with. Whenever possible read other people's journals. Our website (and others) fishing reports is a type of basic collective fishing journal. It can be very useful to predict where the fish will be at any time of year and similar weather pattern. Stripers cannot of course read a calendar, but they do follow seasonal patterns that can be plotted on one. If you will start your journal today perhaps 30 years from now you can hand me a book like the one Ezell handed to me on the way back from Nashville. I was amazed. I resolved to keep up my own a little better.

Felix

Donations Welcome for Kids' Fishing Day

The annual StriperBowl is the TSBA event that funds the "Kids' Fishing Day" we hold each June. Many members have asked if there is a way to donate to this cause to help purchase prizes for the kids. If you would like to help fund the Kids' Fishing Day, you can mail a donation to:

**TSBA Kids' Fishing Day
P. O. Box 962
Norris, TN 37828**

We wish to thank all the members who have helped with this event over the years. With your help we have been able to give the kids some nice fishing equipment. You'll find some of the best people you'll ever meet belong to the TSBA. Thanks!

2004 TSBA Calendar

*Please attend TSBA events
and join us at the meetings.*

*Mark
Your
Calendar*

Monthly meetings will be held at Shoney's Restaurant, 5420 Clinton Highway. Get off I-75 at Exit 108, head west for about one mile. Turn right onto Clinton Hwy. Shoney's will be on the right.

April 17: StriperBowl Tailgate Party

April 18: StriperBowl - Cherokee

April 19: Monthly Meeting & Boating Safety

Seminar - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM

May 1-2: Cumberland River Excursion
on Cordell Hull Reservoir

May 17: 6 PM Monthly Meeting & Tour at Fish
Hatchery in Clinton - Pizza and Drinks

June 5-6: Cherokee Family Campout
& Kid's Fishing Day - Cherokee

June 21: Monthly Meeting

Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM

July 19: Monthly Meeting

Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM

August 16: Monthly Meeting

Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM

September 11: T.S.B.A. Fish Fry and Reunion
Anderson County Park on Norris Lake

October 18: Monthly Meeting

Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM

November 15: Monthly Meeting

Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM

December: No Monthly Meeting

Letter from the Secretary

"The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men the conviction and the will to carry on."

Walter Lippmann

I would like to tell you about Allan Franklin and some history of his membership in TSBA. Allan was Vice President for several years under Ezell's leadership. Allan is a member of the Norris Lake Advisory Committee. In 2000 Allan became our leader and served as President for 4 years. Allan developed and promoted the *StriperBowl* and *Kids Fishing Day* with the help of Toney and Amy Stevens. The purpose of the *StriperBowl* was to create club spirit and to raise money for the *Kids Fishing Day*. As a tribute and a show of thanks, if at all possible, please fish the *StriperBowl*. I once heard that it is not how far you go but in what direction, and certainly Allan has achieved both. On behalf of Allan, Toney, Amy, and the club, we wish to thank Tom Elmore for his donation of his half of the 50/50 and the Buckeye Bunch from Ohio/Indiana for a generous donation. Be assured that all donations for the *Kids Fishing Day* will be spent on the children. Just a reminder, get your *StriperBowl* poems in - you have one last chance. The prize is a Red Lobster gift certificate.

"Come on, let's have some more poems."

Dave Johnson

Question of the Month

What make outboard motor do you have?

Results:

Mercury - 7
Yamaha - 6
Johnson - 5
Evinrude - 5
Honda - 3
Suzuki - 1

Kept in Stitches

Kept in Stitches Custom Embroidery (KIS) is now the Supplier of Custom Apparel and Accessories for the TSBA. Owned by Lisa Groover & Cathy Taylor (wife of current V.P. Felix Taylor), KIS has been in business since January of 1999. KIS offers custom logo set up (digitizing) for our customers as well as having available about 10,000 stock designs. Along with the items listed in the Newsletter, KIS also provides Special Event items such as T' s & Sweats, Caps, BANNERS, etc. We will work with you to make your event items your ADVERTISING tools. Members & Customers can also purchase individual items for themselves or groups such as jackets, blankets, dress or casual shirts, tote bags, etc. with the TSBA logo or your company logo embroidered or screen printed on them. KIS also has a full line of CHILDREN'S items available. Note: We provide many athletic teams (youth & adult) with Team Wear & Banners (like the new TSBA banner you will see at the upcoming events) etc..... KIS has 2 catalogs from which you can browse, then just give us a call or contact us via E-Mail to place your order.

www.catalogsportsweat.com/keptnstitches

www.companycasuals.com/keptnstitches

KIS is located at 2048 Eckles Drive, Maryville, Tn. 37804. We can be reached @ 865-379-8278 (phone & fax) or via e-mail at keptnstitches @aol.com or clsbull1@aol.com. We accept checks, Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express for your convenience.

Please give us a call if we can assist you and your group.

Cathy & Lisa

P.S. See you at the StriperBowl!

You can contact Cathy Taylor about the "CAMP OUT" scheduled for June 4-5 on Cherokee Lake.

See
Driving
Directions
below

StriperBowl Tailgate Party

April 17th
(Night before the StriperBowl)
6:30 to 8:30pm
Super 8 Motel in Morristown

**Don't forget to book your room at the Super 8!!!
Give them a call at 423- 587- 2200**

******Directions to the Super 8******

Take 40 East out of Knoxville
to the 81 split. Take 81 to Exit 8
(which will be 25E North)

Take Exit 2B

(Andrew Johnson Hwy)

The motel will be on your left.

And then...

The StriperBowl !!!!

April 18th

**6:30am or First Safe Light at Oak Grove
on Cherokee Lake**

Registration 5:30 - 6am (see entry form for details)

Mandatory meeting 10 minutes prior to start

\$10 Entry Fee -- Members Only

All proceeds go to support the

Kids Fishing Day on June 6th

Attention StriperBowl participants:

To speed up registration you may pre-register with this form at the Tailgate Party or bring this with you to the StriperBowl

StriperBowl 2004 Entry Form

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone: _____

Entry fee: \$10.00 _____ check# _____ cash _____

Weight of fish: (1) _____ (2) _____

TSBA STRIPERBOWL ON CHEROKEE

Date: APRIL 18th, 2004 Time: 6:30AM until 11 AM

Start and weigh in will be at OAK GROVE LAUNCH RAMP

Registration starts at 5:30am - ends at 6am (if pre-registered be present by 6am)

Mandatory Rules meeting TEN Minutes before starting time

Must sign in to participate.

Rules

- All contestants must be at the rules meeting which will be held 10 minutes before tournament starting time. Ignorance of the rules is no excuse for violations and may result in disqualification.
- All boats and tow vehicles subject to a random check for concealed fish.
- All Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency rules and regulations will be observed including a valid Tennessee fishing license.
- All boats must meet U.S. Coast Guard regulations and be operated in a safe manner. NO ALCOHOL or UNLAWFUL DRUGS PERMITTED.
- Trailing is allowed. For a fish to be considered, it must be a Striper or a Hybrid and be legally caught from the body of water on which the tournament is being held.
- Each contestant may weigh in 2 fish. All fish must be 20-inch minimum. Each contestant must hook, mark and weigh- in their own fish. Partners are allowed to help with netting only. Winners will be determined by the weight of their own fish.
- All participating boats must be checked back in with a tournament official by 11 AM. Failure to check in will result in disqualification.
- In case of a tie, the fish will be measured by length and if need be by girth. The decisions of the tournament officials in all tournament matters will be final.
- You MUST BE A TSBA member to fish this tournament.

In the unlikely event that no fish are caught, the trophy will remain with the previous years winner.

Cumberland River Excursion

One of the new events for the TSBA in 2004 is a fishing excursion over the weekend of April 30 through May 2. We will be fishing a stretch of the Cumberland River just above and below the Cordell Hull dam near the town of Carthage. This stretch of the Cumberland is noted for its large stripers, and some experts think that it could produce the next state record striped bass. It is probably the best place to go in Tennessee for large stripers since the die-off of large stripers on Norris last year.

Ezell Cox, Felix Taylor, and I visited this area to check out various motels and campgrounds for our members to use for this excursion. Our goal was to find nice, reasonably-priced accommodations near the proposed fishing holes that could accommodate our boats. The places that we have selected are:

Motel

Cordell Hull Motel
Highway 25
Carthage, TN 37030
615-735-1300
Contact is Larry

Campground

Defeated Creek Park
Reservations - Call
1-877-444-6777

The motel is in Carthage and you can back your boat into a parking space in front of your room. If a lot of us use this motel, we may have to disconnect some of our trailers from their vehicles and push them back into the parking slot as some of us are not all that great at backing into a narrow slot. This should not be a problem. The prices per night, excluding tax, are \$38.50 and \$41.95 for a single and a double respectively. Please note that this is the prime striper fishing time for this area, and the manager expects the motel to fill up on these dates. Some members will be staying both Friday and Saturday nights while others will come over early on Saturday and stay only Saturday night. Contact the motel directly if you plan to stay there.

The campground that we have selected is at Defeated Creek Park on Cordell Hull lake just a few miles from Carthage. This is a full service campground in a beautiful setting. The daily fee for full hookups is \$25. Call 1-877-444-6777 or go online at www.reserveusa.com for reservations.

Directions to the motel - Go West on I-40 towards Nashville. Get off at exit 258 and go North on Hwy 53. Keep going straight when Hwy 53 turns to the right and joins Hwy 70. You will now be on Hwy 25. Go through South Carthage and across the Cumberland river and into Carthage. The motel is on Hwy 25 downtown on the left.

Directions to the campground - Starting at the motel, go North on Hwy 25 for about 3.1 miles. Turn right onto Hwy 80 and go approximately 2.5 miles. Turn right onto Hwy 85. Go another 3.6 miles and turn to the right into Defeated Creek Park.

We have reserved a picnic shelter in the recreational area below Cordell Hull Dam. There is a large parking area here along with a boat ramp. We will use this as our meeting and assembly area. It is just off of Hwy 263 on Cordell Hull Dam Road, and it is between the motel and the campground.

Our plan is to travel to Carthage in two caravans - one on Friday, April 30, and the second very early on Saturday morning, May 1. We plan to fish Saturday morning through Sunday morning. For those coming over on Friday, we may fish Friday night. We will finalize our plans at the next TSBA meeting on April 19. If you plan to go to the Cumberland with us, please come to the next TSBA meeting as we will have most of the details finalized, and we should have maps. If the weather cooperates, this will be a very nice outing, and I would guess that at least one of us will land a real trophy striper. Let us know if you want to go, as some members may be looking for someone to go with them to share expenses.

Bob Leach

May Expectations

The stripers will be in the headwaters of the rivers and in the major feeder creeks for the spawn. Temperature of the water will dictate when the stripers are most of the time. If the rivers or shallow water exceeds 70 degrees F., the fish will seek out cooler thermal refuge. The gulls and other fish-eating birds are always a good clue that stripers are also there to feed on the same bait fish. The stripers can be at any depth that it chooses, but most will be caught on or near the surface close to the rough, rocky banks and points. Side planer boards or any outriggers work great. It is important to know thermoclines start to develop in slow-moving water this month. Top water action is good in May, and survival of released fish is also great.

The TSBA web site offers up-to-date fishin' reports to all TSBA members. Visit the web at: www.TNStripedBass.com
The password has been temporarily removed.

(423) 587 2200

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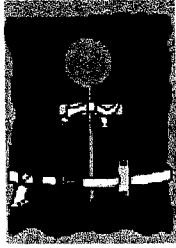
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BOATING SAFETY SEMINAR

Ken Cutsinger, our T.W.R.A. Wildlife Officer, will be our guest speaker at the April 19th T.S.B.A. meeting.

He will show videos and discuss boating safety and hypothermia.

You are highly encouraged to attend this seminar, especially if you will be participating in the Kids' Fishing Day outing.

Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Seminar at 7:00 p.m.
Shoney's Restaurant
5420 Clinton Highway in North Knoxville

????? Bring your questions ?????



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Cabins
*Lodge *Gas*

DON'T MISS THIS ONE

Let's get off the Tennessee River system the first weekend in May and go to the Cumberland River in Middle Tennessee. I have been asked to help our club's new leadership with this trip and expect it to be the first of a very enjoyable annual event.

Bob Leach plans to drive over and stay at the motel in Carthage Friday night, April 30, so he will be there to help anyone that comes early. Tom Elmore and I plan to drive down very early Saturday, May 1. We will leave from Sam's parking lot in West Knoxville at 3:00 a.m. if anyone wishes to caravan with us.

Our group is going to the area that holds the state record at 65 pounds 6 ounces by Ralph H. Dallas caught May 1, 2000. This is likely the best large fresh-water striper water in the world. I ask you please do not harvest any fish from these waters to eat. It is trophy waters. If you take a trophy, it can only be one fish, and it must be larger than 42 inches to be legal in Cordell Hull. If you do go against my wishes and harvest fish, the legal size is 2 fish over 15 inches and less than 32 inches.

Live bait is my choice and is normally available below Cordell Hull Dam. I do plan to take a minimum number of gizzard shad to start the morning. Everyone has heard that the trout and skipjack for bait is great. Well, it is true but make sure you stay legal with trout, keep your skipjack alive, or just use your gizzard shad.

I will lay out a plan on a map to cover the places we can expect to catch fish so we can cover more area instead of everyone fishing in the same place. Be ready to communicate with our radio on channel 68 or cell phones to make everyone have an "I WANT TO GO BACK ATTITUDE."

Your fishing friend,
Ezell Cox

Space available!

Place your ad here!

Kept in Stitches

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cell 207-8749



Catherine Taylor
cell 414 3024

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Email Keptnstitches@aol.com

Phone: (865) 379-8278 Fax: (865) 995-9260

Fishing Hot Spots



CHEROKEE LAKE: Good

Some stripers weighing up to 20 pounds can be caught but not nearly as abundant as the hybrids. Hybrids to eight pounds are common. Best fishing is from Point 24 downstream in most of the large coves and creeks that have abundant bait. Fish shallow and do not neglect the banks. Night fishing is great when the alewife is spawning late this month. This is the best month to catch fish on artificial lures.

NORRIS LAKE: Fair

Do not expect to catch a large fish on Norris like in past years, but fish weighing as much as 15 pounds from the stocking in 1999 can be caught. Top water action is at its best this month. Most fish will be in the upper one-half of the lake, in and around the large coves. Fish the shallow, rocky banks and points. Outriggers are very good fishing tools.

WATTS BAR & MELTON HILL: Good

The steam plant in Kingston will still hold some fish but expect to catch more fish. They may be larger upstream to the discharge at the dams.

EAGLE BEND FISH HATCHERY TOUR & MONTHLY MEETING

Join us on Monday, May 17, for pizza, drinks, monthly meeting, and tour of the Fish Hatchery - all beginning at 6:00 p.m.

The Fish Hatchery is located in Clinton just off Highway 61 between Highway 25W and the Clinch River on the east side of the street.



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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 _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Hats Number of **Winter** T.S.B.A. Hats _____ X \$10.00 = \$ _____

 Number of **Summer** T.S.B.A. Hats _____ X \$10.00 = \$ _____

Kids Shirts

Number of Shirts (*kids size medium 10-12*) _____ X \$8.00 = \$ _____

Number of Shirts (*kids size large 14-16*) _____ X \$8.00 = \$ _____

Adult Shirts

Number of Shirts (*adult size small*) _____ X \$12.00 = \$ _____

Number of Shirts (*adult size medium*) _____ X \$12.00 = \$ _____

Number of Shirts (*adult size large*) _____ X \$12.00 = \$ _____

Number of Shirts (*adult size xtra-large*) _____ X \$12.00 = \$ _____

Number of Shirts (*adult size 2X*) _____ X \$14.00 = \$ _____

Number of Shirts (*adult size 3X*) _____ X \$16.00 = \$ _____

Adult Sweatshirts

Number of *adult size medium* _____ X \$22.00 = \$ _____

Number of *adult size large* _____ X \$22.00 = \$ _____

Number of *adult size xtra-large* _____ X \$22.00 = \$ _____

Number of *adult size 2X* _____ X \$24.00 = \$ _____

\$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!

Mail to: **TSBA Merchandise**

2048 Eckles Drive, Maryville, TN 37804

YOUR 2004 TSBA OFFICERS AND STAFF

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Amy Stevens 865-426-8509

Web Site:

Toney Stevens 865-426-8509

T.S.B.A. 2004 MEMBERSHIP 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 _____

Spouse's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

E-Mail address _____

Referred By: _____

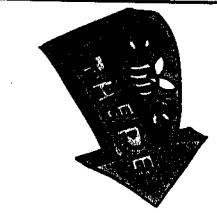
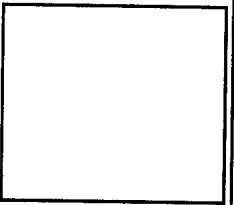
Enclose a check for \$20.00

**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**



**Plan to attend the
Boating Safety Seminar
April 19th -- 7pm at the
regular monthly meeting at Shoney's**