

Catch  
The  
Striper  
fever!

# T.S.B.A.

*The  
Tennessee  
Striped Bass  
Association  
Newsletter*



**June  
2004**



**Allan Franklin Kids' Fishing Day  
June 6, 2004**

# President's Letter

**Norris Lake Update** - As you know, the TSBA and Norris Lake Advisory Committee have been working with the TWRA to develop a plan to help the Norris Lake striper fishery recover more rapidly from the big fish die-off that occurred last summer and fall. The TWRA is studying all of the various alternatives and they have indicated that they will recommend some changes for Norris. The details are not available at this time.

**Open Fishing** - For the second "Open Fishing" day, on Saturday May 22, we assembled at the boat ramp just South of the Cherokee Dam at 4:30 PM and we fished the humps around the dam. The schools of stripers were scattered but they were thick once you found them, and they were readily hitting the shad. While only four boats participated, everyone had a great time. Remember that these events are not sponsored by the TSBA so you can bring your neighbors or any of your nonmember friends. Hopefully, the word will get out as to how much fun we are having and the participation will increase. If not, the members who do show up will be treated to some great fishing and camaraderie. The next "Open Fishing" date will be on Saturday, July 24; and we will be fishing below Melton Hill and Fort Loudoun Dams. The details and time will be discussed at the next TSBA meeting on June 21st at Shoney's. Some out-of-state members have expressed an interest in this event.

**Cumberland River Trip** - The Cumberland River Excursion which occurred on May 01 & 02 was very well received especially by our out-of-state members. In fact, several people talked about going back in the fall. This is fine with me, but I would like to get a feel for how many people would participate in a fall trip before committing to planning it. If you are interested in going to the Cumberland this fall, please call me at 865-471-1365 or send me an E-mail at [rdleach1@msn.com](mailto:rdleach1@msn.com).

## President's Letter - Cont.

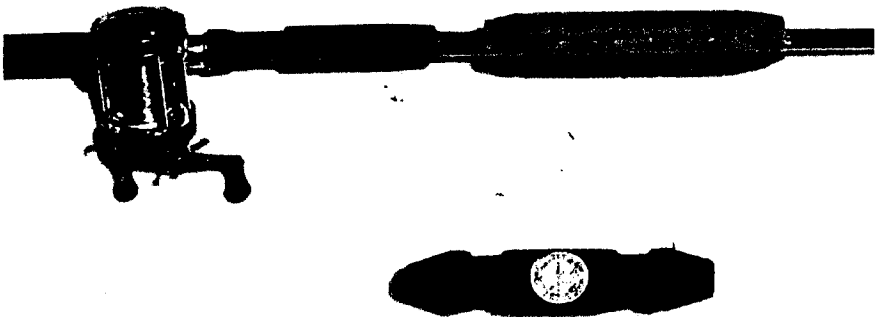
**Life Jackets** - One thing that I noticed on our trip to the Cumberland is how many people dislike wearing a life jacket. As you know, it is the law in Tennessee that you must wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket when fishing below the dams. However, I saw TSBA members who did not wear a life jacket and others who had them on but they were not zipped or snapped into place. The problem is that most life jackets are not comfortable and they tend to make you quite warm if the sun is shining. As a result, I searched through my many catalogs to see if I could find a more comfortable life jacket. One that caught my eye was in Cabela's catalog and they called it their "Ultimate Full-Motion Vest". I purchased one for myself and it is quite comfortable. They have opened up the arm pit area and this really works for me. In fact, I will start using this jacket even when I am not below the dams. It's a little pricey at \$49.95 but, to me, it's worth it. I plan to buy more for all of the people on my boat. I will bring this vest to the next meeting so you can try it on and see if it works for you.

**Next Meeting** - Remember that the next meeting will be back at Shoney's on June 21 at the regular time of 6 PM for the social hour and 7 PM for the actual meeting. This will be an important meeting as we will decide if we are going to go back to the Cumberland this fall and the exact format of the outing below the dams on July 24.

**Salt Concentration** - Recently, I took a small survey of some of the more experienced members of the club to determine what salt concentration they used in their bait tanks. The overwhelming response was 1/2 cup per every 10 gallons of water. I also checked the label on a bottle of "Shad Keeper" and they recommend the same concentration. They also said that you could double the amount of salt to one cup for every 10 gallons if the bait was in bad shape. I was using twice this concentration.

## President's Letter - Cont.

What are those silly-looking yellow, orange and black things that you now see on rods of Ezell, Allan and Bob. I have been asked that question by at least 10 different club members. They may look a little odd, but their value will really be appreciated if your rod happens to go overboard unexpectedly. They are closed-cell foam rod flotation devices designed to slip over your rod and provide it with enough flotation to keep it from sinking. Simply slip them over the lower end of your rod and use the Velcro straps to secure them in place. They are available in two different sizes - one for full-size rods & reels and another for ultra-lites. Both Cabela's and Bass Pro Shops carry them in their catalogs, and they retail for around \$9.00 for a three-pack. That's pretty cheap insurance to pay for your favorite rod and reel. I first started using them in Arizona after I left one of my rods on the rear deck and headed back to the boat ramp. Somewhere along the way, it bounced out and there was no reason to look for it. Be sure to check and be sure that it is providing enough flotation for your particular rod and reel combination.



## President's Letter - Cont.

**The Bluebird, the Bear and the Turkey** - What do the bluebird, the turkey and the bear have in common? We all know that they are native to East Tennessee, but they are also symbols used on three of Tennessee's specialty license plates. What makes these three license plates unique is the fact that they are the only specialty plates where the TWRA benefits financially from their sales. Therefore, if you have a specialty plate or are thinking about getting one, why not get one where the proceeds will indirectly help our sport of fishing for striped bass? The TWRA needs the resources to enforce the fishing and game laws and anything that we can do to help them will be appreciated. Besides, these three specialty plates are nice looking.

**Fish Hatchery Tour** - The annual tour of the Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery occurred on Monday May 17. The meeting was well attended as nearly 30 members were present. Mike Smith, who runs the fish hatchery, gave a very nice presentation on the hatchery and many facts about striped bass. I, for one, found his words to be very informative; and I want to thank him for taking the time to host this event for us. Mike is extremely knowledgeable about striped bass and the history of the striped bass fishery in Tennessee.

This year was a little different as we served pizza and drinks prior to the meeting. It was a nice meeting, and I think that all of the members liked the idea of pizza and drinks.

*Bob Leach*

## Letter from the Vice President

June is here. Time for Camp and Summer School. I have spent the first week of June commuting between Maryville (to work), Bean Station (campground), and Nashville (Jake's Football Camp). It has been hectic to say the least. Both my younger kids have one event after another lined up for the short Summer break from school. Jake is playing football and Christy is pursuing baton and band camps. Every chance we get we will head to Cherokee Lake and the view from point 6. This year Dad is going to Camp/Summer School for a change. A friend and I signed up for NC State's Sportfishing School early last Fall and the time has come to head East 600 miles and try to learn something. The school operates out of Hatteras, NC and should be interesting. We are supposed to learn how to catch our own bait and rig it - . how to fish 101 at the shore. I have fished out of Oden's at Hatteras for 20 years, but this is the first time I have attempted to learn it the right way. Can you learn after 50? You bet. From the description of the course we are to take a cast net and catch bait. I ought to have a head start there at least. I'm not real sure where to throw it in the Atlantic, but I'll know when I get back. Fishing is fishing. I have taken a lot of the lessons learned in blue water and used them on the lake. Now I hope to take the lessons learned with TSBA to the Atlantic and apply them there. It will my first trip to Hatteras in 2 years. We had trips planned the last several years that got cancelled due to Hurricanes. I hope to spend a lot of time fishing with a lot of you guys over the Summer and into the Fall. I hope your Summer plans include a little adult camp or Summer school. Get out there and learn something. Bring it back for the rest of us.

*Felix Taylor*

# A few minutes with . . .

**TSBA: How did you get into fishing?**

DAVE: My girlfriend about 35 years ago took me fishing. And that set the stage for today.

**TSBA: How so?**

DAVE: Well, we married and we now share our third boat. The canoe she can keep!

**TSBA: What is the most enjoyable aspect about being a fishing partner?**

DAVE: Sharing time together.

**TSBA: Over the years, what would you say your best and worst time fishing was?**

DAVE: Best would be having 3 lines with stripers all criss-crossed and we got them all in. Worst would be driving Janine to the hospital with a fishing lure in her finger because I rushed her.

**TSBA: Where is your fishing going today?**

DAVE: Every year is better than the year before. I'm still focusing on learning and trying new fishing techniques.

**TSBA: What's the bottom line?**

DAVE: Don't let a day go by without giving thanks to God for the gifts in your life.

*Dave Johnson*

## Question of the Month

Do you shop catalogs for fishing supplies?

Bass Pro Shops - 7  
Cabela's - 6  
WalMart - 7  
Outdoor Sports - 2  
Minor Marine - 1  
FinestKind.com  
EAngler.com  
Ezell's Boat

# Conserve Striped Bass!

## How you can help!

Anglers should determine whether to keep or release fish depending on the conditions of the catch. Released striped bass survival is based on your knowledge of the species and the circumstances of the catch. If you take time to learn more about these phenomena and we work together, we can be assured of excellent striper fishing for many years to come.

Keep striped bass from June through September. Releasing striped bass during these hot months can generally cause death of many released fish. This is the best season to catch and keep your limit, then either quit or fish for another species.

Release striped bass from October through May. Striped bass can generally be released without harm during these cooler months of the year when surface water temperatures are more suitable. Releasing fish will help increase the number and size of striped bass.



# Good Angling Practices

- \* Plan a "keep or release" strategy each day and before removing each fish from the water.
- \* Use corrodible circle, barbless, or treble hooks. They do not hook fish deeply and allow fish to be released more quickly.
- \* Use heavy tackle designed for stripers and a steady retrieval technique.
- \* Minimize handling and out of water time. If you must handle a fish, use a wet glove or rag to hold it and use proper hook removal tools to facilitate quick release.
- \* Cut leaders closely to release deeply hooked fish.
- \* Release fish gently head first, supporting tail with a filet glove on hand, if possible.
- \* Resuscitate an exhausted fish by moving back and forth in water forcing water through gills.
- \* Keep fish to eat during warmer months.
- \* Practice release in cooler months.
- \* Teach release techniques to your buddies.

## *Allan Franklin Kids' Fishing Day*

The 2004 Allan Franklin Kids' Fishing Day was attended by 15 kids and accompanied by 10 boat captains. We all met at Granger County Park at 6am, Sunday morning, June 6. Congratulations to all the kids who did an outstanding job striper fishing. The big fish of the day weighed 12.7 ounces caught by Chase Snow. A total of 7 fish were caught. Great job !!!

There were a few sleepy eyes and some of them still had their blankets with them, but nonetheless we all got there. The weather was nice and cool and we had one of the most beautiful sunrises you have ever seen. The wind did get up a little but it was nothing like last year. The fish were there this year, but they were a little slow about biting. {I think that it was due to Ezell Cox giving them sore mouths the day before from what I've heard. I believe we need to make the lake off limits to him the day before we have tournaments from now on, since he did the same thing before the StriperBowl this year, too. If you remember, at the StriperBowl, the fish were really hard to come by, too}.

The kids did not go home empty handed. They ALL received several door prizes, a trophy, and a T-shirt. There were some really big smiles at the end of the day. Some of the kids had a hard time carrying all their stuff. We also gave away some really nice door prizes to a few of the Captains. We appreciate all their help to make this tournament a great success.

I want to personally thank everyone that helped put on this years Kids' Fishing Day, especially to all those who donated money and did not want their names mentioned. You all know who you are. THANK YOU!!!!!!

*Allan Franklin*





Adult size Kids' Fishing Day T-shirts are available. Call Cathy Taylor at 865-981-2827 for pricing and ordering information.



# Keep or Release

**Keep the fish you will use;  
return the rest for enjoyment another day.**

## Causes of Release Mortality

Landlocked striped bass, being out of their native environment, require more care in release situations than many other freshwater fish.

One cause of mortality is called Acidosis. During periods of exertion, fish muscle obtains energy by breaking down sugars without the presence of abundant oxygen. This results in the formation of toxic substances in greater quantities than the liver can cleanse. This condition limits the ability of the blood to pick up and transport oxygen throughout the fish. If this condition is not reversed in the revival period of the release process, the fish may not survive.

Additional mortality factors are related to pressure changes as a fish is brought to the surface from deep water. This pressure change causes over-inflation of the swim bladder. To survive this ordeal, fish must wait on the surface for the swim bladder to deflate. During this time the fish is subject to further stress by warm temperatures and harmful ultraviolet rays. Pressure change can also cause paralysis or death as air bubbles form in the bloodstream and create an embolism.

Other mortality causes can be related to improper handling techniques, which can cause disease and gill damage. The skin of all fish has a protective mucous layer to prevent disease. Netting and handling of a striper removes this mucous and when released the fish may contract a disease. The gills are the striper's source of oxygen, and damage to this area due to handling or hooking often results in death.

Proper handling, right equipment, knowing when to release fish and using good judgment will allow many released stripers to be caught again. Release of landlocked stripers does work.

# July Expectations

The reservoir stripers have migrated back to the lower one half of the lake. The thermocline has developed and normally exceeds 15 feet, although each reservoir is unique. The stripers will become easier to locate with your sonar as the warmer shallow coves push the fish into the deeper, cooler main channel below the thermocline. A topographical map will locate the old river channel with shallow humps and flats nearby to attract bait fish. Catch and release is not an option in the reservoirs because the mortality is near 100%. Below the dams with cool discharge water, a released fish has a good chance to survive. Fishing the boils is almost a guaranteed catch in July if you present your bait close enough to the bottom to lose a few hook, line, and sinkers. It is dangerous water and illegal not to wear a life jacket.

The TSBA web site offers up-to-date fishin' reports to all TSBA members.  
Visit the web at: [www.TNStripedBass.com](http://www.TNStripedBass.com)  
The current password is:  
Username: "tsba"  
Password: "club"

**(423) 587 2200**

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Near Maynardville TN**

## TSBA Campout and Cookout - June 5

On June 5, the day before the Kids' Fishing Day, the TSBA hosted a Campout and Cookout at Cherokee Lake. It was a huge success thanks to the efforts of Cathy Taylor, our VP's wife! 20 children attended the event that Cathy organized and ran. Families spent the day lake-side at a private pavilion. They participated in games, swimming, wiffle ball, frisbie, tye dyed t-shirts and the ever-popular snow cone machine! Mr. Ezell Cox, after receiving instruction in the proper way to make snow cones, became the resident snow cone maker! (Cathy has proposed that Ezell may wish to quit his job and further promote striper fishing by taking his jonboat out equipped with a snow cone machine! Ezell is considering the possibilities of getting a 12-volt model!) All the children received a TSBA Kids' Fishing Day t-shirt along with toys and loads of candy when the Pinata broke! Families camped out and enjoyed the fire late into the evening. The next morning bright and early boats rounded the corner to Grainger County Park where the captains and kids began their search for fish!



I-75 Exit 128  
Lake City, TN

### Norris Dam Marina

Steve Pemberton  
(865) 494-8138

1604 Norris Freeway P. O. Box 1587  
Norris, TN 37828 Norris, TN 37828-1587

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Cabins  
\*Lodge \*Gas

## 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.

**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

*Space available!*

*Place your ad here!*

## Kept in Stitches

CUSTOM EMBROIDERY

Lisa Groover Moore  
cell 207-8749

Catherine Taylor  
cell 414 3024



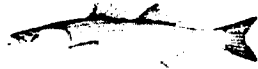
2048 Eckles Drive Maryville, TN 37804

Email [Keptnstitches@aol.com](mailto:Keptnstitches@aol.com)

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



# Fishing Hot Spots



## **CHEROKEE LAKE: Good**

The no fishing zone in front of the dam goes into effect July 15 through September 15. A majority of the adult stripers will be schooled on the old river channel humps from point #13 to #1 at the dam. Hybrids may still be caught in shallow water and upstream of point #13. Catch and release hybrids can still be successful.

## **NORRIS LAKE: Good**

The fish are small when compared to past years, and the numbers are also down. The largest fish may reach into the teens and are schooled in good quantities when you do find them and are hungry after the spawn. Point #26 downstream to Point #19 is always good on the Clinch side. Big Creek and Cove Creek normally start to see good action in July. Point #10 to Point #14 on the Powell side. It is now catch and kill.

## **BELOW FORT LOUDOUN & MELTON HILL DAMS: Good**

Many of the stripers will go upstream to the discharge at the dams. Put your sinker and hook close to the bottom with plans to lose a few for the most catches. Pulling side planer boards down the banks can also catch fish for miles downstream.



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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

**President:**

Robert Leach 865-471-1365  
Robert@TNStripedBass.com

**Vice President:**

Felix Taylor 865-981-2827  
Felix@TNStripedBass.com

**Treasurer:**

Janine Johnson

**Secretary:**

Dave Johnson

### TSBA STAFF

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Ezell Cox 423-626-9547

**Merchandising:** Cathy Taylor 865-981-2827

**Advertising:** 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: \_\_\_\_\_

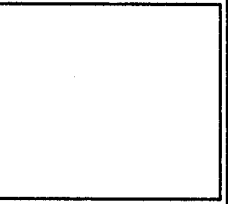
***Enclose a check for \$20.00***

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



The TSBA is a non-profit organization, that supports WRA & 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**



**June 21, 2004  
Monthly Meeting  
Shoney's Restaurant  
5420 Clinton Highway  
Dinner 6:00 p.m. Meeting 7:00 p.m.**