

**Catch
The
Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



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

**February
2005**

***TSBA Annual
Kingston Tournament
February 19, 2005***

***TSBA Tournament
on Cherokee
March 12, 2005***

***New Boating Law
Effective January 1, 2005***

President's Letter

A Little About Me

I guess this would be a good time to tell a little about myself in my first letter to the club. I have been married to my wife, Pat, for almost 27 years. (I sure am glad she likes to fish.) We have two daughters and one grandson. I have always lived in Anderson County, currently in the Claxton community near Bull Run Steam Plant. My family has been active in church for as long as I can remember, including ministering in our local church as well as missionary work in Jamaica and in both North and South Dakota.

I have had a love for the outdoors and wildlife as long as I can remember. I especially love to fish, as my wife can bear witness I've got it bad. Since my teenage years when my parents owned and operated a bait and tackle shop, I have wanted to learn to catch Stripers. The trouble was, I didn't know anyone who knew how to catch them. Then one day while reading on one of the fishing forums, I ran across an invitation to the TSBA fish fry. After going and meeting some of the club members and getting an invitation to go fishing with Ezell, I knew the TSBA was going to be a great place to make new friends and learn about these magnificent fish. I have learned more in the past year than I would have in a lifetime of trial and error fishing. Then, after a little more than a year, I was approached about being the TSBA President. I'm not sure how well I can do the job of Club President, but I am willing to do what I can to help contribute to the club.

President's Letter - Page 2

A Simple Goal

One goal for the club is to simply have fun, continue education and sharing personal knowledge as well as putting forth an effort to increase our membership this year. If anyone has any ideas for attracting new people, I would be glad to hear them. Increasing membership will not only give us a louder voice for the things that are important to us, but it will also give us the opportunity to teach other folks about this great fish that we pursue. I'm sure a lot of people don't know how fragile these fish can be. One example, this past summer at Melton Hill Dam, I saw a lady catch a striper around 8 or 9 pounds. Everyone in her boat was thrilled with her catch. After taking pictures and showing the fish off to others, it was finally released. About 10 or 15 minutes later, I saw that fish near the surface and it wasn't doing so good. That fish probably died from being held out of the water too long. I'm sure those people didn't intend to harm the fish. They probably just didn't know that, unlike a catfish or carp, Striped Bass have to go back in the water quickly. So by inviting others to join our club, they can be properly educated and hopefully have fun fishing, but not at the expense of harming the fishery.

2005 Schedule

Our calendar has a lot of events this year, which is great. I want to encourage everyone to participate in as many events as you can this year, starting with the Kingston Tournament on February 19. We have many more events this year. So if you don't get to go to one event, maybe you can make it to the next one. If you want to check our schedule, get on the website "<http://www.TNStripedBass.com>" click on the "Calendar" link.

President's Letter - Page 3

Website

We are trying to keep the website updated with the latest club-related information. I encourage you to check it often for updates. We have recently received several new pictures to put on the website. I encourage you to send in your pictures, and we will put them on the site as well. If you will include the date of the catch and the weight of the fish, I will post it with the picture. Include the location of the catch if you wish. If you don't want to give that info, that's okay, but we would still like to post your pictures. You can email them or bring printed copies to a club meeting or event. It is my intention to keep it up to date as much as possible, not only with pictures, but with details about Tournaments and other club events. I will put as much information as possible on the Calendar Page. Just click on calendar on the main webpage, and then click the event that you are interested in. You should get a detailed list of available information.

Also, I am including my phone number and email address. Feel free to contact me if you need to talk about something or ask a question. Those of you who use email, contact me at jseiber@tennstripedbass.com and I will add you to my email list for future correspondence.

I really think that 2005 can and will be a great year.

John Seiber
Phone: (865) 945-3716
E-Mail: jseiber@tennstripedbass.com

2005 TSBA Tournament Trail

As you know, the club is constantly trying to come up with new programs to make the TSBA more interesting. For 2005, we have decided to introduce a "Tournament Trail" competition. Basically, we are going to sponsor a total of five tournaments and record the total weights of the Stripers and/or Hybrids caught by each participant in each event. At the end, we will drop everyone's lowest weight and add up their best four weights. The angler with the highest total will be crowned the "TSBA Angler of the Year." We will have a traveling plaque with the year, the winner's name, and the total weight. Also, the winner will receive a monogrammed shirt and cap to commemorate their achievement. The dates for the 2005 tournaments are:

Saturday	February 19	Kingston
Saturday	March 12	Cherokee
Saturday	April 16	Cherokee
Sunday	May 01	Cherokee
Saturday	August 20	Melton Hill

For each of the above tournaments, we will weigh-in only one striper or hybrid per angler. Live check-in is preferred, but it is not required. The entry fees for the tournaments are as follows.

The fee for each of the Saturday tournaments will be \$11. Ten Dollars of this will be returned 100% to the winners of that particular event - 50% for first place, 35% for second place, and 15% for third place. The remaining One Dollar per person per tournament will go into a fund to buy the plaque and the monogrammed shirt and cap.

The entry fee for the Sunday, May 01 tournament, which is the StriperBowl, will be \$16. Fifteen of this will go towards the Kid's Day fund and the remaining Dollar will go towards the plaque and awards fund. The plaque and prizes will be presented during the September Fish Fry at Anderson County Park.

I really believe that this program will be a lot of fun, and it will be well received by everyone.

Fishing Hot 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 is easy to catch in most of the warm coves. The Fort Patrick Henry steam plant will be good all month.

Norris Lake

The Hickory Star area and upstream will be good. The sunny side of the shallow banks will catch some top water fish in the afternoon. Spring Dock near Point 11 and upstream on the Powell River side will be good. Look for the warm water that attracts bait fish. Pull a planer board close to the bank.

Watts Bar Lake/Melton Hill Lake

The steam plants at Kingston and Melton Hill will have the most predictable catches. The contrast in water temperature will dictate how good the fishing is.

Fishing Regulations

New fishing licenses are required to fish starting March 1. You may want to purchase your license before March to get it at the 2004 price since they will have a price increase for the 2005 season.

It is each fisherman's responsibility to know the rules and stay legal. Changes are normal in the management of our fishing each year, and those changes become effective on March 1. Each river or lake may have exceptions you need to be aware of before exposing yourself to a fine. Example: March 1, 2005 until April 1, 2005 on Norris Lake is 1 each striper bass and must be at least 36 inches. March 1 starts the new 42-inch musky size limit on Melton Hill. Go on line to Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency at www.tnwildlife.org or pick up a 2005 Fishing Regulations book at sporting stores or TWRA offices.

Boat Operator Education

As of January 1, 2005, mandatory boater education became law in Tennessee for boat operators born after January 1, 1989.

Anyone who operates a boat and was born after January 1, 1989 must possess proof of completing the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency's boating safety exam.

Locations, dates, and times of these exams will be posted on the Internet at <http://www.state.tn.us/twra/boated.html> or may be obtained by calling (800) 837-6012. Home study books may be obtained by calling (615) 837-6013.

Boaters wanting to take the one-hour exam must first purchase a \$10.00 boating safety exam permit from any agent that sells fishing/hunting licenses. The receipt from this purchase is the "ticket" to take the exam. It serves as admission at the exam locations and becomes a temporary boater safety certificate for those who pass the exam. If you do not pass the exam, this receipt/"ticket" can continue to be used to take the exam as many times as needed.

A wallet card will be mailed within a few weeks of successfully passing the exam. If a card is lost, a duplicate may be purchased from any license agent for \$5.00.

Contact your local TWRA Region IV office at (423) 587-7037 or (800) 992-0900 for more information.

The TSBA web site offers up-to-date fishin' reports to all TSBA members.

Visit the web at:

www.TNStripedBass.com

The current password is:

Username: "tsba"

Password: "club"

Minutes of the January Meeting

John Seiber, the new TSBA President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Jim Negus of the TWRA was our guest speaker. Jim discussed a fishing journal for East Tennessee waters and young boater education. Proposed no culling of stripers in Tennessee would be hard to enforce, but the precedent is set because a no culling law exists for paddlefish. TVA project: Norris now has aerators and Cherokee has new aerators that are extended farther into the lake. Jim wants a live fish with copepods to send in to find out the reason for stress and death. There was a discussion of increased fishing pressure on Cherokee Lake. The need to increase the fish per acre stocked should be considered. TWRA Region IV Website: <http://www.tnfish.org/TWRAMain.htm>

Tournaments: Bob Leach discussed the tournament schedule. See Tournament page for details.


Wes Adams was unanimously voted in as a member of the Board of Directors for a one-year term.

There was a motion, seconded, and carried by over a 2/3 majority to withdraw all previous TSBA official public statements and to continue the TSBA Mission Statement as indicated on the back cover of the newsletter.

Dave Johnson
TSBA Secretary

Reminder: Take a camera with you when you go fishing, and send your pictures to Janine @TennStripedBass.com

Striper Fishing with Gus
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Hickory Star Marina & Campground

This month we are highlighting the Hickory Star Marina strategically located on beautiful Norris Reservoir just four miles East of Maynardville on Route 144. Hickory Star really is a complete facility with a full-service marina, motel, campground, full-service restaurant, and rental cabins. At Hickory Star, there is always something new and exciting to do at this beautiful facility.

Marina - If it's fishing or any water sport, you will find everything that you need at the Hickory Star Marina. Whether it's houseboating, canoeing, water skiing, or fishing, this marina is well equipped to provide you with endless fun in the sun. You can launch your own boat at their ramp or take advantage of their professional guide service.

Motel - After a long day on Norris, why fuss with loading your boat and making the long drive home. Instead, park your boat at the dock and walk to your air-conditioned room at the Hickory Star motel. This would make a great getaway for you and your significant other to spend a little quality time together while you still get to fish in the early morning and at dusk.

Restaurant - Hey! You really owe it to yourself to visit the Nordstrom's Galley at Hickory Star. They are open April 15 through September 1 from 4 PM to 10 PM from Thursday through Saturday and from 1 to 9 on Sunday. This place is first-class and it has everything from sandwiches to steaks.

Campground & Cabins - If you are interested in camping, they have everything you need - rustic & new cabins, camper hookups, and tent sites and their fees are quite reasonable.

Please call 800-235-6866 (toll-free), 865-992-5241, or go online at fishnorris@aol.com to get more information or make a reservation. These are really nice fisherman-friendly folks, and you will have a great time during your stay at Hickory Star.

Fishing Trip

I have been asked a couple of times to tell this story from a few years ago. A friend of mine, Captain Spurgeon Stowe, owns and operates the finest headboat anywhere on the Atlantic. The Miss Hatteras is a 75 foot fishing vessel fast enough to get to the Gulf Stream and back out of Hatteras Inlet, called a headboat because the charge is by the head or per person. Most of the year the Miss Hatteras carries 30 or 40 people out to bottom fish over rocks and wrecks in the Gulf Stream. In the dead of winter, Spurgeon takes the Miss Hatteras out for some different trips including live bait fishing for King Mackerel and chumming and drifting baits for Bluefin Tuna.

A group of my pharmacy buddies and my oldest son just back from a year in Korea decided to take a weekend trip to Hatteras and try our luck with catching Bluefin Tuna. Because we were limited in funds, the headboat was our choice. We left North Broadway in Knoxville at 6PM on Friday on a cold January day for the 650 mile run to Oden's Dock, Hatteras Village, NC. We took two trucks with 2 passengers each and headed East on I-40. The guys in the other truck drank beer the entire trip. We had sleet, snow, wind, and rain the first third of the trip that slowed us down. We changed off to US 64 in Raleigh and continued East on a deserted road that let us make up some time. We pulled into Oden's at 5:30 for a 6:30 departure. Spurgeon was studying the water and the wind and making comments fit for sailors only. The temperature at Hatteras was 30 degrees with a 20-knot north wind. That would make the seas 6 to 8 feet in the edge of the Gulf Stream. It was a rougher day than Spurgeon would normally take. The weather had been worse all week, and he needed to make a payroll so he decided it was a go. After the Captain described the conditions of the day, 9 of the 20 folks gathered at the dock thought better of it and left. The Miss Hatteras left Oden's with the Captain, one mate, and 11 idiot fishermen.

Before we cleared the inlet, the two beer drinkers were green and curled up on the floor of the boat's cabin, done for the day. The seas turned out to be more like 8 to 10 feet, and it was

rough indeed riding out. It was still rough when we hit the blue water and the wall of steam that signaled the Gulf Stream. By that time another of the 11 had joined my friends in the cabin leaving 8 to fish. We divided into 4 teams of 2. One guy held the 80-pound class Penn International, and the other held the holder. We were chumming with cut peices of bait and drifting hooked baits along with it. Rules were we could only boat one fish, and the angler who got it got 1/2 and everyone else got a share of the other half. We were told to keep the rod aimed at the fish and to keep the line tight if we got a hit. It was absolutely required to follow the fish around the boat, and everyone else had to get out of the way.

There was a school of big tuna under us and mixed in were a lot of big King Macs. The Macs are short biters and because we were rigged for Tuna we were just feeding the Kings half our bait and rebaiting for several hours. My son, Doug, and I were taking turns at the stern of the boat. I had just put out a new bait when Mr. Bluefin decided he was hungry. The fish was pulling line off a 40-pound drag fast enough to make it scream and was taking it straight off the bow of the boat. The fish was dragging me, and I dragged Doug through the other 3 teams to the bow of the boat where I cranked for 45 minutes between screaming runs to get my fish in close enough for the gaff. The tuna was 120 pounds, small for a Bluefin, but by far my biggest fish. We hooked and released several others that day and called it a day.

Back at Oden's we grilled the 1/2 share for the 5 in my party, ate, and slept in the adjacent motel. Next morning, we did it all over again. I was so beat up from the day before that I rigged some treble hooks on wire leaders and fished for Kings. Doug and I caught several 30 to 40 pounds. We got off the boat Sunday and drove back to Knoxville in time for work Monday. My two beer drinking friends never held a rod either day and never even got off the floor of the cabin but talked for months about what a great trip it was.

The big Bluefins are at Hatteras every cold winter. Try it sometime. One is enough for me, I think.

Felix Taylor



James Orrick
8.4 lb. Hybrid
January 3, 2005

Monthly Meeting - February 21, 2005

A new method has been invented to keep stripers alive in the cool weather months. A "Striper Tube" was first used in the N.S.B.A. tournaments in South Carolina. I used one for two consecutive days in the N.S.B.A. National Championships at Cherokee and did not lose a fish. I will bring a tube to the meeting and show how to use and maintain it. *Bill Cate*

Monthly Meeting - March 21, 2005

Sammy Robinette Presents
"Catching, Presenting, and Keeping Live Bait"
Don't miss this one!



The Baker Family had a great Grandpa, Son, and Grandson time in the Macedonia area on Cherokee Lake up near Rocky Hollow on November 21, 2004. Caught on downlines, Phil's and his Grandpa's fish were both on at the same time. Things were pretty busy in the boat.

Ed Sr., Ed Jr., & Phil



March Expectations

New fishing licenses are required to fish in March. March is a transition month for the prespawn stripers. Early month, the stripers roam the deep open water in large schools feeding on small bait. The winter pattern in the early month cold water of about 45 degrees F. may change to upper 50 degrees F. by month end in the shallow sun-warmed longer days. Migration into the shallow incoming rivers and major feeder creeks will develop around the large concentrations of bait fish. The gulls are still worth watching; also look for herons feeding on the sun-warmed shallow flats. Much larger baits start to work well pulled behind planer boards along the bank. Most fish will be caught in the top 20 feet, and the surface action can be good. The steam plants will continue to attract stripers.

Question of the Month

Question: Have you ever fallen into the lake?

Answer: 10 out of 30 members have fallen in the lake.
DON'T THINK IT CAN'T HAPPEN TO YOU!

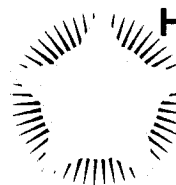
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YOUR 2005 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND STAFF

President:

John Seiber 865-945-3716
JSeiber@tennstripedbass.com

Vice President:

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

Treasurer:

Janine Johnson

Secretary:

Dave Johnson

TSBA DIRECTORS

Wes Adams, Ed Baker, Ezell Cox, Allan Franklin,
Kevin Mason, Chet Moore, John Seiber

TSBA STAFF

Newsletter: Janine Johnson Janine@tennstripedbass.com
Web Site: John Seiber 865-945-3716
Public Relations: Allan Franklin 865-694-8888
Ezell Cox 423-626-9547
Sponsor Coordinator: Eric Rauch 865-494-0304
Tournament Coordinator: Bob Leach 865-471-1365
Cumberland River Trips: Bob Leach 865-471-1365
Felix Taylor 865-981-2827
Door Prizes: Bill Cate 865-933-9431
Merchandising: Kept In Stitches 865-981-2827



Lighthouse Marina

STEVE PEMBERTON
(865) 494-8138

Interstate 75, Exit 128
1804 Norris Freeway
Norris, TN 37828

Norris Dam Marina
P.O. Box 1587
Norris, TN 37828-1587

Mountain Lake Marina and Campground

On Norris Lake
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877-MTN-CA-

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Letter from the Secretary

Heads or Tails

From a boat or off a dock, there is no good way to fall into the lake, especially this time of the year with the water temperature in the 40 to 50-degree range.

It is VERY IMPORTANT to wear your life jacket. Allan Franklin confirmed that the lighter pouch and chest vests that inflate by an air cartridge will not work properly now. Don't use them. You're betting your life on it. Check out the Question of the Month. Bill Cate shared a true story with us. He fell in and almost didn't make it. Don't think it can't happen to you. Please practice safety and attend TSBA meetings.

A good idea would be to double up and take a buddy fishing.

Now that you're safe, let's consider the boat and motor. The bunks freeze up and off it goes. Don't unhook your boat from the trailer until you reach the bottom of the launch. After taking your boat out of the lake, lower the motor and let the water drain. One quick motor crank to spin the water out of the pump helps.



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Catherine Taylor
cell 414 3024

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Email Keptnstitches@aol.com

Phone: (865) 379-8278 Fax: (865) 995-9266

2005 TSBA Calendar

Please attend TSBA events and join us at the meetings.

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.

- February 19:** TSBA Annual Kingston Tournament
Kingston City Park, 10:30 a.m.
- February 21:** Monthly Meeting -Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM
Bill Cate Presents "Striper Tubes"
- February 26:** Open Fishing on Cherokee
- March 12:** Tournament on Cherokee
- March 21:** Monthly Meeting -Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM
Sammy Robinette Presents "Catching, Presenting
and Keeping Live Bait"
- March 26:** Open Fishing on Norris
- April 16:** Tournament on Cherokee
- April 18:** Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM
- April 30:** Open Fishing on Cherokee & Striper Bowl Tailgate Party
- May 1:** Tournament - Striper Bowl - Cherokee
- May 13-15:** Cherokee Family Campout & Kids Fishing Day-Cherokee
- May 16:** Monthly Meeting & Tour at Fish Hatchery in Clinton
Pizza & Drinks - 6:00 PM
- May 21:** Open Fishing on Cherokee
- June 10-12:** Cumberland River Trip
- June 20:** Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM
- June 26:** Open Fishing on Cherokee
- July 9:** Open Fishing on Cherokee
- July 18:** Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM
- July 23:** Open Fishing on Melton Hill
- July 29-31:** Cumberland River Trip
- August 15:** Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM
- August 20:** Tournament on Melton Hill
- September 10:** TSBA Fish Fry & Reunion (Monthly Meeting)
- September 17:** Open Fishing on Cherokee
- October 17:** Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM
- October 22:** Open Fishing on Cherokee
- November 12:** Open Fishing on Norris
- November 21:** Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM
- December 19:** Board of Directors Meeting - 6 PM

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 "Kept In Stitches". Do not send cash!

Mail to: TSBA Merchandise

2048 Eckles Drive, Maryville, TN 37804

T.S.B.A. 2005 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: _____

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)

Enclose a check for \$20.00

Mail to: Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 24442

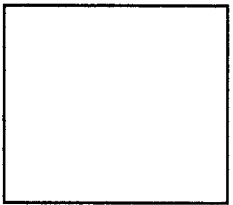
Knoxville TN 37933

Note: All members must sign and submit this membership application with the 2005 dues. 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 24442
Knoxville, TN 37933**



Be sure to sign and mail your 2005 membership renewal application with dues. This will be your last newsletter if you have not renewed.