

Catch
The
Striper
Fever!

T.S.B.A.



Tennessee
Striped Bass
Association,
Inc.
Newsletter

April
2005

StriperBowl

*Make your plans now to
attend the StriperBowl
Tailgate Party April 30
and then fish the
StriperBowl on May 1!!*

Details Inside!!

President's Letter

Wow, another month has passed already, and spring has sprung. This gets us looking forward to upcoming events with great anticipation. I look forward to each open fishing day or tournament. But just around the corner is the StriperBowl. The StriperBowl has become one of our most popular events. With the proceeds going for the Kids' Fishing Weekend, the StriperBowl is very important as well as very popular.

I would love to see the StriperBowl and Kids' Fishing this year be the best yet. Last year was my first opportunity to participate in Kids' Day. From the time it was over, I was already looking forward to the next Kids' Day. Last year, my wife, Pat, and I got to take a little girl who had never been fishing and who had never been on a boat. Needless to say, that was a great experience for her and us. I would like to see everyone get involved in making this year's Kids' Fishing Day great.

There are several ways to contribute - you can use your boat to take some kids fishing or you can contribute fishing equipment for prizes or money for the expenses incurred for the weekend.

Do try to come and be a part of the fun, and maybe you can be a part of some child's best day ever.

John Seiber

Tennessee Fishing Regulations

While most fishermen pursuing Striped and Hybrid Bass in East Tennessee know the rules and regulations, it might be wise to review them as they do change periodically. The following is a summary of the current fishing regulations published by the TWRA as they apply to Striped and Hybrid Bass in Tennessee.

Statewide or General Regulations

- 1 - The daily limit is two Striped or Hybrid Bass in any combination.
- 2 - The minimum length for both Striped and Hybrid Bass is 15" which is determined by laying the fish on a flat ruler, closing its mouth and squeezing its tail lobes together to get the maximum length.
- 3 - The total possession limit is twice the daily limit, but you must not have any more than the daily limit while afield. While afield, it is unlawful to have altered any fish of any species so that its species and/or length cannot be determined.

Exceptions to the Statewide Regulations

Cherokee - Don't forget the "No Fishing Zone" that is in effect from July 15 through September 15. This is from the boat ramp South of the dam across to point 2, upstream to point 3, and then back across the lake to the boat ramp just north of the dam.

Cordell Hull & Melton Hill Reservoirs - There is a PLR on both of these reservoirs, and all Striped Bass between 32" and 42" must be released back into the reservoir. While the daily limit is two fish, only one fish over 42" may be kept.

Norris - The rules for Norris from April through October are identical to the statewide regulations in that you may keep two fish and the minimum length is 15". However, from November through March, you can keep only one fish and it must be at least 36" in length.

Consumption Advisory

The TWRA recommends that you do not eat any Striped or Hybrid Bass taken from Watts Bar Reservoir due to contamination from PCBs. This includes the tailwaters from Melton Hill and Fort Loudoun Dams.

Please note that this is just a quick overview of the regulations as they apply to Striped and Hybrid Bass. Please get a complete copy of the regulations or go to www.state.tn.us/twra to see the entire regulations.

Bob Leach

2005 Tournament Trail

As you probably know, the March 12 TSBA tournament was canceled due to high winds on Cherokee. The winds were fierce, and there was absolutely no one at the Oak Grove boat dock that afternoon. This tournament has been rescheduled for Saturday, May 21, on Cherokee. We will launch at the Grainger County boat ramp just after dawn. The details of this event will be given in the May newsletter.

The next tournament is scheduled for Saturday, April 16, and we will launch from the Oak Grove boat ramp between 6:00 and 6:15 AM. Please be there by at least 5:15 so we can get everyone registered and go over the rules. The entry fee will be \$11 as it was in the Kingston tournament. \$10 of this will go into a pool which will be returned to the top four places as follows: 1st - 40%, 2nd - 30%, 3rd - 20%, and the fourth largest fish will net its owner the last 10%. As before, the remaining \$1 will go towards a trophy and prizes at the end of this year's tournaments. Trailering is allowed, and we will have the weigh-in between 10:30 and 11:00 AM at the boat ramp. I would expect that a lot of the members will fish the close-by hot spots like Rocky Hollow, German Creek and Macedonia as the fish should be around there somewhere in mid-April. Also, we will do our best to have bait available for any member who doesn't have any - so please come to this event even if you don't have time to catch bait beforehand.

We had a great turnout at Kingston with a total of 30 participants. It would really be something if we could match or beat that number. Also, hopefully a few of you will significantly close the gap that Wes Adams obtained at Kingston and turn this into a tight contest. Remember that any member can bring guest(s) to any of our events. Please take advantage of this as it lets people see what the TSBA is all about.

Bob Leach

Cumberland River Excursion

One of the most popular events last year was a trip to the Cumberland River near the town of Carthage just East of Nashville. This year we have scheduled two trips to this area. The first is the weekend of June 10 - 12 and the second trip is July 29 - 31. This stretch of the Cumberland River is noted for its trophy-sized stripers, and some experts think that it has at least one state-record striper lurking in its depths. There are really three areas to fish there. You can fish the Cordell Hull reservoir just above the dam, the boils below the dam and the river downstream including the popular Caney Fork tributary.

Last year, most of us stayed at the Budget Motel in Carthage. It really is an ideal location, and it is reasonably priced. A single room is \$38.50 and a room with two beds is \$48.50. Please contact the motel directly at 615-735-1300 and ask for Larry. This is prime fishing time for this area, and the motel expects to fill up so don't delay in making your reservations. The motel has set aside a block of rooms for the TSBA, but I expect these to go rapidly. This really is a neat trip.

To get to the motel from Knoxville, so West on I-40, get off at exit 258 and go North on highway 53. Keep going straight when highway 53 turns to the right and joins highway 70. You will now be on highway 25. Go through South Carthage and across the Cumberland River and into Carthage. The Budget Motel is located on left side of highway 25 in downtown Carthage.

Last year, we traveled to Carthage in two caravans - one on Friday afternoon and the other left Knoxville early enough on Saturday morning so they could be at the boat ramp just below the dam at first light.

Another nice thing about this trip is that a large number of the members will be from out-of-state. We don't get to see these folks very often which makes this trip special. So clear out your schedule for these two weekends and join us along the Cumberland for some trophy striper fishing and lots of fun.

Bob Leach

Fishing Hot Spots



Cherokee Lake

Surface feeding hybrids and stripers will be active all month. Gulls are still worth following. The night bite with the spawning alewife on the banks will be great. There is always a good alewife spawn at the dam. Some of the best fishing is at these point markers each year: 1, 8, 11, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 26, and 27.

Norris Lake

The Loyston/Lost Creek area at Point 19 and upstream in the major creeks is where large schools of baitfish will attract the stripers. The Powell River side will be best from Point 15 and upstream and in the large coves downstream. Pull your planer boards over shallow humps and close to the bank.

Watts Bar Lake/Melton Hill Lake

Go upstream to the tailraces.

Monthly Meeting - April 18

Dave Johnson Demonstrates

"Trolling Tactics:

Planer Boards, Downriggers, & Umbrella Rigs"

Monthly Meeting - May 16, 2005

Mike (Stump) Smith, TWRA presents

Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery Tour in Clinton

Pizza will be served at 6:00 p.m.

Mike is one of the most knowledgeable people around here on Striped Bass.



Letter from the Vice President

I am very encouraged by the good number of new members and visitors present at our last few meetings. It is our purpose and focus as a club to teach all we know about Striper Fishing. It is also our responsibility to encourage conservation of the resource and to address the many threats to our sport. We have some of the best Striper fishermen in the world in our club, and for the most part they have been willing to share their vast experiences with the rest of us. We have a variety of venues to get the message out. Monthly meetings, monthly open fishing events, club trips, club tournaments, and our web site are all sources of information. There is so much that no one person can participate in everything.

For you new members, I would ask that you participate as much as you can. If there is something that you do not understand completely or if you have a question, please let it be known. I want all of us to be great Striper Fishermen or at least better than we were when we started. If you don't ask the question, we might assume you already know. If you don't understand something, there are probably several other members that need the same help but will not ask.

You new folks will find that we are a friendly bunch and will help you when we can. From time to time, we will have differences of opinion about some issues and they will be discussed. In some cases, there is no right answer only the least negative one. At the end of the day, even when we argue about particular issues we are still TSBA and will look out for one another.

Felix Taylor

Minutes of the March Meeting

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

Sammy Robinette's presentation on catching, presenting, and keeping live bait was really great. He talked about tanks, chemicals, oxygen, cast nets, and locations. If you haven't already converted your Ron Vest tank system, a conversion kit is available and is well worth the investment.

The Norris Lake Advisory Committee will meet at the Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery in Clinton on May 10. Anyone may attend the meeting.

The May 21st open fishing day has been changed to a tournament.

Mike Chase is now on the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission. He is striper-friendly and this is a plus for all of us.

The May 16th monthly meeting is at the Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery. Mike (Stump) Smith always puts on a good show, always has stripers in the tank and babies. Don't miss it (pizza served, too).

Dave Johnson
TSBA Secretary

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

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Appreciate What You Have

The Question of the Month at the February meeting was, "Do you feel that Norris Lake is being stocked with enough stripers. Everyone answered "No."

The Question of the Month at the March meeting was, "Name a fish the TWRA does not stock." I wasn't looking for a correct answer but rather an attitude of understanding.

"Attitude of Gratitude"

Our interest is stripers, and that's what we have on our minds. We complain about too much fishing pressure, shad that's hard to find, and water generation schedules. Rather, let's all give thanks for the tremendous support of the TWRA. Example: The "no fishing zone" on Cherokee, the PLR regulation on Melton Hill Lake, the new length rule for stripers from November to April on Norris to help it recover, the special regulation for umbrella rigs, and especially the hard work and dedication by the TWRA people with their striped stocking program and enforcement officers.

Now back to the March Question of the Month. Out of 35 answers, only three said large mouth bass. The bass fishermen are a lot like us, just with a different interest. They have their attitudes, right or wrong. I am not a politician so enough said. But my main point is be thankful for what we have. The **StriperBowl** and **Kids' Fishing Day** should now be our main focus. Everything else will work itself out. I went fishing three times with my father and can remember each outing. Ask me some day, and I'll tell you about them. Then, I remember going fishing with a young lady who later became my wife. We may age, but memories are like photographs in our minds. Help us give a lasting memory to a child.

By Dave Johnson

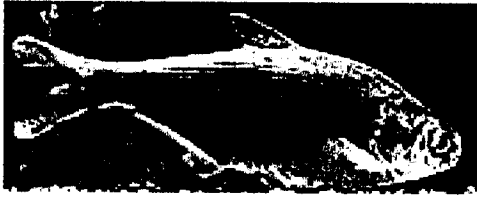
"The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."

Second Corinthians 9.6

Gizzard Shad How To's

Tanks. Before we go catch the gizzards, make sure we have an adequate method to keep them. The tanks may be expensive but worth the money if you plan to be successful catching stripers. Experience tells me the four simple basics required to purchase a good tank. 1. Use the largest volume of water that is reasonable for your boat. 2. Add dissolved atmospheric oxygen to the water. 3. Filter the water. 4. Insulate to maintain water temperature. The number of shad that you put in the bait tank to keep for 12 hours or less varies because of shad size and time of year. The size range that will cover most striper fishermen from tip of tail to lip is 3-inch to 11-inch. An 11-inch gizzard can weigh 1/4 pound and should have at least 2 gallons of water each. With a good tank in the winter, 1 1/2 shad per gallon is OK for the small gizzards, and 1 per gallon in the summer. Add 1/2 cup of rock salt for each 10 gallons of water and a measure of shad saver as directed (the blue stuff). If you plan to keep the shad longer than 12 hours, change 1/2 of the water with fresh, and add back the chemicals. Be careful not to change the water temperature more than 7 degrees F. I do not recommend tap water that has been chlorinated.

Cast Nets. The basics on cast nets are: 1. Mesh size relative to the size of shad you are seeking. 3/8 mesh for the small, 1/2 mesh medium, and 5/8 mesh for large baits. The larger the mesh, the faster the net sinks without the parachute effect. 2. Radius should be the largest size legal that you can fully open effectively every time. At least 1 lb. per foot radius is preferable. 3. Netting size is important information to be aware of because the smaller mono size is easier to throw and open but is also easier to tear. The normal range of mono size is .25 mm to .52 mm for 6 to 10-foot nets. The net that fits my needs is 7 ft. radius, 5/8 inch square mesh, .35 mm mono, and weight is a little over 8 pounds, at a cost of \$50 each. Make sure to keep a back up because some of us will average destroying 3 per year.



Bait Holes. Gizzard shad are abundant in all of the larger streams and lakes in Tennessee but are not always easy to catch. They occur in schools and prefer productive, calm, warm waters, although they can also be found in rivers, streams, and tailraces. Most of us old timers that catch our own live bait have decided driving an extra hour to a good bait hole is a time saver for the fishing trip. It also catches more stripers because you have enough good, fresh bait. Tailraces are some of my favorite bait holes like Douglas, Melton Hill, Cordell Hull, and Fort Loudoun. Sometimes the bait is so plentiful it is possible to dip net enough from the bank. A boat launch is close for those days that a cast net is needed, and with practice and experience failure is rare. Cold water tailrace rivers offer some easy bait for the warmer months in the creek fed coves. Gizzard shad like the warmer water, and they feed in the nutrient rich coves that we think are filled with ugly, shallow, discolored water. These are abundant in the Clinch River from Clinton to the Tennessee River. Fort Loudoun has a lot of good shad holes that are close to ramps toward the airport on Route 129. Cherokee Lake has such a large shad population it is almost always a guaranteed catch.

Signs. Look for birds that feed on bait fish. Gulls, Heron, Osprey, Cormorants, etc. are going to stay close to their food source. On warm, sunny days shad have a trend to flip on the surface, and a well-placed cast net will fill the tank. Shad will move to the warmest water available. The ugly, discolored water is a good place to cast your net because that is the nutrient rich food source for shad.

By Ezell Cox

StriperBowl Tailgate Party

April 30 (Night before the StriperBowl)

6:30 to 8:30pm

Super 8 Motel in Morristown

Join your fellow TSBA members
for a fun filled evening!

****Lots to EAT!! **A BIG StriperBowl Cake
and Soft Drinks!!**

****Even a song or two!!! **Door prizes! **Bring the
whole family! **Plenty of parking for your boat!**

****Don't miss the fun!!**

Watch the website for updates: www.TNStripedBass.com

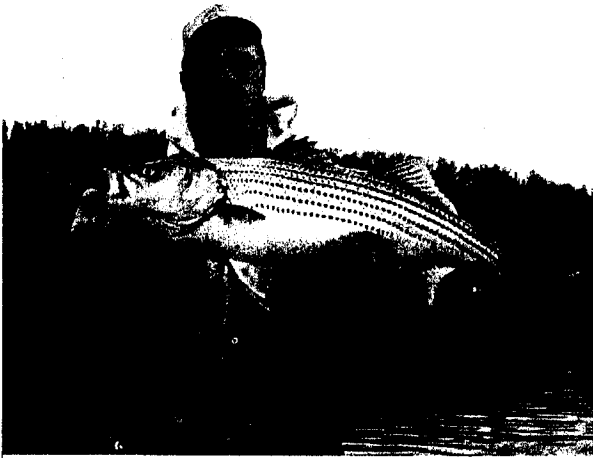
The StriperBowl!! May 1

**First Safe Light at Oak Grove on
Cherokee Lake**

**Registration 1/2 hour before with mandatory
meeting 10 minutes prior to start**

\$16.00 Entry Fee

**Proceeds go to support the
Kids Fishing Day**



**John
Seiber
March 19
17 1/2 lb. -
Cherokee
Lake**



**Dennis Bryant
March 20
16 lb.
Cherokee Lake**



**Robert & Tom Samar
March 20
42 lb. 44"
Melton Hill Lake**

May Expectations

The older, larger stripers will be near major creek feeds and headwaters of rivers for the spawn. Stripers will spawn throughout the month of May, as well as most of the baitfish which makes for some excellent night fishing along the banks. Top water action is excellent all month. Catch and release survival is also good. Stripers start to move away from the steam plants, and tailraces become better with each day. Floating debris will still be hazardous as the lakes rise.

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: "bait"

Password: "tank"

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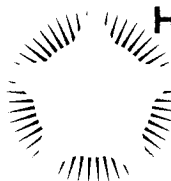
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YOUR 2005 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND STAFF

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

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Felix@tennstripedbass.com

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Janine Johnson

Secretary:

Dave Johnson

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

TSBA STAFF

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Felix Taylor 865-981-2827
Door Prizes: Bill Cate 865-933-9431
Merchandising: Kept In Stitches 865-981-2827



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Cabins
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The StriperBowl

Hello all you Striper Gals and Guys. It is once again time for the StriperBowl on May 1. The StriperBowl (for the new members) is a tournament where we use the money generated from the tournament to fund the Kids Fishing Day outing each year.

Only a member can win the big gold trophy with their name engraved on it. They get to keep it for one year until the next StriperBowl, and they bring it back to defend it. We take the money and buy door prizes for all the Kids that come out and fish in the Kids Fishing Day fun tournament.

If you are not a tournament fisherperson, you should still come out and fish this ONE TOURNAMENT each year to support our Kids. If you really don't want to fish in the StriperBowl, you can donate money to the Kids Fishing Day, or you can donate some fishing supplies for the Kids. I hope to see you all there with big smiles on your face.

Please come out and show your support to our Kids **BECAUSE** they are the future of our wildlife and fisheries. Thank you for your support in advance.

*Your STRIPER friend,
Allan Franklin*



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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.

- April 16:** Tournament on Cherokee
- April 18:** Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM
Dave Johnson Demonstrates "Trolling Tactics: Planer Boards, Downriggers, & Umbrella Rigs"
- 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
Speaker: Mike (Stump) Smith, TWRA
Pizza & Drinks - 6:00 PM
- May 21:** Tournament 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 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.

Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 24442
Knoxville, TN 37933

April 30
Open Fishing on Cherokee
&
StriperBowl Tailgate Party

