

**Catch
The
Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



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

**September
2005**



George Haun

President's Letter

Why Do We Fish

Over the past couple of years, I have had the opportunity to meet many different people through fishing. I also have had the opportunity to fish with some of these folks, and it seems that almost everyone has a little different preference as to the type of fishing they do. From planer boards with live bait, downriggers with artificial baits, cut bait, big bait, small bait, downlines etc. etc., we all have different preferences.

You will also notice that most have a different passion level for fishing. Where one may be okay with two fishing trips a month, the next one may want to go 3, 4, or 5 times a week.

Another thing is that each of us approaches a fishing trip in his or her own way. By this I mean, one person may have a competitive nature and need someone to compete with. The next person may get so worked up that every little thing stresses them out. Then there is the person who just enjoys being out on the water, with friends or by themselves. And if they catch a fish, that is just an added bonus.

My advice is however, wherever, and whenever you get to go fishing, just relax and have a good time.

President's Letter - Page 2

Looking Ahead

It seems that we have just started into the year 2005 and now it is over half gone. So, it is not too early to start looking ahead to 2006 for the club. By the time you get this newsletter, the fish fry will probably already have taken place. This means only two more monthly meetings before it is time to elect officers and directors for next year. We will also be approving our 2006 events calendar. As we plan the events for next year, we want to do the things that we all enjoy. So it is important for all of us to think about some things that we might want on the schedule. Due to the distance and low catch rate experienced this year, it has been mentioned that we should discontinue the Cumberland River trips. If we do this, what would we want to do instead of that? I guess I just want to get everyone thinking and try to come up with some good ideas. If you have any suggestions you can share them at one of the club meetings or you can email me jseiber@tennstripedbass.com

John Seiber

Tournaments

The 2005 TSBA tournament season has come to a close. Allan Franklin won the "Angler of the Year" award, and you will probably see him sporting one of his new Columbia fishing shirts at future monthly meetings. While the season was a success overall, there are some significant changes that we are going to make as a result of what we learned this year. First of all, we have killed the "Angler of the Year" program. Actually, it died a natural death due to malnutrition. It just didn't generate enough interest. We will still have friendly tournaments in 2006, but there will not be any overall winner as each event will be independent from the others. Here is a short summary of what we are thinking about tournament-wise for next year.

2006 Tournament Proposal

- 1- Roughly 5 or 6 tournaments in the first 8 months.
- 2 - Mix up the rules for each tournament to see what goes over the best. Some options are: new buddy, evening & following morning, all day, one striper and one hybrid, etc.
- 3 - We will not change the StriperBowl as it has a nice tradition which seems to be quite popular.
- 4 - The entry fee per tournament, other than the Striper Bowl, will be \$5. This money will accumulate through the entire season, and it will be used to support some fishing-related charity. The board will decide how and where this money will be spent after the tournament season is over.
- 5 - There will be a separate, voluntary \$10 per person "Big Fish" pool which we will pay back 100% to the top 4 anglers in the pool who catch the four biggest fish in that tournament. Again, we will weigh-in only one fish per person as, according to Jim Negus, that will have the smallest impact on the fishery. This is as far as we have gotten in our thinking on this matter. Obviously, there are many details to resolve, but we think that this forms a good basis to build upon. Please don't hesitate to give us your thoughts as it is your club.

Bob Leach



Our featured sponsor this month is the **Super 8 Motel in Morristown, TN**. The motel is located on East Andrew Johnson Highway, only 1/8th mile from after exiting at Exit 2B. It is only a few miles from the Oak Grove Ramp on Cherokee Reservoir, which many of our members frequently use. Amenities at the **Super 8 Motel** include an outdoor swimming pool, free local telephone calls, high speed internet, HBO and free continental breakfast.

The **Super 8 Motel** hosted our Striper Bowl Tourney tailgate party in April. If you are fishing in the Cherokee Reservoir area and are looking for a fisherman-friendly motel, stay with our friends at the **Super 8 Motel**. Reservations can be made by calling: 423-586-8880. A link to specific information on the motel follows:

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Fishing Hot Spots



Cherokee Lake: Fair

Early October will have some stripers that have not left the aeration near the dam. The best fishing will be from Point #14 upstream to Point #26. Baitfish on the surface will have some striper breaks at the right time of day. It is not uncommon to catch stripers to 20 pounds and hybrids to 10 pounds.

Norris Lake: Fair

The stripers have scattered, and if you find them, the bite can be good on some days. The best fishing is from the forks of the river (Point #9) upstream about 10 miles (Point #24 on the Clinch and Point #14 on the Powell). It looks like the stripers have survived another summer of water quality concerns since the 2003 big fish kill.

Tailrace and Downstream: Excellent

It is hard to fish wrong here with the bait and hungry fish plentiful.

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"

For Sale: 2000 20'02" Keywest Boat, walk-through windshield, 2 captains chairs. Tefla coat bottom. 9x7 bimini top with heavy-duty brushed aluminum. 3 glove boxes. Hydraulic steering. 2000 galvanized trailer, tandem, surge brakes, spare and rim. 2000 Honda 130 4-stroke, stainless prop. Warranty until October. \$16,500 negotiable Ted & Gayle Karagias 865-828-6047

October Expectations

Lake turnover takes place through the month of October in the reservoirs of Tennessee. As the lake is homogenized, stripers will be free to roam the waters top to bottom, bank to bank, and end to end. This sometimes makes stripers difficult to locate because you have to find them on a daily basis. Many times the best clue is to find the largest baitfish concentrations. October is also the start of some surface feeding. Catch and release also becomes an option again. The tailrace fishing and the river-run below them will still be at a premium as the reservoirs are being emptied to their winter levels. The scenery is wonderful on the water this month. The lack of storms, heat, humidity, ski boats, and jet skis is welcome.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

Question of the Month

How do you like your fish cooked?

- 20 fried
- 3 baked
- 1 broiled
- 1 grilled
- 1 "The way I cook them!"
- 1 "I don't eat fish!"

Minutes of the August Meeting


Our First guest speaker was Todd Smelser. Todd is the founder of Disabled Sportsmen of America. Their purpose is to help disabled or terminally ill persons go on a hunting or fishing trip. Todd stressed the fact that there is no compensation for anyone in the Disabled Sportsmen and that all money raised is used for the benefit of the disabled people. Todd is a personal friend of Allan Franklin, and for a further understanding of their wonderful efforts, look on their website, www.DisabledSportsmen.net.

Executive Director Michael Butler with the Tennessee Wildlife Federation (TWF) thanked the TSBA for our support at the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission (TWRC) meeting in Nashville on July 20, 2005. The TSBA and TWF were there to request the TWRC not consider allowing commercial fishing as requested on Watts Bar, Norris, and Cherokee reservoirs. Michael also suggested that we have a large showing at the next TWRC meeting in West Knoxville at the Holiday Inn at the Cedar Bluff exit at 1:00 p.m. on September 28, 2005. He also asked us to contact our legislators (senator and representative). Tell them we do not want commercial fishing allowed in East Tennessee.

Our President, John Seiber, spoke of looking ahead and planning the 2006 club schedule. Robert Leach, Tournament Director, gave the results of Angler of the Year and spoke of the 2006 tournament proposals. Details for the Fish Fry were finalized.

*Dave Johnson
& Ezell Cox*

Thank you to everyone who has sent in pictures. Keep it going. They are great!



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Randy
O'Neal



WAR

I had fished for crappie and walleye a little before 1966 then left for college and the Marine Corps. When I returned in late 1970 to East Tennessee, the normal lifestyle came calling - start family, start work, start fishing again. My favorite place on earth was east or south on Norris Lake where I trolled for walleye with a spinner and worm. The new signs posted around the lake showed pictures, creel and size limits on the new striped bass that had been stocked starting in 1966. Some of the first stocked fish were already around 15 pounds in the excellent water quality and abundance of baitfish in Norris. The walleye are wonderful on the table, but I have caught crooked sticks that fight as hard, so the 10-pound test line on a small spool with a poor drag was plenty.

Then one day in Black Fox I had three run-aways that took hook, line, and sinker. I had no idea how to target these new, big fish nor did anyone else, so all I could do was use a better line and reel and wait to get lucky. By 1976, the 20 to 25-pound fish had me completely hooked. After all, I was almost an expert because I had caught at least 12 stripers. After a few brief detours to water ski, snow ski, hunt, golf, and other foolish things to waste my time, I came back to chase stripers. All of my catches had been in May, June, late October, and November when they made the run to the rivers. All of a sudden, I had a brain storm that stripers must have to eat all year to grow that big.

I spent most of the 1980's trying to find where stripers went and how to find, catch, and keep bait to use. As I slowly got familiar with the other half of Norris and its striper holes on the lower end, I saw boats catching fish using downriggers so I had to try it part of two summers. I found it to be educational in locating and catching fish but, unlike Yank, went back to live bait.

In the mid 80's I started to meet a lot of the other striper fishermen that told me of a rumble of anti-striper movement. I went to a shouting match in a school in Clinton where T.W.R.A.'s Doug Peterson and Dave Bishop tried to defend the striper stocking in front of a bunch of idiots that could not be educated. I was fishing around another boat at Island F shortly after that, and Bill Cate introduced himself and invited me to a meeting of the Norris Lake Striper Club in the city of Norris. That is when I realized that I was not the hot shot fisherman I thought I was. Just to mention a few of the old active members of the T.S.B.A. that you may still recognize: Bill Cate, Jack Higday, Bill Kincaid, Stanley Pointer, Roger Seal.

In the early 90's, the striper fishing community was very small, and the anti-striper movement was growing in number and political clout. At this point, I decided to become an activist to maintain a striper fishery in Tennessee. I served as club president for three years during the most politically active fights that went all the way to Nashville. That is when I found a group of great friends and striper fishermen in the Percy Priest Striper and Hybrid Club to help "Save our Stripers" (S.O.S.). The political train was already almost a run-away in Nashville, and we almost lost the striper stocking in many of Tennessee waters with Norris expected to be the first loss. The names of some still alive and active you may have heard of that helped win the war are: Ralph Dallas, Roy Foster, Lloyd Hanks, Dan Lyles, Rene McComb, Ernie Paquette. THANKS. There have been a few battles in the past ten years over the striper stocking, but the war has been mostly over and won. I guess I am the big winner because I have a lot of friends, and we still have stripers to fish for.

Your Fishing Friend,

Ezell Cox

Rod Floaters

Some time ago, I wrote a short article on the value of getting rod floaters for all of your fishing rods. They are closed-cell, foam cylinders about 8" long designed to fit over your rod near the handle and make it float if it ever gets into the water. They are available from Bass Pro for about \$9 for a three-pack. In our last trip to the Cumberland River, I determined firsthand the value of these. While drifting down the river in the boils, I became snagged. I was trying to get back to my motor console to go upstream in front of the snag and see if it would come out. In trying to maneuver into my seat, a wave hit my boat and the rod went flying out of my hand and into the swiftly-moving current. Since it was still snagged, it disappeared beneath the surface. I thought that it would resurface whenever they shut off the generators, but I really didn't expect to see it again. A short time later, Dick Brogan waved me down and returned it. Evidently, it drifted into some calmer water and resurfaced. I asked Dick if he now appreciated the value of the rod floaters, and he said that he really preferred to simply hang onto his rods.

Gizzard Shad

The gizzard shad is probably the most important bait fish for striper fishermen in East Tennessee. Almost always, striper fishermen will have a gizzard shad hooked through its upper lip, or they will be using some kind of artificial lure designed to mimic a shad. The reason for their importance is that they are one of the preferred food of the striped bass. This has been studied and well documented. Here are a few interesting tidbits about this valuable bait fish.

First of all, the gizzard shad is native to East Tennessee and has evolved and adapted to some of these waters extremely well. In fact, if they are left unchecked, they can become the dominant species in the lake and actually be a problem due to their vast numbers. In fact, large gizzards have been known to comprise over 60% of all the total fish in a lake!!

Obviously, this would be a disaster for all of the species of fish in the lake, including the gizzard itself. The reason is that the gizzard shad has adapted so well to high-fertility, slow-moving rivers and reservoirs. Basically, they are better survivors than other species. After they spawn in the spring and summer, their food source is microscopic animals called zooplankton and protozoa. They filter huge quantities of high-fertility water through their closely-set gill rakers. They quickly supplement their diet with algae and insects. This omnivorous feeding behavior means that the gizzard has an easier time obtaining food than other species of fish. Their primary feeding technique is to swim in large schools filtering whatever is edible. When you combine their superior feeding habits with the fact that they are prolific spawners (a single female can lay over 300,000 eggs), it is easy to see why they can dominate certain types of water. Actually when their numbers get too high, it's not a healthy situation for the shad or other species who prey upon these shad. Shad are extremely sensitive to water quality and temperature changes. Huge die-offs can occur if the water gets too cold for an extended period of time, especially if they have overpopulated the lake. This results in wide swings in the shad population. It's best when the shad population remains fairly constant throughout the years.

One of the primary reasons shad can take over a lake is the fact that, once they reach a certain size, most predators cannot eat them. Introducing striped bass and hybrids into a lake is a very efficient way to control the numbers of shad so that their numbers remain fairly constant, and all of the game fish in the lake will have a constant supply of food. This has also created a fabulous striped bass fishery in East Tennessee which we can all enjoy now and in the future.

Bob Leach



Bill Cate and Bill Kincaid



Bob
Leach
and
Bill
Cate

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Kevin Mason, Chet Moore, John Seiber

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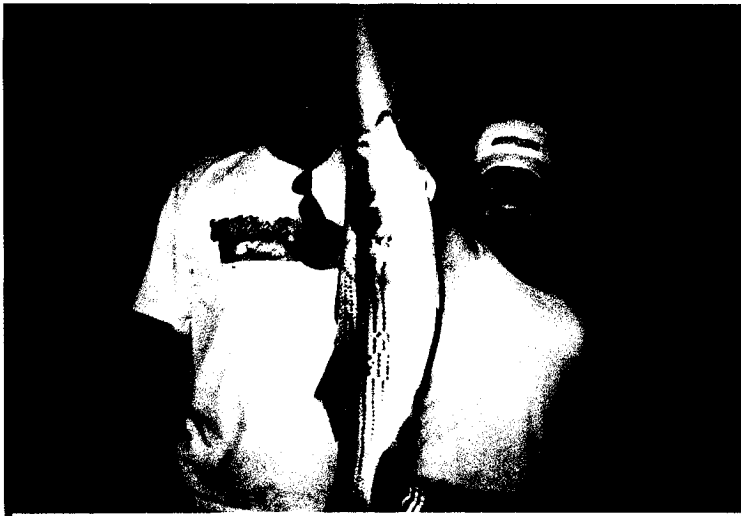
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Ezell Cox, Lanna Smith, Jerrell Cox Norris Lake August 6



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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.

- 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

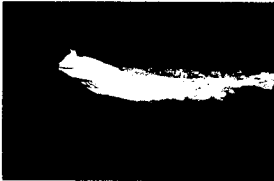
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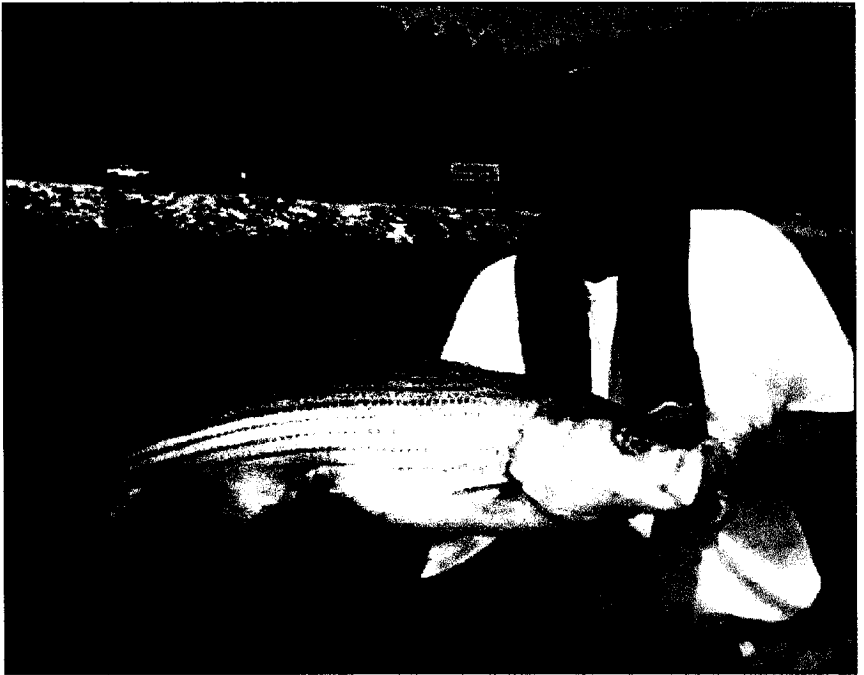
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Jeff &
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Kevin Mason

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**



**September 17 - Open Fishing on Cherokee
October 22 - Open Fishing on Cherokee**