

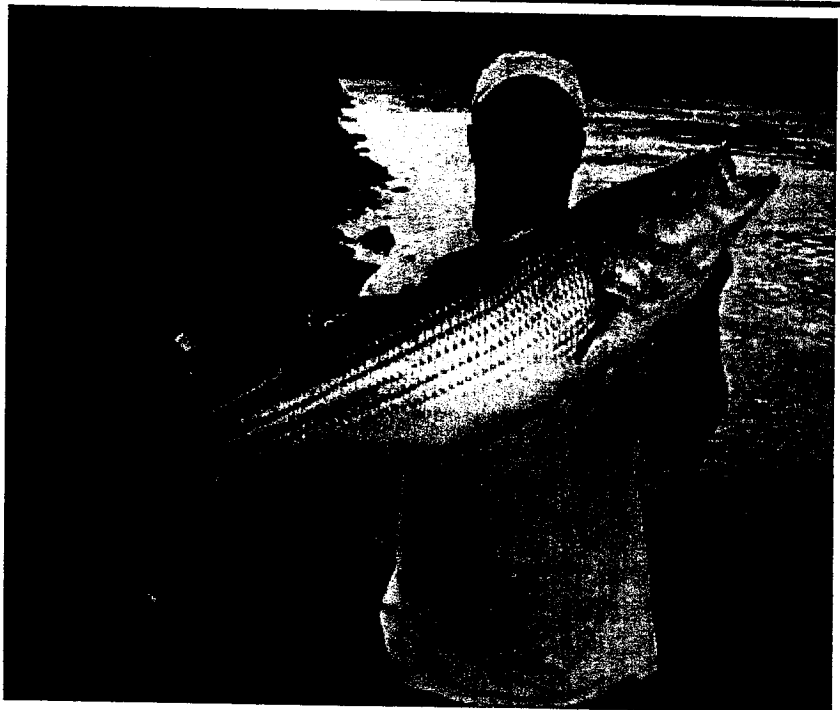
Catch
The
Striper
Fever!

T.S.B.A.



*Tennessee
Striped Bass
Association,
Inc.
Newsletter*

**November
2005**



Billy Davis Topwater Below Melton Hill

President's Letter

As we are winding down 2005 and looking toward the new year, I would like to take the time to thank all of you for your contributions to the club this year. Each month there has been a different one to take the responsibility of providing a speaker or doing his own presentation at the monthly meeting. This not only has been helpful to me and others in carrying that load, but it has been very enlightening as well. I think that most everyone has learned a few things during our meetings, and for sure this does make you look forward to the next one. There is also the work and contributions made for our annual Kids Day event, the Fish Fry, Tournaments, and Open Fishing. Each of these things has been made possible by your participation. One thing that was very important and I don't want to overlook was the great turnout that we had at the recent TWRC meeting in Knoxville. For those of you who were able to break away from your busy schedules and attend, you did more good than I can begin to tell you. And again thanks.

I would like to inform everyone who is planning on attending the conservation night at Bass Pro Shops that the date has been changed. Due to construction delays, the date has been pushed back to November 29. All the other information stays the same with opening time at 6 PM. I would like to encourage everyone who can to come by the TSBA booth that evening. We will have a booth at the opening, and it would be great for us to have a good turnout. Allan and Ezell have taken on the responsibility of setting up and working the booth. However, if any of you would like to participate, I'm sure that both Allan and Ezell would like to have a break to go looking around the new store.

Try to come to the November meeting if you can. We will be electing two people to the Board of Directors, and your vote and participation are very important. Also, Felix Taylor will be our featured speaker for November. And I'm sure that, as with all the others, there will be something to learn at this meeting.

John Seiber

WINTERTIME BOTTOM FISHING

This fun and exciting way to catch stripers often outperforms all other techniques in the wintertime. You can fish from the bank or a boat. The boat will let you get to more productive banks. There are good reasons for fishing from the bank even if the fishing is as good from the boat. The wind is a little easier to deal with on the bank. If the boat is loaded with people or you have youngsters that need to be more active, the bank can also give you some relief. It is also fun to build a fire to warm your feet, roast hot dogs and marshmallows, and just socialize while waiting for the reel to scream for help.

The style and methods are about as varied as the number of people that bank fish for stripers. I will try to give you just enough information about the basics so you can add your special variations. The best months are November through June.

Locate a good bank by being observant. Look for other bank fishermen, burned out campfires, and sticks or rocks at the water's edge to prop up rods and reels. A bank with a gentle slope near the main channel is normally good. Shale rock or hard bottom is better than mud or silt. If you cannot fish from shore, tie or anchor your boat at both ends so it does not swing around.

Target depth does not need to exceed 25 to 30 feet. Use multiple poles and cover as much of the point as you can with your bait. Change the bait position very often until you recognize a pattern. One hour should be devoted to try a new area out before moving to the next one. Carefully lob or cast your live bait in an attempt not to damage its lively movements into as many spots of opportunity as possible. Battery powered remote control boats with a release attached can also be used to deliver and drop your bait where you want it.

I will mention some of the baits that I know are successful, although I have heard of many more. #1 for me is a medium to large gizzard shad. #2 is a medium-sized alewife. #3 would be a bluegill or shiner according to the time of year. #4 Sucker minnows and cut bait finish up my most used bottom baits. Chum and cut bait do attract stripers to your bank, so if you can regularly chum, the catching will improve.

Most of the fishing tools and supplies necessary to bank fish are already in your boat or garage. The rod needs to be able to cast, lob, or throw up to 6 ounces at least 50 feet. A reel with a minimum capability of 17-pound test and 150 yards that you can heave is needed. A 2-ounce egg or bell sinker is the most common. I like to use the smallest hooks that will get the job done. The reason is the smaller hooks penetrate easier and the bait can swim better with a lighter hook, 1/0 to 4/0. A 2/0 hook with a 2-foot leader tied to a large swivel and a 2-ounce egg sinker above it is a common rig for bottom fishing. Hook placement is

Continued next page

Continued from Previous Page

determined by type of bait. Alewife and shiners are hooked in the nose across the tip with a small hook. Bluegills are hooked in the tailfin with almost no slack allowed. Gizzard shad use a 3/0 to 4/0 hook just in the upper lip or, if you see any surface activity, hook between the dorsal and tailfin and allow a lot of slack. The shad can be made to come to the surface from the slip sinker on the bottom. Walleye, bass, catfish, stripers, and almost all game fish can be caught this way.

WARNING: Dirty, muddy boats are to be expected. Also, there have been more rods and reels lost by this type of fishing than any other way. Make sure they are secure and attended at all times.

*Your fishing friend,
Ezell Cox*

STRIPER FISHING IS FOR THE BIRDS

Starting as early as November, the gulls start to use the stripers surface feeding for their own feeding opportunities. As the stripers push the baitfish to the surface, the gulls feed from the top and they are visible for miles. Birds have excellent eyesight and from above they can see well down into the water, looking for the baitfish that the gamefish are feeding on. These "working birds" are the ones we are interested in. Working birds is a fishing term that covers a flock of birds weaving and milling low over the surface and frequently dropping down to the water to grab food tidbits off the surface. These birds are not always taking small baitfish. Often they are feeding on shad or other baitfish shredded to bits by wildly feeding schools of game fish such as stripers and hybrids. Understanding what these birds are doing and why they are doing it is one of the keys to a successful fishing trip in the winter.

Here are a few suggestions:

- If you see a group of gulls hovering and milling, give the area a try.
- If you see the gulls flying in a straight line, they are going someplace, maybe the park or city dump. Forget these birds.

Continued next page

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- Maybe you sight a couple dozen gulls just swimming in a group. Keep tabs on these birds. They are there because stripers are around but aren't feeding yet. Fish the area, working your baits and lures while watching your fish finder.

- Sometimes the gulls will park in large numbers on a shallow bank and wait for the bait to be pushed up in a different part of the day. Downlines often work for you in these areas, although the gulls are not active.

- Listen to the gulls and they will talk to each other because their success is better in large numbers. You can learn to identify the gulls come-and-get-it screams.

Always pay attention to what the birds are doing. If they are flying in a straight line with a constant wing beat, they are not hunting; they are merely moving around the lake. Yet, if these same birds are flying a meandering path, occasionally dropping low to the surface every once in a while, you can bet they are hunting for food. Each time these birds dip down to the surface, they are doing so to get a closer look at something. If they are swooping down and picking tidbits off the surface of the water, you can bet the birds are working a school of fish.

Another thing to pay attention to is the birds' height above the water. If the birds start to circle above the water, it means that they have found baitfish - the higher the birds are flying above the surface, the deeper the fish are swimming. The birds can see deeper into the water from the more lofty altitude. Keep a good eye on this area; it is only a matter of time before the stripers move up and begin feeding.

The sight of the screaming gulls diving into the water and the stripers attacking from below chasing baitfish across the surface is what makes striper fishing such fun in the winter and causes me to be proud to be a "BIRD BRAIN."

*Your fishing friend,
Ezell Cox*

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"

Fishing Hot Spots



CHEROKEE LAKE:

Good

Early and late day often have breaking fish, so keep something to cast handy. December is the time to look for gulls. Look for large concentrations of bait fish because the stripers will come to them. Normally, the best fishing is around mid lake (Points 10 to 20). Bait is easy to catch in all the large coves.

NORRIS LAKE:

Good

The fish are not as big as past years but are growing and seem to be healthy. The best fishing will be near Hickory Star to Straight Creek Marina (Points 22 to 29 on the Clinch side and Points 12 to 16 on the Powell side).

TAILRACE AND DOWNSTREAM:

Fair

As the weather cools, the steam plants will become more productive.



Christie
Mowery
12 lbs.
Melton
Hill
Dam
Sept. 20

December Expectations

The thermocline is gone and the temperature is near the same from top to bottom. Expect to find the temperature in the mid 40's unless influenced by springs or steam plants. The bait fish will be in the warmest water they can find; the stripers will be close by. Large baits work well the first half of December, but as the temperature drops, smaller baits are best. Top water baits are normally good the first half of the month. Stripers often push the bait fish to the surface, and gulls become more productive as the month progresses and the temperature begins to drop. Point or bottom fishing is normally effective. Before going fishing, we ask that you take every precaution to prevent hypothermia. Catch and release works great in the winter months.

Brandon
Davis,
Ezell
Cox, and
Scruffy
Sept. 25



Minutes of the October Meeting

Chet Moore, our guest speaker, gave his presentation on fishing the rivers and boils. A summary of his talk has been placed in a separate article.

Wes Adams was introduced as the new state record holder for a 16 oz. Mooneye which broke a 15-year record.

An open fishing day was changed to Norris Lake for October 22 at 7:00 a.m. at Anderson County Park. There was discussion about having another open fishing day in December.

Nominations for TSBA Directors were accepted - Wes Adams and Billy Davis - for three-year terms. Elections for Directors will take place at the November monthly meeting.

There was a motion made, seconded, and carried to amend the Bylaws that the Officers will be voted in by the membership instead of by the Directors starting a year from now. We will vote on the exact new wording for the Bylaws at the January, 2006 meeting.

The TSBA has been invited to set up a booth at the new Bass Pro Shops on November 29 at 6:00 p.m. There was a motion made, seconded, and carried that NEW memberships only paid in full at the Bass Pro Shops booth will cost \$15.00. 100 copies of the November newsletter will be available.


It is time to think about next year's activities. Are you interested in fishing the Cumberland River and a Family Day at Anderson County Park including fishing and a picnic? For open fishing for next year, the place for each event will be announced at the monthly meeting.

Dave Johnson, TSBA Secretary

E-mail updates and reminders are regularly distributed. If you are not already receiving these communications, we may not have your current e-mail address. Please send an e-mail to Janine@tennstripedbass.com to be placed on the list.

November 21st
Monthly Meeting at
Shoney's
Featured Speaker:
Felix Taylor

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**TSBA Meeting Presentation
by Chet Moore
Fishing the Boils: Melton Hill
& Fort Loudoun Dams**

Melton Hill generates in the afternoon until evening most of the time. Check generation schedules on the TVA web site linked to the TSBA web site. The schedule is published after 5:00 p.m. daily. At Melton Hill, start out after the generators are turned on trying the drift method. From just in front of the boil, let the boat start downstream and pick up some speed. Cast forward with a 1 oz. weight tied to a 3-way swivel using a 1/0 Octopus or Circle hook. Use 20-pound like for the hook and 14-pound line for the weight; the line to the hook is 30 inches and the line to the weight is 12 inches. The main line is 17 or 20-pound. Increase the weight to a 2 oz. depending on how fast the water is running. Keep the line at a 45-degree angle in front of the boat. If the line is too flat, hang-ups are assured. Use different type and size of bait depending on which fishing method is used. Smaller thread-fin shad are for drifting and larger gizzard shad are for fishing the seams in the boils. Let the current carry the boat downstream keeping the line at a 45-degree angle and the sinker bouncing off the bottom. Don't jerk the rod; most of the time stripers will set their own hook. I don't start to crank until the striper stops taking out line. You can float all the way to the first red buoy. At Fort Loudoun, the area where the creek enters on the right is about the downstream limit to catch stripers. At Melton Hill, it's a good idea to include the pond-like area on the left headed downstream; during a normal drift you will not get to that area.

Continued next page

If drifting does not produce fish after 3 or 4 trips, it's a good indication that fishing is going to be slow that day. It might be time to fish the boils. Head for the seam between the small wing wall and the first boil. The seam is in line with the first column to the right of the wing wall. That's the place where the big sows hang out right on the bottom. Use a 4 or 5 oz weight tied to a 3-way swivel and a 1/0 Octopus hook with 4-6 inch gizzard shad. The line to the hook is 24 inches and the line to the weight is 6 inches. Use a 6 ½ to 7 foot rod with a bait casting reel. The object is to get the bait as close to the bottom as fast as possible and into the seam. The seam is 3-4 feet wide, and it's very easy to miss it. When I can see 6-12 inches of the wing wall out of the water, this creates an ideal situation for hitting the seam. The force of the water is a great deal less and more forgiving than when the wing wall is completely covered. It normally takes two people to make this happen, one to drive the boat and the other to place the bait. As soon as the boat is in position, lob the weight and bait ahead of the boat into the flat water a little to the left of the first boil, not into the boil, and let out some extra line. The boat should remain stationary for a few seconds, allowing the weight to sink to the bottom. As soon as the weight makes contact with the bottom, release the boat to start the drift downstream and crank like crazy until you can control the sinker hitting the bottom. If you do get hung up and the weight breaks off, leave the bait down there. Have the drag on the reel a little loose.

Fort Loudoun generates all day most of the time. The best time to fish is in the morning just after they start the generation. Motor over to the Tellico Dam and

get some bait. Watch for surfacing stripers in the pool to the right of the boils in front of the flood gates - all along the flood gate wall and downstream all the way to the end of the locks, also straight downstream from the wing wall. Use a 6-inch pencil popper with a red head. If there is no surface action, hit the boils. First, try the back of and right side of the middle boil, between the boil and wing wall. Motor up to the right side of the boil, cast to the dam wall, and let out a lot of line. As the weight sinks, it will move toward the wing wall. Two people are much better than one; hold the boat in position and allow the weight and bait to get to the bottom is the key. The weight and bait will begin to move toward the boat halfway between the boil and wing wall. As the boat moves slowly downstream under power, the line and weight will be pushed to the right and end up on the bottom close to the wing wall. If that does not produce fish after 4 or 5 tries, move over between the first and second boils. Hold the boat relatively steady and cast a plug, doll fly, or other type of artificial lure to the face of the dam and twitch it. Lob live bait using a 3-4 oz. sinker, keeping the bait there as long as possible. After the striper hooks up, the driver then releases the boat and starts the drift downstream. Hang on and let the striper take as much line as needed to keep from breaking off as you drift to calmer water. Use the same drift method at Fort Loudoun as Melton Hill and the same type of bait for the boils as well as the drift.

It is dangerous below dams, life jackets are required. After fishing below dams, take a look at your prop for fishing line. Monday through Friday is a better time to go.

Keep Alive

I think that the overwhelming majority of the members of the TSBA use live bait when pursuing their favorite quarry - Striped Bass. For most of us, this means catching and keeping up to 100 baits until we are ready to go out. This can be quite challenging especially for anyone just starting out. Undoubtedly, the best approach is to buy one of the many fine commercially-available tanks as it has been debugged by the manufacturer to maximize its bait-holding ability. However, they cost close to \$500 and many of us have multiple tanks. I have a Grayline tank in my boat and a homemade tank in my garage and another homemade unit that I put in the bed of my truck on special occasions. Getting these homemade units to perform well has not been an easy task. Shad and other bait fish have basic needs to thrive in a foreign environment like your bait tank. One of the most important elements is to provide an adequate supply of oxygen. I have experimented with spray bars, air stones, and just about everything else with mediocre results. I could keep my bait alive for extended periods of time only with a lot of attention including frequent water changes. When you examine the commercial systems, they all use a pump with an air-injection venturi. This provides a incredible quantity of small bubbles which stay suspended much longer than the large bubbles produced by air stones. Unfortunately, I couldn't find any such systems through Cabelas or Bass Pro. However, they both now carry products from a company called KeepAlive which makes air-injection pumps in three basic configurations - a portable system that floats in your tank, a submersible pump that uses suction cups to stick to the bottom of your tank, and a through-the-hull system. Both Ezell Cox and I have bought these systems, and we are very satisfied with them. My bait tank in the garage is finally working perfectly. These are available through Cabelas, Bass Pro, or go to www.keepalive.net. Actually, this website is quite interesting to visit as they have a lot of good information on keeping bait alive.

Bob Leach

Moon Phases

Do you believe that the fishing bite is better during certain phases of the moon? I personally have never studied this subject or taken any notes while fishing to determine if I feel that there is a strong correlation between the moon phases and the intensity of the bite. However, there are a lot of veteran, expert fishermen in the club who strongly believe that the phases of the moon are a significant factor in determining the best time to fish. Furthermore, many fishing magazines publish calendars indicating when the best bite will occur. While determining the optimum fishing times is not a simple matter, it appears that, in general, the best time to fish is during a full moon. Therefore, the TSBA is going to take this into consideration in laying out the 2006 events schedule. We will try to schedule all open fishing dates and tournaments as close to a full moon as possible. It will be interesting to see if the catch ratios for our various outings improves over previous years when we did not pay any attention to the phases of the moon. If you are interested in knowing when the full moon will occur, go to the following website www.stardate.org/nightsky/moon/ and input the month and year for which you want to know the moon phases.

State-Record Fish

Recently, Wes Adams, who is a TSBA director, caught a fish that will probably be certified as a new Tennessee state record. Unfortunately, it's a Mooneye and not a Striped Bass. However, any fish that sets a state record is quite an accomplishment as most anglers go through their entire life and never come close to catching a record-book fish. Our congratulations go out to Wes, and we hope that he does it again with a record Striped or Cherokee Bass.

By Bob Leach

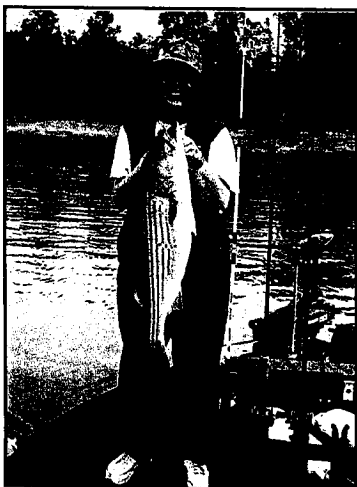
Question of the Month

Does your wife/girlfriend/husband fish?

11 yes, 9 no, 1 maybe, 1 sometimes, 1 when hell freezes over

Wouldn't it be nice to have a lady angler outing where the significant other would prepare the picnic lunch after fishing? Midland Striper Club did it this year, and it was a huge success. How about us?

Dave Johnson



Janine Johnson
Norris Lake
Sept. 25
17 lb.



Judy Walker
Norris Lake
Sept. 17

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JSeiber@tennstripedbass.com

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Felix Taylor 865-981-2827
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Janine Johnson

Secretary:

Dave Johnson

TSBA DIRECTORS

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

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Coordinator:	Bob Leach	865-471-1365
Kids' Fishing Day:	Allan Franklin	865-805-3120
Cumberland		
River Trips:	Bob Leach	865-471-1365
	Felix Taylor	865-981-2827
Door Prizes:	Bill Cate	865-933-9431
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Hickory Star Christmas Classic on Norris Lake

Dinner and Meeting at the Restaurant at Hickory Star will be on Friday, December 2, 2005 at 7 p.m. Tournament will start on Saturday, December 3, at safe light. The entry fee is \$50.00 per person. There is a one fish limit per day.

The first fish needs to be weighed in by midnight on Saturday. The second fish has to be weighed in between 6 a.m. and noon on Sunday, December 4. There is an optional big fish pot for each day. Total fish weight for two days wins. This is a 100% payback tournament.

Hickory Star Marina: 865-992-5241

Striper/Duck Boat For Sale. 2003 G3 "2072" 20 foot, 72 inch wide floor, Center Console John Boat with a slight 9 degree "V" hull, all welded, 100 gauge. 115 Two Stroke Yamaha with power tilt & trim with do it all Yamaha gauge. MinnKota Rip Tide Auto Pilot Trolling Motor with wireless Copilot Remote Control. Galvanized drive-on trailer. Lowrance 332 depth finder with GPS and lake map capability. 8 ft. by 8 ft. bimini top. 18 gallon gas tank. On-board battery charger. And more. Kept indoors. 12K firm. Bill Collins 423-802-4577.



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Bob Hodge Radio Show

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WNOX, 100.3 FM

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.

November 21: Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM

December 19: Board of Directors Meeting - 6 PM

It is time to renew your TSBA membership. Please use the membership application at the back of this newsletter.



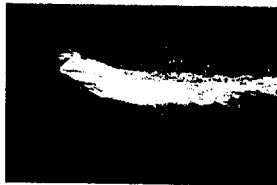
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Chet Moore

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Mobile 526-7161
Pager 1-888-271-1195



Chet Moore
Melton Hill
Oct. 14
27 lb.



Jennifer
Seiber
Aug. 27



Randy
O'Neal
Fort
Loudoun
Dam
Sept. 4

T.S.B.A. 2006 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

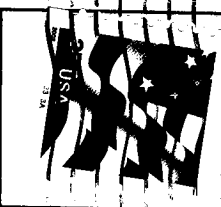
Knoxville TN 37933

Note: All members must sign and submit this membership application with the 2006 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**



December 19 - Board of Directors Meeting 6 PM

There will not be a monthly membership meeting or newsletter in December. You are welcome to attend the Board of Directors Meeting.