

**Catch
The
Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



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

**January
2006**

***TSBA Annual
Kingston Tournament***

***February 11, 2006
1 PM to 5 PM***

Kingston City Park

President's Letter

Hi Everyone,

I would like to say first of all that being President of the club for the past year has been very enjoyable. The Board of Directors has elected me to serve as President again in 2006, and I'm looking forward to the challenge. I also look forward to working with our new Vice President Eric Rauch. This past year has been a good year in the club, and I'm sure that this year can be even better. We had some very good meetings in 2005 because of member participation, and it looks like everyone is eager to do the same again this year. Attend the meetings when you can; I'm sure that you will enjoy them and get more out of your club. Also, we encourage anyone who would like to submit an article for the newsletter to do so. All these things help to contribute to the club. An article doesn't have to be some scientific fact about striper fishing or anything. You may want to share an experience related to fishing that would be entertaining or helpful to someone else. If you do have knowledge or experience of a fishing technique or something that you would like to share, feel free to do that as well.

I'll also take this opportunity to remind everyone to watch their newsletters for password changes. We gave out a lot of newsletters to the public at the Bass Pro Shops opening night, making this necessary. We will have a change at the 1st of February and another change at the 1st of April. Just watch the newsletters for this and any other club info.

One other thing is to remind everyone of our open fishing date on January 28. We will be meeting and fishing at and near the Kingston Steam Plant in preparation for the Kingston Tournament coming up on February 11. Open Fishing is one of my favorite club activities; you can meet and fish with different club members and just have a great time. Open Fishing as the name implies is open to the public. You can bring nonmembers to these events and introduce them to the club and to striper fishing.

I hope to see you at the club meeting on January 16. Our featured speaker for January is Warren Turner with National Striped Bass Association. Warren will be telling us about some changes in the NSBA.

Good Fishin'

John Seiber

Letter from the Vice President

Still being a relative newcomer to TSBA, I welcome this opportunity to help the leaders of our club promote striped bass fishing in the region. When I joined TSBA about two years ago, I had no idea of how much I didn't know about striped bass.

My previous experience included a couple of two-day guided fishing trips on Norris Reservoir during April and August of 2003. I had a great time and tried to apply what I'd learned during those excursions for the next several months. While I had limited success, it became obvious that there was a lot more to this sport than I knew. Then on one Sunday in February of 2004 I saw an announcement in the Knoxville News-Sentinel that TSBA was holding a meeting. I figured there wouldn't be a better opportunity to learn than from a group like this, so I showed up at Shoney's. At that meeting I met several members, all of whom were friendly and offered to share their knowledge. Within a few weeks I was out on the water with Chet Moore fishing at Kingston Steam Plant. Since that time, I've been out with many members, sharing fellowship and learning about our sport.

I've learned that everyone has their own favorite ways to fish, that methods must change depending on the season, that there are all kinds of toys you can spend your hard-earned money on to increase your enjoyment of the sport, that some people enjoy lake fishing while others get a kick out of the tailwaters below the dams, and that I can learn something every time I go out on the water. Most important of all though is that I've made many new friends with whom I can enjoy this sport.

I look forward to working with all of you this year and to spending time on the water with as many of you as possible.

Eric Rauch

TSBA Annual Kingston Tournament

The Kingston Tournament will be held on Watts Bar Lake on Saturday, February 11, 2006.

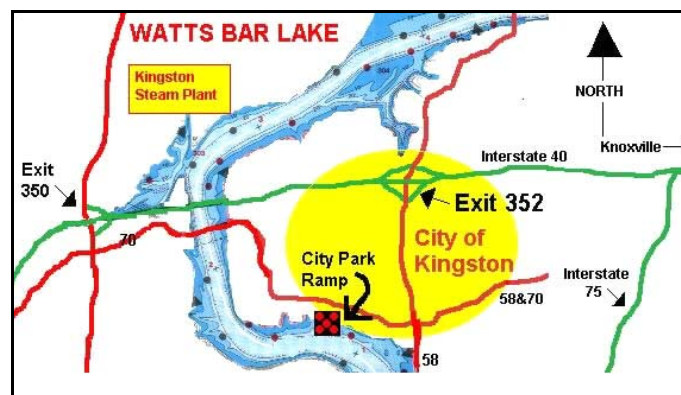
The launch site will be at the Kingston City Park. Check "Calendar" "February 11" on the TSBA website at www.TNStripedBass.com for a link to the map to the park.

Tournament will go from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The entry fee is \$10.00 per person. This will be a two fish tournament with 100% payout and an optional big fish pot.

Make plans to come and join in the fun.

This is a TSBA tournament, open only to club members and their guests. Membership forms will be available at registration.



Using Tranquil

During the heat of this past summer, I decided to try using some Tranquil in my bait. I'm sure that a lot of you have experienced what I'm getting ready to describe, but maybe some have not. First, I will say this: Follow the directions closely. If you add more Tranquil than what is called for, you will not only drug your bait, you will put them into a coma (been there and done that).

Anyway, on a hot day while fishing the boils below Melton Hill Dam, I added the Tranquil to my bait tank water. The first thing that I noticed was the predictable lazy swimming of the bait and that they were a lot easier to catch from the tank. After getting set up and getting my little bucket of fresh (untreated) water to put my bait in while motoring back up into the boils, I was ready to go. I caught a bait (gizzard shad) and put it on the hook. I dropped the bait into the bucket for the ride up to the boils. When the bait went into the water you would have thought that it hit an electric wire or something. I would drop the bait into the bucket and it would leap back out onto the floor of the boat. After dropping one over the side of the boat in the fresh river water, it did the same thing. The small gizzards would act as if they were supercharged and would go absolutely crazy for a few minutes. After this trip, I asked Ezell if he had ever experienced this, and he confirmed what I was talking about. It seems that Tranquil has a different effect on different species of baitfish, and with gizzards it drives them nuts. You may want to give this a try sometime if you have access to plenty of bait. The only bad thing about doing this is that your bait gets tired quickly from all that exertion of energy. It does make for good bait when you are fishing the boils or lobbing baits; just be sure that you have plenty of bait available. If you try this, you should put treated water in your bucket and let the bait go wild when you put it in front of the fish.

Good Fishin'
John Seiber

Fishing Hot Spots



Cherokee Lake

Condition: Good

Location: Spread out all over with a good number of fish near Hwy 25 Bridge. Fish are hitting top water baits. Birds are diving on the schools of shad driven up by the stripers.

Bait: Live Shad and Top Water

Notes: Fish are going back.

Norris Lake

Condition: Slow

Location: Stripers may be found farther upstream in the creeks. Use alewife and gizzard shad near the surface on drift lines or downriggers to 30 feet. Cast artificials into the breaking fish.

Notes: Fish are going back and there is some top water action. Bait, as always, is impossible to catch. Bring bait with you.

Watts Bar Lake

Condition: Fair

Notes: Fish near the Kingston Steam Plant in the warmer water. Remember to keep your boat within the buoys where designated in the Fishing Regulations.

Melton Hill Lake

Condition: Fair

Location: Bull Run Steam plant or the Upper Clinch is the place to try with gizzard shad and cut-bait. Top water baits are definitely an option.

February Expectations

Wintertime patterns are expected in all reservoirs as long as the temperature remains well below 50 degrees. Slow catch rates will be on the mid lake and downstream sections. Winter kill off of small bait fish may start to develop as soon as the water temperature drops. The stripers and gulls may occasionally work the surface together. Normally the best fishing is near the large concentration of small baitfish in the main channels, 20 to 40 feet deep. The next few months is when the records have been and will be broken. The steam plants are the premium places to fish until the water warms up in the spring. Skipjack have been the choice bait for most of the past records and trophies; however, the most abundant forage fish will catch the most fish even if they are smaller bait. Planer boards, balloons, sinkers, bottom fishing and artificials all work at the steam plants while the high concentrations of baitfish and all types of game fish are there.

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: _____ Password: _____



John Seiber

**Dec. 23,
2005**

LARGE STRIPERS BEING STOCKED IN TENNESSEE

My fishing skills, knowledge, and the access to large areas were very limited when I first made efforts to enjoy fishing. There were no specialized fishermen for a species that I was aware of in the 1960's, so everyone just fished from the bank mostly. Bluegill, catfish, bass, and drum were always popular fish easy to catch from the bank. All of us were the same - when the fish came out of the water, it did not go back in no matter what the species. Some of the first fish that I noticed being targeted were walleye and striper when they were up in the river on the spawn run. The next obvious fishery was the crappie in brush from the bank or from flotation that lights could be hung on at night.

There were a few small, slow fishing boats and homemade pontoon boats starting to show up on the pretty weekends in the early 70's. This is also the time that I first noticed some bass boats that were fast for the time that allowed for access of much more of the underutilized fishing waters. These fast boats were the first to start catching the newly stocked striped bass that were stocked in the mid 60's. The wintertime fishing began to increase as these fast boats started to see the schools of stripers surface when the water cooled off and everyone realized they could catch them. Before everyone had good fish finders and knew how to use them, the visible breaks were the best way to find the stripers. The many miles of shoreline had little development, and a trip on the lake in the winter would let you see little but Mother Nature's best. However, this started to change also as many more people were beginning to retire with some money and time to spend how they chose.

The 80's were the start of the migration and development that continues on our beautiful waterways from out-of-state folks. A lot of these folks were fishermen that brought some good techniques with them that work well here. It seems that the past 25 year's explosion of population and use of the waterways will never end. Once you could see nothing but nature; now it is hard to see a place that has not been disturbed on the shoreline.

We need to question where we have been to help make a good decision on where we need to go. Management of our wildlife has shown much success even though the pressure from increased development and population should have made it difficult. Some of the few examples are deer, turkey, bald eagles, otter, and beaver. Management of our fishery is no different than our birds and mammals. That is why we have creel and size limits that vary in different waterways and species. Some of the changes that have improved striper fishing on Cherokee are the no-fishing zone in front of the dam in the summer, and Norris has a one fish 36-inch temporary size limit in the winter that will return to 24-inch in 2008. This management comes from T.W.R.A. fishery biologists and the T.W.R.C.

If you want to know what we can do as fishermen, OK here it is. CATCH-AND-RELEASE and SELECTIVE HARVEST. This is especially effective for stripers because they have no natural reproduction. Catch and release is not always an option for larger stripers in the summer where thermoclines develop. You may as well harvest your kill and quit with your limit. In the cold water months, if you choose to harvest stripers, I recommend release of the large fish and keep the smaller legal fish. It is OK to keep a legal limit, but we each need to be good stewards of our fishery with knowledge of our impact on the fishery. Go ahead and stock that 20-pound fish when you get the hook out - it's legal.

*Your fishing friend,
Ezell Cox*

Barometric Pressure and Fishing

How the barometric pressure affects stripers is not fully understood, but knowing how to use the barometric pressure readings can greatly increase your chances of catching fish.

Every angler knows that water temperature, light level, and moon phase can affect our fishing success; but there is another factor that often goes overlooked. Although barometric pressure can't be predicted as accurately as the other elements mentioned, it has a major influence on striper behavior.

Fish with large bladders quickly sense when the air pressure is dropping, because there's less pressure on their bladder. When there's less pressure squeezing their bladders, the bladders expand a bit. When their bladders expand, stripers become uncomfortable. They relieve their discomfort by moving lower in the water column or by absorbing extra gas in their bladders. Because of the stress exerted on them, they are not worried about eating. They are more concerned with trying to find a depth where they can stabilize their bladder pressure and feel good.

Stripers will often feed heavily right before the pressure drops. As it does, they become more uncomfortable and feed less aggressively. When the front passes and high pressure moves back in, stripers may not feed aggressively for at least 24 hours, since they are still adjusting.

It is important to note that the affect of barometric pressure is greater in fresh and shallow waters than it is in deeper waters.

Barometric pressure can be used by fishermen to predict the quality of fishing. Some basic rules regarding barometric pressure are shown on the chart.

Pressure	Weather	Fish Movement	Suggested Fishing Method
High	Clear skies	Stripers slow down, find cover, or go to deeper waters. Sunlight is a major factor.	Slow down lures and use baits more attractive to fish. Fish in cover and in deeper waters.
Rising	Clearing or improving	Stripers tend to become slightly more active.	Fish with brighter lures and near cover. Also fish at intermediate and deeper depths.
Normal and stable	Fair	Normal Fishing [Are we "normal" or are we fanatics?]	Experiment with your favorite live bait and lures.
Falling	Degrading	Most active fishing	Surface and shallow-running lures may work well. Live bait works best.
Slightly lower	Usually cloudy	Many fish will head away from cover and seek shallower waters. Some fish will become more aggressive.	Use shallow-running lures at a moderate speed. Free-lining live bait is worth a try.
Low	Rainy and stormy	Fish will tend to become less active the longer this period remains.	As the action subsides, try fishing at deeper depths. Stay off the water if there is lightning.

Bass Pro Shops Conservation Night

On November 29th we were privileged to be able to have a booth in the new Bass Pro Shops store. Some of you were able to attend that night and can understand what I'm about to tell you. When first arriving, I really would like to have driven on past. This was because the traffic was backed up nearly to the point of not being able to exit from Interstate 40. After finding parking at the Smokies baseball stadium, we got to ride a shuttle bus over to the new store. Once inside it was wall-to-wall people, this may not have been good for shopping, but it was good for public relations (which is why we were there). The TSBA booth drew a lot of attention. Allan had taken a fish mount to display, and you could tell that a lot of people had no idea that you could actually catch fish that big (35lbs.) around here. The fish and photo albums were for sure a big hit; they kept a steady flow of people coming by the booth to talk and enquire about our sport. I would have to say that all in all, it was a great evening and a plus for the TSBA. We handed out lots of our newsletters to the public, which will make it necessary to change our password for fishing reports. You will login by ***Username:*** bait ***Password:*** fish. This password will also change in a couple of months so keep an eye on your newsletter for the latest information.

John Seiber



**Jack
Feimster**

**Boone
Lake**

26 lb.

**Oct. 30,
2005**

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**Billy
Davis**

**Dec. 17,
2005**

Robert Samar

Dec. 17, 2005



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YOUR 2006 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND STAFF

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JSeiber@tennstripedbass.com

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Dave Johnson

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Wes Adams, Ed Baker, Ezell Cox, Billy Davis,
Allan Franklin, Chet Moore, John Seiber

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Coordinator: Billy Davis 865-300-0392
Kids' Fishing Day: Allan Franklin 865-805-3120
Door Prizes: Dave Johnson Dave@tennstripedbass.com
Merchandising: Kept In Stitches 865-981-2827



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Minutes of the November Meeting

Dave Bishop was present at the meeting and introduced by Ezell Cox. Dave has been a member of the Tennessee Striped Bass Association since its beginning in the mid 80's and is now an honorary member of our club. He is the biologist that brought the stripers to Tennessee and developed new hatching techniques for the Eagle Bend Hatchery that are still used. He had a long, interesting career with T.W.R.A. from the late 1950's, retired in 1996, and is the Daddy of the stripers in Tennessee.

Felix Taylor, our guest speaker, gave his presentation on the history of striped bass.

An open fishing day was set for Cherokee Lake for November 26.

There were no further nominations for TSBA Directors and the nominations were closed. Wes Adams and Billy Davis were elected to serve as Directors each for three-year terms starting immediately.

The members will vote on changes to the Bylaws at the January monthly meeting.

Dave Johnson, TSBA Secretary



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Maynard & Delbert Brooks

**January Monthly
Meeting**

**Featured Speaker:
Warren Turner,
N.S.B.A.**

2006 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.

January 16:	Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM
January 28:	Open Fishing - Kingston
February 11:	Kingston Tournament
February 20:	Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM
February 25:	Open Fishing
March 11:	Tournament - Cherokee
March 20:	Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM
March 25:	Open Fishing
April 17:	Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM
April 22:	Open Fishing
April 29:	Tailgate Party/Open Fishing
April 30:	StriperBowl - Cherokee
May 15:	Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery
May 20:	Open Fishing
May 27:	Tournament - Cherokee
June 10:	Cherokee Tournament/Campout
June 11:	Kids' Fishing Day
June 19:	Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM
June 24:	Open Fishing
July 8:	Tournament - Fort Loudoun
July 17:	Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM
July 22:	Family Day/Open Fishing
August 21:	Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM
August 26:	Open Fishing
September 9:	Annual TSBA Fish Fry & Reunion
September 16:	Open Fishing
October 16:	Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM
October 21:	Open Fishing
November 11:	Tournament - Cherokee
November 20:	Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM
November 25:	Open Fishing
December 18:	Board of Directors Meeting, Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM

Newsletter Archives

Some of you may have found this on your own by now, but probably most haven't. I have been working for some time now trying to archive our old newsletters. I have all of the 2004 and 2005 newsletters finished already. I am now starting to work on the 2003 letters, and maybe by the time that you receive this newsletter, I will have them ready for you to view. These are scanned, made into pdf files, and placed on the club's website. You can access them by clicking on the "Newsletter" link on the main menu. These files are in pdf format, and it will require you to have Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your computer. If you do not currently have Acrobat Reader, I placed a link on the newsletter page so that you can download a free copy. Also, it will require you to supply a username and password to access these files. This username and password will always be the same one that we use for fishing reports. I hope that you enjoy this feature because it has really been time-consuming trying to get it all done. When you are viewing the old newsletters, you will notice that the pictures are not very good. This is because of the copying and scanning, and there is not much I can do to fix it. However, for those who have high-speed Internet, I am looking into a different way of doing this that will give us a high-quality version for viewing. Check the webpage often for this and other updates.

John Seiber

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

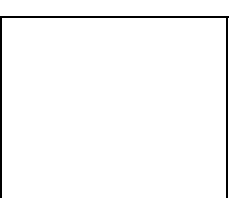
Knoxville TN 37933

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**



Reminder: It is time to renew your TSBA membership.

The "Fishin' Reports" password has been changed.

HAPPY NEW YEAR !