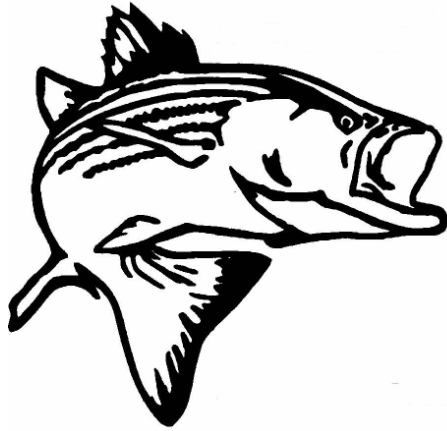


**Catch
The
Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



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

**March
2007**

Kingston Tournament Results

February 3, 2007

First Place - Wes Adams - 22 lb. 13 oz.

Second Place - Jason Hoffmeister - 14 lb. 14 oz.

Third Place - Delynn Boshears

It was a cool and windy day. Thanks to all who participated.

President's Letter

Spring is almost here, and I for one will be glad to see it. The longer days and pleasant weather will be a welcomed change. But as we go into the spring and summer months we also see an increase in boat traffic, and other things that can ruin a fishing trip. One of those things is a thunderstorm. Besides the obvious getting caught and getting wet is the danger of lightning. I was catching bait one evening last summer, when a storm came up and pinned me down for about an hour. It was one of those that when the lightning struck, it was so close that you could feel the shock waves from it. I was fortunate to have a place to hide underneath a big culvert. It was still a little unnerving to have all of this going on just a few feet away. If I had it to do over, I would have waited and not gone out in the questionable weather.

If you can see the storm coming and get back to your vehicle safely, waiting it out in the truck is always the best option. But there will be times when you misread the weather or take a chance that it will go around, and you will get caught in a storm. If this happens, don't try to be a hero and tough it out on the water. It is best to take cover under something like the above mentioned concrete culvert (not under a tree) if at all possible, but if that cannot be done it would be best to

get out of the boat and wait it out on the shore. If you stay on the boat on the water, you will be the highest object (closest to the electrically charged clouds) and be in more danger of being struck by lightning.

If you can picture how a spark plug works in an engine, you can see what I'm trying to say. The engine's ignition system sends a high voltage charge through the plug wire down to the spark plug where it is discharged. It discharges on the tip of the spark plug, where the distance is very close. When I think of it in those terms, I can say, I don't want to be nature's spark plug.

I know that I have done a poor job of describing the lightning phenomenon. For those who would like to know more about how lightning works, you can go to <http://science.howstuffworks.com/lightning.htm> on the internet. It's not as important to understand what causes lightning as it is to understand the danger and try to avoid it.

Everyone, try to have a safe and productive spring and summer this year. And maybe you can catch your fish of a lifetime.

John Seiber
TSBA President

Striper Bass Catch and Release Mortality

(Excerpt from Chet Moore's Presentation at the February Meeting)

Information source: Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency/Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Deep hooking is the single most important factor causing sport angled fish to die. The second most important factor is stress. Studies have shown that physical injury from deep hooking and physiological stress from fighting are the two main reasons that fish caught and released by recreational anglers die. 1300 striped bass used in catch-and-release studies show the odds of dying after release are 17 times higher when deep hooked rather than shallow hooked. It was estimated that 1.3 million striped bass were lost due to recreational hook and line release mortality in 2000. DNR studies have consistently shown that the physical injury from deep hooking is the main cause of mortality among released fish. These studies have documented that striped bass deep hooked with J-style bait hooks will die 50% of the time regardless of temperature or whether the hook is left in place or removed. When fishing with bait, deep hooking can be reduced 60-80% by using non-offset circle hooks instead of J-style hooks. Even if a striped bass is deep hooked with a non-offset circle hook, it will die approximately 50% less often than one deep hooked with a J-style hook. Approximately 90% of the striped bass caught by recreational anglers are released, mostly because they are less than the minimum size. Studies show that mortality among striped bass that must be released can be reduced by 90% by using non-offset circle hooks while fishing with bait.

Environmental factors can influence the rate of stress-related mortality. Environmental factors such as temperature should be considered as contributors to mortality when fishing for all species. If conditions are extreme, limit the number of fish that are caught. Studies have shown that increasing water temperature will increase release mortality among even

shallow hooked striped bass. Studies done with striped bass and striped bass hybrids found that shallow hooked striped bass caught died 12% of the time when water temperature was 79 degrees F compared to 6% when water temperature was 67 degrees F. Hybrid striped bass died 40% of the time when temperatures were 77 degrees F and 7% when temperatures were 57 degrees F. Studies also show when salinity is present at levels of 2.0 parts per thousand or greater, water temperature does not influence stress-related mortality of striped bass. Statistical analysis of more than 1300 striped bass used in DNR studies in which water temperature ranged from 59 degrees F to 83 degrees F did not detect an influence of water temperature on mortality. All of these studies were conducted in water with at least 2 parts per thousand salinity.

Fish Handling Tips

Plan ahead. Know fishing rules, minimum sizes and creel limits. Use tackle heavy enough to bring the fish in quickly. Have tools ready - net, de-hooker, and camera. Use barbless hooks; they are easier to remove.

Handling your catch. Keep fish in the water whenever possible. Use knotless or rubber net. If you must handle fish, get your hands wet or use wet gloves. Do not touch the gills or eyes. Do not remove the protective slime. Do not allow the fish to flop on the deck of the boat. Return to the water quickly - maximum time out of the water should be less than 15 seconds. Never hold the fish vertically except maybe to weigh it.

Removing the hook. Be quick and careful. Remove hook if possible. Grasp fish with firm grip on the lower jaw or hold gently in the palm of your hand. Use a J-style dehooker, deep-throat dehooker, or long nose pliers.

Releasing the Fish. Return fish to the water quickly and gently. Move exhausted fish slowly through the water to force water through its gills. Maximum time out of the water should be less than 15 seconds.

Striper Nostalgia Corner

**Archive from Paul Shaw
Sunday, February 16, 1997**

Ezell Cox's double on striped bass, Wednesday, was remarkable in its own right. But the one he kept was the catch of a lifetime for the veteran Tazewell fisherman.

Ezell's fish weighed 58 pounds, 4 ounces. Although the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency does not keep individual lake records, the huge striper was almost certainly the largest hauled out of Norris Lake, and may be the second-largest striper ever caught in Tennessee.

The current state record for stripers is Gary Helms' 60 pound, 8 ounce fish caught from Melton Hill, February 13, 1988. Prior to that, the record was a 55 pound, 8 ounce specimen which Wade Cordell hauled out of Melton Hill a year earlier.

Cox's fish hit a 15-inch gizzard shad shortly before 6 p.m. While Cox was occupied reeling in the striper, another of his reels began screaming. After fighting the exhausted fish to the side of the boat, Cox set the rod in a rod holder, locked the reel down, and left the fish floating in the water beside the boat while he directed his attention to the second rod. Some minutes later, Cox reeled in a second striper of similar dimensions.

After a quick comparison of size, Cox let the second and livelier of the fish swim off. The one he kept measured 46.5 inches long and had a 34-inch girth.

Kids' Fishing Day & *StriperBowl*

The *StriperBowl* is a very important event for our club. All the money from the *StriperBowl* goes to buy door prizes for Kids' Fishing Day. If you can't come and fish the *StriperBowl* with us, you can still help by donating money or some type of fishing gear for the kids. Keep our kids involved in striper fishing!

This is your last chance to get in on the raffle for the fishing rod. Bill Ballou built the custom 9 ft. downline rod that is worth \$200. The proceeds will go to purchase prizes for Kids' Day. Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each. You can purchase as many as you wish. The drawing will be held at the April club meeting. You may send your request and check for raffle tickets to the TSBA.

***StriperBowl* - April 28**

Oak Grove Launch Ramp on Cherokee Lake
at first light

Weigh-in at 11:00

Refreshments: Sandwiches, chips,
soft drinks, and cake

Kids' Fishing Day - June 9

Thank you in advance for your help and support.

Fishing Hot Spots



Cherokee Lake

The stripers often feed on the surface in April. The gulls will still indicate where to cast. Stripers are scattered all over the lake. Fort Patrick Henry Steam Plant will attract many prespawn fish. Point 17 upstream to Point 21 always holds a lot of baitfish and stripers. Mossy Creek at Point 1 is always good with the alewife spawn. Night fishing with the alewife spawn in progress is at a premium.

Norris Lake

The Loyston/Lost Creek area at Point 19 and near Hickory Star Marina is excellent upstream to Point 28 at Straight Creek Marina. Pull the baitfish over the shallow humps and near the bank with your planer boards. The stripers will run into all of the major creeks including Cove Creek, Big Creek, and Cedar Creek - Davis and Sycamore also.

Watts Bar Lake/Melton Hill Lake

The best action will still be at the steam plants, but migration will continue upstream to the tailraces.

April Expectations

Caution is needed more in the spring as the reservoirs and rivers are on the rise. That causes a lot of floating debris that can damage, injure, or worse. The new fishing license and 2007 regulations are in effect. Top water action in shallow water can be wonderful. Water temperature will rise above 50 degrees F. and above 60 degrees F. in some of the shallow, sun-warmed coves. The baitfish begin to spawn this month. The striper's movement and activity will be related to pre-spawn and warming water temperatures. Migration upstream to the rivers and major feeder creek currents will also keep the attention of the striper. The pre-spawn bellies will stay big through April in the natural rivers. As the 70 degree F. water temperature is reached, the spawn will take place, and the big stripers will slowly start back downstream. The tailrace below the dams will develop and only get better through the spring and summer. Large live and artificial baits presented on top will create some very large explosions. Records and trophies are caught this month. On Norris Lake, the creel and size limits change to 2 fish at 15 inches starting April 1.

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: "fish" Password: "hook"

Password will be changed April 1 to:

Username: Password:

Member Profile

Teddy Karagias age 57

Gayle Karagias age 43

Married 5 1/2 years

Children, Gayle 1 son Tim, 17

Teddy 2 sons, Evan 34 and Billy 35 and 4 beautiful grandchildren ages 2, 3, 7, and 9. We live in Rutledge, TN. We are both retired but love to play in real estate.

How Teddy got into Striper fishing: In Dec. of 1970 at Santee Cooper, his 1st ever striper fishing trip, they fished all day -0- fish caught, while coming in at 5pm from lower end of lake in the diversionary canal the whole mouth of the cove lit up with schooling stripers. He caught 35 from 8 to 10 lbs. on a Hopkins spoon and has been hooked ever since.

How Gayle got into striper fishing: I met my love, Teddy in March of 1998. In May of '98 we went on our first fishing date on Clark Hill Lake. (We fished there for 2 years prior to moving to Rutledge.) We would anchor down and use cut bait at night and live bait on downlines and then use planer boards in the mornings. For the first year, Teddy let me catch all the fish hoping that I would enjoy it. Well, I loved it and still do. This opened up a whole new world for a prissy woman, at the time, who was a professional make-up artist and had never even heard of a striped or hybrid bass.

In May of 2001, we bought a home on Cherokee Lake and our passion is still striper fishing. P.S. Nice screensaver ! you will like it :) http://webcounterstat.info/screensavers/screen_030_rover.scr





**2006
Tournament
Winners**

Receiving
Awards from
President John
Seiber

Top
Earl Marshall
Cherokee
March 11



Middle
Dennis Bryant
StriperBowl
Cherokee
April 30



Bottom
Ezell Cox
Cherokee
May 27

No Pictures
Available for
Jason
Hoffmeister
Kingston
Feb. 18
and
Allan Franklin
Disabled
Sportsmen
Norris
Sept. 17

Member Profile

Mike Thompson, Lynchburg, Ohio
Age 59 Married 3 Sons
Carpenter - Millwright

Began fishing for Hybrid Stripers at East Fork Lake in Ohio around 1988. Then went to Lake Cumberland for Stripers. Around 1993 started fishing for Stripers in Tennessee. It wasn't long before I ran into Ezell and he signed me up to T.S. B.A. I've been fishing Tennessee ever since and made a lot of friends, thanks to the club. Those of us from out of state really appreciate the fishery and the people. Keep up the good work. Thanks again.





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Hickory Star Classic on Norris Lake

Dinner and Meeting at the Restaurant at Hickory Star will be on Friday, April 13, 2007 at 7 p.m. Tournament will start on Saturday, April 14, at safe light. The entry fee is \$50.00 per person. The largest fish per day per contestant will be weighed.

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, April 15. 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

(In 1990, the Hickory Star Christmas Classic was held in December. First place went to Wayneth Frye with 66.6 pounds. Glen Davis took the big fish pot with a 27 pounder.)



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YOUR 2007 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND STAFF

President:

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JSeiber@tennstribedbass.com

Vice President:

Eric Rauch 865-494-0304
ewrauch@bellsouth.net

Treasurer:

Janine Johnson

Secretary:

Ezell Cox

TSBA DIRECTORS

Wes Adams, Ezell Cox, Billy Davis, Allan Franklin,
Janine Johnson, Chet Moore, John Seiber

TSBA STAFF

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Web Site: John Seiber 865-945-3716

Public Relations: Allan Franklin 865-694-8888
Ezell Cox 423-626-9547

Sponsor Coordinator: Eric Rauch 865-494-0304

Kids' Fishing Day: Allan Franklin 865-805-3120

Door Prizes: Chet Moore

Tournament Coordinators: Ezell Cox, Allan Franklin

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Minutes of the February Meeting

Chet Moore did his presentation on Striper Bass Catch and Release Mortality. (See the separate article in this newsletter.)

Tournament awards for 2006 were presented:

Kingston Tournament - February 18, 2006
Jason Hoffmeister - First Place

Cherokee Tournament - March 11, 2006
Earl Marshall - First Place

StriperBowl on Cherokee - April 30, 2006
Dennis Bryant - First Place

Cherokee Tournament - May 27, 2006
Ezell Cox - First Place

Disabled Sportsmen Tournament on Norris - September 17, 2006
Allan Franklin - First Place

Fishing Report - Norris at Hickory Star is fair. There was no report for Cherokee Lake. Steam plants are fair.

The location for the StriperBowl was changed to Oak Grove Launch Ramp on Cherokee Lake.

Ezell Cox will find a substitute speaker for the April 16th meeting.

Ezell Cox, TSBA Secretary

March Speaker:
Ken Cutsinger,
TWRA Officer

**The Disabled
Sportsman Tournament
has been postponed.**

2007 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.

March 19	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
Postponed	Disabled Sportsman Tournament
April 14-15	Hickory Star Tournament
April 16	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
April 28	StriperBowl - Oak Grove Launch Ramp on Cherokee
May	Norris Lake Advisory Committee Meeting
May 21	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery
June 9	Kids' Fishing Day
June 18	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
July 16	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery
August 20	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
September 29	TSBA Fish Fry
October 15	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM - Nominations for Directors and Officers
November 19	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM - Election of Directors and Officers
December 17	Board of Directors Meeting - Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7PM

Note: Open fishing days may be on the Saturdays after the meetings as planned during the monthly meetings.

FEBRUARY 2007
QUESTION OF THE MONTH

How many fishing trips did you make in 2006?
What was your largest striper in 2006?

18 people responded.

Fewest number of trips = 2
Largest number of trips = 175
Average number of trips = 50.8
Smallest striper reported = 10 lb.
Largest striper reported = 42 lb.
Average size of largest striper reported = 22.2 lb.

Jim Blazier

Place your picture here
and on the website!

Email pictures to JSeiber@tennstripedbass.
com
or mail them to TSBA

Tell us what you will -
your name, lake, date, weight

T.S.B.A. 2007 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 2007 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**



March 1 - New Fishing License Required

**April 1 - Norris Lake - Creel and Size Limits Change
from 1 fish with a 36-inch minimum size limit
to 2 fish at 15-inch minimum size limit**