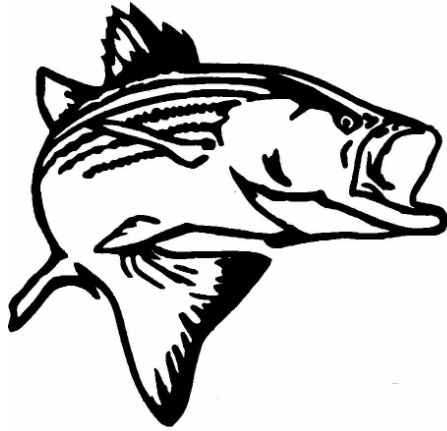


**Catch
The
Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



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

**May
2007**

Kids' Fishing Day

**Saturday, June 9
Fun Starts at 3:00 p.m.**

Launch at Cherokee Dam

President's Letter

Are You Ready??

I'm sure that most of us have heard the saying, "The fish of a lifetime comes only once in a lifetime." The question becomes, "Are you ready for that fish?" The reason that this is on my mind at this time is that I have lost some good fish when I thought I was as prepared as I could be. Since I started targeting big fish and giving up quantity for size, I have been paying a lot more attention to my equipment. After all, why spend the time and money traveling here and there to acquire the best bait that you can find, and then traveling to your favorite honey hole and not being able to land the fish that you have invested so much time and resources in finding? I know that most of you have heard someone talking or have read articles about the quality of hooks and fishing line and why you should not skimp on either. I have found that, no matter what kind of equipment and terminal tackle you use, you can show up at your favorite spot and still not be ready. Some folks pay little attention to the condition of their line until it breaks off resulting in a good fish getting away. I have learned that the amount of time (which is not very much) that it takes to check your line for abrasions and to retie before heading out is time well spent. It doesn't take much of a nick in the line to significantly weaken it. After landing a fish, if you look, sometimes you will find abrasions on your line. If you are serious about catching and landing a big fish, then take the time to check this stuff. As mentioned above, don't go the economy route when it comes to buying hooks and fishing line, after all there is a reason that this stuff is called the cheap stuff. If I'm going to spend hours and hours and burn many gallons of fuel trying to find and catch a big fish, then going out with the cheap stuff doesn't make any sense at all. You may save a couple of dollars up front, but when your line

fails or your hook doesn't hookup or straightens out, then all the other time and expense has also been a waste. I find that, the more time I have put into striper fishing, the more particular I have become. Checking the hook for sharpness, checking the line for abrasions, whether someone else tied that hook on, and what kind of knot they tied are just a few simple things that can be overlooked and **cost you the fish of a lifetime**.

Kids Fishing Day

Don't forget about Kids Day coming up on Saturday, June 9, 2007. All the details will be posted on the club website. Just go to the calendar on the website and follow the links, and you'll find all the information.

Hickory Star Tournament

I would like to acknowledge all the TSBA members who fished in the Hickory Star tournament on April 7 and 8. I don't have a complete list of the participants, but the top five finishers were:

First Place:	Sammy Robinette
Second Place:	Dennis Bryant
Third Place:	Pat Kneiss
Fourth Place:	Tom Elmore
Fifth Place:	Ezell Cox

Congratulations, guys and gals. You did great!

John Seiber
TSBA President

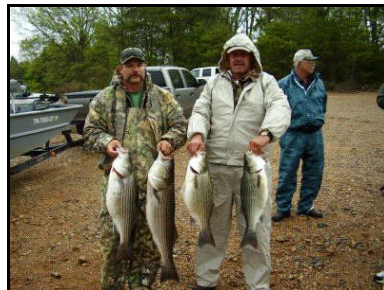
StriperBowl Recap

There were a total of 22 anglers who entered and fished the 2007 StriperBowl. We were really pleased with the turnout to say the least. The morning started off with very calm waters and partly cloudy skies; you could not have asked for a better start. However, as the morning went by, so did the good weather. At about 8:00 or 9:00, the clouds really started to build and the wind began to pick up. At about 10:00, the rain started, and things got a little soggy from there on out. We still had a good tournament and still had refreshments afterwards. As you can tell by some of the pictures, everyone had on the rain gear by the end.

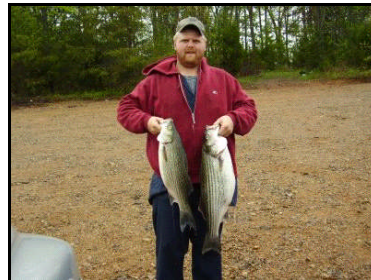
I would like to thank everyone who had a part in this event and congratulate the top finishers. As you can see in the results below, Allan won the trophy and the optional big fish pot. I hope you will join me in congratulating Allan on the win, and let's get ready for Kids' Day coming up on June 9.

		Fish-1	Fish-2	Total
1	Allan Franklin	17.5	12.0	29.5
2	Charles Ramsey	14.5	12.0	26.5
3	Adam Bryant	12.8	7.1	19.9
4	Gary Harris	11.3	5.3	16.6
5	Larry Richards	16.4		16.4
6	Darrell McDaniel	5.4	7.6	13.0
7	Dennis Bryant	7.0		7.0

John Seiber
TSBA President



StriperBowl Trophy transfers from Dennis Bryant to Allan Franklin





Bill Ballou (right) hand made a fishing pole and donated it to be raffled for donations to Kids' Fishing Day. Allan Franklin (left) is organizing the event and will be purchasing prizes and trophies.



John Seiber (left) was the lucky winner of the fishing pole. We appreciate the generous turnout. We raised \$325 for Kids Day.

Fishing Hot Spots



Cherokee Lake - Good

Point #1 at the dam upstream to Point #21 above the 25E bridge. Hybrids are more tolerant of the warm water and can often be caught in schools in shallow water. They can also be released normally without mortality. The humps in the middle of the lake near the dam usually become excellent.

Norris Lake - Fair

33 Bridge downstream to Point #19 on the Clinch side. Below Point #14 at Blue Springs downstream to Point #11 below Springs Dock on the Powell side. Look on the inside bends of the river and in front of the major coves with creek feeds.

Below Fort Loudoun & Melton Hill Dams - Good & Improving

Many of the stripers will go upstream to the discharge at the dams. Put your sinker and hook close to the bottom with plans to lose a few for the most catches. Pulling side planer boards down the banks can also catch fish for miles downstream.

June Expectations

The reservoir stripers have finished the spawn run and continue to move slowly downstream as the thermocline gets deeper. Top water action is in the early morning or not at all, but a good fish finder will start showing the schools of stripers that are deep enough not to shy away from the boat. The confluence of the major creeks and old river channel near mid lake are good target areas. The large, shallow flats that transition quickly to deep water are also excellent places for stripers to hold. The stripers normally feed aggressively after the spawn is complete. Catch and release starts to become questionable this month; however, in the tailrace and rivers below dams you will be able to release successfully during most of the early summer. The stripers will continue to migrate to the tailrace discharge the entire month of June and should be great by month end.

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: "striper" Password: "club"

DON'T TELL ANYONE ELSE BUT

Some of the things you hear about stripers are at best only marginally true. The tale is that fish cannot see below so keep the bait above where you see the fish on the fish finder. I have caught more fish on the bottom than any other way and you cannot get any deeper than the bottom. A favorite fish story I have is about fishing in 25 foot deep water with bait near a friend (Barney). It looked like I was counting off 2 feet at a time to a depth of 18 feet with a 2 ounce sinker but was letting the line free spool to 50 feet or more and dragging it on the smooth mud bottom with the electric motor very slowly. My boat was catching fish after fish while the other boat did not understand why his same bait at 18 feet was not catching anything. Even after we told Barney what we were doing, he did not believe us for 3 more evening trips we showed out in front of him. Point fishing we put them on the bottom. Below the dams if you don't touch the bottom you don't catch the fish. If you go to one of the large aquariums that have stripers you will see that they can go straight up or straight down from top to bottom and back. They are very aware of all of their surroundings, all of the time.

"Stripers are open water predators." The major truth to this statement is if you add to it "in the cold water winter months." Stripers do school up to attack in the winter when the forage fish are away from the colder shallow water near the banks. Although stripers school up at all other times of the year some, the effort is to normally drive the bait fish into traps where they are easier to catch. Shallow water is where this often happens to remove one of the dimensions called depth. As the stripers become larger, it seems they become more of an ambush hunter. The large fish may run in the same year class, and as the year class gets older, fewer and fewer fish are left. Most of my big fish have come from ambush points around rocks, trees, stumps, current breaks like islands, and underwater cliffs or shoals. That does not sound like an open water predator to me.

"If the striper sees the line and hook it won't strike." Well you can believe that fairytale if you want to, but fish don't have enough of a brain to do any analysis before they have dinner. The fish needs a name like Charlie Tuna if it can think that dinner has a line and hook tied to it so I don't think I'll eat it. Fish do have rods and cones in the eye so they do see color and color may influence some part of the strike. The fishing line could be red, green, clear, fluorocarbon, and braided; but if the line is stiff enough to prevent the lure or bait from having action, that is when there is no strike. Most striper responses come as a reaction to very active bait or lure.

There are no stripers stocked in some reservoirs, but take a guess where some of the best big striper opportunities are. Fort Loudoun, Tellico, Melton Hill are just a few that you may want to check out. If the river is navigable with locks, the stripers will lock through anytime they are opened. Also, any upstream lake that has stripers stocked will have some survivors that make it to the down stream system through the turbines or over the spillway. These fish are seldom targeted so they can grow large before being harvested. The numbers are few so the catching is normally very slow.

Some of the quiet truths about bait species may also surprise a novice striper angler. The large stripers are going to find cool water if they are going to survive and grow so the tailraces waters have some unique species that become forage for them. Skipjacks up to 2 pounds and 20 inches are used for bait where stripers over 25 pounds are common. One bait species that is a little sensitive to talk about especially in front of anyone belonging to Trout Unlimited is the rainbow shad.

(continued next page)

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Alewives are common in cool water and can catch almost any game fish including the stripers. They can be caught most easily under lights on a dark night. The trick to catching them is to be able to draw them to the light. Then, just before you throw the net, darken the light. They are very active, slim bait that work well from 3 to 8 inches long. A 3/8 or no larger than 1/2 mesh cast net works best to keep from getting them hung in the net.

Your fishing friend,
Ezell Cox



Jim
Negus

April 15,
2007

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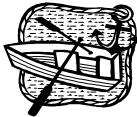
PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

**ANNUAL ALLAN FRANKLIN
KIDS' FISHING DAY
EVENT**

**Sat., June 9, 3:00 p.m.
at Cherokee Dam**

Well folks..... the Youth Striper Fishing Day is almost here. The fun and fishing will be on Saturday, June 9, at 3 p.m. at the Cherokee Dam launch ramp. Please meet beside the launch ramp near the swimming area for great food. Immediately after, we will draw for great door prizes and all of the kids will be given their trophies for their participation. We will hit the water between 5 and 6 p.m. for some good ole fishing and fun with the kids. Please come and enjoy the afternoon with us and bring all those kids. **Please call me at 865-805-3120 by May 27 and register the kids you are bringing so I can make sure there are plenty of trophies to go around.** Thanks to all for all of your support. Always remember..... the kids are our future and the future of our sport. I look forward to the 2007 Youth Striper Fishing Day.

See you there,
Allan Franklin



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John Seiber 865-945-3716
JSeiber@tennstrippedbass.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

Merchandising: John Seiber 865-945-3716

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Minutes of the April Meeting

John opened the meeting at the new location. He reminded everyone that the custom rod built and donated by Bill Ballou would be given away later in the meeting if anyone wanted to buy chances. The proceeds will be going to the Kids Fishing Day prizes. \$50 was won on the 50/50 drawing by Pat Kneiss. Ezell Cox did a presentation on some closely held striper secrets. There was some discussion on the leak under Wolf Dam on the Cumberland River. Lake Cumberland is a well known striper lake that has been drawn down to the point that some of the cool water fish will struggle and be damaged like the striper, walleye, and trout. The repairs will take eight years and cost \$300 million, and the fishery will take about that much longer to recover. There was concern that the additional unplanned pressure on East Tennessee fisheries would significantly damage them. Chet Moore again had some great door prizes. Allan Franklin and Bill Ballou presented the custom made rod to the winner of the drawn ticket, John Seiber. The fishing report said the fishing was good below the dams. Norris and Cherokee have been producing some good fishing also. The weather was the major complaint. Hickory Star had a spring tournament April 14, and 15. Winners were: 1st Sammy Robinette, 2nd Dennis Bryant, 3rd Pat Kneiss, 4th Tom Elmore, 5th Ezell Cox. Sammy's two fish total weight was 35 pounds 10 ounces. John reminded everyone of the upcoming events on the TSBA calendar.

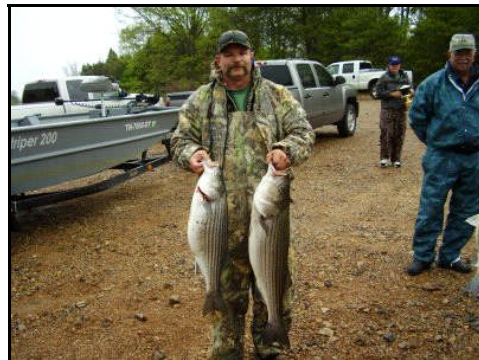
Ezell Cox
TSBA Secretary

2007 TSBA Calendar

Please attend TSBA events and join us at the meetings.
Monthly meetings will be held at Shoney's Restaurant, 2405 Andersonville Highway. Get off I-75 at Exit 122 (Hwy. 61 - Clinton/Norris), head east. Shoney's will be on the left.

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 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.



Some Turkey

On Striper Bowl Day, I went to the Co-op to get some fertilizer. When I got out of my truck, I heard someone call to me. It was the Jefferson County Wildlife Officer, Wayne Rich, and he wanted me to come over to his truck so he could “show me something.” I walked over, expecting to see a wild turkey since the season was still open. Instead, lying in the bed of the truck was the largest striper I have seen since I retired ten years ago. It was a beautiful, pot-bellied female, still barely alive. My first thought was Stump (Mike Smith) would sure like to have that fish at the hatchery.

I asked Wayne where the striper came from. “A bass fisherman caught it down near the dam this morning,” he replied. I asked him, “Which dam?” even though I was sure it had not come from Cherokee. “Douglas,” he said. I asked if it had been weighed and he told me that was why he was there at the Co-op.

The striper weighed 47 pounds on the Co-op feed scales and was 45 inches long. There was a loose fish scale in the truck bed and I put it in my pocket to see if I could age the fish when I got home. I rigged the scale between two thin pieces of plastic so I could look at it with a slide viewer. As best as I could tell, it was 13 to 15 years old.

I know of several other stripers caught out of Douglas but none this large and this is the only one I know of in several years. To my knowledge, Douglas was never intentionally stocked with stripers. Morristown Hatchery drains into a small stream that runs into the Nolichucky River, one of the three rivers that are tributary to Douglas. Several years ago, while one of the hatchery ponds was being drained, a screen broke and allowed striper fingerlings to escape downstream.

Dave Bishop

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)

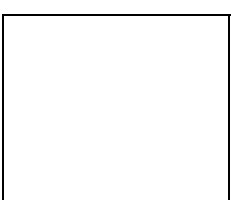
Enclose a check for \$20.00
Mail to: Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc
P.O. Box 24442
Knoxville TN 37933

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**



**May 21 - Monthly Meeting
Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery
Speaker: Mike Smith, TWRA
Pizza & Drinks**

