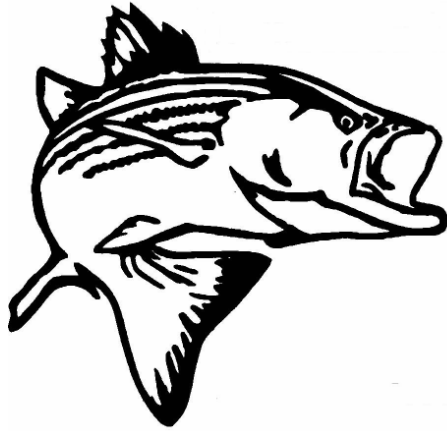


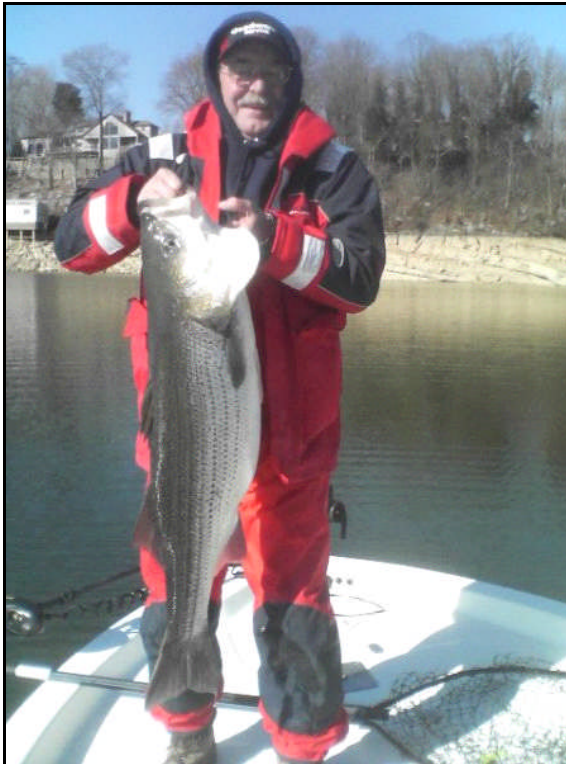
**Catch  
The  
Striper  
Fever!**

# T.S.B.A.



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

**June  
2007**



**Emery  
Spence**

**1/1/07**

**41 lb.  
7 oz.**

## President's Letter

I hope that everyone is having a great spring, and catching all the fish that they want. Personally, I have been having a great time fishing as usual. I continue to try new things and new places and to expand my knowledge of striper fishing. I'm finding a lot of things that don't work and a few things that do work, all while enjoying some fantastic sunrises and sunsets. Even when I bomb and don't catch a fish, just being outside and enjoying God's wonderful creation is enough to make a great day.

One thing I have learned about is seeing or recovering your planer boards at night. I have a set of homemade planer boards that I didn't mind drilling a couple of holes in, so they were my test project. I started out by drilling 2 holes in the board up near the top, actually drilling through the foam. Then I moved on to attaching wire ties to the board through those holes. The wire ties are for attaching a glow stick that you get from the camping section at Wal-Mart or most any sporting goods store. This works great to help keep an eye on the board or to recover it after the fish hits. However, the line will get tangled up in the wire ties a little bit. The tangles are not that big of a deal because, when fishing in the daytime, just remove the wire ties. After telling someone about my little brainstorm, they recommended getting some of the very small glow sticks and just simply insert part of it into the foam. After a little bit of

searching, I ended up ordering some of the 1-1/2" Mini Glow Sticks off the Internet. Now I can get rid of the wire ties altogether, and the planer board doesn't look like nuclear waste (you know glowing in the dark). The small glow sticks will also work great to put on the end of your fishing rod, so that it can be seen at night. Now whether fishing with planer boards or fishing down lines or any other way, I can see the tip of the rod or I can find my planer board. Next time I'm out, I'll try to get a picture of the setup and post it on Fishing Reports. This little glow stick thing doesn't mean you'll catch any more fish, but it will make it easier to keep up with everything in low light conditions.

One other thing that I would like to do is remind everyone is that the water temps are on the rise and the fish will stress a lot easier. So, unless you're fishing in a cool or cold-water fishery, be careful about catching more than your daily limit. As some of the more experienced anglers will tell you, all the released fish don't live to fight another day. I'm sure that everyone has read articles that tell us, "Don't play the fish too long," "Don't use light tackle," "Don't remove the fish from the water," "Don't handle the fish with dry hands," and "Don't net the fish." All these things should be observed because, whether for good or for bad, we anglers will make a difference in our fisheries.

*Good Fishing,*  
*John Seiber*

# **Tennessee Fishing Regulations**

While most fishermen pursuing Striped and Hybrid Bass in East Tennessee know the rules and regulations, it might be wise to review them as they do change periodically. The following is a summary of the current fishing regulations published by the TWRA as they apply to Striped and Hybrid Bass in Tennessee.

## **Statewide or General Regulations**

- 1 - The daily limit is two Striped or Hybrid Bass in any combination.
- 2 - The minimum length for both Striped and Hybrid Bass is 15" which is determined by laying the fish on a flat ruler, closing its mouth and squeezing its tail lobes together to get the maximum length.
- 3 - The total possession limit is twice the daily limit, but you must not have any more than the daily limit while afield. It is unlawful, while afield, to have altered any fish of any species so that its species and/or length cannot be determined.

## **Exceptions to the Statewide Regulations**

Cherokee - Don't forget the "No Fishing Zone" that is in effect from July 15 through September 15. This

is from the boat ramp south of the dam across to point 2, upstream to point 3 and then back across the lake to the boat ramp just North of the dam.

Cordell Hull & Melton Hill Reservoirs - There is a slot limit on both of these reservoirs and all Striped Bass between 32" and 42" must be released back into the reservoir. While the daily limit is two fish, only one fish over 42" may be kept.

Norris Reservoir - The rules for Norris from April through October are identical to the statewide regulations in that the daily limit is two fish and the minimum length is 15". However, from November through March, you can keep only one fish and it must be at least 36" in length.

### **Consumption Advisory**

The TWRA recommends that you do not eat any Striped or Hybrid Bass taken from Watts Bar Reservoir due to contamination from PCBs. This includes the tailwaters from Melton Hill and Fort Loudoun Dams.

Please note that this is just a quick overview of the regulations as they apply to Striped and Hybrid Bass. Please get a complete copy of the regulations or go to <http://Tennessee.gov/twra/07fish.pdf> to see the entire regulations.

*Bob Leach*

## **Gizzard Shad**

The gizzard shad is unquestionably the most important bait fish for striper fishermen in East Tennessee. Almost always, the striper fisherman will have a gizzard shad hooked through its upper lip, or they will be using some kind of artificial lure intended to mimic a shad. If you ask veteran striper angler, Ezell Cox, he will quickly tell you that there are only two types of fish - rockfish and bait fish. 99% of the time, he will have lively gizzard shad in his bait tank. The reason for their importance is the fact that they are the preferred food of the striper. This has been well studied and documented. Therefore, I thought it would be interesting to research and document some of the more relevant facts concerning the gizzard shad.

The gizzard shad is native to East Tennessee, and they have evolved and adapted to some of our local waters extremely well. In fact, if they are left unchecked, they can become the dominant species in the lake and actually can become a problem due to their sheer numbers. One article I read indicated that "It is not uncommon for adult gizzard shad ( 8" and larger ) to comprise 60 to 80 % of the total fish in the lake!" Obviously, this would be a disaster for all the species in the lake including the shad itself. The reason is that the gizzard shad has adapted extremely well to high-fertility, slow-moving rivers or reservoirs. Basically it is a better survivor than other species! After the young shad hatch in the spring and summer, their first food is microscopic animals called zooplankton and protozoa. They filter huge quantities of highly-fertile water through their closely-set gill rakers.

They quickly supplement their diet with algae and insect larvae. This omnivorous feeding behavior means that the gizzard shad has an easier time obtaining food than other species. Their primary feeding technique is to swim around in large schools filtering whatever there is the water that is edible.

When you combine their superior feeding technique with the fact that they are prolific spawners ( a single female can produce over 300,000 eggs ), it is easy to see why they can dominate certain types of waters. Actually when their numbers get too high, it is not a healthy situation for the shad or the other species of fish in the lake. Many species of fish (other than stripers ) depend upon a consistent supply of shad for their survival. It is best when the shad population is maintained at a fairly-consistent level. 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 and for all the species of fish in the lake which depend upon the shad.

One of the primary reasons that shad take over a lake is that large numbers of them quickly grow to a size that most predatory game fish cannot eat. Introducing striped bass and hybrids into bodies of water where shad have overpopulated has had a dramatic effect on the fishery as a whole. First of all, a whole new sport has been created and the numbers of shad appear to be controlled to a more healthy level. Introducing the correct numbers of stripers into the lake has been a huge benefit to all the species in the lake. This has been a win-win situation for the fish and the fishermen.

*Bob Leach*

## Fishing Hot Spots



### **Cherokee Lake - Good**

Stripers will not go back well in July. Catch your limit and quit. Released fish will not survive for the most part. 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 no fishing zone is in effect again starting July 15. The humps and islands near the dam up to Point #21 normally become excellent.

### **Norris Lake - Fair**

Point #26 on the Clinch and Point #14 on the Powell to the dam. Most of the stripers will move into the main channel out of the shallow warm coves. Down lines and downriggers work well over marked fish.

### **Below Fort Loudoun & Melton Hill Dams - Good & Improving**

The law is you must wear your life jacket in these dangerous waters. 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.



## July Expectations

The migration downstream toward the dam has started in the reservoirs. The stripers will be a little easier to locate as the temperature in the coves and creeks pushes them into the deeper, cooler main channel. The thermocline will continue to get deeper with the fish staying just below it, and surface feeding in the reservoirs is over until October. A good topographical map now becomes a great fishing tool. The tailraces will continue to improve. They will be a good place to find some action while also still allowing successful catch and release in the hot summer. Working the "boils" will become very effective in July. It is your life and money, so remember to wear your life jacket at the dams. It is the law also.

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:

## **T.W.R.A. RULES & REGULATIONS**

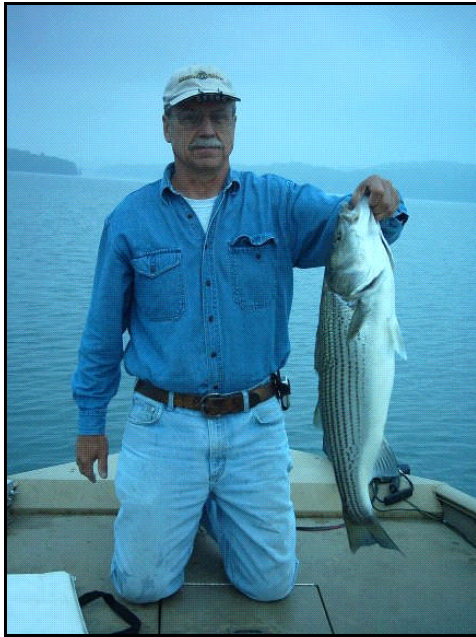
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency each year must have the upcoming regulations completed for the new year for the effective date of March 1<sup>st</sup>. There is a lot more to the process than the normal user that purchases a new license would know about. Most of the regulations have been developed and changed as needed over the years for the game and fish laws since its beginning in the late 1940's. The laws now oversee the conservation needs of all wildlife including the non-game species like song birds and even snakes. The harvest methods like trapping, netting, bow, firearms, caliber, and number and size limits are also regulated and enforced by T.W.R.A. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commissioners help come up with and approve the regulations. The commissioners meet with the outdoor enthusiasts across the state to hear the recommendations of the public along with T.W.R.A. biologists and directors from each of the four regions into which the agency has divided Tennessee. REGIONS: 1 JACKSON / 2 NASHVILLE / 3 CROSSVILLE / 4 MORRISTOWN.

Some of us may have very narrow views of the needs for fishing. It is not true that striped bass is the only concern that I have in conservation for the fisheries in Tennessee. I enjoy seeing all types of fishermen catching their favorite species like I do my choice.

Most of T.W.R.A, T.W.R.C., directors, chiefs, and biologists have seen or heard from me as I have tried to influence some of the regulations over the years. Some I may have helped influence and some I have not - not yet anyway. The one that I am most proud of is Norris Lake still has stripers stocked, although at a reduced rate and a loss of stocking for 3 years in the late 1990's. Another proud moment was when the regulation was passed of NO FISHING ZONE in front of Cherokee Dam. A slot limit on stripers was put on the fish from Melton Hill to protect the few large fish there. The size and creel limit on Norris in the winter months was changed to 1 fish larger than 24 inches. Again after the big fish die off in the summer of 2003, the winter size changed again to 36 inch minimum. Some of the new fishing technology that has developed also requires some regulations like the multi lure umbrella rigs that can only have a single hook.

Sometimes special regulations are needed to protect us from ourselves. I find that our people in charge of putting the regulations in and enforcing them are doing a great job but do need the input from the public that uses those resources.

*Your Fishing Friend,  
Ezell Cox*



Bob Leach, Ezell Cox, and Janine Johnson  
June 2, 2007 - Norris Lake  
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## **YOUR 2007 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND STAFF**

### **President:**

John Seiber 865-945-3716  
JSeiber@tennstripedbass.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 May Meeting**

May 21, 2007 T.S.B.A. FISH HATCHERY MEETING

By 6 p.m. there were a lot of members walking around looking at the ponds outside and Mike Smith, the biologist in charge, was giving instructions on observing the brood stock stripers (some in the 30 pound range) and newly hatched stripers still in the back of the hatchery. The newly hatched stripers were going to be put in the ponds the next day and were only held in the hatchery for our meeting. The fry will be fed and kept in the ponds until around the first of July for stocking. At this time they will have grown to about 2 to 3 inches long. The T.S.B.A. supplied more pizza and soft drinks than could be consumed by the great turn out. At 7 p. m. Mike Smith gave a brief history of the hatchery over its 30 year history. Mike said the hatchery had met the goal needed for the year with some surplus that could be used for trade to other states for fry not spawned in Tennessee. There were some good questions and some educated answers from experience by Mike.

Ezell Cox  
TSBA Secretary

**Speaker for June Meeting:  
Allan Franklin**

**“Fishing techniques for  
below the dams in the boils”**



## **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.

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.

## **Speaker for July Meeting**

**Mike Smith, TWRA  
At Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery  
Pizza & Drinks**

## **QUESTION OF THE MONTH**

WHAT BRAND OF TROLLING MOTOR BATTERY DO YOU CURRENTLY USE?

AND WHAT BRAND DO YOU PLAN TO BUY NEXT?

Several fishermen stated that they did not know what brand of battery they were currently using in their boat. Nineteen fishermen responded to the May Question of the Month with the following answers:

Thirteen said that they are currently using conventional type batteries with the following brands; Wal-Mart (4), Stowaway (3), DieHard (3), AutoZone (2), and Exide (1).

The remaining six fishermen said they are using the "completely maintenance free type" batteries like Optima (3), Exide Gel (1), Cabela's Gel (1) and Power Sonic (1). All of these six fishermen stated that they would buy the same battery next time and four of the conventional battery users said that they would change to the Gel or AGM type batteries in the future.

## 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](http://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**



**July 16 - Monthly Meeting  
Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery  
Speaker: Mike Smith, TWRA  
Pizza & Drinks**