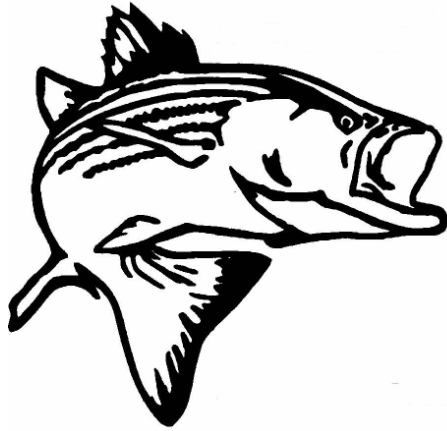


**Catch
The
Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



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

**July
2007**

2007 KIDS FISHING DAY



President's Letter

With July 4th just a few days away, and maybe it will be past by the time some of you receive your newsletter, I would like to recognize our military and say a great big thank you to all who currently serve and who have served our country in the past. I hope that, as the nation celebrates our independence, the American military will be on everyone's mind. As they serve in Iraq and Afghanistan and other places around the world, I hope that each of us can keep them in our thoughts and in our prayers.

God Bless the American Soldier.

As the summer heats up and the water gets more and more traffic, it pays to be alert and courteous while on the water. In the May 2006 newsletter, I described almost being hit by someone who was not paying attention and put my life and 2 or 3 others in danger. Just like driving on the highway, don't assume that the other drivers are as alert as they should be. Just because they have a nice shiny new boat doesn't mean that they know how to operate it. Pay attention to everything because your life may depend on it. Since we're talking about the heat, everyone knows that it gets a little harder to keep your bait healthy during the really hot months. You will find it necessary to add a little ice to your tank to keep them cool and keep them from stressing. The only problem is that most ice contains chlorine, which is

deadly to fish. This then brings up the question of how to get around the chlorine. Some folks elect to freeze jugs of ice and place them into their bait tanks. I use a product called Prime, which removes the chlorine from tap water or from ice. You can add a few drops, and pour ice directly into the tank, (which to me is better than having those big heavy jugs banging around inside the bait tank). It also removes chloramines and ammonia, as well as helping maintain the slime coat on your bait. It is a little expensive, but it is highly concentrated and, therefore, lasts a long time. It takes two drops to treat one gallon of chlorinated water. But remember, if the water is too cold, the bait may be happy campers while they are in the tank only to die of thermal shock when you place them in the 80+ degree lake water.

I hope to see you at the Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery for our July meeting. Mike Smith (Stump) said that he would try to keep a few fingerling stripers for us to see when we come back. They were so small when we were there in May, that you could not really tell what they were. It will be interesting to see how much they have grown during this short time period.

*Good Fishing,
John Seiber*

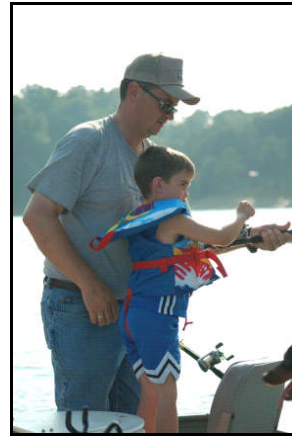
PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

2007 YOUTH STRIPER TOURNAMENT AND KIDS DAY

I just want to thank everyone who had a hand in helping me put together the 2007 Youth Striper Day. It was a very hot and beautiful day. We had 11 kids show up for the fishing, door prizes, and food. It was so hot that we went out a little early about 4:30 instead of 5:30 to 6:00 as we had planned. We all scattered to different places, and our trusty fish finder Ezell found a big pile of fish just above the last island just above the dam. So he got on the radio and yelled, we are on them and they are hungry. Everyone made a beeline to him, and the fish catching began. The kids had a ball. After catching a few stripers and hybrids, the kids started jumping out of the boats and swimming, so the fishing was pretty much over at that point. The main thing is the kids had a great time. Thank you all again.

Your Striper Friend Allan Franklin



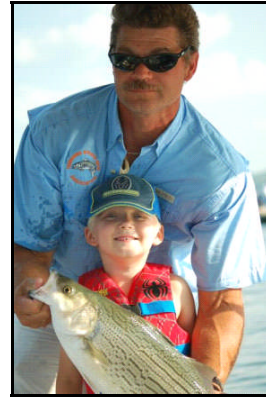


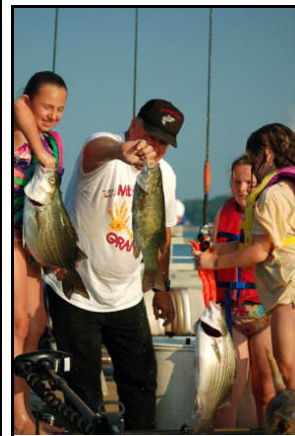
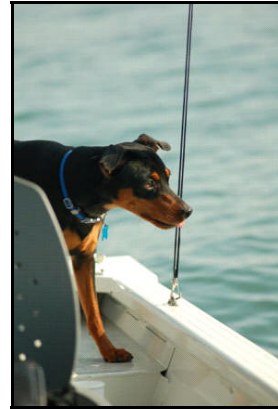
LOTS OF
FUN &
PRIZES



THE KIDS
HAD A
BALL







Fishing Hot Spots



Cherokee Lake: Good on Most Days

The best fishing will be near the NO FISHING ZONE at the dam. Hybrids can often be caught in shallow water and successfully released in water that exceeds 80 degrees F. Look around all the little islands near the dam that hold baitfish. Bait is much harder to catch on the lower half of Cherokee than normal - much easier above 25E bridge to the headwaters.

Norris Lake: Good

Most of the big stripers will be near the dam. Point #9 downstream and in Big Creek and Cove Creek.

The best information you can have in the summer comes from water quality reports on temp and oxygen at depth.

Below Fort Loudoun & Melton Hill Dams: Good

August is normally the best month of the year to fish the tailrace. Remember, if the bottom doesn't grab your bait occasionally, you are not fishing deep enough.

Any Cold Water:

Good where stripers have access.

Investigate some of these and other rivers:

Cumberland - Caney Fork - Clinch - Little Tennessee.

August Expectations

The larger stripers will be seeking the coolest refuge that is available. Stripers in the larger reservoirs will still have some of last winter's cold water stored at depth and hopefully enough dissolved oxygen to survive. The stripers will move out of the shallow warm coves to the main channel or deep coves near the dam. A good topographical map and fish finder are great fishing tools. Look for unusual humps, bends, and drop-offs on the old river channel below the thermocline. The fishing can be good at night to avoid an unpleasant day trip that has storms, pleasure boaters, and heat. August is a catch and kill month except at some tailraces with a temperature of less than 70 degrees F. It also has some of the best tailrace fishing of the entire year. Wear a good life jacket while fishing tailraces. Look for lower lake level because of the lack of rainfall - about 12 inches to date short.

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:



River Fishing

As the water temperatures keep rising on East Tennessee reservoirs, stripers will seek out thermal refuge. If you want to catch and release stripers during this time of the year, you need to find cooler waters. These fish can be found in our tailwater river systems. There are numerous river systems in the area, but two rivers that are easily navigable and contain a good number of stocked stripers are the Clinch River below Melton Hill Dam and the Tennessee River below Fort Loudoun Dam. These rivers typically run in the mid 60s to low 70s during the hottest summer months. There is an abundance of bait fish which, in turn, brings in predator fish such as the stripers. Not every striper goes up to the boils to feed, and quality fish can be caught downriver from the dams during generation. Some people may be intimidated by rivers but with a few pointers, anybody can find and catch stripers on the rivers.

The first thing I always do when fishing the rivers is check the TVA river schedules. The phone number is 800-238-2264, enter 4 and then enter 43 for Melton Hill generation, enter 4 and then enter 08 for Fort Loudoun generation. This will let you know what you should be prepared for when heading out to the river. The best river fishing occurs with one generator and when the water starts flowing. Typically, you should start out with the same baits you would use on a reservoir; but the fishing rods, reels, and fishing line are definitely beefed up. There are many ways to present baits on rivers, but a planer board along the bank in front of lay down trees is one approach that works time and time again. The bait should not be more than 10 feet behind the board to prevent snags in the current. It takes practice, but this method works well during generation. Once you get familiar with running a planer board along the front of tree tops, the fish will show themselves. Just remember to clip your planer board to

the line so it doesn't take off when you land a fish. River stripers are definitely adapted for life on the river; they will know how to use their cover to help them when hooked. To keep stripers from running into the stumps, I use 80# braided power pro line with an 80# fluorocarbon leader. You should never use light line while river fishing. The chances of landing a large fish on 12 lb. test is really slim when river fishing.

Good fishing can also occur after generation as the river begins to settle down. While fishing calm rivers or any other confined spaces, it is important to quiet and limit movements on the boat. Any shift of the boat can send out a wake which can be felt by fish and make them skiddish. The ideal way to fish a calm river is to put out 3 lines one on each side of the boat and one in the back. I usually keep track of where I notice nervous baits and go back over them awhile later. If you entice stripers more than once, they are more inclined to take that bait.

River fishing has its downfalls, such as the opportunity to get hooked up with a tree on the bottom, the schools of stripers being smaller with less opportunity for multiple fish, and the confined space when dealing with other boat traffic. But the opportunity to get away from most of the jet skiers, spend time of a cooler body of water, and take in the scenery keeps me coming back quite often.

There are some special spots on the rivers; and you will get a satisfying feeling when you happened to come across a school of stripers, serve up a frisky bait, successfully land one, release him, and feel confident that the fish will survive to fight another day. Good Luck and we'll see you on the water.

Billy Davis

Maryland Circle-Hook Study

Most members of the TSBA practice "Catch & Release" for at least part of the year. Whenever we release a striper back into cool water and it swims away vigorously, we assume that it will survive to grow and be caught again. However, not all of these stripers that appear quite healthy when released will survive. The mortality rate of released striped bass has been the subject of numerous studies by fisheries biologists from various states. The best study that I have found in surfing the Internet is a 1999 study performed by Rudy Lukacovic of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The following is a short summary of this study. The complete report can be found by going to www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/fishingreport/crsb.html.

Basically the study was conducted to determine the survival rates of striped bass caught in cool water using conventional "J" hooks and non-offset circle hooks. All of the stripers were caught on live bait using conventional angling techniques and the fish were played in the normal manner. For each landed striper, the location of the hook wound and the type of hook was recorded. Fisheries service biologists removed the hook if the striper was "shallow hooked", but they cut the line and left the hook in place if the striper was "deep hooked". Each fish was marked to identify the hook location by punching a hole in its tail fin. The oxygen, temperature, and salinity of the water was measured at each fishing site. The fish were then transported to holding pens. The oxygen, temperature, and salinity levels recorded at the fishing sites were duplicated in the holding pens. The pens were checked daily and all dead stripers were removed. The type of hook and location of the hook was recorded. In addition, all deep-hooked stripers were dissected to determine the nature and extent of the internal damage. All surviving fish were released after 72 hours.

The significant results of this extensive study are shown below.

- 1 - There was no difference in the size of stripers caught on non-offset circle hooks and conventional "J" hooks.
- 2 - The deep-hooking rate for conventional hooks was 17.2 % compared to 3.4% for non-offset circle hooks.
- 3 - The mortality rate for deep-hooked striped bass caught with conventional "J" hooks was an astounding 53.1%.
- 4 - **Overall, 9.1% of the striped bass caught and released using conventional hooks died whereas only 0.8% of the fish caught on circle hooks died.**

According to the biologist, the data indicates that the high mortality (9.1%) of striped bass caught and released when the water is cool is due to the internal damage caused by deep-hooking and not by any stress induced due to the playing the fish or by the catch and release process. However, the stress induced catching and releasing during warm conditions does significantly increase the mortality rate.

The results that I have reached after studying this and other studies is that we should practice "Catch & Release" during cool conditions if the fish is shallow-hooked. However, I'm going to "Catch and Keep" all stripers caught during warm-water conditions and all stripers that are deep-hooked regardless of the water temperature because the majority of all deep-hooked stripers will die even if caught when the water and air are cold. The actual mortality rate is much higher than the reported 53.1% rate as that was the mortality rate after the 72 hour holding period. Many of the deep-hooked stripers released by cutting the line will have great difficulty swallowing a shad when they have a hook in their throat.

Also, some anglers use conventional "J" hooks that are not nickel-plated theorizing that the hook will rust out quickly on "deep-hooked" stripers and the fish will survive. I don't think that there is any hook that will rust out in 72 hours.

Bob Leach



Janine
Johnson

June, 2007

27 lb.

East
Tennessee

Billy Davis

June, 2007

42 lb.

Central
Tennessee



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JSeiber@tennstribedbass.com

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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

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Minutes of the June Meeting

John turned the meeting over to Allan Franklin for his presentation on fishing below the dams. Allan said, if the water is off, pull side planer boards with no weight into the shallow area. The best bite is when all the generators are going. When the water is on, run up into the boils and cast your bait with a sinker that will take it to the bottom, and then just try to keep it as close as possible without hanging up. Keep your bait that is on a hook in the water - bait tank, live well, or bucket - when you run back up to the boils. Rig up a 3-way swivel with about an 18 inch, 15 pound test line to your sinker; use 20 to 25 pound test on your main line to the bait. Most fishermen use yellow tails or gizzard shad that can be caught right up against Melton Hill Dam or the first cove on the left below the island down stream. On downstream a few miles is another cove on the left where bait can be caught. Casting and retrieving about a 1-ounce fly or swim bait with a 7 ½ foot rod can also be effective. There is a sign that says life jackets are required to be worn upstream to the dam for your safety. These are dangerous, turbulent waters. Also, be aware of the caution needed when the horns indicate that a lock is about to be opened. If the fish below Melton Hill Dam are not biting, Fort Loudoun is only about 30 minutes away. Skipjacks can be caught and put on a balloon to let swim on a free line to catch some large stripers.

Chet drew the tickets for a lot of great door prizes. The 50-50 ticket was drawn and Kyle Rutherford won \$50.00. Be sure to come to the hatchery meeting next month to see samples of the 2 to 3 inch stripers to be stocked and get the progress report on the stocking.

Ezell Cox
TSBA Secretary

**Speaker for July Meeting: Mike Smith, TWRA
At Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery
Pizza & Drinks**

**Speaker for August Meeting: Jim Negus, TWRA
at Shoney's, Hwy. 61 - Norris/Clinton Exit**

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.

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

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

#1 WHAT STYLE OF HOOKS DO YOU USUALLY USE FOR LIVE BAIT?

#2 AND IF YOU DON'T USE CIRCLE HOOKS, HAVE YOU TRIED THEM?

Twenty one fishermen answered question #1 with the following responses: Circle (9), Octopus (9), "J" (2), and Wide-mouth (1).

Only two of the twenty one stated that they had not tried Circle Hooks and some stated that they lost too many fish with the Circle Hooks.


Jim Blazier



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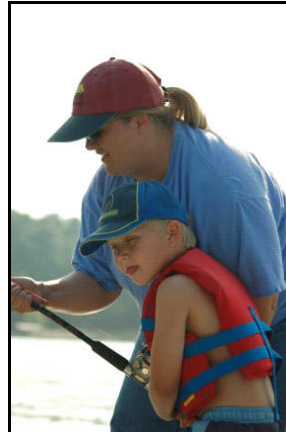
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As a member: *You'll receive a monthly newsletter.

* 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**



**TSBA Annual Fish Fry & Reunion
September 29, 2007
Anderson County Park on Norris Lake

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