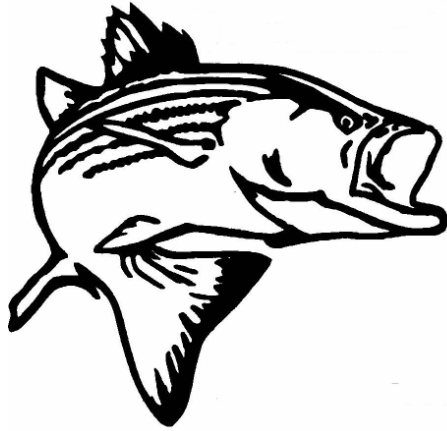


**Catch
The
Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



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

**June
2008**

Pat Kneiss hit the jackpot with a 47-pound Striper on a Cumberland River Trip in late May. Several fisher people (Tom Elmore, Ezell Cox, Bob Leach, Pat Kneiss, Sammy Robinette, and Richard Miller - there may be others) spent part of the week and were not catching many fish. Pat, Sammy, and Richard stuck it out in the fog a day after everyone else left and ended up catching and successfully releasing 11 fish over 30 pounds in one hour. The fish were splashing all around them. See next month's edition for pictures.

Congratulations Pat!

President's Letter

Since joining TSBA a few years ago I've heard many speakers at our meetings. It's always enlightening, and I've learned quite a bit that has helped me in the pursuit of stripers. I've also learned how important some individuals have been and still are to our sport.

At our last meeting we met at TWRA's Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery in Clinton. Mike Smith (alias Stump) was our speaker. He told us about the history of the hatchery, described the introduction of striped bass to Tennessee and shared information regarding how TWRA raises stripers and stocks area reservoirs.

Mike is one of those people to whom every one of us owes a huge thank you. I've heard Mike talk about his work on several occasions. I always come away from his talks in awe at how much he knows about stripers. Listening to him, it's very clear that Mike truly enjoys his job and that he performs it to perfection.

The next time you see Mike or one of his colleagues from TWRA, take a minute to thank them for what they do for us. Without them we'd all have to be plain old bass fishermen! Somehow that just wouldn't be the same, because once you get hooked on stripers, there's no turning back.

Eric Rauch
TSBA President

STRIPER NOSTALGIA CORNER

POT HOLE SALVATION

Over a dozen members of the Tennessee Striped Bass Association spent Friday waist deep in muddy pot holes on the barren shores of Norris Lake. The not-so-glamorous undertaking was intended to rescue hundreds of trapped fish from certain death resulting from the drawdown of the reservoir.

A person traveling by boat on the lake might pass the potholes every winter for years, never knowing they were there. But they do exist, and they must number in the dozens on each TVA reservoir that suffers from a drastic winter drawdown. As the lakes recede, puddles of water remain along the shoreline. Those pools that are of good size - say, a hundred feet or so in diameter - can contain scores of trapped fish. Without intervention, all eventually suffer the same fate - death by suffocation, predation or drying out as the pond evaporates.

For years, fishermen in search of baitfish have learned to cast nets in the mud holes. A good hole can provide enough bait (usually shad) to last all day. One day last week, Tazewell fisherman and TSBA member Ezell Cox, was doing just that. In potholes located on the north side of Palmer Hollow, he discovered a number of crappie the dropping lake had left behind.

Soon, a rescue effort was launched. TSBA's Dr. Mel Donesky asked TWRA's Eagle Bend Hatchery folks to assist; the hatchery had seines long enough to make the effort worth trying, and a tank truck to transport fish from the potholes to the lake.

So, while the winds from an approaching cold front blew rain down their necks and the red clay sucked at their feet, the volunteers managed to pull the long seines through a half-dozen Palmer Hollow potholes. In all, "several thousand" fish were retrieved, put in the tank truck and hauled down to the lake where they were released. Hatchery Manager, Mike Smith, said the fish included not only adult and fingerling black and white crappie, but a good many largemouth and smallmouth bass of less than 3 pounds in size, some walleye, spotted bass, and one small striped bass.

What impact the project will have on the state of Norris' crappie fishing remains to be seen, but in these days of increased demand on the resource, every effort at conservation helps.

Paul H. Shaw, October 22, 1995

STRIPER NOSTALGIA CORNER CONTINUED

WATTS BAR STRIPERS

Not too many years ago, when a striped bass fisherman wanted a wall-hanger, all he had to do was head to Norris Lake. But, times and conditions change. Now, with the average size of Norris' striped bass running about 8-pounds, many of the "regulars," who've fished Norris for years, are heading for Watts Bar and Cherokee lakes for increased striper action.

But, the striper fishing on these lakes is anything but a recent phenomenon. In regards to Watts Bar, a Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency creel report for 1990 states that, "The 1990 catch of striped bass from Watts Bar was the highest catch of striped bass in any reservoir in the state."

It remains to be seen how the influx of otherwise-Norris fishermen will affect the total fishing pressure on Watts Bar, but it does give the hard-fished striper population on Norris a rest. And, since the release of information about PCB contamination in Watts Bar stripers a few years ago, few of the Watts Bar fish are likely to be kept. (The Tennessee Department of Environment advises no consumption of striped bass from the lake.)

If they survive, released fish will only get larger, living to be caught another day. So, if it's trophy stripers you're after, Watts Bar may be the place to be for the foreseeable future.

One of the Norris "regulars" who has made the switch to Watts Bar is Stanley Poynter. Stanley lives on the banks of Cove Creek, on Norris Lake, and works at a Mountain Lake Marina, which is also on Norris Lake. For years, Stanley has fished and guided others for Norris' striped bass. But nowadays, when it's trophy fish he's after, he'll be on Watts Bar.

Several days ago, Poynter tied into another Watts Bar striper of trophy proportions.

It was on one of those off 'n on rainy days we've had so many of , lately. Stanley, Alan Patty, and Floyd Hatmaker hit the lake at about lunch time and set about trying to net gizzard shad for bait. "The stripers have

been hitting better at mid-day," he said, "so there was no need to get out there real early. But we had trouble finding shad below Melton Hill Dam, so we headed for the main body of the lake. We pulled into a cove and just threw the cast net until we caught the shad we needed. By that time it was nearly 4:30 p.m."

Stanley's group had trouble finding schooling shad in the main channels, too, and were relegated to fishing some of his old-standby fishing holes, hooking a 10-inch shad in the nose and dropping it down to the 21-foot depth. The bottom was 22-feet deep, the top of a hump that was surrounded by water almost 30-feet deep. "We were pretty much fishing blind," Stanley said. "I usually find schools of shad in the channels at this time of year, but for some reason, the shad weren't there. So, we just fished the middle of the river channel."

Stanley's rigging is standard - a 5/0 bronze hook for large bait like gizzard shad, 1/0 or 2/0 for smaller bait like threadfin shad. "I like to make sure enough hook is sticking out enough to hook the striper; I match the hook size to the bait," he said.

The leader is attached to a large, 3-way swivel. When trolling, he'll use a drop sinker rig as is so common among walleye fishermen. By bouncing the sinker along the bottom, it reduces the number of hang-ups while keeping the bait near the bottom.

On this day, Stanley was using a large Silstar spinning reel, 25-pound test line, and a 7-foot Mitchell fiberglass/graphite composite rod. When the fish hit, he let it run a bit before setting the hook, making sure the large shad was turned head first in the striper's mouth. Alan Patty recalled the incident, "Stanley had the fish in the boat in about 15-minutes. I guess the fish was too big to put up much of a fight. Just after he got the fish in the boat it started raining, and we got soaked. I didn't catch a fish all day."

But Stanley did. It weighed 40-pounds. After some picture taking, he gave the fish to Alan.

Paul H. Shaw, July 4, 1995

More StriperBowl Pictures



QUESTION OF THE MONTH

HOW MANY MILES DO YOU TRAVEL FROM HOME TO GET BAIT (one way)?

Five fishermen reported that they did not or will not use live bait in the future.

We had 28 fishermen answer the question with the following responses.

The shortest distance traveled to get bait was 5 miles and the longest distance reported was 230 miles (WOW)!

We had 6 fishermen report that they traveled 10 miles or less to get bait and we had 8 fishermen report traveling 40 miles or more to their normal bait location.

The average distance traveled was 34.7 miles.

I recently talked to a gentleman from KY that had traveled to Melton Hill Lake to get bait. I wish I had asked this fisherman if he had a stationary bait tank at home to help reduce the number of trips to secure bait.

I have observed several different methods to store bait at home and reduce the number of trips to the river or lake. We all know that engineers and fishermen like to develop or redesign equipment to make improvements. When the fisherman is also an engineer his projects can be very elaborate.

If TSBA members, or guests, would take pictures of their "home tanks" and bring them to club meetings it should make for an interesting program in the future.

Jim Blazier

I would like to get suggestions from TSBA members for future questions. You can send suggestions for future questions to jblazier@comcast.net.

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.

**Speaker for June 16 Meeting
Allan Franklin
Fishing Below Dams & Tailrace
at Shoney's**

**Speaker for July 21 Meeting
Mike Smith, TWRA
at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery
Pizza & Drinks at 6:00 p.m.**

DIRECTIONS: From I-75 north of Knoxville, take Exit 122, TN 61, Norris-Clinton. Turn west (left if from I-75 North) onto TN 61 towards Clinton. Go about 3.8 miles and take the first left after crossing the large bridge over the Clinch River. This road is not well marked - watch for the TWRA Hatchery and Wildlife Observation Area signs. If you go through a stoplight after crossing the river, you have gone too far. Shortly after turning off of TN 61, you will arrive at the hatchery gate on the right.

Size Matters

Every striped fisherman using live bait realizes the importance of maintaining baitfish as healthy and lively as possible. The friskier your bait, the more likely it will be to attract the attention of a nice striped or hybrid. One of the most important items, if not the most important, is to provide the little guys swimming around in your tank with sufficient oxygen. While there are several different techniques to provide and maintain the required oxygen level, almost all of the veteran TSBA anglers that I know use a tank injecting air via the venturi effect. To accomplish this, you must provide a means where air is introduced into the high-velocity water stream produced by the pump. The pressure in the fast-moving water stream is lower than the pressure of the air surrounding the tank which forces the air into the stream of water. Also, this tends to break the injected air into littler bubbles than with other air-injection techniques like air stones or spray bars. Furthermore, the smaller bubbles are lighter and they rise to the surface more slowly so they remain in suspension for a longer period of time. This further enhances the amount of oxygen absorbed into the water in the bait tank. This technique is used on many of the commercially-available tanks on the market today. However, there appears not to be a consensus of opinion as to whether it's better to inject the air before or after the pump. While both techniques work, there are some key differences which may help you decide which way is best for you.

After – The first technique is to inject the air into the water stream after the pump. To the best of my knowledge, this is used by Grayline and Blue Water and probably others. The logic in providing the air after the pump is that this does not decrease the water flow as much as it does by injecting the air before the impeller. While, I haven't actually tested this, it does seem logical.

Before – The second method is to inject the air before the pump impeller. Again, to the best of my knowledge, this is used on the Super Bait Tank II and by the Keep Alive systems. The advantage of injecting the air upstream of the pump is that the rotating impeller tends to further pulverize the air into even smaller bubbles. This increases the total surface area of the air bubbles.

You might know that more but smaller bubbles are better but you think that it's no big deal. Let's imagine that you have 1,000 bubbles of a certain diameter in your tank at any one time. What would happen to the total surface area of these bubbles if their diameter was suddenly cut in half by some force like a rotating pump impeller? You would now have 8,000 bubbles and their total surface area would be twice as much as before. Furthermore, each of these much smaller bubbles would only be $1/8^{\text{th}}$ the weight of the bubbles with twice the diameter so they would stay in suspension much longer. I would estimate that these smaller bubbles would stay in suspension at least three times as long. Remember that you are trying to maximize the amount of oxygen absorbed into the water and not the amount of air injected into the water. There's a big difference. Therefore, it's the product of the total air-bubble surface area times how long they are in contact with the water that's the key to the amount of oxygen absorbed. There are other factors which are important but this truly is a "Big Deal." Another way to look at this is that, under this scenario, you would have to increase the volume of the larger bubbles by at least six times to equal the effectiveness of cutting the diameter of the air bubbles in half.

Again, both techniques will work. I personally prefer to inject the air before the pump using a conversion kit from Keep Alive. By carefully controlling the amount of air, I get thousands of the tiny bubbles, and I still have sufficient water flow to do a great job of filtering the water. A few of the tiny air bubbles in my tank actually completely encircle the 40-gallon tank before they disperse. It may be possible to further reduce the diameter of the bubbles on systems that inject the air after the pump, but I don't have any knowledge or experience with trying this. While I prefer to inject the air before the impeller for the reasons stated above, I know many veteran club anglers whose bait tanks inject the air after the pump, and they are satisfied with their systems.

Bob Leach

Minutes of the May Meeting

The meeting started with Eric thanking TWRA for allowing us to meet there and Janine and Jim for taking care of the food and drink for everyone. New visitors Jack Ogle and Melvin Cooke were introduced. Everyone congratulated Janine Johnson for winning the STRIPER BOWL and taking the trophy home. Thanks went to Erik Engebretsen for supplying the food and drink at the STRIPER BOWL. Allan Franklin gave details on KID'S FISHING DAY June 7 at 3:00 p.m. at Cherokee Dam. TSBA release form must be signed by parents.

Fishing Reports: Norris fishing is good from 33 Bridge upstream. There was no report on Cherokee. The fishing below Melton Hill in the boils is great. Water temperature is 65 degrees.

Door prizes and 50-50 drawing were next with the 50-50 winnings being donated to the Kid's Fishing Day prizes. A warning was issued to all about catalytic converters being cut off unattended vehicles at boat ramps. Mike Smith had his cut off while parked at a garage for repair. Madison Butler won the bid on the auction for a TSBA hat.

Mike Smith gave the history of the hatchery. The hatchery was built about 30 years ago to stock Striped Bass and Musky to control the large numbers of big bait fish. A total of over ten million fish have been stocked from the hatchery. The Eagle Bend Hatchery is having a free fishing day for kids under the age of 12 years from 8 a.m. till 1 p.m. on June 7. A tour of the hatchery was allowed before the meeting ended.

Ezell Cox
TSBA Secretary



Cumberland River
Fishing Trip in
early May with
Richard Miller
(first 37 pounder),
Sammy Robinette,
Steve Carriger,
and Ezell Cox
(Pictured are Richard
and Sammy)

The one that got away
was on 300 yards of
80 lb. Spiderwire with a
9 1/2 ft. heavy rod, the
pole was bent to the
last eye, and all of
these guys couldn't
stop the fish!



Richard Miller
Cumberland River

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Treasurer:

Janine Johnson

Secretary:

Ezell Cox

Assistant Treasurer:

Allan Franklin

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Janine Johnson, Chet Moore, Eric Rauch, John Seiber

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Ezell Cox 423-626-9547

Sponsor Coordinator: Doug Steffe 865-278-2363; 865-335-3815

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

Door Prizes: Billy Davis 865-300-0392

Tournament Coordinators: Erik Engebretsen, Allan Franklin
404-683-0181, 865-694-8888

Merchandising: John Seiber 865-945-3716

Planer Board Organizer

One thing that most of live-bait striper fisherman find hard to do is to keep all of their necessary gear somewhat organized so that they can readily find it when it's needed. One item I've found that helps keep my boat less cluttered is a "Planer Board Holder" from Cabela's. It neatly holds four standard, Off-Shore (10-7/8" x 3-5/8") planer boards as shown below. You attach the holder to any vertical (or near vertical) surface in your boat with three screws. I keep two right and two left planer boards in mine. The Cabela's model number is IJ-017317 and it sells for around \$15. Everyone who has seen my boat asks me where I got it.

Bob Leach



2008 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 16	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
July 21	Monthly Meeting, Pizza & Drinks 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery
August 18	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
September 6	TSBA Fish Fry - Anderson County Park-Norris Lake
October 20	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM - Nominations for Directors and Officers
November 17	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM - Election of Directors and Officers
December 15	Board of Directors Meeting - Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7PM

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: "bait" Password: "fish"

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T.S.B.A. 2008 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

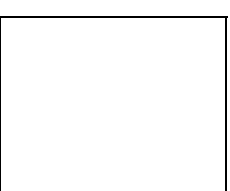
Knoxville TN 37933

Note: All members must sign and submit this membership application with the 2008 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**



**Speaker for July 21 Meeting
Mike Smith, TWRA
at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery
Pizza & Drinks at 6:00 p.m.**