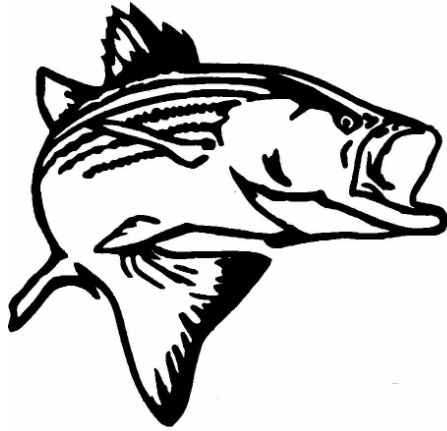


**Catch
The
Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



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

**February
2009**

Save the Date

**Saturday, April 25 - StriperBowl
Location TBD**

**Saturday, June 13 - Kids Fishing Day
Grainger County Park Pavilion on Cherokee
Lake**

**Sunday, September 20 - Fish Fry
Grainger County Park Pavilion on Cherokee
Lake**

President's Letter

First I would like to thank everyone that attended the meeting in January to support the continuation of Striped Bass stocking in Cherokee. We had over 40 members attend, which is the largest turn out I can remember in some time. There are a couple of schools of thought concerning stocking Stripers in Cherokee. The majority of the public wants to see the stocking continue, and as a club we are behind the continuation of this process. I do know that we made an impression on the TWRA biologists, and they said the message was heard. However, I do not want to just leave it at that. I am asking for your help. The Officers and I will continue the behind-the-scenes work with TWRA. I ask that, if you are interested in continuing the stocking of Stripers in Cherokee, please let TWRA know. Please let your friends know as well to contact TWRA via E-mail through their website or write a letter to the Morristown office attention Doug Peterson. The more attention we can bring to this matter, the better chance we have of achieving our desired result.

I am excited about the activities and speakers we have planned for the upcoming year. Currently, we are planning a couple of things to help the community (a lake clean up day and a fishing day to take kids fishing from some local churches). We also recognized that several members are looking for ways to meet and fish with more people from the club. Beginning in April, we will have open fishing days scheduled to accommodate this need. We have speakers lined up to cover topics from fishing rivers and lakes, umbrella rigs to taxidermy. We talked about the importance of using the website. The Board of Directors has committed to leaving more fishing reports this year, and we ask that you do the same. You don't have to give away your secret spot, just info on water temp, what bait, what depth, etc.

Lastly, I would like to mention a couple of matters that have been brought to my attention and could have a negative impact on our fishery if the laws are not followed. Fishing with umbrella rigs has become quite popular over the last year. I do want to remind everyone that in Tennessee we are only allowed to use one hook per umbrella rig. Also, remember that a minimum size limit of 36 inches and a one fish limit are in effect from November until April 1 on Norris, Watts Bar, and Boone. I have seen pictures of fish harvested that do not meet these criteria. Please report any and all illegal activity to TWRA.

Tight Lines and see you on the water.

Erik Engebretsen
TSBA President

**Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
Region IV - Contact Information**

Fisheries - Reservoirs/Hatcheries - Doug Peterson 423-522-2450

General Information - Toll Free: 800-332-0900

General Information 423-587-7037

FAX 423-587-7057

Poaching Hotline 800-831-1174

TWRA Region IV Website Contact Information

<http://www.twrregion4.org/TWRAContact/TWRAContactMain.htm>

Minutes of the January Meeting

The Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc. met at the Clinton Shoney's at 7:00 pm on January 19, 2009. There were approximately 50 people in attendance. The main topic of the meeting was the recent change in the TWRA policy for the stocking of Cherokee Lake.

Jim Negus of TWRA presented the program. Doug Peterson, Bob Nichols, Mark Thurman, and Mike Smith accompanied him. They all participated in the discussion following the presentation.

TWRA decided in 2008 to quit stocking striped bass in Cherokee Lake and stock only hybrids (the cross between a striped bass and a white bass). They stated that this decision was based upon the decreasing survival rates of striped bass (there have been major kill-offs in several of the past summers) and the ability of hybrids to survive and thrive in the same water conditions.

The exact cause of the decline in the striper survival rate is unknown but was attributed to several factors including: the decline in water quality (primarily dissolved oxygen content) due in part to upstream population growth and agricultural runoff, changes by TVA in the spring fill and fall draw down schedules for the lake, reduction by TVA in the amount of oxygen added to the water near the dam during the peak of the summer, and also a reduction by TVA of the area over which that oxygen is distributed.

The program presented data on the past stocking practices and the associated catch rates. I have extracted the following two tables of data. I think they summarize the heart of the presentation.

STOCKING HISTORY

	<u>STRIPERS</u>	<u>HYBRIDS</u>	
SINCE 1964	3,305,500	1,013,000 *	(total fish stocked)
2000-2008	887,400	656,400	(total fish stocked over period)
#/acre/year since 2000	3.3	2.4	(average from 2000 to 2009)

* There were no hybrids stocked between 1982 and 1999.

From the stocking data, it can be seen that in the past TWRA has stocked more stripers than hybrids.

(Continued on next page)

2000-2006 CREEL SURVEY DATA

TOTAL CAUGHT

	<u>STRIPED BASS</u>	<u>HYBRIDS</u>
2000	69586	169*
2002	22613	3503
2004	25533	43727
2006	5875	41076

* Hybrid stocking was restarted in 2000 after a 17-year break.

From the creel survey data, it can be seen that the catch rate for stripers has steadily declined and the catch rate for hybrids has steadily increased.

Based on these data TWRA has concluded that the ability of Cherokee to support a viable population of stripers has declined to the point it is no longer appropriate to continue stocking stripers, and in the future Cherokee will be managed as a hybrid only lake.

There was a lively discussion, following the presentation, of the possibility of continuing to stock some reasonable number of stripers in Cherokee so there would still be the chance for some fish (hopefully over 20#) to be caught. It was also discussed that some people have moved to Cherokee because of the chance to catch a decent striper and also that, if the striper population on Cherokee was allowed to drop to essentially nothing, it would result in increased fishing pressure on Norris from both in-state and out-of-state fishermen.

A question was asked from the floor for a show of hands for those who supported Cherokee becoming a hybrid only lake. There was no support from the crowd in attendance. There were also several members who live in the Cherokee area who were not there who had asked that their opposition to the plan be expressed.

The group from TWRA expressed their appreciation for our input and concerns.

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

Other business:

It was reminded that umbrella rigs are only allowed to have one bait with a hook and that the hook can only have one point.

The date for the StriperBowl was set as Saturday, April 25 at a location to be decided at the February meeting.

The date for the Kids Day was set as Saturday, June 13 on Cherokee at the Grainger County Park Pavilion.

The date for the Fish Fry was set as Sunday, Sept.20 at the Grainger County Park Pavilion.

Dick Vornehm, TSBA Secretary

Dennis Bryant
December, 2008



Super 8 Motel / Morristown Tennessee



Super 8 Motel in Morristown, TN is located on East Andrew Johnson Highway, only 1/8th mile from after exiting at Exit 2B. It is only a few miles from the Oak Grove Ramp on Cherokee Reservoir, which many of our members frequently use. Amenities at the **Super 8 Motel** include an outdoor swimming pool, free local telephone calls, high speed internet, HBO and free continental breakfast.

If you are fishing in the Cherokee Reservoir area and are looking for a fisherman-friendly motel, stay with our friends at the **Super 8 Motel**. Reservations can be made by calling: 423 586-8880 or toll free: 866 802-6324. A link to specific information on the motel follows:

<http://www.super8morristown.com>

Fishing Hot Spots



Cherokee Lake

The downstream end of the lake will have good fishing from Point 19 to the dam. Look for surface breaks and feeding gulls. Large schools at times can be found in very shallow water. Live bait is easy to catch in most of the warm coves. The Fort Patrick Henry steam plant will be good all month.

Norris Lake

The Hickory Star area and upstream will be good. The sunny side of the shallow banks will catch some top water fish in the afternoon. Spring Dock near Point 11 and upstream on the Powell River side will be good. Look for the warm water that attracts bait fish. Pull a planer board close to the bank.

Watts Bar Lake/Melton Hill Lake

The steam plant at Kingston is cleaning up from an ash spill and the area is closed for four miles. The steam plant at Melton Hill will have the most predictable catches. The contrast in water temperature will dictate how good the fishing is.

Fishing Regulations

New fishing licenses are required to fish starting March 1. It is each fisherman's responsibility to know the rules and stay legal. Changes are normal in the management of our fishing each year, and those changes become effective on March 1. Each river or lake may have exceptions you need to be aware of before exposing yourself to a fine. Go on line to Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency at www.tnwildlife.org or pick up a 2009 Fishing Regulations book at sporting stores or TWRA offices.

March Expectations

New fishing licenses are required to fish in March. March is a transition month for the prespawn stripers. Early month, the stripers roam the deep open water in large schools feeding on small bait. The winter pattern in the early month cold water of about 45 degrees F. may change to upper 50 degrees F. by month end in the shallow sun-warmed longer days. Migration into the shallow incoming rivers and major feeder creeks will develop around the large concentrations of bait fish. The gulls are still worth watching; also look for herons feeding on the sun-warmed shallow flats. Much larger baits start to work well pulled behind planer boards along the bank. Most fish will be caught in the top 20 feet, and the surface action can be good. The steam plants will continue to attract stripers.

On Norris Lake, the creel and size limits change from 1 fish with a 36- inch minimum size limit to 2 fish at 15-inch size limit starting April 1.

February 16th Meeting
Tim Adrian from Johnson City
Monster Stripers

March 16th Meeting
Ken Cutsinger, TWRA
Taxidermy

at Shoney's, Hwy. 61 - Norris/Clinton Exit

Gizzard Shad

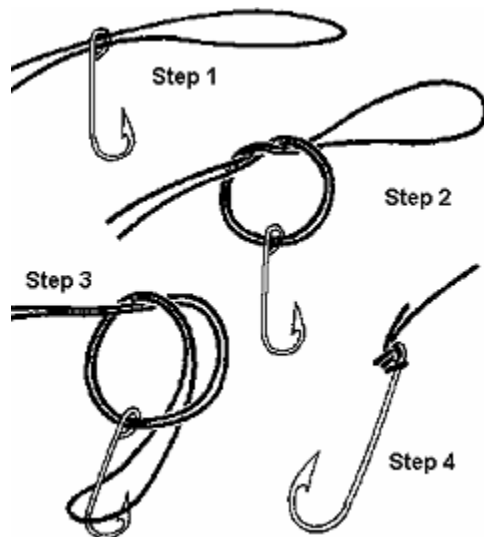
The gizzard shad is unquestionably the most important bait fish for striped bass fishermen in East Tennessee. Almost always, striper fishermen will have a gizzard shad hooked through its upper lip; or they will be using some kind of artificial bait designed to mimic a shad. If you ask veteran striper angler Ezell Cox, he'll quickly tell you that there are two kinds of fish – rockfish and bait fish. Furthermore, if you'll look in his bait tank, it'll probably be full of freshly-caught, lively gizzard shad. The reason for their importance is that they are the preferred food of the striped bass. This has been well studied and documented. Therefore, I thought that it would be interesting to determine some of the more relevant facts concerning our favorite bait fish.

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 reservoir or lake and actually become a major problem due to their sheer numbers. One article that I read indicated that "It is not uncommon for the gizzard shad to comprise 60 to 80 percent of the total fish weight in the lake." If you think about it, that would be astounding and a disaster for all of the species of fish in the lake including the gizzard shad itself. The reason is that the gizzard shad is a better survivor than most other species. After they spawn in the spring and summer, their primary food is microscopic animals called zooplankton and protozoa. They filter huge quantities of highly fertile water through their closely set gill rakers. Then, they quickly supplement their diet with algae and tiny insects. This omnivorous feeding behavior gives the shad an advantage over other fish species, and they have an easier time finding food. Their primary feeding technique is to swim around in large schools filtering whatever is in the water that is edible.

The gizzard shad is also a very prolific spawner as a single, adult female can produce over 300,000 eggs. When you combine this with their superior feeding habits, it's easy to understand why they can dominate certain bodies of water. Actually, when their numbers get too high, it's not a healthy situation for the shad themselves or the other species in the lake which prey on them.

Gizzard shad are truly the “Rabbits of the Lake,” and many species depend upon them for their survival. One major problem with shad is that they are sensitive to water quality and temperature changes. Huge die-offs can occur if the water gets too cold for an extended period of time, and this problem is even greater if the shad have overpopulated the lake. This results in wide swings in the shad population which can wreak havoc on all of the species of fish who depend upon them. Left unchecked, they can quickly become too physically large for most game fish to eat. Introducing striped bass into such a lake can provide a means by which these larger shad can be controlled. This helps to maintain a healthier balance between the prey and predatory fish in the lake. The shad numbers are controlled better and there are fewer wide swings in their population which benefits all of the game fish. Therefore, when striped bass are introduced into certain bodies of water where they find the overall conditions favorable for their survival and their numbers are carefully controlled, it will have a positive effect on the entire fishery. It’s a win-win situation.

Bob Leach



Palomar Knot

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

WHAT DID YOUR LARGEST 2008 STRIPER WEIGH AND IN WHAT MONTH DID YOU CATCH IT?

The largest reported Striper caught in 2008 was 50+ pounds and was caught in October. It's a shame Ezell did not have a larger scale with him. But it's great that the monster is probably still swimming today and someone else might get to catch it in the future.

If you are like me and want to increase your odds of catching a "Trophy Class Striper," you need to concentrate on the months of July, August, and September. We had reports of big fish caught in every month except April and June, but only a few were caught in months other than July-September.

Reporting their best of 2008:

Eight (8) club members reported an average size of 25 pounds in July.

Three (3) members reported an average size of 30 pounds in August.

However, September was the best month to find the biggest Stripers. Seven (7) members reported an average size of 42 pounds. So, if your favorite football team is not playing very well, spending more time on the water might help you forget about the lack of touchdowns.

In 2007 the best month to catch a "Trophy" was August. Nine (9) members reported their largest catch for the year was in August. The July-September time frame seems consistent for both years.

The following is a quote from Ezell that was posted on our Fishing Reports:

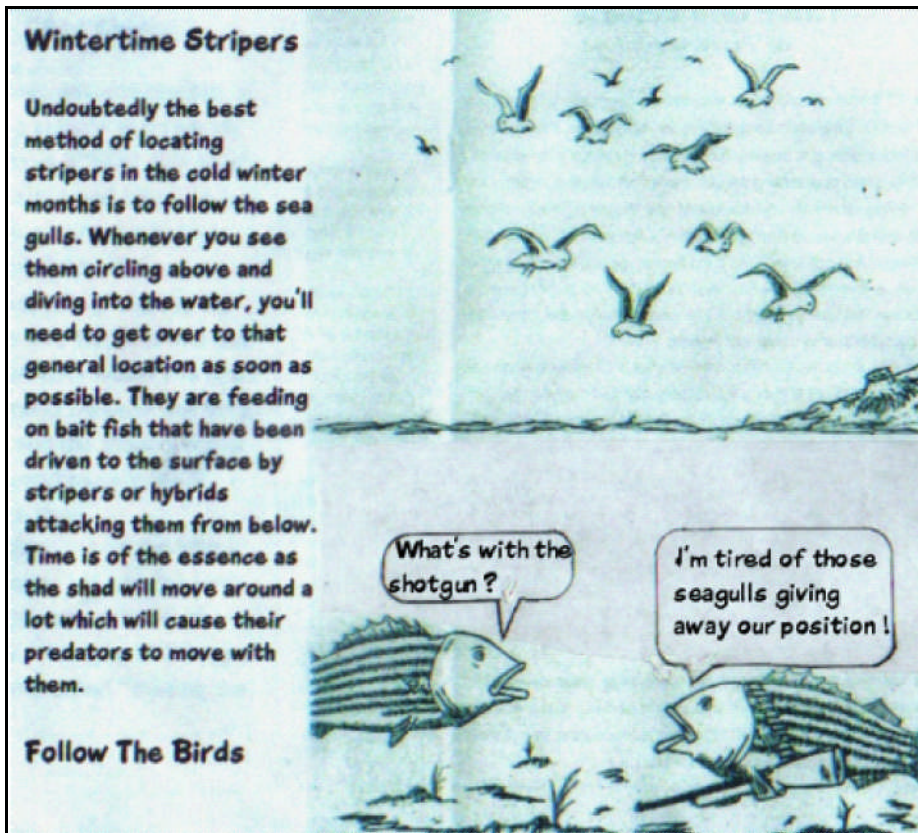
"My largest ever came August 17, 2002 from Norris near point # 5. I actually tried to release it only knowing it weighed more than 50 pounds. Allan Franklin caught a large fish that day also. In my striper history I have caught a number of large fish in the same place the same day."

In summary, it pays to go fishing in the July-September time frame, and keep a diary to help you decide the best location. Or you could look at the old "Fishing Reports" for clues about location and time.

Jim Blazier

Fishing After Christmas to End of 2008





Cartoon by Wayne Anders

The TSBA web site offers up-to-date fishin' reports to all TSBA members. Visit the web at: [www.](http://www.TNStripedBass.com)

TNStripedBass.com

The current password is:

Username: "bait" Password: "fish"

The password will be changed on April 1.

You will find the new password in your March newsletter. March newsletters will be sent only to members who have renewed their memberships for 2009.

YOUR 2009 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND STAFF

President:

Erik Engebretsen 404-683-0181

Vice President:

Jim Blazier 865-694-8014
jblazier@comcast.net

Treasurer:

Doug Steffe
865-278-2363, 865-335-3815

Secretary:

Dick Vornehm
865-938-1883

Asst. Treasurer:

Allan Franklin
865-805-3120

TSBA DIRECTORS

Bill Ballou, John Butler, Erik Engebretsen, Janine Johnson,
Kyle Rutherford, John Seiber, Keith Shannon

TSBA STAFF

Newsletter Editor: Janine Johnson Janine@tennstripedbass.com

Newsletter Printing: John Seiber 865-945-3716

Newsletter Distribution: Jim Blazier & Dick Vornehm

Membership: Doug Steffe 865-278-2363, 865-335-3815

Web Site: John Seiber 865-945-3716
JSeiber@tennstripedbass.com

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

Sponsor Coordinator: John Butler 865-207-7627

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

Tournament Coordinator: Allan Franklin 865-694-8888

Fish Hatchery Meetings (Pizza): Allan Franklin 865-694-8888

Door Prizes: Bob Leach 865-471-1365

Open Fishing Day Coordinators: John Butler & Dwayne Clark
865-207-7627, 865-964-9295

Fishing Trip Raffle: Jim Blazier 865-694-8014

2009 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.

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| February 16 | Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM |
| March 16 | Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM |
| April 20 | Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM |
| April 25 | StriperBowl |
| May | Norris Lake Advisory Committee Meeting |
| May 18 | Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery |
| June 13 | Kids' Fishing Day - Grainger County Park-Cherokee |
| June 15 | Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM |
| July 20 | Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery |
| August 17 | Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM |
| September 20 | TSBA Fish Fry - Grainger County Park-Cherokee |
| October 19 | Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
- Nominations for Directors and Officers |
| November 16 | Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
- Election of Directors and Officers |
| December 21 | Board of Directors Meeting
- Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7PM |

Membership Dues are due by January 31, 2009.

Bo's Birthday December, 2008 - Delynn Boshears



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Ph: 423-586-8880, Fax: 423-585-0654
Toll Free : 1-866-802-6324

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

T.S.B.A. 2009 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)

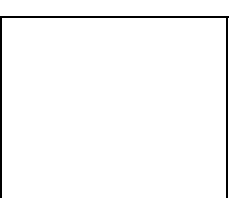
Enclose a check for \$20.00
Mail to: Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc
P. O. Box 163
Sharps Chapel, TN 37866

Note: All members must sign and submit this membership application with the 2009 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 TW/RA & 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 163
Sharps Chapel, TN 37866**



The deadline is January 31, 2009 for membership renewal. Your expiration date is on your mailing label. Otherwise, this will be your last newsletter. TSBA has a new mailing address above.