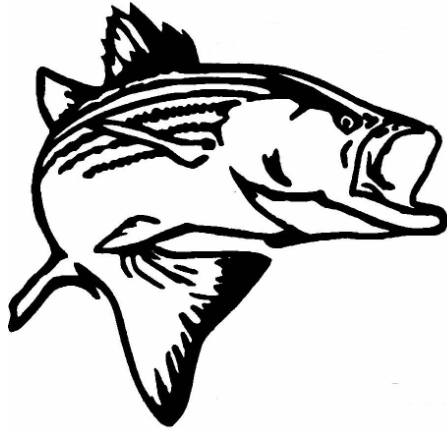


**Catch  
The  
Striper  
Fever!**

# T.S.B.A.



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

**March  
2009**

**Norris Dam - 2003**



# President's Letter

Once again, we had a fantastic turnout for our last meeting. At each of our last three meetings, we have had around 40 people in attendance. I appreciate the support you are giving to our speakers. We are fast approaching the season when most of the big stripers will be caught. This is the time of year to catch some monsters that are fattening up in preparation for the spawn. I am reminded of the slogan our last speaker said, "Let 'em grow, let 'em go." I am not saying we need to release everything we catch but am asking you to release the fish over 30 lbs. I read somewhere that fish have a 100% mortality rate if they are not let go. I know that is obvious, but I am trying to make a point. It takes upwards of 15 years to grow trophy stripers, and our East Tennessee waters have all the right ingredients to grow the next state record if we allow them to grow to their full potential. So next time you catch a Monster, think about a photo or replica mount instead of removing that fish permanently.

At our next meeting, we will be discussing a way to give back to our community. We are trying to partner with the Big Brother and Big Sister club. Our goal is to try and bring some happiness and fun to lives of some of the children who might never get to experience the thrill of taking a boat ride on a lake, or who might not ever get to feel the exhilaration of a screaming drag being pulled on by a powerful striped fish. We are going to be asking for volunteers to help us take these kids fishing for a half day on Cherokee Lake. If you can't attend the meeting and want to donate your time to a great cause, please contact me directly for more details.

Lastly, I have heard from many of our members that we need to do a better job of setting up open fishing days to allow for each of us to meet fellow members. Starting in April, we will be scheduling these events more frequently. We will also try to schedule some of these during the week to accommodate those of us who work on the weekends. It will be a great way to share and learn different tactics to help us all become better fishermen and make some new friends.

Tight Lines and see you on the water.

Erik Engebretsen  
TSBA President

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## Minutes of the February Meeting

The Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc. met at the Clinton Shoney's ( I-75 exit 122) at 7:00 pm on February 16, 2009. There were the usual eating and high-level discussions from around 6:00 to 7:00. There were approximately 54 people in attendance; it's hard to count when they just won't sit still. There were several people who had come from out of state for the meeting including 2 from Georgia, 3 from Ohio and 1 from Indiana.

The speaker for the program was Tim Adrian. Tim has just put out his second DVD on catching big stripers. His first, "Monster Stripers, Volume One," was the subject of a club meeting last year. That DVD was mostly video footage of catching really big fish. His current release, "Monster Stripers, Volume Two," has a lot of great fishing footage but focuses more on the "how to" catch big fish. He can be contacted and the DVDs both ordered at [www.monsterstripes.com](http://www.monsterstripes.com).

I can't begin to discuss all that was in the DVD here, but he covers topics like:

- Best water temperature (50 to 74 degrees F)
- Dissolved oxygen content (5 ppm or higher)
- Bait selection, "if it looks too big, it's just right"
- Hook size
- Line and leader selection
- Presentation techniques
- Changing methods by the season
- Suggestions on finding bait in cold weather
- Fishing trash lines and mud lines
- Areas in a lake that may be productive based upon the season, and a whole bunch more.

There were two web sites that Tim recommended:

[www.TNfish.org](http://www.TNfish.org) This is the TWRA Region 4 web site. It is well done and contains a lot of information on the Region 4 lakes.

[www.seeinstripes.com](http://www.seeinstripes.com) This is a Georgia based web site that is loaded with good stuff. If you haven't tried it, you should.

Other items from the meeting:

The StriperBowl will be held on April 25 at Grainger County Park on Cherokee Lake.

The web sites of two Georgia guides (both good folks) were given. They are:

<http://www.bigfishonguide.com/>

<http://www.captmacks.com/>

Dick Vornehm,  
TSBA Secretary

**March 16th Speaker**  
**Ken Cutsinger, TWRA**  
**Taxidermy**

**April 20th Speaker**  
**Wes Adams**

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

## QUESTION OF THE MONTH

WHAT ARE YOUR TWO FAVORITE FISHING REELS?

PLEASE GIVE THE BRAND AND MODEL

This question is a repeat of the one that was used in October 2007. In 2007 we only had 19 responses to the question, and I think this question is worthy of having a larger sampling. This time we had a total of 37 responses from the website and from the meeting.

In 2007, 12 of the 19 fishermen stated that their first choice is the Abu Garcia (Ambassadeur) reel with most using the 6500 model. In 2009, 26 of the 37 fishermen stated that they used the Abu Garcia reels with 22 using the 6500 model, 2 using the 6600, and 2 using the 7000 model. The other 2009 first choices are listed below.

- 3-Shimano Baitcaster
- 1-Shimano Baitrunner
- 1-Shimano Corvalus CVL 4001
- 2-Shakespeare Spinning
- 1-Okuma EB651
- 1-Penn Mag 10
- 1-Quantum Cabo PT 31
- 1-Quantum Spinning

We did not have as many fishermen give a second choice in reels, with several stating that the Abu Garcia 6500 was their FIRST AND SECOND choice, so I will list only the second choices if they were something other than Abu Garcia 6500 reels.

- 1-Abu Garcia 5000
- 1-Abu Garcia 7000
- 1-BassPro Trophy
- 1-Cabela Spinning
- 1-Mitchell 300
- 1-Penn 310
- 1-Penn 320
- 1-Penn Spinning
- 2-Quantum Baitcaster
- 1-Shimano Baitrunner 4500
- 1-Shimano CVL 300
- 1-Shimano Curado 301
- 2-Shimano Spinning

It's very obvious that the reel of choice for our club members is an Abu Garcia, and this would probably be a good choice for a new striper fisherman. If you are like me and like doing a little research before spending your money on new equipment, I would suggest going to Bass Pro or Cabelas on line or in person and compare the merits of the reels listed above. You might find one that you like better than the Abu Garcia or one that better fits your style of fishing.

Jim Blazier  
TSBA Vice President

## Fishing Hot Spots



### Cherokee Lake

The stripers often feed on the surface in April. The gulls will still indicate where to cast. Stripers are scattered all over the lake. John Sevier Steam Plant will attract many prespawn fish. Point 17 upstream to Point 21 always holds a lot of baitfish and stripers. Mossy Creek at Point 1 is always good with the alewife spawn. Night fishing with the alewife spawn in progress is at a premium.

### Norris Lake

The Loyston/Lost Creek area at Point 19 and near Hickory Star Marina is excellent upstream to Point 28 at Straight Creek Marina. Pull the baitfish over the shallow humps and near the bank with your planer boards. The stripers will run into all of the major creeks including Cove Creek, Big Creek, and Cedar Creek - Davis and Sycamore also.

### Watts Bar Lake/Melton Hill Lake

The best action will still be at the steam plants, but migration will continue upstream to the tailraces. Kingston Steam Plant is running. The only ramp that is closed is the one at the warm water discharge. There are barges and equipment in the discharge area, but you can fish there. You cannot go up the Emory River. There are plans to dredge the lower Emory very soon to where it confluences with the Clinch. There are lots of fish in the area, but like everywhere else the water temperature is too cold and has sick and dying shad that are easy picking for the fish and gulls. The water temperature went from 42 to 46 in one week in mid-February.



## April Expectations

Caution is needed more in the spring as the reservoirs and rivers are on the rise. That causes a lot of floating debris that can damage, injure, or worse. The new fishing license and 2009 regulations are in effect. Top water action in shallow water can be wonderful. Water temperature will rise above 50 degrees F. and above 60 degrees F. in some of the shallow, sun-warmed coves. The baitfish begin to spawn this month. The striper's movement and activity will be related to pre-spawn and warming water temperatures. Migration upstream to the rivers and major feeder creek currents will also keep the attention of the striper. The pre-spawn bellies will stay big through April in the natural rivers. As the 70 degree F. water temperature is reached, the spawn will take place, and the big stripers will slowly start back downstream. The tailrace below the dams will develop and only get better through the spring and summer. Large live and artificial baits presented on top will create some very large explosions. Records and trophies are caught this month. On Norris, Watts Bar, and Boone, the creel and size limits change to 2 fish at 15 inches starting April 1.



Robie &  
Russ Hill

## Fishing Reports on TSBA Web Site [www. tnstripedbass.com](http://www.tnstripedbass.com)

One of the many tools of fishing is communication with our fellow fishermen. This sometimes is not easy or convenient for us due to our busy schedules or even to know who the best person is with whom to discuss an issue. The TSBA web site has a wonderful way of learning and sharing stuff by using the Fishing Reports.

This Forum is accessed by going to our Club web site (web address above) and selecting **Fishing Reports** from the top line below the Club header. This will open a new window requesting a user name & password, which can be found in this newsletter (**new words for April**). If you check “remember my password” and use the same computer, these words will be filled in for you each visit. Once in the TSBA member’s only page, you may view topics under either the **Reports/Striper Stuff** or **TSBA Trading Post** by selecting these blue text links.

For asking questions or posting replies, a member must be registered and logged in. This is easy to do and if done once, you are automatically logged in each visit. Select **Register** in the 1<sup>st</sup> line below the top of page header. This will lead you through a few pages of info and fill-ins. The Registration fields are the most important. A Username can be real name or a fishing nickname. The password and username should be recorded for future reference. The important Profile Info’s are Location (your home city), Occupation and Interests for a little background. Now that your data is entered, select submit and you are ready to select log in, 2<sup>nd</sup> line below header. Enter Username & Password from the previous registration, check automatic login and select Log in.

Now you will be able to click on “**new topic**” or “**post reply**” to enter questions or answers. After the post text is entered, click on **Preview** for review or **Submit** for posting. Your posts don’t have to be perfect in grammar or spelling; if close, the message will be understood. It may look like a lot of steps, but after the 1<sup>st</sup> time it’s really not that complicated. The knowledge gained and shared is worth the effort! If you have problems, feel free to call one of the club officers, and they will try to help you.

## Posting Pictures in the Fishing Reports

Several of the Club members have asked how to add pictures to their posts. A picture can easily add an explanation or description that would be hard put into words. The steps are fairly simple, but you will need to know how to put your digital pictures on your computer per the camera software, and where they are located in your File system.

Step 1, is to become a member of a web picture hosting site. There are several and I use [www.photobucket.com](http://www.photobucket.com). As a member you can follow their simple steps for uploading your desired posting pictures, from your computer. This site is also a great place for sending picture in your emails, without the full file size of the pics. Once pictures are uploaded in PhotoBucket, leave this window open.

Step 2, Open the club web site, select Fishing Report and make sure you are logged in. Start a post reply or new topic. Enter your text as in a regular post and when ready for a picture go to the Photobucket window. Locate the desired picture, and move your cursor over that picture. Several items will pop up below that picture, move the cursor to the right of the bottom **IMG Code**, and click on this address. The text will highlight, without moving the cursor, right click and select copy. An example of a picture link;

[IMG][http://i431.photobucket.com/albums/qq36/dsteffe/IMG\\_2603.jpg](http://i431.photobucket.com/albums/qq36/dsteffe/IMG_2603.jpg)[/IMG]

You are now ready to insert the picture link in your post. Going back to the window with your post, left click the message window where you want the pic, right click and select paste. The picture link is now in your post. Additional text or pictures may be added and this full link can be moved the same as text.

To check your post picture, select Preview below the message and the picture will be viewable. If you are finished with the post, select Submit and the post will be entered into the Forum. Again this becomes much simpler after doing it once or twice. Give us a call if you have a problem.... Happy Posting!

Doug Steffe  
TSBA Treasurer

## Cumberland River

Most veteran East Tennessee striper anglers agree that the Cumberland River downstream from Cordell Hull Dam near Carthage, TN is the best place to catch a trophy striped bass, and it may well yield the next state record. Furthermore, one of the best times to fish these trophy waters is late April through May. That's when the stripers run upstream to spawn. Over the past few years, this area has become increasingly popular for many TSBA members, and you will probably see a friendly face there throughout this time period. If you have never been there before and you want to try for a real striped bass trophy, the best way to get there is to drive west from Knoxville on I-40. Get off at exit 258 and go north on Highway 53. Cross the Cumberland River and go into the town of Carthage. You'll quickly come to a stop light with a McDonalds and the Budget Motel on the left. To get to the motel, go through the intersection and turn left into the motel. To get to the boat ramp below Cordell Hull Dam, turn right at the stop light and then turn left almost immediately onto Main Street which will turn into Highway 263. Follow this road a couple miles to the turnoff on the right for the boat ramp. To get information on the motel, call the number listed below. To get information on the campground or to make reservations, you can call the phone number listed below or go to [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) and get to the Defeated Creek Campground. From this website, you can download a map showing the location of the campground.

Budget Motel      Defeated Creek Campground      1-877-444-6777

The motel has a fairly large parking area and you can back your boat trailer right up to your room. This allows you to run an extension cord from your room to your boat to keep everything charged over night. This is far from a fancy motel, but it does have everything you need at a reasonable rate and is very conveniently located. The rooms will fill up quickly during prime fishing time so don't delay in making your reservation once you decide to make the trip.

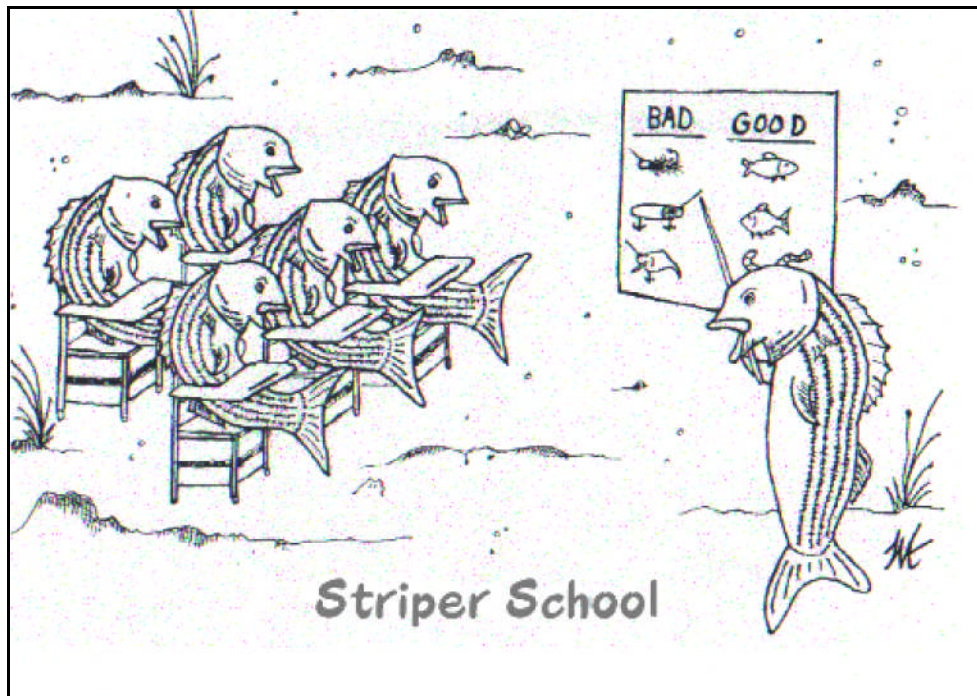
There are primarily two ways to fish for stripers in the river below Cordell Hull Dam. The first is to fish the boils whenever they are generating just as you would fish below Melton Hill or Fort Loudoun Dams. Power your boat up towards the boiling water being discharged and throw your live shad or skipjack into the boils. Put your main motor into neutral and drift downstream. Don't turn your main motor off. Use a heavy weight as you really need to get your bait down quickly. You want to drift along with your bait just off the bottom without getting too many snags. However, if you don't get an occasional snag, then you are probably not fishing deep enough. Drift downstream for a couple hundred yards and then repeat the process. Always stay far enough away from the boils so that your boat would drift downstream if you should happen to lose power from your big motor. If you have never fished this way before, then you definitely need to go with someone experienced in this type of fishing as it can be dangerous. You need to use your head and follow a few simple rules. Also, it is a state law that you must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket whenever you are near the

dam. There will be signs posted telling you at what point you must wear your life jacket if you are going upstream from that point. Don't be stupid – wear your life jacket in this area and don't get too close to the water boiling out of the turbines. Finally, if they are discharging water over the spillways, then get out of the area completely and go fish somewhere else. It's too dangerous to fish anywhere near the water coming over the spillway(s).

The second way to fish here is to troll downstream using your trolling motor and planer boards. It's best to have one of your boards as close to the shore as possible as that's where the bigger stripers seem to hang out. You can troll for many miles downstream and even up into the Caney Fork River which meets the Cumberland several miles downstream from the dam. This can be tricky as there are many fallen trees projecting out into the water which must be avoided. You'll have to be very attentive to your planer boards. Also, you can get a little discouraged as you might not get a hit for hours. However, whenever one of your lines does go down, you will probably have a nice fish on the other end.

You can fish either of these techniques with gizzard shad or skipjack. You'll want to upsize your bait here as you're fishing for trophy stripers who prefer big baits. It is generally fairly easy to net gizzard shad up close to the dam to the right of the discharge area in front of the spillways. Of course, you won't go there if they are spilling water over the spillways. You'll want a cast net with at least 5/8" netting as the net must sink quickly and you're only after big shad. Most folks trolling downstream prefer to use skipjack herring. They are bigger than gizzard shad and they are much livelier. However, they are so wild that they require special treatment to keep them alive. It's imperative that you use oxygen in addition to your normal aeration system and that you calm the skipjack down with Tranquil. Otherwise, they will probably be dead in less than 30 minutes. They are like totally wild animals in a cage, and they will go into shock and die unless you calm them down. Read the label on the Tranquil bottle as you can kill your bait if you use too much. Also, don't forget to add salt to your tank. Most guys add 1/2 to 1 cup of Morton's water-softener pellets per ten gallons of water. This salt comes in a 40 pound yellow bag. To catch the skipjack, take along a light spinning outfit rigged with a small lure or use a Sabiki rig. These are commercially available at Bass Pro or Cabelas. They have six small flies on one rig and they are deadly on skipjack. The hook size must not be larger than 8, not 8/0, or some overly enthusiastic game warden may want to classify it as an umbrella rig. Add a 3/4 oz. bell sinker to the end of the Sabiki rig, and cast it into the water in the dam area. Allow it to sink a little and reel it in. It's not uncommon to get multiple fish on one cast. Again, don't put too many skipjack in your tank as you will kill them. I never put over 10 skipjack in my 40 gallon tank. However, everyone new at this sport will have to learn this for themselves the hard way. Actually, catching skipjack is a sport all by itself as they are extremely hard-fighting fish. Pound for pound, they fight as hard as any fish that I've ever caught. Catching skipjack on light tackle is a blast.

Bob Leach



Cartoon by Wayne Anders

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"

---

**The password will be changed on April 1.**

New password will be:

Username: \*\*\*\*\* Password: \*\*\*\*\*

## **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

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Kyle Rutherford, John Seiber, Keith Shannon

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**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.

March 16	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
April 20	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
April 25	StriperBowl - Grainger County Park-Cherokee
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





Robie & Russ Hill

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## 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](http://www.TNStripedBass.com) or at the offices of the corporation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

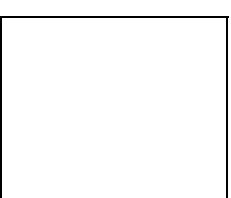
**Enclose a check for \$20.00**  
**Mail to: Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc**  
**P. O. Box 163**  
**Sharps Chapel, TN 37866**

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**



**March 1 - New Fishing License Required.  
April 1 - Norris, Watts Bar, & Boone Lakes  
Creel and Size Limits Change  
from 1 fish with a 36-inch minimum size limit  
to 2 fish at 15-inch minimum size limit.**