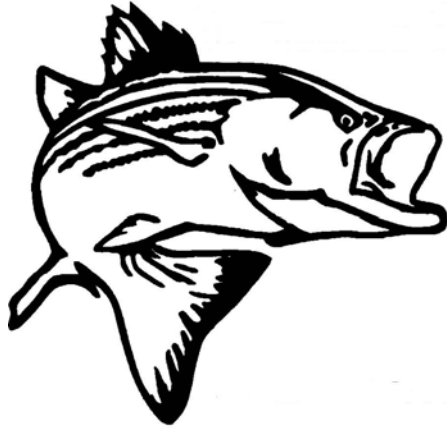


**Catch
The
Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



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

**April
2009**

StriperBowl

Saturday, April 25

**2:00 p.m. Registration
3:00 p.m. Leave the Ramp**

**Cherokee Lake
Grainger County Park
Pavilion**

President's Letter

Welcome to Spring. Lately it seems as if we might have left the cold weather behind us until next fall. Springtime means the fishing is about get pretty hot and heavy. This is undoubtedly my favorite time of year to fish. I look forward to the cool mornings, comfortable days not having to wear my heavy cold weather gear, and enjoyable temperatures all day long. It is also the time the Stripers go on a feeding frenzy to fill their bellies in preparation for the spawn, and this is the time of year you have the best chance to catch a true Monster. Spring is also the time to be aware of what is going on around you on our lakes. There are many dangers that present themselves this time of year from logs and debris floating in the main channels, to bass tournaments with boaters running over 70 mph with no concern for courtesy or safety, to the weekend pleasure cruisers and jet skis that sometimes act as if they have never been on the water before. Just remember when operating your vessel act on the defensive side and always pay attention to the dangers and give them plenty of room for error.

On April 25, we have the StriperBowl scheduled for Cherokee Lake. This tourney has had a great history with the club as it impacts our future. We will take the money raised from this tournament and apply it towards our Kids Fishing Day tourney in June. For those of you that missed the Kids Fishing Day last year, it was a fantastic time on the water watching all of the kids catching fish. Plus they all walked away with full bellies and great prizes. I ask for as many people as possible to attend this year's StriperBowl to help with covering the cost for this great event. Any club member can attend and you may bring friends. However, non club members cannot win the trophy and must sign a release waiver to participate. I know last year's winner, Janine, is very confident she will be the first repeat winner in the club history. Can anyone take it away from her? Good luck to all that participate.

Lastly, the subject of posting fishing reports on the website came up in the last meeting. I ask that we all do a better job of posting the outcome of your trip. There are a couple of people that make up the majority of the reports and feel it is all take and no give. So please start sharing your reports. Even if you caught nothing, you can share the bait that was used, temperatures, conditions, etc., as this will help others learn. If you have a great trip, let us know that as well. We are not looking for specific info on exactly where they were caught, just general info on numbers, weight, bait,

conditions, etc. The report section can be a valuable tool to educate others on the how to's and how not's, so let's use it.

Tight lines, and see you on the water.

Erik Engebretsen
TSBA President



Wayne Anders/Bob Leach

Minutes of the March Meeting

The Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc. met at the Clinton Shoney's (I-75 exit 122) at 7:00 pm on March 16, 2009. There were the usual order-what-you want dinner and discussions from around 6:00 to 7:00. There were 23 people in attendance. We had a visitor from West Virginia.

The speaker for the program was Ken Cutsinger. Ken is a TWRA officer and lives in LaFollette. He is also a taxidermist and has been in business for more than 20 years. He is a club sponsor/advertiser in our newsletter. He has mounted a wide variety of things, but today most of his business is fish and deer. He went through the process steps involved in mounting a fish and several other related things.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU CATCH IT

- The fish should be kept cool until you get it home.
- Wrap it in a very wet bath towel being careful to keep the fins straight.
- Put the fish and wet towel in a big plastic bag, squeeze the air out and seal it.
- Freeze it laying flat.
- You can keep it a few months like this if you need to before taking it to be mounted.

(continued next page)

MOUNTING STEPS

- Measure the fish to be mounted and order the right size mounting form.
- Skin the fish. This is done by making a slit down the length of the fish on the side that will be toward the wall.
- Remove all the meat, brains, eyes, guts, etc., leaving only the skin.
- Pickle/degrease the skin by soaking it in a solution for 3 to 5 days.
- Put the skin onto the form that was purchased for it. The form may need to be sanded in places to get a good fit. (A good fit is when the lines between the head and body are smooth and the fins are in the right places and at the right angles.)
- Repair any torn fins. There are commercial products for this. Ken tries to make sure the tip ends of the fins look natural and are not too smooth.
- Paint the mount using an airbrush. There are about 15 coats of sealers and colors used. The underlying actual color patterns are followed in painting.
- Put in the eyes.

REPLICA MOUNTS

Fiberglass replica mounts are now available and are becoming more popular for someone who wants a mount but wants to release the fish. (Let them go, and let them grow.) Ken says you have to look closely to tell the difference. In order to get a replica, you need to know the length, girth, and preferably the weight. A picture is also good if you have one so he can do the best job of matching color patterns.

OLD MOUNTS

Old mounts can be dusted, wiped with a damp rag or repainted, depending on their condition.

PRICES

Ken's current prices are in the range of: *

Small mouth /Largemouth	\$ 8.00 per inch
Stripers /Trout	\$ 9.00 per inch
Replicas	\$14.00 pre inch

*Small fish are higher than the per inch price

His current turnaround time is about 3 months.

Other business:

Ken said the rules for having trout for bait have changed again. It was that you had to have a sales receipt if you had more than a legal limit. Then last year it was a legal limit only regardless of a receipt. It is now going back to a formal receipt (whatever that means, and they aren't sure yet - probably a printed letterhead - but a handwritten note on a scrap of paper or a Xerox copy won't work).

It was discussed that we are going to try to have an open fishing day in April (come and fish with someone you don't normally fish with), and the details will be discussed next month.

Dick Vornehm,
TSBA Secretary

Ray McKissick
from
Pennsylvania
with a really big
one!



Kevin Windows
& Ray McKissick



Kevin Windows
from
Pennsylvania



Allan Franklin
& Ray
McKissick

40 lb.

All Pics -
Feb. 23-24
fishing with
Allan Franklin

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

WHAT LINE DO YOU NORMALLY USE FOR LAKE FISHING?

PLEASE LIST BRAND AND TEST.

I used this question in March of 2007 and over half of the fishermen responded that they used P-Line with an average test of 16.7#. This year the percentage of P-Line users is still slightly over half. The biggest difference I noticed is that fewer fishermen are using Stren. P-Line was the only brand that had over two fishermen state their loyalty.

Based on the answers to this month's question, the typical TSBA member uses P-Line 12-20# test; and 15# test was the most common answer given. I use this copolymer line myself.

I previously used the Stren Original with the improved clinch knot. After switching to P-Line, I have been disappointed a few times when "my knot" failed. I hate to see that ugly pigtail on the end of my line because that means my knot slipped due to not being pulled tight enough. The P-Line is slick. I have found that the Palomar knot is the best way to avoid slipping and is a stronger knot according to the test results that I have read.

To summarize the past two months' questions, if you are a new Striper fisherman and just starting to buy gear, your best starting place would probably be to buy an Abu-Garcia 6500c reel and fill it with P-line 15# test for lake fishing. You notice I did not recommend a first rod, and you will find that our TSBA fishermen do not share agreement on this choice as closely.

Jim Blazier
TSBA Vice President

Cherokee - March 5
Ezell, Cox, Tom Elmore, Fred England, Gary Harris,
Dennis Bryant, Bob Leach, Pics by Doug Steffe



Fishing Hot Spots



Cherokee Lake - Good

Stripers are much smaller than past years. They seldom exceed 8 pounds. Hybrids eight to ten pounds are common. The best fishing is from Point 24 downstream in most of the large coves and creeks that have abundant bait. Fish shallow and do not neglect the banks. Night fishing is great when the alewife is spawning late this month. This is the best month to catch fish on artificial lures.

Norris Lake - Fair

Do not expect to catch a large fish on Norris like in past years, but fish weighing as much as 30 pounds from the stocking in 1999 can be caught. Top water action is at its best this month. Most fish will be in the upper one-half of the lake, in and around the large coves. Fish the shallow, rocky banks and points. Outriggers are very good fishing tools.

Watts Bar Lake/Melton Hill Lake - Good

The steam plant in Kingston will still hold some fish, but expect to catch more small fish. They may be larger upstream to the discharge at the dams.

May Expectations

The stripers will be in the headwaters of the rivers and in the major feeder creeks for the spawn. Temperature of the water will dictate when the stripers are most of the time. If the rivers or shallow water exceeds 70 degrees F., the fish will seek out cooler thermal refuge. The gulls and other fish-eating birds are always a good clue that stripers are also there to feed on the same bait fish. The stripers can be at any depth that it chooses, but most will be caught on or near the surface close to the rough, rocky banks and points. Side planer boards or any outriggers work great. It is important to know thermoclines start to develop in slow-moving water this month. Top water action is good in May, and survival of released fish is also great.

April 20th Speaker

Wes Adams

**River Fishing for Big Fish
at Shoney's, Hwy. 61 - Norris/Clinton Exit**

May 18th Speaker

**Mike Smith, TWRA
@ Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery**

StriperBowl

Saturday, April 25

2:00 p.m. Registration
Cherokee Lake
Grainger County Park Pavilion

You will be allowed to leave the ramp area at
3:00 p.m. to launch wherever you choose.

You must be back at the 33 ramp no later than
8:00 p.m. for weigh-in. Entry fee is \$16.00 per
person. At the weigh-in we will have
sandwiches, chips, cakes, and soft drinks.

Proceeds go to support the Kids Fishing Day

The StriperBowl is a tournament where we use the money generated from the tournament to fund the Kids Fishing Day outing each year.

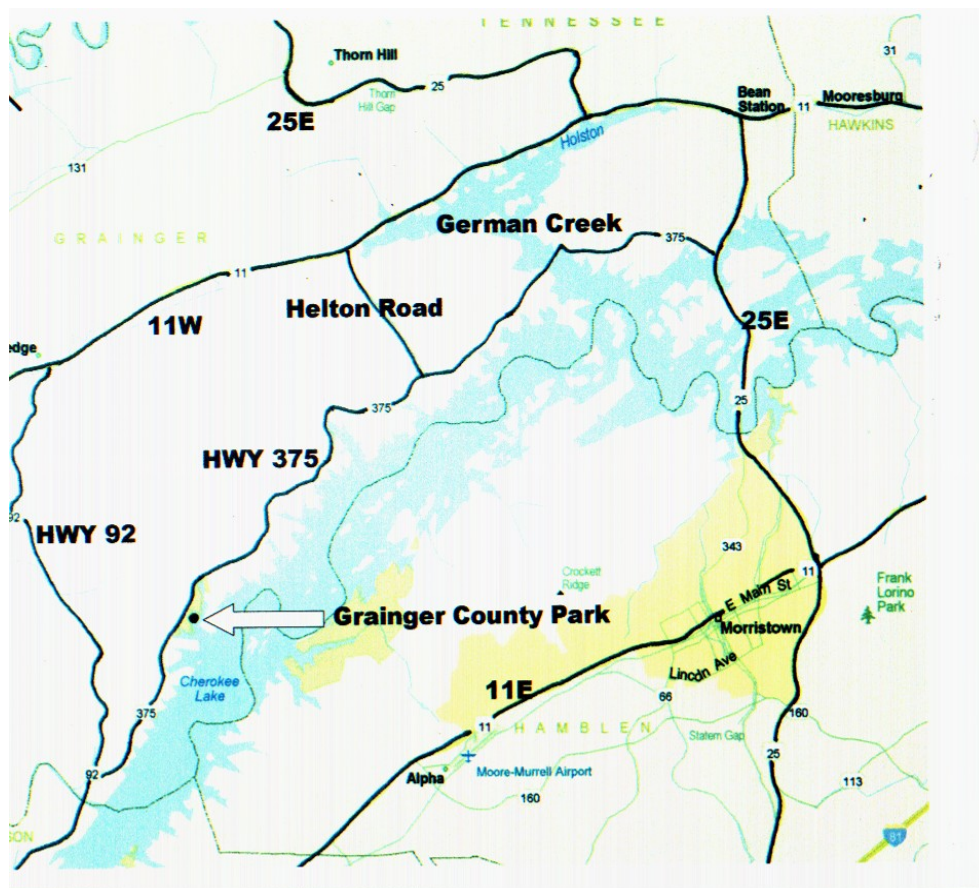
You don't have to be a member to participate, but only a member can win the "StriperBowl trophy" with names engraved on it. Keep it for one year until the next StriperBowl and then bring it back to defend it. We take the money and buy door prizes for all the Kids that come out and fish in the Kids Fishing Day fun tournament.

StriperBowl Directions

The 2008 fish fry was an overwhelming success as over 100 members were in attendance. This event was held at the Anderson County Park, and it became quite obvious that this facility was too small for a gathering of this size. This prompted us to search for a facility that better fits the needs of a growing club like the TSBA. As a result, the club has decided to hold all of its 2009 events at the Grainger County Park on Cherokee Lake. The first event at this facility will be the 2009 StriperBowl which will be held on Saturday, April 25.

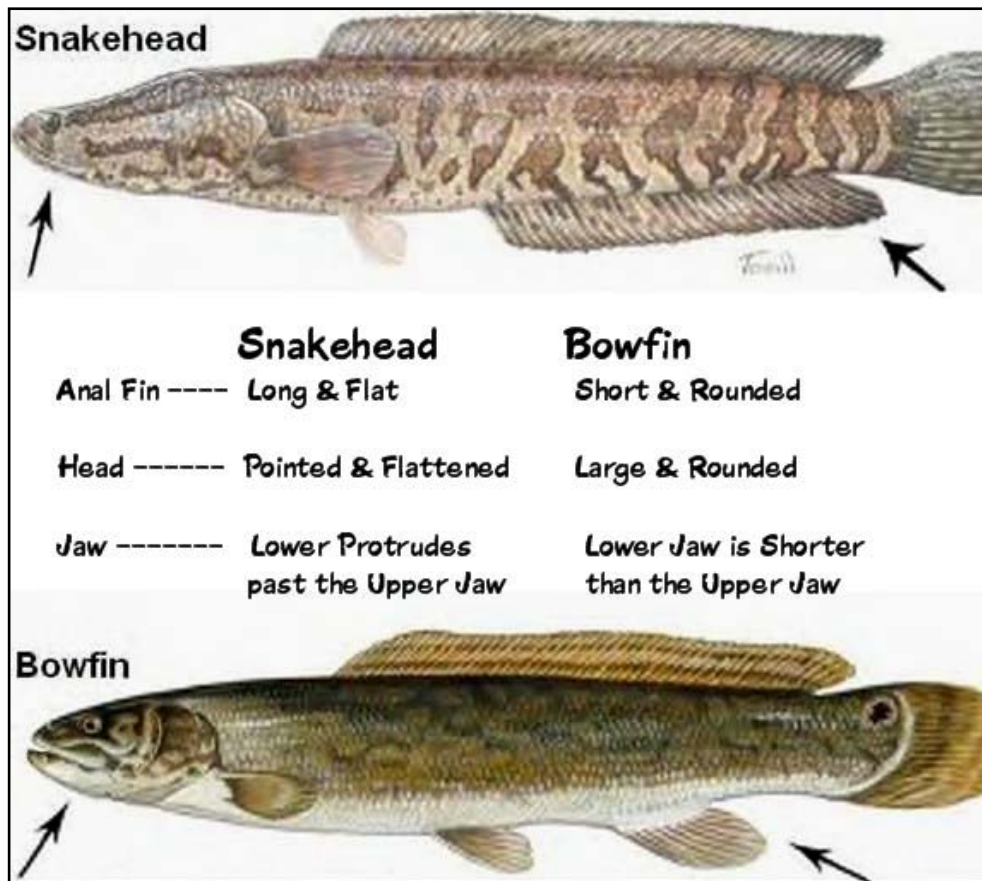
For those of you who are not familiar with the Grainger County Park, it is conveniently located just off of Hwy 375 (also called Lake Shore Drive) about 3.6 miles from the intersection of Hwy 375 and Hwy 92. The map showed below pinpoints its location. We had a decent turnout for the 2008 StriperBowl, and we expect an even better turnout this year. After all, I'm sure that some of you will want to participate just to be sure that Janine does not become the first two-time winner.

Bob Leach



Snakeheads

The latest invasive fish species to be discovered in the United States is the snakehead - a freshwater fish of the family Channidae which is native to Asia. It's distinguished by its elongated body, long, spineless dorsal and anal fins and its large mouth with nasty-looking, canine teeth. A quick glance at its picture quickly reveals why it's called a snakehead. Unfortunately, they are somewhat similar in appearance to the native bowfin (commonly called a dogfish). The following pictures should help in correctly identifying the different species.



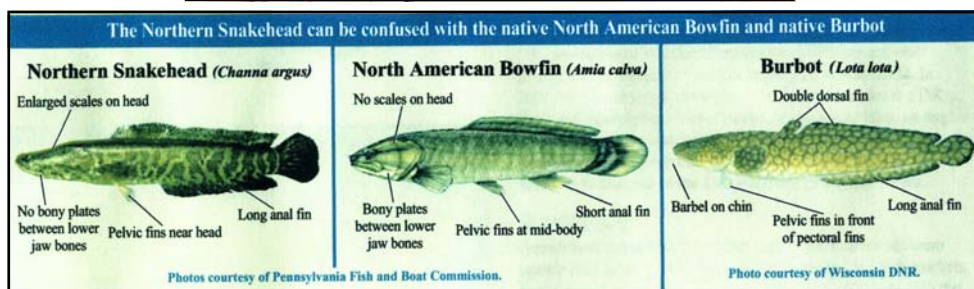
Most snakehead sightings in the US have been the Northern Snakehead, which is not known to be dangerous to humans although it will aggressively defend its young. This species has been found in Maryland, North Carolina, Arkansas, and several states along the Atlantic coast. Also, they are established in the Potomac River system where they have successfully survived the winters. By now, they have probably expanded into other waters that I did not discover during my brief research. It won't be long before they are in the Tennessee River system and on their way to Knoxville - if they aren't already.

The snakehead is sometimes called a “Frankenfish” because it’s a voracious, ambush-type predator that literally feeds on anything that moves and it can get into its large, sharp-toothed mouth. Also, the snakefish has the ability to breathe air so it can survive in water with very low oxygen content. It’s even been reported to live as long as three days out of water if it can keep its skin moist. This allows it to “walk” from one body of water to another if the conditions are just right. Also, it’s been reported that they can bury themselves in mud to survive brief periods of drought. Females can spawn several times a year beginning in June, and they can lay over 100,000 eggs per year. Finally, adult snakehead fish have no predators in many of the waters of the eastern United States. When you add this all up, there is no doubt that the snakehead fish does indeed impose a significant threat to our native fish and wildlife.

Snakeheads have been popular with aquarium owners who have undoubtedly released them into local waters once they became too large for their aquariums. The Northern Snakehead fish can grow to over 3’ in length. Also, many oriental people like the taste of snakehead meat; and they have been imported by restaurants specializing in Southeast Asia cuisine. Also, it’s the tradition in some Asian cultures to release a live fish into the wild whenever you consume one. This is reportedly how they got established in the Potomac River system. Importation and interstate transportation was banned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services in 2002. However, this action is probably too late to stop the expansion of this highly-adaptive, invasive species.

So what can you do to help stem, or at least slow up, the snakehead expansion? First of all, if you do catch a fish that looks anything like a snakehead, do not release it back into the water. Call the TWRA as they would be keenly interested in this information. Next, be extremely alert when you are catching bait. Don’t carelessly put one of the creatures in your bait tank. We must do everything we can to help the TWRA keep these invasive predators out of our local waters. In the long run, we’ll be helping ourselves and the excellent striped fishery that we all enjoy in East Tennessee.

Bob Leach



Hickory Star Marina & Campground

Hickory Star Marina is strategically located on beautiful Norris Reservoir just four miles East of Maynardville on Route 144. Hickory Star really is a complete facility with a full-service marina, motel, campground, full-service restaurant, and rental cabins. At Hickory Star, there is always something new and exciting to do at this beautiful facility.

Marina - If it's fishing or any water sport, you will find everything you need at the Hickory Star Marina. Whether it's houseboating, canoeing, water skiing, or fishing, this marina is well equipped to provide you with endless fun in the sun. You can launch your own boat at their ramp or take advantage of their professional guide service.

Motel - After a long day on Norris, why fuss with loading your boat and making the long drive home. Instead, park your boat at the dock and walk to your air-conditioned room at the Hickory Star motel. This would make a great getaway for you and your significant other to spend a little quality time together while you still get to fish in the early morning and at dusk.

Restaurant - Hey! You really owe it to yourself to visit the **Petes on The Water**. They are open April 15 through September 1 from 4 PM to 10 PM from Thursday through Saturday and from 1 to 9 on Sunday. This place is first-class and it has everything from sandwiches to steaks.

Campground & Cabins - If you are interested in camping, they have everything you need - rustic & new cabins, camper hookups, and tent sites and their fees are quite reasonable.

Please call 800-235-6866 (toll-free), 865-992-5241, or go online, www.hickorystar.com to get more information or make a reservation. These are really nice fisherman-friendly folks, and you will have a great time during your stay at Hickory Star.



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Marina**

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Near Maynardville TN**

YOUR 2009 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND STAFF

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jblazier@comcast.net

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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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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.

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

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: "fish" Password: "finder"

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS



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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 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 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 163
Sharps Chapel, TN 37866**



**Fishin' Reports Password Changes April 1.
See Inside!**

**Addendum to Cumberland River Article in March Newsletter
Budget Motel Phone Number: 615-735-1300**