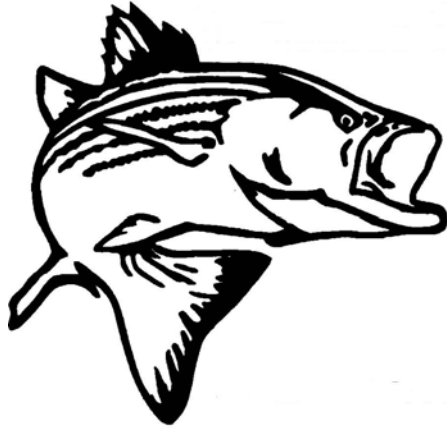


**Catch  
The  
Striper  
Fever!**

**T.S.B.A.**



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

**July  
2009**

### **Kids Fishing Day 6-13-09**



## President's Letter

Well summer is finally here and so is the heat! Please remember that most stripers caught in water over 80 degrees will more than likely die when released. Don't be fooled at the fact they swim off when you release them, the stress from the fight coupled with the hot water temp will take its toll on them in a matter of a few hours or less. If you want to fish in these conditions, catch your two fish for the table and head for the house. Remember the no fish zone on Cherokee starts this month; please make sure you abide by the rules.

I want to give a huge thank you to Allan Franklin, Bob Leach, Jim Blazier, Doug Steffe, and all the other volunteers who helped with the kid's day tournament. If you missed the event, it was a fun and exciting time for the kids. Plan on attending next year and having a great time

We are still looking to save cost in postage with our newsletter by offering it electronically if you are interested. Two of the benefits from receiving it electronically are you receive it sooner and the pictures are all in color. If you are interested, please get with Doug Steffe or myself and we will sign you up. Also, if you have pictures of your fish that you would like published in the news letter, please send them to me.

Lastly, don't forget to mark your calendars for our August meeting. We have Mack Farr coming to speak to us about umbrella rig fishing and he will be bringing some of the products he makes for purchase if you are interested.

Tight lines and see you on the water

Erik

# INTRODUCING

## "TSBA FISHING TRIP RAFFLE"

All TSBA club members have a unique opportunity to fish alongside and learn from two of the best and well-known striper fishermen in this area and fellow TSBA members. These fishermen are Ezell Cox and Allen Franklin.

The TSBA has many good fishermen but these two are well known to be willing to share their knowledge and are "good teachers". Both have always tried to help new club members get started correctly by offering advice on equipment, methods and any information they can to help you improve your fishing.

Although these two fishermen are very willing to help fellow club members, there just isn't enough time for them to give everyone personal instructions. They have volunteered, however, to give personal instructions during a fishing trip to the lucky TSBA CLUB MEMBER who wins the first TSBA FISHING TRIP RAFFLE. Both Allen and Ezell have volunteered to give a personal fishing trip to two lucky TSBA CLUB MEMBERS and their guest in the 2009 TSBA FISHING TRIP RAFFLE.

NOTE: The intent is to have two winners and two trips if enough tickets are sold.

Proceeds from the raffle will be used to help support the Kids Fishing Day, the Annual Fish Fry and the increased cost of printing and distribution of the Newsletter.

### GUIDELINES:

- EACH \$10 CONTRIBUTION WILL EQUAL ONE TICKET
- **ONLY CLUB MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO OBTAIN TICKETS**
- **EACH WINNER CAN BRING ONE GUEST, BUT THE GUEST MUST EITHER BE A CLUB MEMBER OR SIGN A LIABILITY RELEASE FORM**
- THE DRAWING WILL BE HELD AT THE FISH FRY SUNDAY 9/20/09
- THE WINNER MUST SCHEDULE THEIR TRIP PRIOR TO DECEMBER 31, 2009
- MEMBERS UNABLE TO ATTEND THE FISH FRY CAN CONTRIBUTE AND BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR THE TRIP BY MAILING CHECKS TO:

Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc.

P. O. Box 163

Sharps Chapel, TN 37866

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR PHONE NUMBER ON THE CHECK



### **MINUTES OF THE JUNE MEETING**

The Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc. met at the Clinton Shoney's (I-75 exit 122) at 7:00 pm on June 15, 2009.

The speaker for the evening was Allan Franklin, a long time member and guide who fishes mainly in the boils below Melton Hill Dam and Ft. Loudon Dam.

When water is discharged thru a generator below a dam, it comes out a gate in the dam face. There is one gate for each generator and the number of generators varies with each dam. The water flows forward until it hits an up sloping concrete wall that turns the flow upwards to the surface. There it creates a very turbulent mound of water, "THE BOILS" that attracts bait fish and stripers. The current flow below the boils is swift and sometimes swirling. It can be dangerous. You are required to wear a flotation device and don't skimp. Wear a good one. The current pattern will vary with the number of generators running and also with their position along the dam face. The pattern from one day may change if a different set of generators is running the next day. When the pattern changes, the positions of the eddies changes and the fish will move with them.

Most people fish the boils by coming upstream to just below the most turbulent water and casting a single weighted shad into the swift water and letting it drift out with the current. There are lots of ways of doing this.

- The bait size should usually be what is running below the dam.

- The hook can be from a 1/0 to a 5/0 or so depending on the bait size.

- The rod should be medium heavy to heavy. Even a small fish can be a hand full in fast water.

- For line, many people favor hi-vis mono around 20#. If you are hung up in fast water a heavy braid is a problem. You want to break off and get back out to start over.

- The weight of the sinker changes with current flow. It can run from 1oz to up to 4 or 5 oz.

There are probably 4 main ways to rig.

Some people prefer a Carolina rig with the hook on a 2 or 3 ft leader, then a swivel and a free moving barrel sinker.

The same hook and swivel set up but a fixed sinker like a rubber core twist-on.

The same hook and leader but a 3 way swivel with a lighter weight drop line 12 to 18" long to a sinker.

No sinker and just free line it.

### **Technique**

- Call the TVA generating schedule number (1-800-238-2264) to find out the generating schedule for the dam you want to fish.
- You can usually find bait somewhere below the dams. Watch other people or ask someone who fishes there regularly. The locations of the bait can change depending on which generators are on.
- Pull up to a little below the boil (this depends on your boat size, current flow and your experience level) maybe 20 or 30 ft. and let the boat start to back out. You will see people who go up on top of the boils and even across to the backside at the dam face. The currents and backwashes there are mean and unpredictable. Don't do it.
- Leave your motor running and in neutral
- Lob bait to the downstream side of the boils and let it sink.
- It will be about 40ft deep there and if you have enough weight and a hi-vis line you should be able to see that you are pretty much straight down. If you have too much line out it will bell out downstream behind you and you will lose feel of the bottom.
- The bottom will quickly start sloping upwards from around 40 ft to around 13ft. You will need to reel in as you drift back so you don't have a lot of slack line and snag at the top of the slope.
- Depending on the dam and a bunch of things we don't understand you can sometimes catch fish from the boils downstream for 200 or 300 yards. Sometimes they are all up close. You just have to play around and see.

There are usually a few or many other boats and also bank fishermen trying to fish in a small turbulent area. Be polite. People will usually establish a rotation pattern so everyone gets a turn coming up the calm side and out into the boils for a drift. Sometimes there are people who don't understand this or just don't care. There are fools everywhere in the world, don't let them cause you to do something foolish or dangerous.

### **DISCLAIMER**

Many people like to fish the boils but it can be a dangerous place. People are killed fishing the boils. The water is very swift and can be unpredictable. I have seen 2 fat people in a 12 ft Jon boat with no life jackets and a 10hp motor that was hard to start more than once. Don't be stupid. If you want to learn to boils fish, asks someone to take you. Don't fish alone; there is too much going on to be out there by yourself.

Dick Vornehm, TSBA Secretary

## **Nonindigenous Aquatic Species**

One of the biggest concerns to the TWRA is the introduction of Nonindigenous Aquatic Species or NAS into the various waters of Tennessee. These are species of fish or other aquatic life that are not native to the state but they were introduced either on purpose or accidentally within the last 200 years. While some introduced NAS do not cause any major issues, most of them do upset the balance and harmony of the local aquatic ecosystems to the detriment of many native species. Sometimes the results can be disastrous and the local fishery is forever changed. To meet the challenge of NAS, the TWRA developed the “Tennessee Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan” in September 07 2007 and this plan can be viewed by visiting the [www.tennessee.gov/twra/pdfs/aquaticplan.pdf](http://www.tennessee.gov/twra/pdfs/aquaticplan.pdf) website. The plan was adopted with the following two major objectives in mind. – Prevention of new NAS and management of the existing NAS. The following is a list, in no particular order, of the various nonindigenous aquatic species of fish listed in this plan.

Silver Carp	Common Carp	Alewife
Bighead Carp	Black Carp	Snail Bullhead
Mosquito fish	Northern Snakehead	Flat Bullhead
Round Goby	Rudd	Grass Carp
Redbreast Sunfish	Ruffe	White Catfish
Yellow Perch	Blueback Herring	Stickleback

If the TWRA could, they would wave a magic wand and prevent any of these fish from entering Tennessee and they would eliminate all of them that are already entrenched here. Unfortunately, this is not possible.

One of the primary goals of the TSBA is to do whatever it can to maximize the striped and hybrid bass fishery in east Tennessee. Therefore, it behooves us to work with the TWRA to prevent the introduction of any new NAS in our area and control the ones that have already found their way here. Undoubtedly, the most important area where we need to be extra cautious is in the bait-catching process. When we throw our casting nets out, the goal is to fill our bait tanks with many nice, frisky shad. However, the net is going to entrap whatever is beneath it whether it's the intended shad, game fish or some nonindigenous fish. Therefore, we need to identify each fish that we bring into our boat. Put the legal bait fish in your tank, throw the game fish back without injuring them and kill or incarcerate any nonindigenous fish that you've snared.

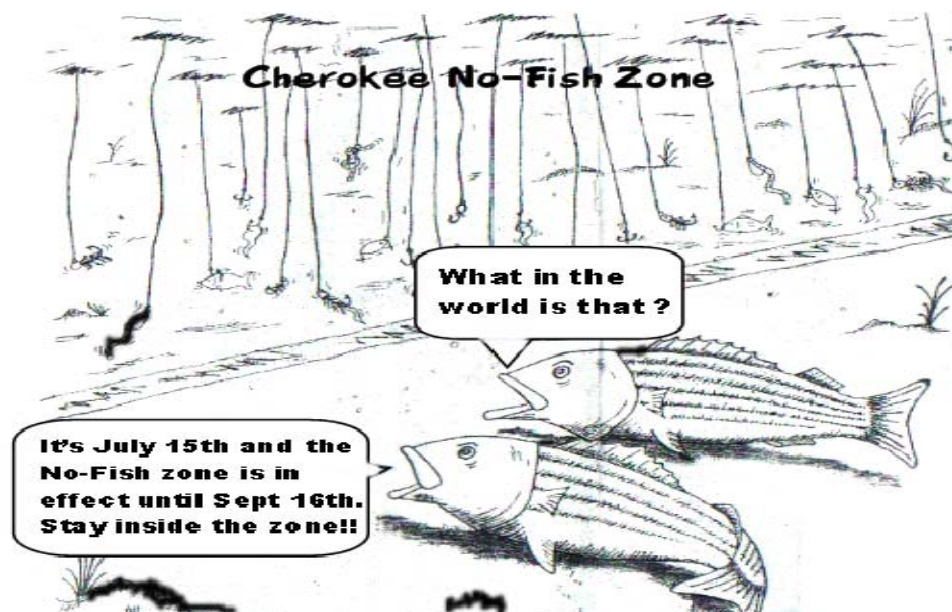
One way that makes this process easier is to first dump your catch into a livewell or a large bucket, let them stay there for a while and then remove them one-by-one and put them in the bait tank. This not only keeps your bait tank cleaner but it allows you to inspect each bait prior to putting it into the bait tank.

Undoubtedly the most numerous, harmful nonindigenous fish that every one of us has encountered is the common carp. Somehow, I net a few carp on almost every bait-catching excursion. Remember, that the common carp is on the list of NAS published by the TWRA and they are extremely detrimental to all of our local fisheries. The problem with the common carp is that they are primarily messy, bottom –feeders and they severely damage the aquatic ecosystem by uprooting aquatic plants, stirring up the bottom sediment and making the water turbid. This activity impedes the growth of aquatic plants that are essential to the well-being of all game fish and the turbid water blocks the suns

rays from reaching the bottom to provide much-needed photosynthesis. There appears to be no way to completely eliminate carp from our reservoirs without destroying all species of fish in the lake. However, anything that we can do to minimize their numbers and their negative impact will benefit all game fish species in the reservoir or river. As such, one thing that I have started doing is to make sure that any carp caught in my bait-casting net is not long for this world. Here's my logic.

If you remove ten pounds of any fish species from a lake, you will make room for ten additional pounds of fish as the lake can only support so many pounds of fish. However, if you remove ten pounds of carp from a reservoir, you will make room for more than ten pounds of other fish. Carp damage their environment so that the system can not support as many fish as it could if there were no carp present. Therefore, it's more than a one-to-one ratio. Basically, when I catch a carp in my net and it's lying on the bottom of my boat, I now have a decision to make. I can either release it unharmed or I can destroy it. If I release it unharmed, I will be hurting the striper fishery. If I destroy it, I will be helping the striper fishery. It's that simple and I have to do one or the other. I do not see any downside to removing as many carp as possible from a body of water. I'm not naïve enough to believe that this will bring about a dramatic change to the striper fishery but it will help. In my research, I haven't found one state game and fish agency who would not like to see fewer carp in their lakes and rivers. Over the course of a season, I catch hundreds of pounds of carp while casting for shad and I intend to be sure that I'm not hurting the striper fishery by allowing these captured fish to continue to negatively impact the wonderful striper fishery that we enjoy in east Tennessee.

*Bob Leach*



## Fishing Hot Spots



### **Cherokee Lake: Good on Most Days**

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

### **Norris Lake: Good**

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

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

### **Below Fort Loudoun & Melton Hill Dams: Good**

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

### **Any Cold Water:**

Good where stripers have access.

Investigate some of these and other rivers:

Cumberland - Caney Fork - Clinch - Little Tennessee.



## August Expectations

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

Speaker for July 20 Meeting  
Mike Smith, TWRA at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery  
Pizza & Drinks at 6:00 p.m.



Billy Davis and son  
Brandon with a huge  
striper, caught by  
Brandon.

## ***2009 KIDS DAY***

I want to thank everyone that came out for the Kids Day. We had 14 Kids to come out for a day of fun. They played on the play ground and ate lots of food. Then we had some drawings for door prizes and all of the kids got plenty of goodies. Plus they all got a big trophy to top it off. Then we went out for the evening of fishing and some of the kids even went swimming before they started catching fish. Then others caught fish then went swimming. I believe all the kids caught fish. I want to also thank all the captains that took time out of their busy lives to come and take these kids fishing. There were so many people that went out of their way to help put this kids fishing day on I want all of you to know I really appreciate everything you all did.

Thanks, Allan Franklin







## **JUNE 2009 QUESTION OF THE MONTH**

### **“WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR MOST UNUSUAL CAST NET “CATCHES”?**

Il don't know of any better way to compile the answers than to just list them as they were submitted. See below:

Some of the more memorable are: a net full of keeper crappie, a 7 pound large-mouth, a 20ish pound carp and, last week in the dark, about a dozen 10 inch channel catfish in a single throw. I probably lost a pint of blood getting the catfish out of the net.

28" spoonbill catfish

More brush piles than I care to admit, turtle, a net full of crappie (that's a tough decision to make), to many carp, a huge drum, and the best of all a musky on Melton hill.

Beaver / Snapping turtles (Some very large 40 poundish ones) / Soft shell turtles / Water Snakes / 9 @ 10 poundish stripers and a 29 pound striper / Gizzard Shad in the same kind of numbers that our government uses to describe our national debt. Likely more stuff that I will think of later.

3 carp on one throw / My trolling motor / Big mud turtle / 45 lb dog on a land throw---- (I wonder if that was on purpose?) / Carp

I'm sure most of you guys know the rules about catching game fish in your cast net but I think I should repeat that all game fish must be returned to the water uninjured. I bet it was very difficult to release those crappie!

### **The guidelines below were copied from the 2009 TENNESSEE FISHING GUIDE.**

**"Cast nets** must be no more than 10 feet in radius with a mesh size no smaller than one quarter inch, and no larger than one inch on the square.

As long as anglers use bait responsibly, they can avoid any of the problems described above. Below are a few steps that anglers can take to make sure they are using their bait responsibly.

1 Never release bait after it has been in your bait bucket or live-well. At the end of the day, many anglers are tempted to release their unused bait. This is illegal and potentially very harmful to the entire ecosystem. By releasing your bait you could be introducing a new species to Tennessee waters or transferring diseases that could have serious negative consequences. It is best to dispose of bait and water from your bait bucket on land where it cannot reach a stream or lake.

2 If you are going to catch your bait from the wild, try to catch it from waters within the immediate watershed where you will be fishing. For example, if you will be fishing in a reservoir, try to catch your bait from a stream that flows directly into that reservoir. This greatly reduces the risk of introducing a new, potentially harmful species to the waters where you fish.

3 When catching bait, try to release any unusual looking species before you put them in your bait bucket. It is illegal to harvest or use any threatened or endangered species for bait. Not all anglers know what these species look like but a good rule of thumb is to never harvest any species that you don't recognize.

4 If at all possible, use species that you know are common to the waters that you fish. Fathead minnows and golden shiners are present in most of Tennessee's waters so anglers can use them almost anywhere in the state without worrying about introducing this species to new waters. If you buy your bait, encourage your local bait shop to carry only those species that are common to your area.

5 Again, never release bait after it has been in your bait bucket."

Jim Blazier



"Future TSBA members at the Kids Tournament, talk about the one that got away", - - - probably just like their dads do. You can never start too young.





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## **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

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**Newsletter Distribution:** Jim Blazier & Dick Vornehm

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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

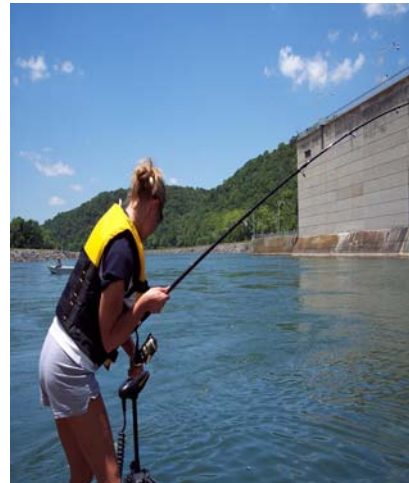
**Door Prizes:** Bob Leach 865-471-1365

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

**Fishing Trip Raffle:** Jim Blazier 865-694-8014



Gabby Malabey's first striper caught while fishing with her husband, Cory



Janine Johnson

Bob Leach



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## **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.

July 20            Monthly Meeting, Pizza & Drinks 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 Lake**

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 15    Board of Directors Meeting  
                         - Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7PM

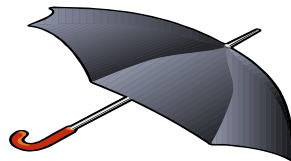
The TSBA web site offers up-to-date fishin' reports  
to all TSBA members. Visit the web at:

**[www.TNStripedBass.com](http://www.TNStripedBass.com)**

The current password is:

Username: "fish"    Password: "finder"

### **August Meeting Topic: Umbrella Rig Fishing**



Brandon Davis in action.



Doug Steffe with his personal best striper caught this spring.



## 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 24442***

***Knoxville TN 37933***

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 24442  
Knoxville, TN 37933**



**TSBA Annual Fish Fry & Reunion  
September 20, 2009  
Grainger County Park Cherokee Lake  
Lots of Food and Door Prizes  
Tackle Swap Meet**