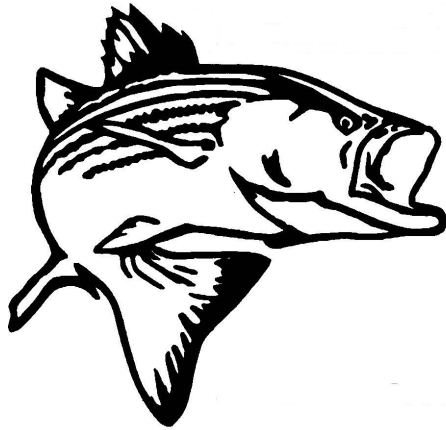


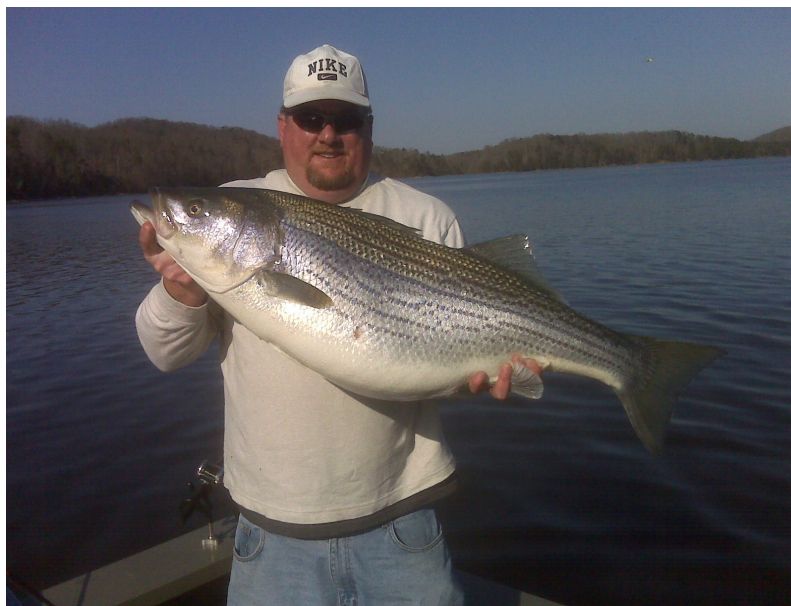
**Catch
the
Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



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

**April
2010**



Erik Engebretsen with a 44-pounder

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello, everyone,

I hope that by the time you get this newsletter the weather will have stabilized, allowing everyone to get out and spend some time catching instead of fishing in the cold!

In this edition of the newsletter, there is an article by Eric Rauch concerning the Big Brothers And Big Sisters Club. I hope we can have some great participation from our members and make a special day for some under-privileged kids. Back when we were children, most of us were lucky enough to have a family member take us fishing. These kids aren't lucky enough to have those memories. Let's do our part to give these kids some great memories. I would also like to thank Eric for his efforts in setting up this partnership. I know he has donated a lot of his time to make this happen. Thanks, Eric!

We are still looking for pictures to publish in the newsletter. With the weather turning better, I'm sure we will have quite a few over the next few months. My e-mail has changed, so please send your fishing photographs to engebretsenerik@yahoo.com.

We are also looking for ideas for articles for our newsletter. If you have any ideas, or want to write an article, please send them to me as well.

Lastly, over the past month everybody has been posting a few more fishing reports. I appreciate the interaction and look forward to many more for our members to read.

Take care and tight lines,

— *Erik Engebretsen*

TSBA Supports Big Brothers/Big Sisters

At our March meeting, our TSBA chapter agreed to hold a fishing event to support Big Brothers/Big Sisters (BB/BS). I'm sure that most members know something about BB/BS. Basically, the organization matches up an adult sponsor with a youngster who needs a positive adult figure in his or her life. They interact in many ways throughout the year, including through "Sports Buddies." As you can imagine, in this program the adults and the youngster participate in sporting activities such as going to a ball game or, in our case, going fishing together. Children in the program come from counties across East Tennessee.

Rather than hold the TSBA activity as a one-day event in a single location, we decided that we would get better participation if we spread the event over the month of June. So here's our plan:

- First note that the BB/BS sponsor and youth will be together for the event.
- TSBA members who want to participate must notify Eric Rauch either by phone (865-223-9788), e-mail (ewrauch@bellsouth.net), or by posting a message on the TSBA web site. Eric needs to know the TSBA member's name, contact phone number, and how many pairs (adult and youth) the member can safely carry in the boat at one time. If a TSBA member wants to participate more than one day with different pairs, please state that as well.
- It would be best if we get the total number of pairs we can accommodate determined by May 1 so that the staff from BB/BS can coordinate within their organization and get us a list of interested sponsors.
- We will link up TSBA members with BB/BS sponsors so that they can decide on the date, time, and location of their trip.
- If multiple TSBA members want to get together for a joint trip, that is great. However, it is not required.
- While BB/BS has a waiver form that they use for their activities, we will also require the sponsors to bring a completed TSBA waiver form that has been signed by the child's parent or legal guardian. If the child doesn't have a signed form on the day of the fishing trip, then the TSBA member must cancel or reschedule the trip.
- It is assumed that the TSBA member will provide all of the required gear and bait. Appropriately sized life preservers must be in the boat for all participants. It is highly recommended that these be worn by all participants to promote water safety. Note that TWRA regulations state that "all children 12 years of age and younger are required to wear a Coast Guard approved PFD while on the open deck of a recreational boat except when anchored, moored, or aground."
- Children up through the age of 12 will not need a fishing license. However, kids 13 and older and all sponsors will need a license to fish. TSBA has agreed to pay for one-day licenses for older children if they don't already have them. If the adult sponsors are going to fish, they must have a fishing license.

MARCH 2010 QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

**IF YOU COULDN'T FISH FOR STRIPERS OR
HYBRIDS, WHAT WOULD YOU FISH FOR?**

**AND IF YOU JUST QUIT FISHING ... WHAT WOULD
YOU DO FOR A HOBBY?**

Would you catch up on the "Honey-Do List"? Get your lawn in great shape? Play golf? Go hiking? Play the stock market ? Remodel your house? Or maybe tell your spouse you're going fishing and just enjoy being on the water? I think most members must have gone into shock at the thought of not being able to fish and couldn't think of anything to say. Here are the responses I received:

"Fish for catfish (nothing like a 30lb in two feet of water). Motorcycle is the second hobby."

"I'd continue to fish monster cats, muskies, and white bass. Maybe throw in the occasional LM and SM."

"I would fish for walleye and crappie because the walleye are fun to catch and they both taste so good."

"I've tried fishing for other types of fish; I get no spark or drive like I do with striper. I believe I would quit fishing if the striper disappeared, and go back to waterskiing and wakeboarding 3-4 times a week. Well, maybe not that much. I'm older now! I would definitely take my current second passion, playing music, more seriously. Take the time to practice more and get some serious lessons, maybe find me an Ezell of the Bluegrass Bass."

"First for smallmouth but would try to do more saltwater fishing when opportunity would arise."

"I would fish for Trout, if I had to quit, my hobby would be hunting."

"Probably Walleye. If I quit all together, I would do more hunting."

"I would likely become a multi species with Crappie and walleye being most favored. If I no longer fished I would travel in the U.S., Canada, and Australia."

"I'd fish for big blue catfish and I would go hog hunting more."

— Jim Blazier

Minutes of March 15, 2010, TSBA, INC. MEETING

Erik Engebretsen opened the meeting, which was attended by about 35 members and held at Shoney's. Allan Franklin presented the main program on catching and keeping bait:

Finding and Catching Bait:

1. Generally, search warmer water for gizzard and threadfin shad. When the shad are flipping on the surface, it's easy to know where to cast your net. If they aren't flipping, try the muddier banks. In summer look in the coves. In winter when the afternoon sun is out, try sunny, shallow areas. In the morning, pull out into deeper water and wait until you feel the fish hit the sides of the net before you pull the net closed and haul it in.
2. In some waters, catch alewife at night under stationary lights from docks and house boats. Turn on the light for several hours to attract the bait. Then with the net ready to drop, turn off the light to disorient the bait and drop the net deep for success. Trout can be used effectively for bait in certain cold waters (be certain you understand TWRA regulations on using trout).

Nets:

1. Have both 1/2-inch and 5/8-inch mesh nets with you. The larger mesh net sinks faster, which helps when the bait is suspended 15-20 feet deep. Depending on shad size, they may get caught in one or the other size mesh. Having the alternative mesh will give you an option. A seven-foot net is best, with at least 1# of weight per radial foot.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 12]



Wayne Beeler with a nice catch-and-release fish in mid-March.

Fishing Hot Spots



Cherokee Lake: Good

Stripers are much smaller than in past years. They seldom exceed eight pounds. Hybrids around 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.

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APRIL EXPECTATIONS

The stripers will be in the headwaters of the rivers and in the major feeder creeks for the spawn. The temperature of the water will dictate where 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. A striper 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 the survival of released fish is also great.

Fishing Regulations

New fishing licenses were required as of 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.



What To Do When You Make a Record-Book Catch

Wow!! You and your fishing buddy got into a school of monster hybrids and your scales indicate that one might be a new state record. The problem is that you have no idea what to do next. After you stop shaking and regain your composure, follow these simple steps:

Preserve your fish: Remember that your trophy will start to dehydrate and lose weight immediately. To minimize weight loss before it's weighed, keep it as cool as possible. Put it on ice and get it to a certified scale as soon as possible. If this is not practical, then go home immediately. Wrap your prize in several layers of wet newspapers, double bag it in heavy plastic bags, and put it in your freezer. (Remember that freezers with defrost programs will dehydrate items over time.)

Fill out TWRA's record form: After your prize is chilled, obtain a Tennessee State Record Application form, available at these locations:

Cumberland Plateau Office
464 Industrial Blvd.
Crossville, TN 38555
931-484-9571 or 1-800-262-6704

East Tennessee Office
3030 Wildlife Way
Morristown, TN 37814
423-587-7037 or 1-800-332-0900

Use a certified scale: Your trophy will have to be weighed on a certified scale that is legal for trade such as at a supermarket, the post office, or a TWRA office. The weighing must be witnessed by two people, one of whom must be the scale operator. Both of these people will have to sign the official application that you obtained from the TWRA.

Verify your record: Go to www.state.tn.us/twra/fisheries.html and lookup the current record. If you set a new record, go back to the TWRA office and have your trophy identified by a TWRA fisheries biologist. The TWRA usually requires genetic testing on any fish that is potentially a new state record. If it is confirmed as a new record, the TWRA biologist will sign the form, which must be forwarded to the TWRA Fisheries Management Division within 30 days of the catch. The 30-day requirement will probably be waived if the TWRA does determine that genetic testing is required as the testing will take more than 30 days.

New U.S. Policy Could Create No-Fishing Zones

Preservationist groups, such as the Sierra Club and the World Wildlife Fund, have been trying to create "no-fishing zones" in marine areas for more than a decade. Here's why fishermen should be alarmed: Without input from recreational anglers and the conservation groups that represent them — such as Trout Unlimited, the U.S. Recreational Fishing & Boating Coalition, and the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies — decisions made under a new national oceans policy in Washington, D.C., could be used to close saltwater and freshwater recreational fishing areas.

As fishermen, we need to speak up to our elected officials and make certain that they know how important fishing is to the voters that they represent. Many of the fishing groups in East Tennessee tend to have different opinions on how TWRA should manage the lakes and rivers under their control, but we all share one common opinion: We do not want to lose our right to fish.

Read the article by National Public Radio:
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=124571293>

— ***Jim Blazier***

How to Contribute to the Newsletter:

Please send in any pictures or news that you think would interest club members — we are always glad to hear from you. You can e-mail photos and reports to:

engebretsenerik@yahoo.com

We usually put the newsletter together around the end of the month, but send your information any time and we will work it in.



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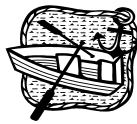
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YOUR 2010 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND STAFF

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Doug Steffe
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Secretary:

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Eric Rauch, John Seiber, Keith Shannon

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Tournament Coordinator:

Allan Franklin	865-694-8888
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Door Prizes:

[vacant]

Fishing Trip Raffle:

Jim Blazier	865-694-8014
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[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5]

2. Sources for good nets include Memphis Net and Twine (www.memphisnet.net) and Wheeler Enterprises (904-845-2686). One recommendation at Wheeler Enterprises is the Betts Professional, Sea Green, 5/8" mesh, 7' diameter, stock # 14-7.
3. Soak a new net in 1/4 cup of Downey to soften; store nets in a bucket of water for flexibility. To repair damaged nets, use braided line (doesn't catch on other lines easily).

After Catching the Bait:

1. Use rock salt at a rate of one cup / 20 gallons of water.
2. Don't put bait into water that is more than 7–10 degrees F. colder than where it came from or you'll shock the fish. Gradually change the water temperature if needed by replacing part of the water periodically.
3. Let the shad sit in a tub for several minutes after they are caught so that a lot of the waste they produce is gone before they are placed into your bait tank.
4. If you use Tranquil to sedate bait, use it sparingly to avoid killing the bait. Tranquil is sometimes used for skipjack and for hauling large numbers of bait to keep in separate tanks for later use. For general purposes, it isn't needed for gizzard or threadfin shad.
5. Don't overload your bait tank. For 6–7 inch gizzard shad, one per gallon is good.
6. Oxygen injection systems can be used in bait tanks, generally for skip jack, during hot weather, and keeping more shad than usual.
7. Keep large fish baskets in water at a dock to have plenty of bait during cooler months when the surface water is less than 75 degrees F. (If you want one check with Ezell.)

Places to Catch Bait:

Good locations for catching bait: IC King Park (Ft. Loudoun), Topside Road – Georges Creek area (Ft. Loudoun), Bull Run Steam Plant (Melton Hill), across from the Chinese Restaurant (Melton Lake Drive, Oak Ridge), Bull Run Creek (Melton Hill), coves on Cherokee Reservoir (e.g., Quarryville), below Ft. Loudoun and Melton Hill dams, at the discharge from Tellico Dam, and around the barges below Ft. Loudoun Dam. Also mentioned was the cove behind the large culvert on the left bank going downstream between the Hwy 25 W ramp in Clinton and the public ramp off Hwy 61 between Clinton and Oak Ridge (Melton Hill). Note that catching bait on Norris Reservoir is typically difficult.

Sandy McDaniel of Angler's Advantage and Brian Graham showed their live-well cooling system. The 12-volt system includes a heat exchanger that is submerged in ice and cold water in a cooler (which you provide) and includes all parts needed for a normal hook up to a bait tank. Retail price: \$249; TSBA price (with a minimum of four orders): \$187 each. Web site: www.koolwell.com; telephone: 865-755-3071.

OTHER BUSINESS

The members unanimously approved a change to the TSBA Inc. bylaws: the Board of Directors will now appoint officers rather than hold elections. (This is the procedure at corporations.) Eric Rauch shared an opportunity for TSBA to sponsor a fishing activity for Big Brothers/Big Sisters in June.

Submitted by Acting TSBA Secretary Eric Rauch on 3/18/2010

2010 TSBA Calendar

Please join us at TSBA meetings and events. Unless otherwise noted, monthly meetings are held at Shoney's Restaurant, 2405 Andersonville Highway. Get off I-75 at Exit 122 (Hwy. 61 - Clinton/Norris), head east. Shoney's is on the left.

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| April 19 | Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
Bill Carson from Lowrance |
| May 8 | Striper Bowl, Grainger County Park, 2-8 PM |
| May 22 | Monthly Meeting at Grainger County Park boat ramp,
2 PM. Todd Asher to demonstrate setting planer boards,
floats and down lines. |
| June 5 | Kids' Day, Grainger County Park, 4-8 PM |
| June 12 | TWRA free fishing day, kids event, Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery |
| June 19 | Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
(Program to be determined) |
| July 19 | Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
Mike Smith of TWRA on stocking striped bass |
| August 16 | Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
Mike Madalena to speak on finding fish in 'new waters' |
| Sept. 25 | Fish Fry Grainger Park [time to be determined] |
| Oct. 18 | Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM |
| Nov. 15 | Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM |

The TSBA web site has been rebuilt by Keith Shannon.
Access it at **www.TNStripedBass.com**, logging in with your
real name to register and your own unique password.

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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 2010 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**



**Make sure to send your dues for 2010
as soon as possible and check the calendar
for meeting dates in 2010.**