

# Tennessee Striped Bass Association

Get Hooked !



August 2018



Steve Nichols' grandson Tyler on Watts Bar

Monthly Meeting every first Monday:

Puleo's Grill, 110 Cedar Lane off Merchants Rd. at I - 75

TSBA web site <http://tnstripedbass.com/> for the latest news.

Submit news items to [tsba.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:tsba.newsletter@gmail.com)

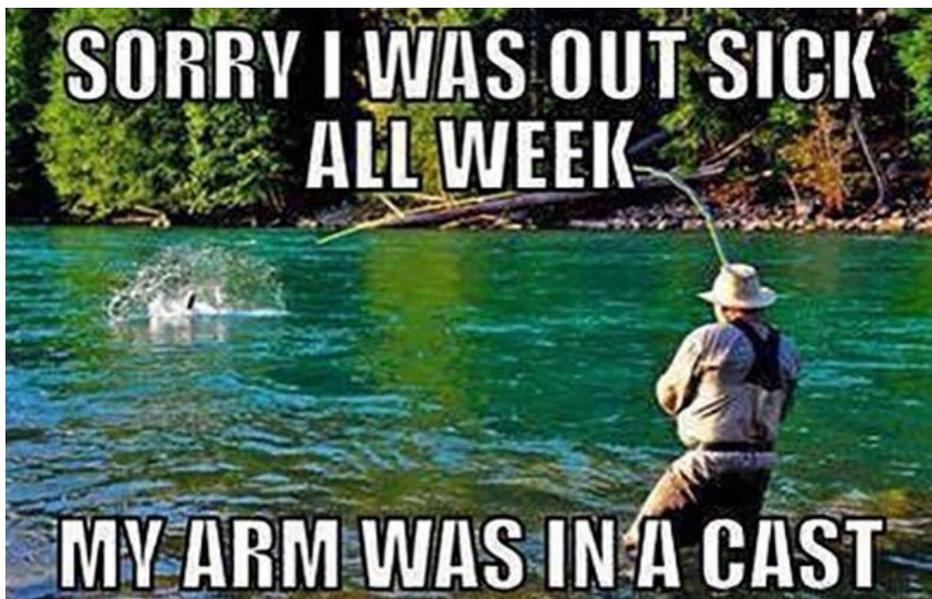
Join us on Facebook [Tennessee Striped Bass Association](#)

# July Meeting

*Highlights From July's Speaker, Submitted by Eric Rauch*

## **FUZZY LAMBERT**

We had the pleasure of having TSBA member Fuzzy Lambert speak at our July meeting. Fuzzy is the area representative for Minn Kota, Humminbird and Cannon (downriggers). He showed members how to efficiently use Humminbird Helix and Solix fish finders. It's really amazing how advanced the units have become over the last few years. In addition, he explained how you can integrate the Humminbird units with many of the Minn Kota trolling motors. He also said to be on the lookout for a new upgrade in the next few weeks. (Post meeting note: In July Minn Kota announced that down imaging will now be available on some of their higher end trolling motors.) If you see Fuzzy on the water, usually Cherokee in our area, cruise over and say hello.



# August Expectations

Expect to find the thermocline developed and getting deeper in the stratified calm waters with 80 + degrees on the surface. Striped bass are temperate bass and they will be seeking out the deeper, cooler temperatures. Water quality reports sometimes become available by Region 4 TWRA biologists on Norris and Cherokee Reservoirs in July and are worth looking at to locate areas with suitable temperature and dissolved oxygen at depth.

The gizzard and threadfin shad will seek out the warmest water they can find; the striper will follow them to feed then return to their thermal refuge quickly. The alewife is also a temperate species and will seek out deeper cooler water, making a fish finder your best bet for finding them. The striper and bait-eating birds will be where the bait is most abundant.

Artificial baits can be very productive this time of year. You may want to try jigging or trolling. Umbrella rigs have become a favorite method the last several years. Be safe and aware of the extra activity on the lakes as the other large boats with skiers, wake boarder, and swimmers have also come out to play. Large live bait is working well again and normally easy to catch this time of year. Catch and release may become questionable in some places this month. Please don't kill a fish that is not part of your harvest limit in the hot summer months.

*Ezell Cox.*

# Outlook for current fishing spots

## **CHEROKEE LAKE**

The striped bass and alewife will be seeking refuge in cooler, deeper water as the lake warms up into the high 80's. Looking for the large concentrations of baitfish and bait-eating birds is still a good way to find stripers/hybrids, but breaking fish on the surface will slow with only a few showing up early in the morning until later in the month when they are released from their thermal trap. Large schools can often be found on the fish finders, allowing jigging to work well on the main channel points and humps near the dam area. The premium locations are normally downstream near the dam around the underwater humps near the main channel. The larger stripers can be stressed with the warm water and low dissolved oxygen, making it difficult to release these fish successfully. The no fishing zone is in effect until September 15.

## **NORRIS LAKE**

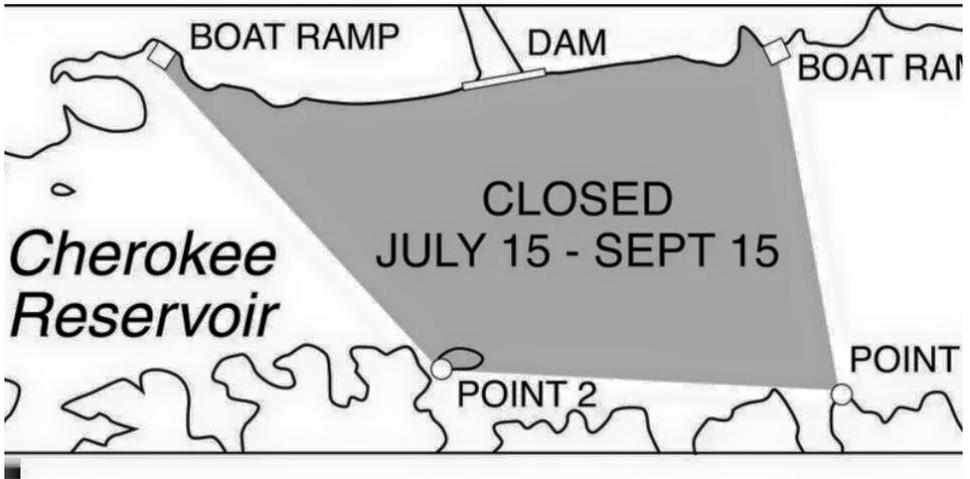
The best tool will be the fish finder as the fish start to go deeper in the water column in search of thermal refuge. The largest concentrations of striper will be in the downstream half of the reservoir and in some of the major deep coves like Cove and Big Creeks, but near deep water main channel humps. The bait eating birds are scarce on Norris to help find the bait but the bait and striped bass will be much easier to locate on the fish finder as they move away from the banks and out of the coves. Good catch and release practice on some of the smaller striper may still be successful by removing the hook quickly while still in the water but release of the larger adult striper is not a good conservation practice. Caution should be used with a harvest and quit plan. The thermal trap on Norris lasts well into October so the best fishing should be deep within a few miles upstream of the dam.

## **WATTS BAR & MELTON HILL**

Fishing in the tail race and downstream river will only get better as the flow at the dams increase and the water cools. The release schedule plays a major role in the quality of fishing below the dams and it seems to be much better with flow. Release schedules can be looked up on the TVA web site to improve your catch rate by being there at the right time. Top water bites can happen all summer in the tailrace and downstream. Limited handling of the fish can improve the survival of released fish. The fish in Watts Bar & lower Clinch Watts bar have contamination warnings so should not be harvested.

# SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS:

A closed fishing zone will be in effect from Jul 15 through Sept 15. This zone is enclosed by lines from the boat ramp at the south end of the dam across the lake to Point 2, from Point 2 to Point 3, and from Point 3 back across the lake to the TWRA boat ramp at the north end of the dam.



# September Expectations

Expect to find the thermocline developed and getting deeper in the stratified calm waters with 80 + degrees on the surface. Water quality reports sometimes become available by region 4 TWRA biologists on Norris and Cherokee reservoirs in July, August, and September; these are worth looking at to see suitable temperatures with dissolved oxygen at depth.

Striped bass are temperate bass so they seek out the deeper, cooler temperatures until the water column homogenizes top to bottom. The gizzard and threadfin shad will seek out the warmest water they can find and the striper will follow them to feed, then return quickly to their thermal refuge. The alewife will also seek out deeper, cooler water. They can be found by using a good fish finder. The striper and bait-eating birds will be where the bait is most abundant.

Artificial baits can be very productive this time of year. You may want to try jigging or trolling. Umbrella rigs have become a favorite method the last several years. Be safe and aware of the extra activity on the lakes as the other large boats with skiers, wake boarders, and swimmers come out to play also. September is the transition month when school begins, cooler weather and other activities like hunting and football can make the water more enjoyable for fishermen. Large live bait is working well again and normally easy to catch this time of year. Catch and release is questionable in most places.

*Ezell Cox*



Keith Shannon on Watts Bar

# Creel and Size limits

## **CHEROKEE LAKE**

### **Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass:**

2 per day in combination, 15 inch minimum length limit

## **NORRIS LAKE**

### **Striped Bass**

April 1–October 31: 2 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

November 1–March 31: 1 per day, 36 inch minimum length limit

## **WATTS BAR**

### **Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass:**

April 1–October 31: 2 per day in combination

November 1–March 31: 2 per day in combination, only one may be a striped bass.

### **Striped Bass:**

April 1–October 31: 15 inch minimum length limit.

November 1–March 31: 36 inch minimum length limit

### **Hybrid Striped Bass:**

15 inch minimum length limit

## **MELTON HILL**

### **Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass:**

2 per day in combination, including Clinch River upstream to Highway 61 bridge in Clinton. 15 inch minimum length limit

### **Striped Bass:**

32–42 inch PLR; only one fish may be over 42 inches



Darrell Gross with a Cherokee hybrid



Steve Nichols with accidental by-catch

# Know Your Enemy - Asian Carp

Seven species of carp native to Asia have been introduced into United States waters in recent decades, but it's four in particular—bighead, black, grass and silver—that worry ecologists, biologists, fishers and policymakers alike. Introduced in the southeast to help control weeds and parasites in aquaculture operations, these fish soon spread up the Mississippi River system where they have been crowding out native fish populations not used to competing with such aggressive invaders. The carps' presence in such numbers is also compromising water quality and killing off sensitive species such as freshwater mussels.

Asian carp are hardy, lay hundreds of thousands of eggs at a time and spread into new habitat quickly and easily. To wit, they can jump over barriers such as low dams. Also, flooding has helped the fish expand into previously unattainable water bodies. And fishers using young carp as live bait have also facilitated the fish's spread, as have boats going through locks up and down the Mississippi.

The federal government's Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force considers the Asian carps to be nuisance species and encourages and supports "active control" by natural resources management agencies. Federal and state governments have spent millions in tax dollars accordingly to prevent the carp from making their way into the Great Lakes, but an elaborate underwater electric fence constructed to keep them out has not worked as well as hoped, and policymakers are reviewing other options now.

Friends and neighbors of the Great Lakes are particularly concerned about the impact Asian carp could have on the region's \$7 billion/year fishing industry. In 2009 the states of Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin filed suit in federal court against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Chicago's Metropolitan Water Reclamation District seeking measures to prevent Asian carp from moving through the Chicago Area Waterway System into Lake Michigan. While a federal district court dismissed the lawsuit last December, it could resurface in a future appeal.

Regardless of whether the states can keep the Mississippi and Great Lakes systems segregated, Asian carp are expected to keep spreading throughout other parts of the U.S. through river systems that connect up with the Mississippi directly or otherwise. Federal researchers estimate that even if Asian carp are kept out of the Great Lakes, they could affect freshwater fisheries in as many as 31 states representing some 40 percent of the continental U.S.

In the meantime, state and federal agencies are monitoring the Mississippi and its tributaries for Asian carp and testing various barrier technologies to prevent their further spread. For instance, the National Park Service is collaborating with the state of Minnesota's Department of Natural Resources to construct new dams that are high enough to prevent Asian carp from jumping over. The Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee has funded DNA monitoring in potentially affected water bodies whereby researchers can determine whether the troublesome fish are present just by the biological footprints they leave behind. Individuals can do their part by not transporting fish or even water from one water body to another, and by draining and rinsing boats before moving them between different water bodies.

*From Scientific American Online*



Top - Gizzard Shad; Bottom - Asian Carp

# Club Meeting: Speakers for 2018

## August 6th:

TWRA Mike Smith- Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery discussion on striper stocking

## September 3rd:

Meeting falls on Labor Day. Meeting to be determined?

## October 6th:

Club Fish Fry (no regular club meeting) Fish Fry will be at Grainger County Park, October 6th.

## November 5th:

Jay Girardot– Umbrella rigs when and how.

## December 3rd:

Board of Directors meeting (no regular club meeting)



Please plan to attend our annual TSBA Fish Fry on Oct. 6 at Grainger County Park. We'll eat around 2:00. It's always fun to see folks, especially those from out of town who can't make our meetings. Put it on your calendar. More information will follow as we get closer to the date.

## YOUR 2018 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND STAFF

**President:** Keith Shannon

**Vice President:** Steve Nichols

**Treasurer:** Art Muchow

**Secretary:** Eric Rauch

**Board Chairman:** Allan Franklin

### TSBA DIRECTORS

Bill Ballou, Jim Blazier, Steve Nichols, Cory Malabey, David Powell, Eric Rauch, Allan Franklin, Bob Biscay, Hal Basdekis

### TSBA STAFF

**Newsletter Printing:** Jim Blazier, Bill Ballou

**Distribution:** Jim's email [jblazier@comcast.net](mailto:jblazier@comcast.net)

**Newsletter Editor:** Beth Willis [tsba.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:tsba.newsletter@gmail.com)

**Membership:** Art Muchow [arthurmuchow@yahoo.com](mailto:arthurmuchow@yahoo.com)

**Web Administrator:** Bob Biscay [tennstripedbass@gmail.com](mailto:tennstripedbass@gmail.com)

**Sponsor Coordinator:** Justin Rose

**Advisors:** Ezell Cox 423-626-9547

Allan Franklin 865-805-3120

# TSBA Sponsors

TSBA appreciates all the support we get from our sponsors. If you would like to see your business listed in our newsletter please consider renewing for 2018. TSBA can provide newsletters for our sponsors to distribute. Thanks!



102 Cross Park Drive  
(Located on HWY 61, across from Anderson Co. High School.)  
Clinton, TN 37716  
Hours: Mon-Sat 8 am - 8 pm, Sun 9 am - 7 pm  
Pick-Up Trucks Welcomed

[www.tazewellmotorlodge.com](http://www.tazewellmotorlodge.com)

TEL: (423) 626-7229

FAX: (423) 626-2600



**TAZEWELL MOTOR LODGE**  
2357 HWY. 25E • TAZEWELL, TN 37879

LOW RATES  
AIR-CONDITIONING  
OPEN 24 HOURS  
INTERNET

CABLE TV, HBO, MOVIES  
DIRECT DIAL PHONES  
FAX AND COPY  
**HOSTS: BONNIE & HARRY**



Call Ahead Seating  
865-688-2575

1-75 Merchants Dr  
Knoxville, TN

Steaks - Italian  
Seafood - Southern



**WE SELL LIVE SHAD!**

865-224-2225  
12329 Hwy 321 N.  
Lenoir City, TN

[www.bigfishout.com](http://www.bigfishout.com)

Located Near  
Melton Hill Dam

# TSBA 2018 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

As a member, you will:

- \* Receive a monthly newsletter.
- \* Help support Striped Bass Fisheries & Wildlife Agencies.
- \* Be informed of new regulations & information that affect striper fishing.
- \* Develop a network of "striper friends."
- \* Learn new methods to improve your striped bass fishing effectiveness.
- \* Be able to call officers for fishing reports.
- \* Be able to attend monthly meetings with informative programs.
- \* Have access to all areas of the TSBA web page.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ # of minor children in family \_\_\_\_\_

Referred By: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide an e-mail address to receive the monthly newsletter:

E-Mail address \_\_\_\_\_

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: TSBA***

**2954 Lake Forest Circle**

**Talbott, TN. 37877**

**Simplified Renewal Note:** Returning members with no changes to their contact information are not required to fill out the application. Just send a \$20 check to the address above. Be sure to include the member's name on the check. When you send in your check, please provide TSBA with an email address where we can send your club newsletter. 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.

Tennessee Striped Bass Association  
2954 Lake Forest Circle  
Talbot, Tn. 37877

**T**ennessee

**S**triped

**B**ass

**A**ssociation

**GET HOOKED!**