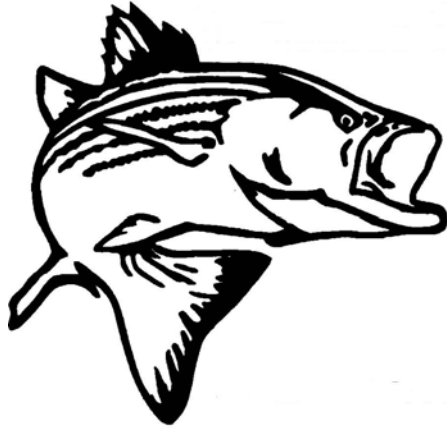


**Catch
The
Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



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

**August
2009**

“Save the Date” 9/20 Fish Fry / Reunion



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I am writing this letter in hopes of receiving help from all of our members concerning the future of our Striper fishery. We are approaching the time of year where the officials from TWRA meet and discuss proposed changes and stocking rates for the following year. With new leadership at TWRA, it is more important than ever that they hear our voices on how we want the fishery managed. TSBA needs your help in voicing concerns over a couple of changes that TWRA wants to make, and a change in the regulations that we want to see happen.

Currently, there is talk amongst TWRA of 2 changes that could drastically affect the fishing on Cherokee Lake. The first is eliminating the no fishing zone in the summer time by the dam. It is common knowledge that the stripers seek out the deeper aerated water at this time of year, and are susceptible to dying from the stress of the fight and warm water temps. They have a zero chance of survival in these conditions, and if the no fishing zone was lifted, it would bring us back to the times before the zone was in place where the dam area would be littered with dead stripers.

Secondly, the biologist that are responsible for stocking stripers are wavering back and forth on whether or not to stock stripers in Cherokee. The overwhelming majority of us want to continue to see Stripers stocked in Cherokee and we need to have our voices heard to continue the stocking. Even if Cherokee is not your favorite place to fish, you need to be concerned. Not stocking Cherokee will bring those fisherman looking for Stripers to your favorite lake and create more pressure.

Lastly, we are trying to protect the fish in Melton Hill Lake. Melton Hill is not a stocked lake; however there is a fishable population that comes up from the lock at the Melton Hill Dam. Currently there is a slot limit that is enforced up to Hines Creek on the Clinch River. We would like to see this limit extended all the way to Norris Dam. These fish migrate up and down the river all year, and it makes no sense to only protect them in certain parts of the lake.

So, how can you help? We ask that you take the time to write, e-mail, or phone your commissioners and regional managers and voice your opinion on the above issues. Check the website soon for a detailed list of contacts for TWRA. Each of us needs to take personal ownership and let them know how we feel, if we don't speak up and voice our concerns over these issues, we only have ourselves to blame when the outcome is not the one we desire.

Thanks for your support,

Erik Engebretsen,

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 JULY MEETING

The Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc. met on July, 18, 2009 at the TWRA Fish Hatchery in Clinton, TN. The Club supplied pizza and drinks for a group of about 34 people. There were 2 new members and a few guests (we seem to have more guests when we have free pizza). We ate and visited from around 6:00pm to 7:00pm and then had our monthly meeting.

The speaker for the evening was Mike Smith. He is the manager of the Clinton Fish Hatchery and is an excellent source of information on striper habits and culture.

The hatchery is the primary East Tennessee source for stocked fish. They raise at least 10 species. Some like walleye and sauger and smallmouth you would expect. They also raise species like bluegill and redear (shellcrackers) for stocking in farm ponds. Some species they release in our area and some extra fry they trade to other states for additional species. (They recently traded some extra striper fry to Kentucky for 2000, 10" to 12" musky to put in Melton Hill.)

The hatching, raising and stocking are done for the year. With a second round of striper in late May, they were able to meet all of the target stocking objectives set by the fisheries biologists at TWRA.

In our area they stocked:

Norris 106,000 (40,000 in the Powell side and 66,000 in the Clinch side)
Cherokee 86 to 90,000 (all hybrids)
Watts Bar 86,000 (the middle Tn hatchery will release another 114,000 later)
Boone 32,000

Ft. Loudon and Melton Hill do not get stocked.

Other Business

The bait store on Edgemore Rd that stocks trout has changed hands. The new owners and the store manager came to the meeting to meet people and to find out what we would like for them to provide. They are willing to work with us, particularly in stocking the size trout we prefer. Their phone number is still 945-9981 and they are at 530 Edgemore Rd.

The TSBA now has a source of hats with the club logo. They come in summer (mesh back) and winter (solid back) versions and are \$10.00. They will be available at the Fish Fry.

Dick Vornehm
TSBA Secretary



JULY 2009 QUESTION OF THE MONTH

***HAVE YOU TRIED CHUMMING FOR STRIPERS OR HYBRIDS?
WHAT DID YOU USE?***

GIVE A SHORT DESCRIPTION IF YOU WOULD LIKE.

We had 8 members respond that they had tried chumming for Stripers or Hybrids, if you can count getting seasick as one yes answer. After asking several meeting attendees to answer the question and observing their response I came to the conclusion that there might be more experience with chumming than they would admit.

I thought about this question when I was watching a saltwater Striper fishing show on TV and saw that chumming was a very important part of their setup method. They positioned the boat just far enough away from a hump or sand bar to let the current carry their chum trail and their baits over the hump. If chumming works for saltwater Stripers, why not freshwater?

A couple of years ago John Seiber and I were down line fishing and watching a number of nice fish on the depth finder but we were only having moderate success. We had a predetermined time to head home and to maximize our fishing time we decided to prepare the boat and empty the bait tank while the lines were still in the water. After flipping a few nice baits into the water we watched the depth finder screen get very active with fish movement. I could embellish the story by saying we caught a lot of nice fish but we had almost emptied the tank before they got active and we started catching fish. And sometimes you just have to go at a predetermined time.

There is a lot of information on the net about chumming for Stripers:

[http://www.google.is/search?
hl=en&q=chumming+for+freshwater+stripers&aq=f&oq=](http://www.google.is/search?hl=en&q=chumming+for+freshwater+stripers&aq=f&oq=)

I will close by quoting Ezell's answer to the Fishing Reports question.

"Yes. It does work. The best instant success was on Cherokee at the dam a few years ago. Bob Leach was with me and we were marking huge schools of stripers on the bottom but the many fishermen were not getting any bites. I saw a school of bait on the surface close by and put the net over it well to catch about 300 shad. I just pulled the net onto the deck with the shad in it and headed back to the location where the stripers were. When Bob said we were over the stripers I dumped the net. INSTANT FISH ON FOR EVERYBODY within 5 seconds even fishermen casting from the bank. Bob wrote about it in one of our past newsletters. I have also use chum balls and cut bait for chum with success. "

Jim Blazier

Striper Fishing Tidbits

Planer Boards – Almost all live-bait striper fishermen use planer boards sometime during the year – especially in the spring. Their biggest advantage is that they allow the angler to get their shad away from the boat so more area can be covered quickly. Also, it allows the shallow banks to be effectively fished without spooking the fish. There are many different versions of planer boards but the most popular commercially-available board is manufactured by Off-Shore. I've fished these boards quite successfully now for several years. These boards come standard with the spring-loaded, line release attached rigidly to the board. Overall, these boards work great but the rigid construction of the release mechanism can cause the line to become tangled around the board unless you set the board carefully into the water. I now detach the release and re-attach it to the same place on the board with a short length of cord as shown in the figure on page? This makes it much easier to put the board in the water. In fact, you can almost throw it into the water and it will untangle itself and pull properly away from the boat.

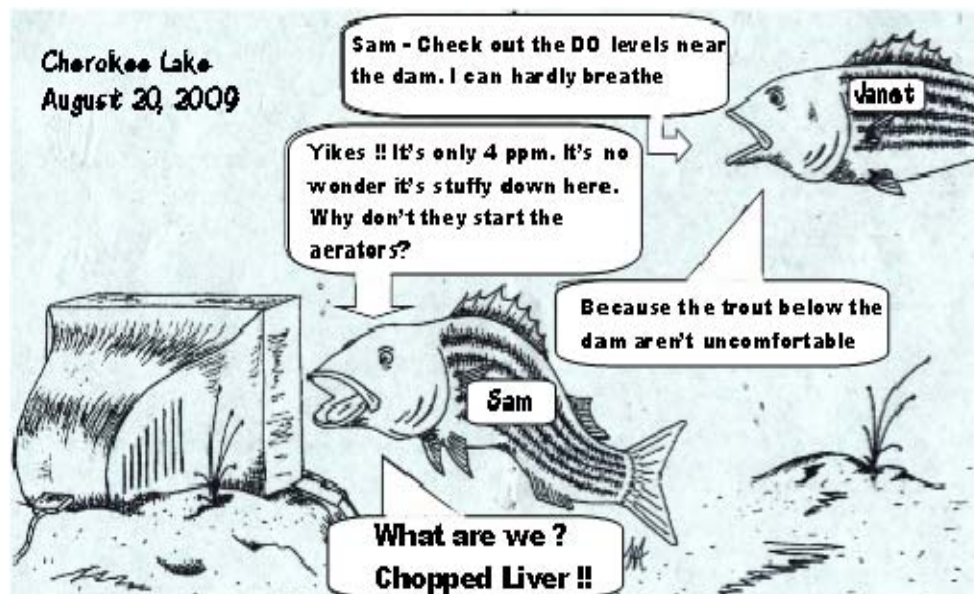
Egg Sinkers – The use of egg sinkers is quite popular especially during the hottest months when the stripers go deep in an effort to find cooler water. The setup that I like is to attach a two to three foot leader to a swivel. On the other side of the swivel, I attach the line from the reel with an egg sinker which is free to slide up and down. While this works well, I've found that the egg sinker can sometimes contact the knot where the line from the reel is attached to the swivel. This can damage the knot and weaken it. Lately, I have been putting a small section of 1/4" aquarium airline hose between the egg sinker and the swivel. Therefore, whenever the heavy egg sinker does bounce up and down, it hits the end of the plastic air line hose and not the knot attached to the swivel. I came up with this idea after I had a big striper break my line where the swivel was attached. I was quite puzzled as the knot was good, I had adequately-sized line and the drag was set okay. When I re-rigged, I noticed how easy it was for the egg sinker to hit the knot attached to the swivel.

Swivel Size – When I was pondering about what went wrong when I unexpectedly lost the big striper mentioned above, one of the things that I figured out was that it would have been better if I had used a swivel with a larger diameter wire for the eyelet. I have always purchased swivels with poundage ratings well above what was necessary and I have never had a swivel break. Going larger, I thought, was just a waste of money. However, when you look at the physics behind why a line breaks at a hook or a swivel, you realize that it's the pressure on the line at the knot that's important and not the actual force. Your line will have a higher pressure on it at the knot if it's tied to a small diameter hook or swivel than if it's tied to a device with a larger diameter. I now use oversized swivels just because their eyelets are made with larger diameter wire.

Bob Leach



Don't forget the No Fishing Zone on Cherokee runs from July 15 to Sept 16.



Fishing Hot Spots



Cherokee Lake: Poor

The best fishing will be within a few miles of the dam. Pulling artificials on downriggers and jigging spoons will catch more fish than live bait this month. Most of the time, hybrids can be released. Please do not kill more than your limit of stripers after September 15 in the oxygen bubbles by trying to release them.

Norris Lake: Good

Most of the stripers will be near the dam. Point #9 downstream and in Big Creek and Cove Creek. Artificial bait on downriggers works great. Nighttime still offers a lot of good fishing.

To review the dissolved oxygen level data, go to www.TNStripedBass.com. Click on "TWRA Region 4." Then click on "Summer Water Quality."

Tailrace and Downstream: Excellent

Four common methods of fishing below dams all work well.

1. Run up into the boils and lob live bait into the boil and drift downstream.
2. Cast heavy jigs into the boils or cast into schooling fish anywhere you find them.
3. Use side planer boards against the bank with live bait going with the current for miles downstream.
4. Fish with live bait and a heavy sinker placed near the bottom and go with the current until you find feeding fish.

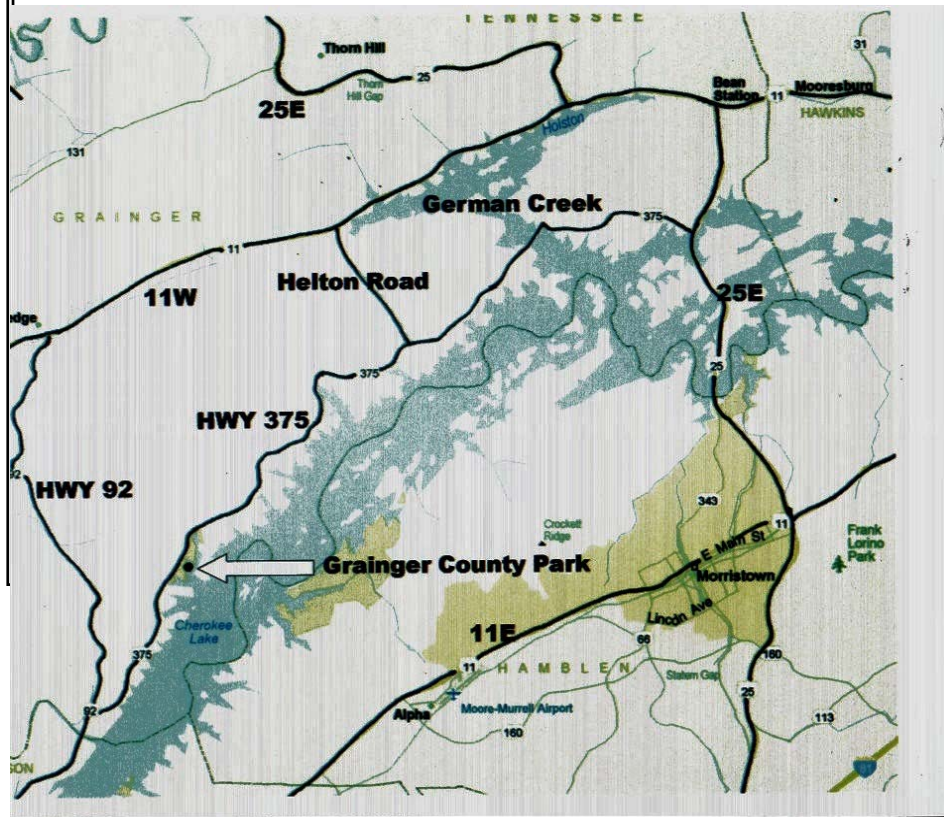
September Expectations

Early September is much the same as August in the reservoirs. The larger stripers will be in the old river channels near the dam, below the thermocline, trying to find enough cool water with dissolved oxygen in it to survive. The stripers are stressed more than any other time of year so catch and release is not possible if it exceeds 20 to 25 inches (4 to 8 pounds) depending on the reservoir. As the cold water is released through the dam, the funnel effect can cause the thermocline to go very deep late in the month so fish can be caught in excess of 100 feet. Cool water tailrace fishing will continue to be at its best for the entire year. Some of the tailraces may struggle to have a successful catch and release of the larger fish. Wear your life jacket below the dams. It may save you \$200 in fines or even your life.

Speaker for August 17 Meeting
Mack Farr from Lake Lanier on Umbrella Rig Fishing
Shoney's at Clinton, 6:00 Dinner, 7:00 Speaker



**Grainger County Park, location for the September
Fish Fry Reunion**



**The Fish Fry / Reunion starts at 2:00 with
dinner served around 4:00. Come early for
door prizes, contests and tackle swap.**

Pictures from previous Fish Fry Reunions



Some nice fish caught by Keith Shannon and friends (Dick, Stacy, Cory) while fishing this summer.







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Doug Steffe
865-278-2363, 865-335-3815

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

Fishing Trip Raffle: Jim Blazier 865-694-8014

Erik Engebretsen with 39 #



July Hatchery Meeting



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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.

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

The current password is:

Username: "fish" Password: "finder"



2009 TSBA Fish Fry & Reunion

The 2009 TSBA fish fry is rapidly approaching and you need to start making plans to attend this very popular event on Sunday, September 20th at the Grainger County Park on beautiful Cherokee Lake. Last year's attendance was an all-time high with almost 125 members/guests and this year the attendance could go even higher. It's a great time to meet old friends that you haven't seen in a while and to welcome any newer members to the club. The camaraderie will be the highlight of the event for many of the folks attending.

This is the first year that the fish fry will be held at the Grainger County Park and some of you may not know where it's located. A map showing its location is shown on page 9. Also, detailed direction is given in the 2009 April newsletter. This park is vastly superior to the previous site in Anderson County as there is a lot more room and the parking lot is many times larger. You'll like the location and the facilities. Also, the food will be outstanding as usual. I believe that the deep-fried striper is as good as any fish that I've ever tried and they will be complimented by all of the other pot-luck goodies that will be brought to the gathering. Also, you'll be able to get some great advice and instructions on casting your net for bait.

This year we are planning to set up a table where members can sell their unwanted new or used fishing gear. Everyone has some items lying around which, at one time, they just had to have. Now, years later, you discover that it's quietly sitting on the back of a shelf in your garage gathering dust. Bring it along and see if you can get a little cash for it. Also, if it doesn't sell, you can always donate it to the club for door prizes. We will have an impressive list of door prizes but we can always use some more things to ease the financial burden on the club. If you were at last year's fish fry, you may remember that some potted plants were donated to the club for door prizes and this is going to happen again this year. However, we are going to do it a little differently this year. All of the plants will have a price on them and you can purchase them before the door-prize drawing begins. All proceeds from the sale of the plants will go directly into the club's general account. Once the door-prize drawing starts, any remaining plants will be available to select as a door prize whenever your number is drawn. Any plants left over after the drawing can be picked up for free and taken home.

The fish fry is the club's most popular event and it gets bigger every year. Please make every effort to be there this year and bring a friend.

Bob Leach

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 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**