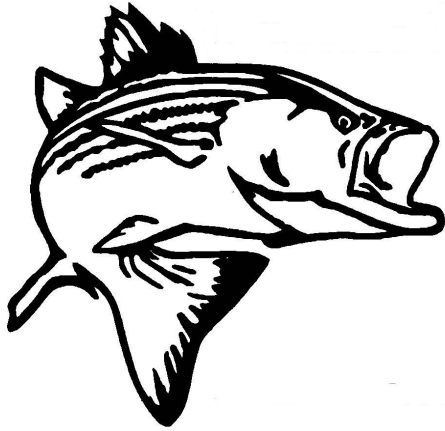


**Catch  
the  
Striper  
Fever!**

# T.S.B.A.



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

**August  
2011**



*Richard Miller,  
pictured right,  
caught this 30  
pound fish on  
Norris Lake  
while out on a  
fishing trip out  
with Pat Kneiss  
and Sammy  
Robinette.*

## President's Letter

Hello everyone,

The annual fish fry is right around the corner. At our next meeting we will plan the details and assign responsibilities. If you are interested in helping out, either come to the meeting or give me a call. My contact information can always be found in the staff directory, which can be found on page 12 of this newsletter. If you are planning on coming to the fish fry, please bring a side dish or dessert. If you haven't been to our fish fry, you are missing a good time. We always have a great turnout with members coming from several states to enjoy this event. We will have some friendly games for everyone and there is also a nice playground for the kids. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

I have confirmed our speakers for the October meeting. Our guest speakers, Captain Clay Cunningham and Bill Carson, will discuss basic use and reading of Lowrance graphs. They will also explain how to use the GPS feature to not only navigate but also find fish. I think there will be some great discussion on these topics so come prepared to ask questions.

— Erik Engebretsen



### Important Reminder

TSBA has made a change in the time for the monthly meetings. We will now meet for dinner at 6:00 p.m. The monthly meeting will start at 7:00 p.m.

## **Minutes of the July 2011 meeting**

Considering the very hot weather, TSBA members are still quite involved and contributing to the club meetings. Many members are actively fishing for Tennessee monsters and came to the meeting willing to share information with fellow members during the dinner hour. Our guest speaker was Mike Smith from the TWRA Eagle Bend Hatchery. Mike came to review the stocking of stripers in East TN Reservoirs:

Cherokee Lake has been stocked with adequate numbers of stripers and hybrids: 72,997 stripers and 44,160 hybrids for a total of 117,157 or 3.6 fish per acre.

Norris Lake received 106,220 striper, or 3.1 fish per acre.

Boone got 25,355 stripers and 32,574 hybrids for a total of 57,929, or 13.1 fish per acre.

The Watts Bar goal is 191,000 or 5 fish per acre, and stocking is now in progress.

Questions were asked regarding where fish were stocked in Norris Lake. Mike shared this information with members. The stocking locations include Powell side point 18, 25E Bridge, point 19, Anderson Co. Park, Lindsey Mill, and the 33 Bridge.

Mike assured members that all of these fish were quite healthy and should have a good survival rate. Eagle Bend has met the quota for stripers in our area. Some Tennessee stripers made their way up to Indiana in a trade for musky. Mike also talked about the stocking of many other species such as walleye, sauger, yellow bass, musky and more.

Bud White mentioned to Mike that he had been catching some baby stripers in the cast net while catching bait on Watts Bar. Mike had not stocked Watts Bar yet and has some concerns that it may be natural reproduction. Mike says that once every few years this can occur below Loudon Dam. Eagle Bend Hatchery does not like to

see natural reproduction in Tennessee as this is harmful to their program.

Members had some concern about water quality. All Tennessee water is polluted to some degree. Mike urged members not to eat belly meat from fish. Fish should be baked to allow meat to drip off its juices. If you do consume Tennessee stripers, be selective where and when you do this and prepare it properly. Always cut the red meat from striper filets. The red meat along with the belly meat can contain a lot of the harmful toxins that may be harmful to you.

Doug Steffe and Mike Smith educated members on how to find the thermocline layer in a lake by reading oxygen profiles. The thermocline is a thin, distinct layer in a large body of water where temperature changes more rapidly with depths than it does in the layers above or below it. This is a very important tool when fishing reservoirs during hot months. Optimum temperatures for stripers is 62 to 65 degrees with at least 5 parts per million of dissolved oxygen. Stripers will seek out these areas in order to survive the warm water conditions of late summer. Stripers may leave these thermoclines during feeding times but will quickly return to these refuges.

During these warm water conditions, fish will most likely die when released. You can help keep mortality rates low by catching your creel limit and then stop fishing. Do not release large numbers of fish. If catch and release is important to you, then target mainstream tailraces for cooler water temperature where catch and release is possible this time of year. Mike explained to members the difference between mainstream reservoirs and tributary reservoirs.

Doug Steffe needs volunteers to help at the annual fish fry. Lloyd Malone and his wife won their first 50/50 drawing of \$70. Allan Franklin reminded members of the closed fish zone on Cherokee. Allan says that fish can still be caught just outside this closed zone in the early morning and late evening on the underwater islands and in the cove by point 4.

— **Bud White, Secretary**

## Outlook for current fishing spots

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### **CHEROKEE LAKE**

The larger stripers may start to struggle from accumulated stress, so catch and release is not recommended in late summer. Please harvest your limit and quit fishing for stripers. Hybrids are more tolerant of the warm water conditions than the stripers; they can often be caught in shallow water and then released normally without mortality. This is the season that makes a quality fish finder and a topographical map great resources for finding fish. The NO FISHING ZONE is in effect until September 15. The humps and islands near the NO FISHING ZONE up to point #12 should be excellent locations for fishing.

### **NORRIS LAKE**

The best fishing can be found within 10 miles upstream of Norris Dam in the lower Clinch and Powell Rivers, including Big and Cove Creeks. Most of the stripers have moved out of the shallow, warm coves and into the main channel where they can be found with fish finders below the thermocline. Down lines and downriggers work well over marked fish.

### **WATTS BAR & MELTON HILL**

Many of the stripers have moved upstream to the discharge at the dams. If you plan to fish here, remember to **WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET**. Put your sinker and hook close to the bottom with plans to lose a few for the most catches. Pulling side planer boards down the banks can also catch fish for miles downstream. The stripers can be stressed if the flow is low enough to allow the water temperature to rise above 70 degrees. Use heavy line with a very quick release to keep from killing the fish.

### **FISHING REGULATIONS**

It is each fisherman's responsibility to know the rules and stay legal. The restricted fishing area begins July 15<sup>th</sup> on Cherokee Lake. Go on line to Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency at [www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org) or pick up a 2011 Fishing Regulations book at sporting stores or TWRA offices.

— *Ezell Cox*

# Tournament Results

TSBA sponsored its third and final tournament of 2011. There were nine boats with 22 participants entered in this tournament. Contestants gathered in the early morning on July 9 at the boat ramp below Melton Hill Dam. They had just four short hours to work their magic. Longest combined length determined the winners.

First Place - Professional striper guide Mike Allan was the winner of the July 9th tournament on Watts bar. His winning combination included a 36-inch fish and 31-inch fish for a grand total of 67 inches.

Second Place - Hal Dwight and his brother Dave Allen finished with a total of 59 inches.

Third Place - Allan Franklin and his crew finished with a total of 51.5 inches.

Side pot - The Mike Allan crew.



***Mike Allan's crew won first place and the big fish side pot. You might recall that Mike, above left, had a strong second place fish in the spring tournament held on Watts Bar. Learn more about Mike at [www.striperslayers.com](http://www.striperslayers.com).***





***Pictured above is Jack Stump holding a fish that helped land the Mike Allan team in first place. Pictured, below left, is the second place team of Hal Dwight and his brother Dave Allen. Allan Franklin, below right, was captain of the crew coming in third place. Congratulations!***



# Baitfish Gone Wild

The summer of 2011 is setting records - in heat waves from New York to Oklahoma. Fishing this time of year calls for extra precautions, both for the fisherman and his bait, to avoid heat exhaustion. The fisherman is well served to drink plenty of water, avoid being outside in the heat of the day, and wear light colored clothing. That should help take care of you. But what about your baitfish? As the air temperature rises, so does the water temperature. Warmer water naturally has a lower amount of oxygen available for fish - just as their metabolism rates are rising, creating a demand for more oxygen. A bucket of baitfish can quickly deplete the oxygen reserves in a bucket of water during hot weather. There are a few common sense things to do to avoid stressing out your baitfish: keep the holding water aerated with a battery-powered air diffuser, avoid exposing a bucket of fish to direct sunlight, or chemically treat your holding water to reduce the stress response (and the resulting increase demand for oxygen) typically exhibited by fish held in captivity.

Tranquil is the brand name of a water conditioner that is used to treat fish holding water in the baitfish industry. It is marketed as a product that will reduce injuries during the shipping and handling of baitfish. This product, when used by anglers, essentially allows you to hold more baitfish per volume of water. It works by suppressing fish metabolism rates, which in turn reduces the demand for oxygen in the holding water. Fish are calmer and stay alive longer. Water conditioners like this can be a tool to keep your baitfish in tip-top condition. However, just like in people, medications can have a side effect in fish. Following is one angler's story of discovering an advantageous side affect that Tranquil had on his baitfish. This story, written by former TSBA president John Seiber, was featured in a newsletter several years ago:

During the heat of this past summer, I decided to try using some Tranquil in my bait. I'm sure that a lot of you have experienced what I'm getting ready to describe, but maybe some have not. First, I will say this: follow the directions closely. If you add more Tranquil than what is called for, you will not only drug your bait, you



will put them into a coma (been there and done that). Anyway, on a hot day while fishing the boils below Melton Hill Dam, I added Tranquil to my bait tank water. The first thing that I noticed was the predictable lazy swimming of the bait and that they were a lot easier to catch from the tank. After getting my little bucket of fresh (untreated) water to put my bait in, I was ready to fish. I caught a bait (gizzard shad) and put it on the hook. I dropped the baitfish into the bucket for the ride up to the boils. When the baitfish went into the water, you would have thought that it had hit an electric wire. I would drop the bait into the bucket and it would leap back out onto the floor of the boat. After dropping one over the side of the boat into the river, it did the same thing. The small gizzards would act as if they were supercharged and would go absolutely crazy for a few minutes.

After this trip, I asked Ezell if he had ever experienced this, and he confirmed what I was talking about. It seems that Tranquil has a different effect on different species of baitfish, and with gizzards it drives them nuts. You may want to give this a try sometime if you have access to plenty of bait. The only bad thing about doing this is that your bait gets tired quickly from all that exertion of energy. It does make for good bait when you are fishing the boils or lobbing baits; just be sure that you have plenty of bait available. If you try this, you should put treated water in your bucket and let the bait go wild when you put it in front of the fish.

— *Sherry Wehner, Editor*

## **Summer Fishing Tip**

Always add rock salt (non-iodized salt) to your livewell, especially during hot weather. Salt in the water helps to alleviate handling stress in bait fish. Ezell Cox suggests using an 8-ounce cup of salt per every 20 gallons of water.

## September Expectations

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The place to fish will be below the thermocline in tributary reservoirs. The thermocline will continue to get deeper, and the fish will stay just below it; surface feeding in the reservoirs is over until October. Stripers will continue to hang out in this relatively cooler water until the lake turns over in October. This will make locating schools of striper with your fish finder a little easier as the fish congregate in the deeper, cooler water of the main channel.

Night fishing is a great way to avoid the sun, heat, thunderstorms and heavy pleasure-boat traffic. A good topographical map now becomes a great fishing tool. Be advised that fishing is often better with flow when the dams are generating. The tailraces will continue to draw fish to the cooler water, making them a good place to find some action while also still allowing for successful catch-and-release practices in the hot summer. Working the “boils” will become very effective in September. It is your life and money, so remember to wear your life jacket at the dams.

— *Ezell Cox*

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

## New member appreciates conservation spirit of TSBA

My name is Will Hackney and I am a dentist in Taylorsville, NC. I just made my first trip to Tennessee in June and then a second in July. Striper fishing is my passion, and other than my family, there is nothing I love more. I fish mainly the lakes on the Catawba River. Our stocking rate is very conservative and our limit of 8 stripers per person, in my opinion, is ridiculous. In addition, most of the striped bass fisherman in our area that I have either observed or talked to care nothing for practicing catch-and-release. The high creel

limit and the lack of catch-and-release continue to keep our striper fishery from achieving its potential. When I started hearing and reading about the TSBA, it became apparent to me that your club and many of its members share my conservationist approach. Because I live about 4 hours from Knoxville, I cannot attend meetings, but I want to be involved in and support your club any way I can. The striper fishery you have in East Tennessee is definitely something to be proud of and I tip my hat to your organization. I wish that there was a club like the TSBA in my area that could help to make some positive changes to our striper fishery.



***New member Will Hackney caught this beauty on his first fishing trip to Tennessee waters.***

***Congratulations and welcome to the club, Will!***

## **YOUR 2011 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND STAFF**

### **President:**

Erik Engebretsen 404-683-0181  
engebretsenerik@yahoo.com

### **Vice President:**

Jim Blazier 865-694-8014  
jblazier@comcast.net

### **Treasurer:**

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

### **Secretary:**

Bud White  
423-234-0704

### **Asst. Treasurer:**

Allan Franklin  
865-805-3120

### **TSBA DIRECTORS**

Todd Asher, Bill Ballou, Erik Engebretsen, Billy Davis, Cory Malabey, Eric Rauch, Keith Shannon, Bud White

### **TSBA STAFF**

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#### **Public Relations**

Allan Franklin	865-694-8888
Ezell Cox	423-626-9547

#### **Kids' Fishing Day:**

Allan Franklin	865-805-3120
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#### **Tournament Coordinator:**

Allan Franklin	865-694-8888
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#### **Door Prizes:**

[vacant]

#### **Advisor:**

Ezell Cox	423-626-9547
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## **2011 TSBA Calendar**

*Please join us at TSBA meetings and events.* Monthly meetings are held at the Flatwater Grill at 100 Melton Lake Peninsula in Oak Ridge, Tennessee (<http://theflatwatergrill.com>).

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| Aug 15 | Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m.<br>The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge<br>Topic: Artificial Baits and Fishing Tackle, speaker TBA   |
| Sep 24 | Annual Fish Fry: reunion starts 2 p.m., dinner 4 p.m.<br>Grainger County Park   |
| Oct 17 | Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m.<br>The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge<br>Topic: Graph reading and using your GPS feature<br>Speakers: Captain Clay Cunningham, Bill Carson |
| Nov 21 | Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m.<br>The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge  |

## **Monthly Meeting Details**

TSBA's monthly meeting will be held in a private room at the Flatwater Grill restaurant in Oak Ridge. This room is best entered through the side door near the railroad bridge. Dinner will start at 6:00 p.m., with the meeting to follow at 7:00 p.m. The dinner is a special buffet organized for our club: the set price is \$15, which includes a drink and gratuity. Please note that payment is cash or check only.

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## TSBA 2011 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 163***

***Sharps Chapel, TN. 37866***

**Simplified Renewal Note:** Membership renewals with no address or info revisions may send **just a \$20 check** with member's name, to the address above. Filling out the application is not required. 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**



**August 15, 2011: Monthly Meeting  
Flatwater Grill  
100 Melton Lake Drive, Oak Ridge  
Dinner at 6:00 p.m.; meeting at 7:00 p.m.**