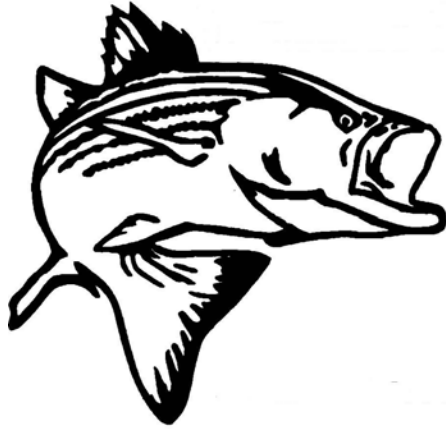


**Catch
The
Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



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

**February
2010**



Ezell Cox and Pat Kneiss taking a break from striper catching in Florida with some nice Tilapia

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello,

I am sad to announce that this past month we lost a good friend. Our secretary Dick Vornehm passed away in January while on a skiing trip in Colorado. In this month's newsletter, we have included several pictures of Dick enjoying fishing over the past few years. He will be missed by all of us.

While it is difficult to focus on business at hand when facing a personal loss such as this, we now must fill our openings for club secretary and sponsor coordinator. If anyone is interested, please let me know.

I don't know about you, but I am ready for this weather to warm up. If you have been lucky enough to get out and fish lately, please post a report to us on the Internet. Even if you didn't catch anything, your experience could help someone else. A good report would include the time of day, water temperature, the bait used, clarity, and a description of your method. If you took any photographs, please send them to me so we can include them in the next newsletter.

If you are able, make time to attend our meetings coming up in March, April, and May. We have Allan Franklin joining us in March to talk about where to catch bait and how to keep it, and he'll perform a cast-net throwing demonstration in the parking lot. In April, Bill Carson from Lowrance will be here to teach us how to better use our graphs and to discuss some of the new technology coming from Lowrance.

In May we will do something different. We will meet on the lake and have a hands-on demonstration of how to use planer boards, down lines, different rigs, etc., and then we'll fish together. We are going to try to schedule this meeting on a Saturday, so stay tuned for the exact date. Typically in May we visit the hatchery, but this year too many clubs have asked to visit the hatchery, which wasn't able to accommodate everyone. Therefore in order to not show favoritism, TWRA had to cancel with everyone. Stump is still going to come to our meeting in July and speak about stocking levels for this year.

Have a great February and see you on the water.

— Erik Engebretsen

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER MEETINGS

The Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc. met at 7 p.m. on January 18, 2010. The evening started with dinner as usual at Shoney's in Clinton. About two dozen members were present. Erik Engebretsen opened the meeting, recognizing the recent passing of our friend Dick Vornehm. Dick will be greatly missed by his TSBA friends.

Erik announced that TWRA will not host any fish clubs at the Eagle Bend hatchery this year. This is because a large number of clubs wanted to meet there, and the TWRA staff has a limited amount of time available for these meetings. Rather than offend any of the clubs by meeting with a select few, TWRA decided to not host any clubs. This has resulted in the need for us to modify a few of our meeting dates and topics, as noted in the overview below of some of our upcoming meetings:

- *February:* Bill Cate is arranging for Tim Turner to come to our February meeting to discuss fishing with artificial baits.
- *May:* The lake demonstration of how to use planer boards, floats, down lines, etc., previously scheduled for June has been moved to our May meeting.
- *June:* Bob Leach will discuss why TSBA was incorporated a few years ago and the operational implications that places on TSBA. Also, we will try to get Officer Kim Gibson from TWRA to talk with us about TWRA's enforcement of fishing laws and how we can best contact TWRA when we suspect violations.
- *July:* Mike Smith of TWRA will report to us on the stocking of striped bass and hybrids that occurred in the spring. Note that this will take place at Shoney's.

At the January meeting, Eric Rauch showed slides and discussed the home bait storage unit he built in his garage. He uses two 50-gallon plastic drums, one for keeping the bait and the other as a cool-water reservoir. What is unique about his set-up is that he converted a window air conditioner, replacing the cooling coils with a copper coil that extends into the second drum to cool the water. If you use this technique, be sure to use copper rather than aluminum for the coil because of the corrosive action of the salt on aluminum. The cool water is pumped into the bait reservoir via a 500-gph Little Giant pump that is outside of the tank and runs on standard household current. The pump is outside of the water so that most of the heat from the pump is dissipated into the air, rather than into the water. Water from the bait reservoir returns to the cooling side via gravity flow through a 2-inch PVC pipe. This pipe discharges into a diffuser bucket with filter fabric in the bottom that catches most of the waste from the bait. Three aquarium pumps aid aeration and there is a venturi-like air infuser in the water discharge line to the bait tank. Salt is added (as with a standard boat bait tank). When filling the tank with tap water, be sure to dechlorinate the water beforehand. Eric noted that if you catch blue gill and shad you should not keep them in the same tank as the blue gill will kill the shad.

Lots of good ideas on home bait storage units were shared by other members. Other members who have home bait tanks can share what they've done on the web site and/or at a future meeting.

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This collage of photos is of Dick Vornehm enjoying his favorite past time. He will be missed by all of us.





Jim Blazier writes: "Dick and I were members of the same church for years and in 2006 finally took our first of many fishing trips together. On that first trip, Dick caught his new personal best and decided to join the TSBA to learn more about this type of fishing. I'm glad he did. But I do wish my gripper scale had a higher range than 20# since the scale bottomed out very hard."



JANUARY 2010 QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

WHAT DID YOUR LARGEST 2009 STRIPER WEIGH AND IN WHAT MONTH DID YOU CATCH IT?

We had 20 members respond to this question with the following results.

September was the most productive month for catching your “Trophy Striper of the Year,” with five members catching their largest in this month. The next most productive month was May, with four members catching their best in this month. The average “Trophy” caught in September weighed 38 lb. and the average “Trophy” caught in May weighed 29.5 lb.

Though the highest number of members caught their best Striper in September and May, the larger freshwater fish were actually caught in other months. The largest of all, two 47 lb. freshwater fish, were caught in April by two of our members. Other members reported catching their largest freshwater fish as follows: 45 lb. in February, 45 lb. in September, and 45 lb. in December.

We also had members who reported catching their largest Striper in the months of February, April, July, August, and December. The months of January, March, June, October, and November either aren’t very popular months to fish or are times when the big fish are inactive, based on our members’ responses.

This is the third year that I have asked this question. In 2008, we had about the same number of responses, with about 20 to 25 members responding. In 2008, 18 members reported catching their “2008 Trophy” in the July-September time frame. Therefore, 72% of our members caught their largest 2008 Striper in those three months.

In 2007 we had 23 members respond to the question with nine members reporting that they caught their “2007 Trophy” in the month of Au-

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6]

gust. The July-September time frame seems to be consistent for all three years.

We had one member who reported going to Chesapeake Bay and catching a 52 lb. fish that was his largest of the year. The following was copied from our Fishing Reports, and I think a lot of our members would like to have more information about this style of fishing. I hope Larry will provide more information and photographs from this trip for us in the future.

Larry reported: "I caught my personal best, a 52 lb. and 3 oz., in December 2009. We also caught a 45 lb., two 40 lb., and several 30 lb. All these fish were released. If you ever get a chance to fish Chesapeake Bay, take it! You won't regret it!!!! These fish were caught on live eels that you can buy for a dollar a piece. We could almost hit the launch with a rock."

— *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:

erik.engebretsen@chilis.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.

Fishing Hot Spots



Cherokee Lake

The downstream end of the lake will have good fishing from Point 19 to the dam. Look for surface breaks and feeding gulls. Large schools at times can be found in very shallow water. Live bait is easy to catch in most of the warm coves. The John Sevier steam plant will be good all month.

Norris Lake

The Hickory Star area and upstream will be good. The sunny side of the shallow banks will catch some top water fish in the afternoon. Spring Dock near Point 11 and upstream on the Powell River side will be good. Look for the warm water that attracts bait fish. Pull a planer board close to the bank.

Watts Bar Lake & Melton Hill Lake

The steam plant at Melton Hill and Kingston will have the most predictable catches. The contrast in water temperature will dictate how good the fishing is.

MARCH EXPECTATIONS

New fishing licenses are required to fish in March. March is a transition month for the pre-spawn stripers. Early month, the stripers roam the deep open water in large schools feeding on small bait. The winter pattern in the early month cold water of about 45 degrees F. may change to upper 50 degrees F. by month end in the shallow sun-warmed longer days. Migration into the shallow incoming rivers and major feeder creeks will develop around the large concentrations of bait fish. The gulls are still worth watching; also look for herons feeding on the sun-warmed shallow flats. Much larger baits start to work well pulled behind planer boards along the bank. Most fish will be caught in the top 20 feet, and the surface action can be good. The steam plants will continue to attract stripers.

On Norris, Boone, and Watts Bar lakes the creel and size limits change from one fish with a 36-inch minimum size limit to two fish at a 15-inch size limit starting April 1.

Fishing Regulations

New fishing licenses are required to fish starting 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.

See pages 10-11 of this newsletter for more information and for TWRA contact information.

TWRA Updates Procedures For Fishing Licenses

TWRA Fishing License: Ordering by Phone or Internet

You can purchase your fishing license by credit card over the telephone by calling TWRA toll-free at 1-888-814-8972. An authorization number will allow you to begin fishing or hunting (in season) the minute you hang up. Please note, regular license fees plus a \$3.95 processing fee will be charged to your credit card when you use the toll-free number above.

Licenses may also be purchased online at TWRA's web site, <https://www3.wildlifelicense.com/tn/>

There is a \$3.25 processing fee for online license sales.

Note: The Lifetime Sportsman License cannot be purchased online. Applications for this new license may be obtained by calling the TWRA Nashville Office (615-781-6500) or any of the four regional offices.

What To Do If You've Misplaced Your License

All hunting and fishing licenses can be replaced, including the Lifetime Sportsman License. Please verify your address at the time of purchase. Go to any TWRA license agent or TWRA Regional Office for a replacement. All duplicate licenses cost \$7.00.

Resident License Requirements

Resident licenses can be purchased by:

Persons who possess a valid Tennessee driver's license.

Persons who have lived in Tennessee for 90 consecutive days with the genuine intent of making Tennessee their permanent home.

Proof of residency required.

Military personnel on active duty in this state and their immediate families, who reside with them, regardless of resident status.

Students who are enrolled in a Tennessee school, college, or university for at least six months.

* A Social Security Number is required to purchase a Tennessee hunting or fishing license.

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency: Fisheries Offices

West Tennessee

Region I
200 Lowell Thomas Drive
Jackson, TN 38301
731-423-5725
Fax: 731-423-6483
Toll Free 1-800-372-3928 (In State only)

Middle Tennessee

Region II
P. O. Box 41489
Nashville, TN 37204
615-781-6622
Fax: 615-831-9995
Toll Free 1-800-624-7406 (In State only)

Cumberland Plateau

Region III
464 Industrial Blvd.
Crossville, TN 38555
931-484-9571
Fax: 931-456-1025
Toll Free: 1-800-262-6704 (In State only)

East Tennessee

Region IV
3030 Wildlife Way
Morristown, TN 37814
423-587-7037
Fax: 423-587-7057
Toll Free: 1-800-332-0900 (In State only)

Central Office

Ellington Agricultural Center
P.O. Box 40747
Nashville, Tennessee 37204
(615) 781-6575

Tips on Charging & Jumping Batteries

With the cold temperatures here, this is a time of year that batteries usually die. Anytime you charge a battery or jump start a battery, you need to follow safety precautions and proper techniques. When charging or jumping batteries, wrong technique can lead to injuries or damage the equipment. If you are ever unsure about anything, consult the manufacturer's instructions or call a professional.

There are some special considerations that one should always keep in mind before charging or jumping any type of vehicle battery. Unknown to many people, batteries do have potential to explode and/or catch on fire. Typically this only happens in the following scenarios:

- The battery to be charged/ jumped is damaged
- The battery to be charged/ jumped is frozen.
- The battery to be charged / jumped is completely dead and will not hold a charge (old battery)

Thus you should always perform a proper inspection of a battery for damage before charging or jumping. If a battery is frozen, the best practice is to take it to a place that would allow it to gradually rise in temperature. If you know the age of the battery and it is well past its life expectancy, the best practice would be to just replace the battery instead of attempting to charge or jump it.

— *Erik Engebretsen*

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3]

Anyone interested in seeing Eric's tank system is welcome to come by his house in Norris (865-223-9788), located near Shoney's. A picture of his unit follows:



Bill Cate shared numerous winter fishing tips that will help all of us be more successful in area reservoirs. He noted that now is the time for us to catch the biggest fish. Tips included:

- Fish planer boards in shallow (4' deep) water in the hollows with springs and creeks feeding them, as these water sources will have warmer water which attracts bait fish. Study lake maps to find these areas.
- Fish red clay banks, as the sun will warm the water in these areas faster than rocky areas and attract bait fish.
- Often the big fish are on the bottom, so fish there.
- When using shiners, smaller is generally better – especially when the water temperature is less than 50 degrees.
- Cut bait works well in winter.

Other items discussed at the meeting included a request for fishing pictures from members (e-mail photographs to erik.engebretsen@chilis.com) for publication in future newsletters. We also are currently looking for a new secretary to record the minutes of our meetings. If you are willing to help with this or to be the back up, please contact Erik Engebretsen.

— *Eric Rauch*



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Toll Free : 1-866-802-6324

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:

[Vacant]

Asst. Treasurer:

Allan Franklin
865-805-3120

TSBA DIRECTORS

Bill Ballou, John Butler, Erik Engebretsen, Janine Johnson,
Kyle Rutherford, John Seiber, Keith Shannon

TSBA STAFF

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865-335-3815

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keith.shannon@gmail.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

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2010 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 is on the left.

February 15	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM 'Fishing with Artificial Baits' - Tim Turner
March 15	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM Alan Franklin on Catching and Keeping Bait
April 19	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM Bill Carson from Lowrance
May	Monthly Meeting at the Lake [date to be announced] Demonstration: Planer boards, floats, down lines
June 19	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM Bob Leach of TSBA; Kim Gibson of TWRA
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
September 20	Fish Fry Grainger Park [date to be determined]
October 18	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
November 15	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM

The TSBA web site has been rebuilt by Keith Shannon. The link to access it is the same [www.TNStripedBass.com], but you will need to log in with your real name to register and input your own unique password.



Jay Girardot breaking in Doug's new boat



One more picture of our fishing buddy Dick Vornehm, having a good day on the lake.

T.S.B.A. 2010 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 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 get your dues for 2010 in as soon as possible and check the calendar for meeting dates in 2010.