

# Tennessee Striped Bass Association

## Get Hooked!

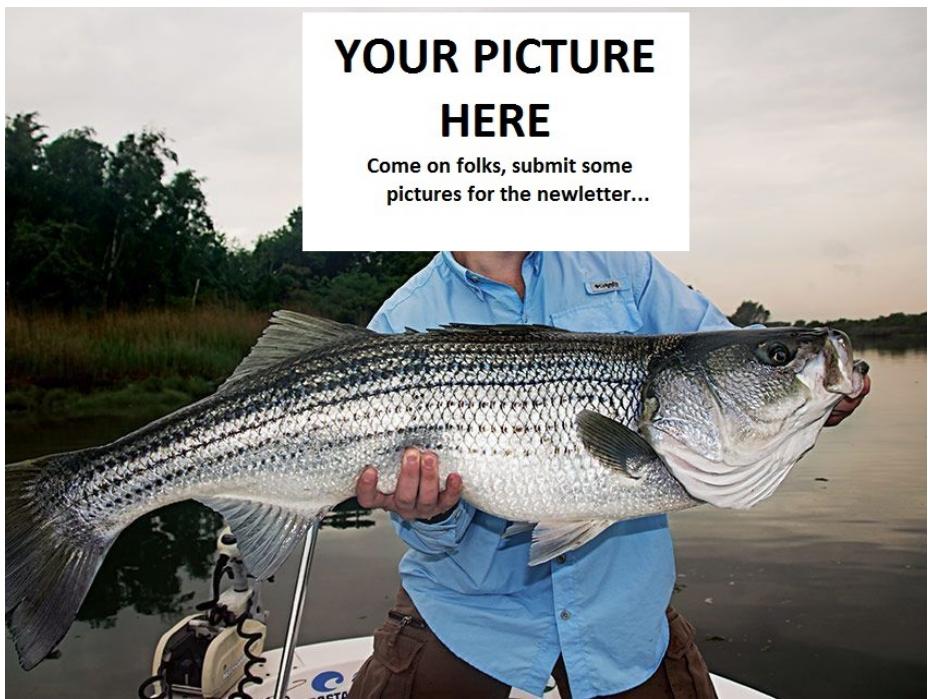


January/February 2019

### YOUR PICTURE

### HERE

Come on folks, submit some  
pictures for the newsletter...



Send your pictures and news items to the email address below!

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](#)

# Minutes - November 2018 Meeting

We had the pleasure of hosting Hal Basdekis as our speaker for the Nov. 5 meeting. Hal was able to step in at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour when our previously planned speaker wasn't able to attend, although based on the quality of the presentation you'd have thought he'd had weeks to prepare! We really appreciate Hal's doing this. Hal passed out the information below and discussed how he has learned to apply techniques he's heard about at previous TSBA meetings to be successful on Cherokee Lake. He also shared many pictures that he's taken while fishing on Cherokee. Even if you weren't able to attend the meeting, you'll find the summary below worth reviewing.

We also reelected the following members to our Board of Directors: Steve Nichols, Hal Basdekis, and Bob Biscay. The TSBA Board of Directors and officers will meet on December, 3<sup>rd</sup> at Puleo's. All members are welcome to attend as we set plans for 2019.

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## **Different fishing techniques on Cherokee Lake during the year (2018) – U Rigs, Live Bait, Downriggers, Jigging, Power Reeling, and Top Water. By Hal Basdekis**

Notes:

**U –Rigs:** Mostly April thru June, also late fall and winter. Medium Heavy Rod, Counter Reel, 50 lb Braid line, Captain Mack's Umbrellas (3 Oz, 4 Arm) or Storm 4" Shad. 100 to 125 feet out at 2.8 mph pulls it about 18 to 20 feet down.

**Live Bait:** Mostly May thru July, but good year round. Medium Heavy or Medium Rod, Counter Reel, 14 lb Mono line. Use deep water net and follow "keep alive" methods learned from TSBA. Straight line to fish level or slow troll, and may use with planer boards.

**Downriggers:** Mostly Late July thru Mid Sept. Medium Heavy Rod, Counter Reel, 14 lb Mono line, Cannon Lake Troll Downriggers, Chamberlain Release, 3/8 oz Scrounger with Salty Super Fluke Glowchart Tail. 50 feet past release at 2.4 to 3.0 mph down to fish level.

**Jigging:** If over the fish anytime. Medium Rod, Counter or Spinning Reel, 14 lb Mono line, Real Image 2 oz Chart Shad. Down to fish level.

**Power Reeling:** Mostly Mid July to Late Sept. Medium Rod, Spinning Reel, 14 lb Mono line, Nichols Lures - Mini or Magnum spoon (6.5 in or 8 in Ben Parker Silver Shattered Glass). Drop at least 10 feet below fish level and reel up as fast as you can. Can also Jig big spoon at fish level.

**Top Water:** Mostly April, May or October, November; anytime the fish are breaking. Medium Rod, Spinning Reel, 14 lb Mono line, "Sammy" Top Water Lure. Cast into popcorn! **Most fun!!!!**

# TSBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SUMMARY

A meeting of the Board of Directors (BOD) of the Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc. was held on December 3, 2018 at Puleo's Grill, 110 Cedar Lane, Knoxville, TN at 7:00 pm.

Directors present and their ending date for their terms were Chairman Allan Franklin (2019), Cory Malabey (2019), Bill Ballou (2020), Jim Blazier (2020), Eric Rauch (2020), Bob Biscay (2021), Steve Nichols (2021), and Hal Basdekkis (2021). David Powell (2019) was absent. No other members attended the meeting.

**Officers/Key Staff Positions:** The 2018 officers agreed to continue in their existing roles through March 2019. From now until the March meeting we will encourage other members to step up and take on these roles. For any positions we are not successful in finding another member to take, the existing officer/staff will continue their function for the rest of 2019. (See list of current officers/staff on page 9.)

The following individuals/organizations will be contacted regarding availability for presentations at our meetings in 2019 by Steve Nichols:

TVA Reservoir Operations

TWRA Striped Bass Stocking – Mike Smith

Captain Chadwick Ferrell – Fishing the Boils and Tailrace Tips

Allan Franklin/Keith Shannon – Catching & Keeping Bait Alive

Captain Mack Farr – Fishing with Artificial Luers

U. S. Coast Guard – Boating Safety/First Aid

Ideas for other presentations will be discussed at our meetings throughout the year.

Our annual fish fry is tentatively set for Sept. 28 at Anderson County Park. If that isn't available, we discussed alternatives that will be explored. At our January meeting we will ask for volunteers to coordinate the various aspects of the fish fry. The BOD decided to invite members from other striper clubs across the region to attend this event in order to reestablish that important network.

The BOD agreed to hold a tourney in May downstream of Melton Hill Dam. Keith Shannon will coordinate this event. Other events may be planned throughout the year if members are interested.

Art Muchow passed out a summary of our membership and account balance. As of Dec. 2, 2018 TSBA had \$9,963.18 in its account. At the end of 2017 we had \$9,984.60. We had 98 paid club members at the end of 2018.

The BOD discussed potential club donations for 2019. These included 4H, Boy Scouts, the TWRA Fishing Day and the War on Carp. Keith will look at the War on Carp option and Cory will talk with TWRA about their Fishing Day. Then we will make a decision at the February club meeting.

The BOD decided to talk with TWRA about the potential for stocking stripers in Ft. Loudoun Reservoir.

Art suggested that we designate Ezell Cox as an Honorary TSBA Member due to his long-term efforts in promoting TSBA throughout the region. This was unanimously approved by the BOD.

Submitted by Eric W. Rauch  
TSBA Secretary



Monthly presentations have not yet been scheduled for 2019, but mark your calendars for the first Mondays & make a point to join us for our monthly meetings.

Stay tuned for details of a tourney to be held in May at Melton Hill Dam..

The Annual picnic is tentatively scheduled for September 28 at the Anderson County Park..

More details will be forthcoming on all of the above events, and other events may be added if interest is shown. Get involved and participate in TSBA to make sure it reflects what is important to you!



James Pierce at Watts Bar

# **Outlook for current fishing spots**

## **CHEROKEE LAKE**

The stripers/hybrids are in large schools roaming the lower half of the reservoir below the 25E Bridge. The water temperature is around 50 degrees so much of the large concentrations of baitfish have moved into the deep main channel where the temperature is most stable. The metabolism of stripers and baitfish has been slowed by the cold water, making bait easier for the stripers to catch and the feeding times shorter. Find the gulls to be in the feeding zone with breaking fish on the surface being likely. The stripers have completely recovered from the summer stress and are putting on the weight. Catch and release will be successful so we should see some 25 pound stripers in Cherokee by spring pre-spawn.

## **NORRIS LAKE**

Find the large schools of baitfish by locating gulls whether feeding or not, and looking for surface feeding fish. Other bait-eating birds are scarce on Norris, but the gulls and a good fish finder will get you in the right area on the lake. The premium locations will be in or near the main channel where the water is deepest with less change in temperature around mid-lake and downstream. Water temperature will be in the high 40's. Good catch and release practice is successful even with the largest of stripers in the cool waters of the winter months. The best fishing is around the gulls in the large deep coves and main channel.

## **WATTS BAR & MELTON HILL**

The striped bass bite in the tail race often moves downstream for the coldest months of winter in front of the major coves or where you find the most baitfish. The Kingston Steam Plant often has large concentrations of baitfish, especially if the warm water discharge influences the areas water temperature. The steam plants have not produced the warm water discharge like in past years so the fishing has suffered around them. The baitfish will often find the warmest water. The cooler longer nights will equalize the temperature in the coves and river to allow the bait to use the river more, so look for the sun warmed banks and the gulls. The survival of released fish in the winter months is great.

— Ezell Cox

# 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

# Where to Find Stripers in Winter Months

Before delving into actual strategies, though, a few preliminary steps will help. First on the list, check with biologists and wardens to determine which lakes near you are best for stripers. Then talk to bait shop owners, guides, locals and boat launch workers about where on the lake the fish have been caught recently.

Most lakes stripers are found in are rather large, so it helps to get a heads up on where the fish have been congregating. No one is going to tell you an exact spot to fish, but narrowing things down to a general part of the lake or feeder arm of it gives you a good starting point. In some lakes the water near the dam is good during winter. In others the fish move far upstream into headwaters or in shallow coves searching for shad and other baitfish. Knowing the local preferences on the lake you choose is a big help.

Buy a topographic lake map and pencil in recommended spots. Then if they produce, you can mark them permanently with ink. The map is also valuable for showing you key potential winter striped hangouts such as bridges across feeder arms, river channel edges, the backs of feeder creeks, mud flats, submerged islands, deep points, and power plant discharge areas, if there are any. Pick the ramp closest to where you plan to fish, so you won't have a long cold boat ride in winter's frigid air. Also pre-rig several fishing rods at home, so you won't have to fool with that on the water and will have several good lures tied on or bait rigs already attached.

## Using Live Bait

Live bait is one of the most reliable methods of all for catching winter stripers. Larger shad and skipjack herring can be used if big fish are present. However, when the water temperature is under 50, stripers will often refuse to take larger bait and downsizing to crappie minnows or small shad is required.

Two methods work with live bait. One is a technique similar to fishing a plastic worm for bass. Hook the baitfish through both lips from the bottom up on a size 2 -2/0 bait hook. Add several split shot 12-18 inches up the line, or a barrel swivel and 1/4-3/8 ounce sliding egg sinker above it. Vary the weight according to the depth you're fishing and whether there is current, as well as how deep the stripers are holding.

You can fish this rig anywhere that you locate lots of baitfish and stripers, but bridge pilings on creek arms of the lake are especially hot spots. The current there tends to attract stripers in winter. It also works at all the other striped spots described earlier such as points, drop-offs and thermal discharge areas. Cast out, allow the bait to reach bottom or come close to it, then begin slowly reeling it back. Raise the rod tip, then lower it back down to reel up slack. When a fish taps, give it a few seconds to take the bait, and then set up with a hard sweeping motion to drive the hook home.

The second method for fishing bait is to use shad or shiners fished directly over the top of a known stripers hangout or a school of fish you've located on the depth finder. You can either anchor or use an electric motor to stay on the spot. To rig up for this method, thread a 1/2 to 1 1/2 ounce egg sinker on the main line, then tie on a barrel swivel and 24- to 48-inch leader with a 2 to 2/0 hook. Impale the shad or minnow through both lips or lightly through the back. Sometimes it helps to chum while you're waiting for a bite. Cut up a few shad or shiners and drop them overboard. Also try different depth levels. After half an hour if the action is slow, move to a new spot.

At times cut bait will produce even better than live bait. Try a cut piece of shad or several dead shiners on a hook. This is particularly effective in shallower areas such as long, gradually tapering points, mud flats and humps. The scent of the dead fish can attract stripers from long distances.

### Follow the Birds

Following the birds is another good way to take winter stripers. Watch for gulls swooping down or choppy, broken water where fish are feeding explosively on shad near the surface, then get to them quickly. It helps to keep a pair of binoculars on the boat to scan for feeding birds. Stay a short distance back and ease up slowly with the trolling motor. Then cast either elongated surface poppers or soft-plastic shad lures towards the breaking fish. Try to match the size of the quarry, which could be anywhere from 3-7 inches.

Work the plugs with a jerky, twitching retrieve and occasional pauses. Reel the soft shad imitations with a smooth retrieve, trying different depths. Start near the surface, then probe levels as deep as 10-15 feet where bigger fish may be lurking.

-Adapted from BassPro Shops One Source



Tracy Templeton with Ezell Cox



Tracy and Verna Templeton

## **YOUR 2019 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

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**Facebook Coordinator:** Allan Franklin/Steve Nichols

**Sponsor Coordinator:** Justin Rose

**Public Relations:** Ezell Cox

**Advisors:** Ezell Cox/Allan Franklin



Steve Nichols at Fort Loudon Dam

# 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 adding or renewing for 2019. TSBA can provide newsletters for our sponsors to distribute. Thanks!



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Located Near  
Melton Hill Dam

# TSBA 2019 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 stripers 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.

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(Signature)

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(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  
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**A**ssoication

**GET HOOKED!**