

# Tennessee Striped Bass Association

Get Hooked !



July/August 2022



Melanie Mullins with a hog!

In-Person Bi-Monthly Meetings on first Thursdays  
- at Shoney's on Emory Road in Powell

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

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

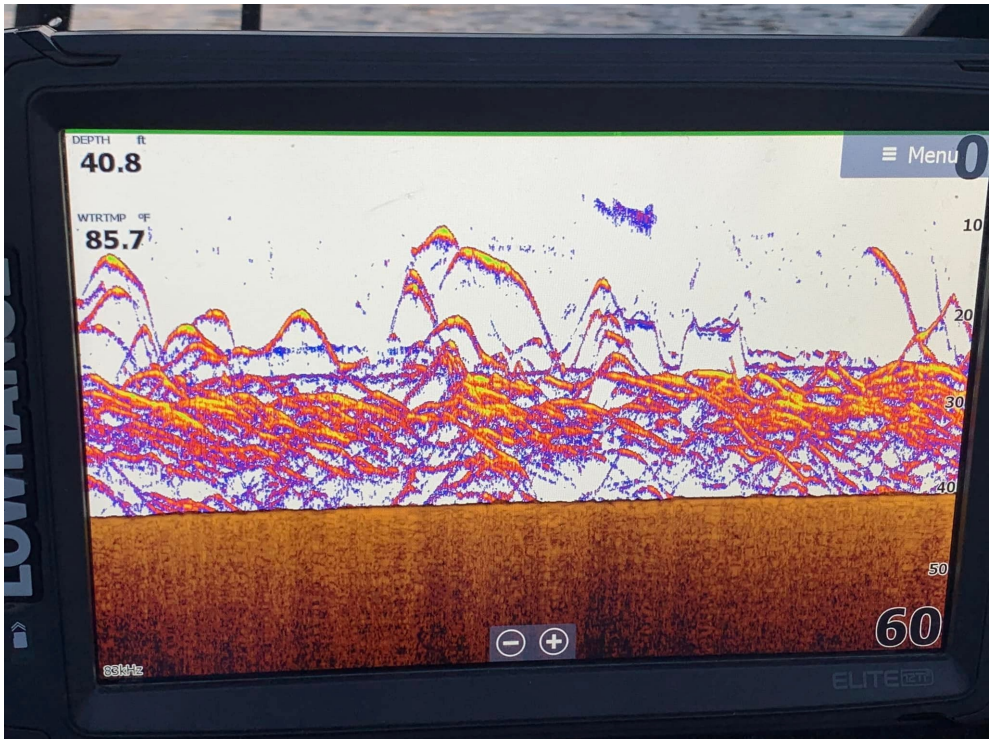
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# August 2022 Club Meeting

The August meeting will be held on Thursday, August 4th at Shoney's, 315 E. Emory Rd, Powell, TN 37849. Dinner at 6; meeting begins at 7. Come join your fellow club members for a fun and informative session!

# Annual Club Fish Fry

Mark your calendars for the upcoming annual club Fish Fry! It will be held on Saturday, October 1st at Anderson County Park (2191 Park Ln, Andersonville, TN 37705). The club will provide fried fish, but bring a side dish to share. There will also be a tackle swap, so bring anything you might want to sell with you.



I think this picture speaks for itself.



Freddy Redmond with a nice striper!

# What's This Weird Stuff in the Water?

Have you ever wondered why the water is strangely colored, has mysterious, unidentified chunks floating around or has an odd odor? Well, you're not alone. The following is adapted from a response from TWRA biologist Paul Shaw when he was asked that question some years ago.

That brown, oily-looking slick you are seeing is a plankton bloom that occurs as the water reaches the 50's in the spring, and continuing as the water reaches the low 60's. It's probably caused by a combination of temperature and sunlight. It is not toxic to anything.

This and other strange phenomena can be associated with seasonal turnovers or water mixing.

A turnover rarely occurs on lakes with a drawdown, such as Norris. A turnover typically occurs in the fall, with the cooling of surface waters above the thermocline, the epilimnion, as this upper layer is called.

During a fall turnover, the surface water cools, and becoming denser, sinks throughout the water column, setting up convection currents until the entire epilimnion becomes equalized at a lower temperature. As the cooler season progresses, the epilimnion, thermocline and hypolimnion (that region of water below the thermocline) eventually reach the same temperature, and the lake reaches a fairly homogenous temperature from top to bottom. Wind action can now more effectively stir the lake and mix the water from bottom to top, causing the stains and partially decomposed organic matter most folks see during the fall turnover. If the weather has cooled abruptly and drastically, the cooling of the surface water can happen relatively fast, and the cooling of the water column can result in the upper layer "dropping" through the depth of the lake. Many people think of the surface as cooling and falling through to the bottom of the lake, causing it to "flip over." This is a misconception, if you think about it, because there is no way that upper layer could maintain its temperature without mixing with the rest of the lake water. It's a simple cooling and mixing that takes effect. If the hypolimnion had little to no dissolved oxygen, then it can cause problems.

Now, on TVA lakes such as Norris, there is a fall drawdown of the lake. Usually, the hypolimnion is drawn off by the time the lake cools enough to otherwise have caused a turnover (or mixing of the stratified layers, as it could more accurately be called). The oxygen lines which run along the bottom in the fore bay of the lake, and the new generators which churn up some air into the discharge, are meant to keep the tail waters from suffering oxygen depletion during the fall drawdown. As the lake level drops, the hypolimnion is discharged through the dam, and you can see the lowering and expansion of the thermocline at this time. Depending upon the weather, any mixing that occurs usually happens when the lake is about the same in temperature because of the drawdown, not the effect of a turnover. TVA lakes are unusual critters.

A spring turnover is caused by a warming of the water. Water temps on a very cold lake will show that the temperature is close to the freezing point at the surface, but below 4 degrees C, then gets slightly warmer as you drop deeper into the lake. In some lakes, the bottom temperature will be at maximum density, 4 degrees C. So, in this phenomenon, you've got colder but less dense water (being between 0 and 3 degrees C) at the surface, and warmer, but more dense water at the bottom where it is 4 degrees C.

As the surface water warms and reaches the maximum density temp of 4C it begins to sink and mix with the warmer water below. In the spring, the weather is usually windy. Winds help mix the water, aiding the cooler, denser surface water to mix through the water column until it reaches the cool, dense bottom water. As this goes on, the cooler (than 4C), but less dense water will rise to the surface where it is warmed to 4C, and will then sink, causing a mixing aided by the wind. The spring turnover is a circulation of water caused by water of different densities mixing, rising, warming to 4C and then falling to continue the mix. The lake will eventually become the same temperature throughout its depth.

— Paul Shaw

## July and August Expectations

The migration downstream toward the dam has started in the reservoirs. The stripers will be a little easier to locate as the temperature in the coves and creeks pushes them into the deeper, cooler main channel. The thermocline will continue to get deeper with the fish staying just below it, and surface feeding in the reservoirs is over until October. A good topographical map now becomes a great fishing tool. The tailraces will continue to improve. They will be a good place to find some action while also still allowing successful catch and release in the hot summer. Working the "boils" will become very effective in July. It is your life and money, so remember to wear your life jacket at the dams. It is also the law.

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.

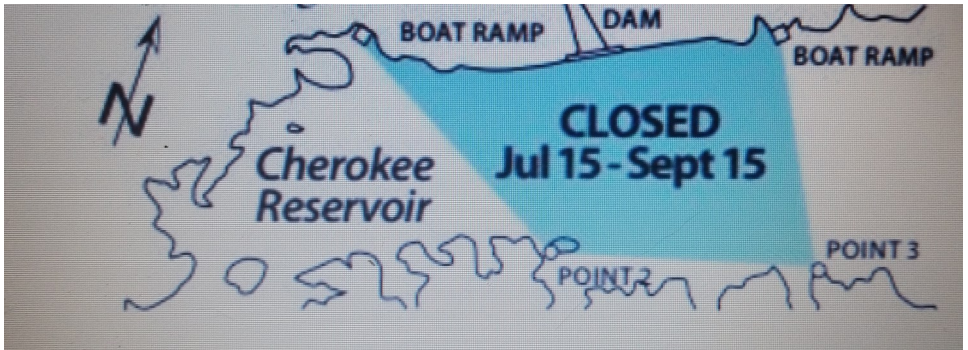
The gizzard and threadfin shad will seek out the warmest water they can find; the striper will follow them to feed then return to their thermal refuge quickly. The alewife is also a temperate species and will seek out deeper cooler water, making a fish finder your best bet for finding them. The striper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

## Cherokee Lake - Good

Stripers will not go back well in July. Catch your limit and quit. Released fish will not survive for the most part. Hybrids are more tolerant of the warm water and can often be caught in schools in shallow water. They can also be released normally without mortality. The no fishing zone is in effect again starting July 15. The humps and islands near the dam up to Point #21 normally become excellent.

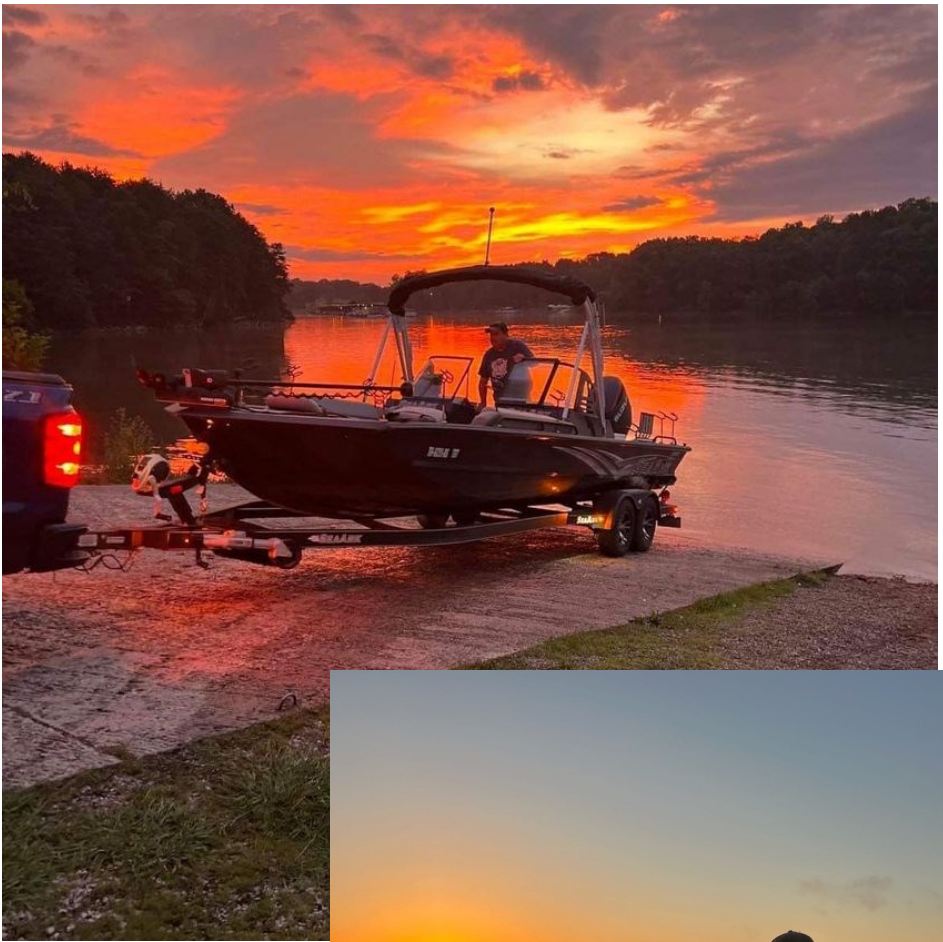


## Norris Lake - Fair

Best fishing is from Point #26 on the Clinch and Point #14 on the Powell to the dam. Most of the stripers will move into the main channel out of the shallow warm coves. Down lines and downriggers work well over marked fish.

## Below Ft Loudon & Melton Hill Dams - Good & Improving

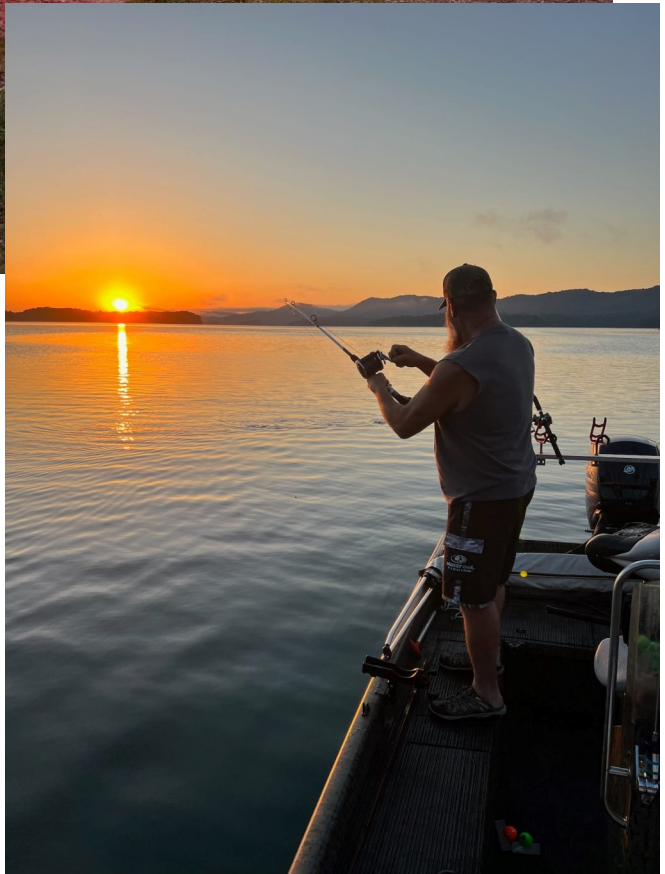
The law is you must wear your life jacket in these dangerous waters. Put your sinker and hook close to the bottom with plans to lose a few for the most catches. Pulling side planer boards down the banks can also catch fish for miles downstream.



Above: David Mullins at sunrise

Right: Freddy Redmond with a bent rod at sunrise

Both of these pictures remind us to take time to appreciate the beauty of nature while out on the water!





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**TSBA STAFF**

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

**Distribution:** Jim Blazier [jblazier@comcast.net](mailto:jblazier@comcast.net)

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

**Membership:** Eric Rauch [arthurmuchow@yahoo.com](mailto:arthurmuchow@yahoo.com)

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

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**No Need to Renew!**

**If you paid dues in 2020 or 2021, your membership has been extended through 2022. New members can still join by completing the form in this newsletter and mailing it with their payment to the address below.**

***Enclose a check for \$20.00***

***Mail to: TSBA***

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As a member:

- \* You'll receive a newsletter periodically.
- \* 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 bi-monthly meetings with informative programs.
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I have read and agree to abide by and be bound by the Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc. (TSBA, Inc.) Bylaws\*

\* A copy of the Bylaws can be found on the TSBA, Inc. website at <http://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 7303  
Knoxville, TN 37921

**Memberships extended:** Members who paid 2020 or 2021 dues have no need to renew for this year. All current memberships have been extended through 2022 due to COVID uncertainties. New members may still join by filling out the above form and submitting it with their payment.

Tennessee Striped Bass Association  
P.O. Box 7303  
Knoxville, TN 37921

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