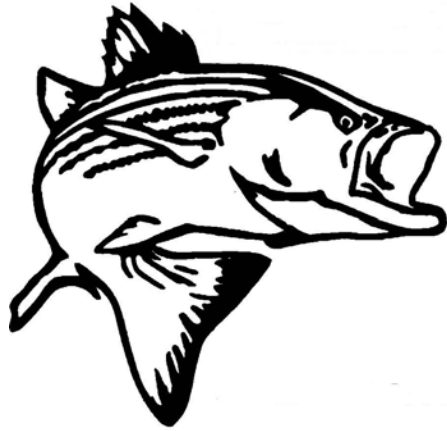


**Catch  
the  
Striper  
Fever!**

# T.S.B.A.



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

**March  
2012**



***Member Chet Moore caught a grand total of nine stripers on a trip out on Fort Loudon Lake this past February. Chet says that these were some of the heaviest fish he has encountered in a long while, and he even broke a pole on one of them!***

## President's Letter

When fishing we get to experience many of nature's wonders besides catching fish. As spring arrives, the trees along the shoreline are starting to bud and fill in the hillsides. One of the first native trees to bloom is the Serviceberry, a low growing tree with small white blossoms. Next to appear will be the purple blooms of the redbud and then a few weeks later the beauty of the dogwood paints the shorelines and hills. Within a few weeks most of the trees are full and green.

The animals and birds are also becoming more active. Turkey can be heard clucking and moving about in the woods. The deer are often seen watering and crossing the channels, along with other unexpected creatures. There are eagle and heron nests near springtime fishing waters that have the parents busy taking turns warming their eggs.

This time of year has the lake level rising and flows increasing. This will bring the striper to the headwaters of the tributary rivers and large creek coves. Fishing with planer boards becomes an exciting time with multiple blowups before hookups. The fish will come out of their slow winter pattern and feed more aggressively on larger bait and lures.

Early spring is a wonderful time to be on the water, it is a great cure for cabin fever. So call up a friend, look up a fishing report, attend a TSBA meeting and most important of all.... take the time to GO FISHING!



*One of the many perks of fishing is catching glimpses of wildlife, like this fox I saw swimming across the channel of Norris Lake a few weeks ago.*

— Doug Steffe

## April Expectations

Expect to find the temperature climbing into the high 60's and even low 70's in the protected, stained water. The baitfish will seek out the warmest water they can find and the stripers will follow them to feed. A brown algae bloom on the surface coupled with sun-warmed, stained, shallow water where the gulls and herons are feeding can be a great help in locating the baitfish. Brown algae blooms, which are often misidentified as lake turnover or even spilled oil on the surface, are a great attractant for the shad. Try to spot the blooms on the surface. The striper will be where the bait is most abundant. Artificial baits can be very productive this time of year. You may want to try JIGGING, CASTING, or TROLLING. Umbrella rigs have become a favorite method the last several years.

Be aware of the new hazards floating on top of the water as the lakes begin to rise. Large live bait is working well again and normally easy to catch this time of year. Put the out-riggers (planer boards) back in the boat. You'll need them to get the bait into the shallow water without spooking the fish and also to cover a much larger area.

— Ezell Cox



### Important Reminder

It is time to renew your TSBA membership. When you renew, please select email as your preferred method of receiving the newsletter. **Over 35% of our club dues go to printing and mailing the newsletter.** Those trophy shots look so much better when viewed online!

Make the switch this year and see what you have been missing.

The membership application can be found on page 19. Returning members can use the express renewal option described at the bottom of the page. When returning members renew, please e-mail Doug Steffe at **[dougsteffe@centurytel.net](mailto:dougsteffe@centurytel.net)** and let him know you would prefer to receive the newsletter by e-mail.

# Minutes of the February meeting

TSBA's monthly meeting was held at the Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge, TN on February 20, 2012. Over 40 members attended the meeting. President Doug Steffe opened the meeting by welcoming new members and a new sponsor: Sonny's Marine. Next, Steve Nichols discussed some of the new items he purchased for the club's tackle co-op program. Finally, Jim Blazier made an impassioned plea for newsletter contributions from the members.

The main event for the evening was the viewing of an episode of *The Hunt for Big Fish*, a cable television show hosted by Larry Dahlberg that featured TSBA members Billy Davis and Todd Asher. This episode was filled with action-packed footage filmed on Watts Bar Lake. Larry, Billy and Todd had the fortune of finding an enormous school of 20-plus pound fish feeding aggressively in the discharge below Melton Hill Dam. They caught fish after fish with two lures more commonly used for catching muskies: the commercially available Wide Glide and a proprietary soft plastic bait hand-poured by Larry, which he affectionately refers to as "Mr. Wiggly." Larry demonstrated how to use a kit, available through MakeLure.com, to make a mold to produce custom hand-poured soft baits. After the video, Todd and Billy answered questions pertaining to fishing below Melton Hill Dam as well as fishing during passing weather fronts.

After a brief break, Doug gave an update on the commercial fishing proposal. As of February 21, 2012, the state legislature has taken no further action to fund the study. He also thanked a group of TSBA members, led by Eric Coffey, who staffed an informational booth at the Chilhowee Fishing Show. Eric stated the booth was very effective at raising the public's awareness of the threat that commercial fishing poses to our East Tennessee fisheries.

Finally, Allan Franklin discussed potential tournament dates and locations.

— **Keith Shannon, Secretary**



*Pictured above from the left are Brandon Eckel, Tony Metz and Dan Metz, who were fishing on the Powell side of Norris between Flat Hollow Marina and the Hog's Back. Tony says " we pulled through the diving birds with shiners and the stripers just started hitting the lines. Before we got 10 yards we had hooked and landed three fish. Robb Morris was across the lake from us and made a play-by-play call which he dubbed The Smack Down."*

## **March Meeting**

---

Please join us on March 19, 2012 for the TSBA monthly meeting. Our guest speaker this month will be Clay Cunningham, who will talk about artificial lures

TSBA's monthly meeting will be held in a private room at the Flat-water Grill restaurant in Oak Ridge. This room is best entered through the side door near the railroad bridge. The buffet dinner will start at 6:00 p.m., with the meeting to follow at 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$15, which includes a drink and gratuity. (Note that payment is cash or check only).



## TSBA members work to spread an important message

Recently, TSBA joined ranks with the Tennessee Wildlife Federation to sponsor an informational booth at the 2012 Knoxville Fishing Show held at Chilhowee park this past January. Member Eric Coffey, who worked to organize TSBA's participation in this project, was quick to point out that the booth "would not have been possible without the financial help of Scott Smith and the men who volunteered their time to staff the booth."

Over a dozen TSBA members signed up to volunteer, with their goal being to share an important message with anglers in the area regarding the potentially harmful impact that the commercial paddlefish

expansion proposal could have on our fisheries. Their efforts to spread the word about this proposal was very much needed as Eric found that "over 90% of all the people I spoke with knew nothing of the proposed gill net study or that there was a chance gill nets could be coming to the lakes of East Tennessee. When passers-by heard the words "gill nets in East Tennessee lakes, every single person I spoke with wanted to know more. I really felt our time spent there as volunteers was well worth our efforts as we were able to educate many people about this issue and how to combat it."



***Eric Coffey, right, working to spread the word about the potential impacts of the commercial fishing expansion proposal under consideration.***

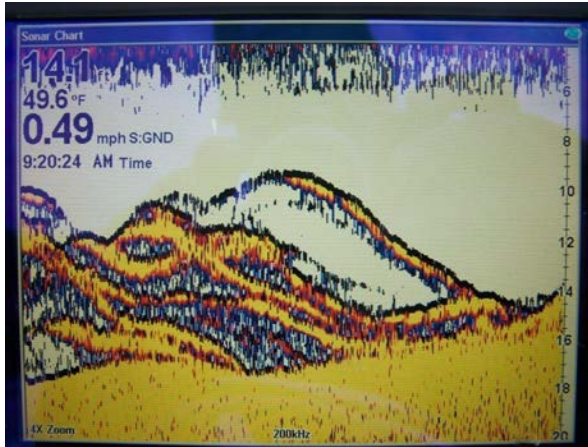


*Ezell Cox, Bill Ballou, and John Vincenzo are standing in front of the TWF exhibit at the Knoxville Fishing Show. Eric Coffey, who was in charge of scheduling volunteers to work the exhibit, thanks everyone who volunteered their time over the extended weekend to get this important message out to as many anglers as possible.*



## A pictorial lesson in pole bending

*Professor Cox has been at it again - this time with the help of Steve Nichols. The two were kind enough to share photos from a pole bending experience they had on Cherokee Lake in mid-February. Ezell submitted the following photos, stating that "a display on the fish finder like this is what you want to see to make the poles bend on your boat."*



*Steve Nichols is pictured here reaping the benefits of Ezell's fish finding abilities. Ezell says the fish can be found in large schools this time of year on Cherokee, making the fish finder a really useful tool.*



## An invitation to adventure

Last summer I made a trip to Alaska with two fishing friends. We flew to Juneau, Alaska, then got in a Super Otter seaplane to Pybus Point Lodge on Admiralty Island. We passed over some beautiful snow covered mountains and very green rain-forests. The wind was calm with temperatures in the low 60's every day and saltwater temperatures in the high 40's and very clear. The sun hid between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m., with a low twilight even during those hours.



The seas were very calm and the fishing was great. We had great guides everyday, and they were the reason we caught lots of fish like halibut; pink, silver and king salmon; rock bass; and a variety of other fish including yellow eye, dolly vardin, lingcod and quillbacks. At the end of the day, the staff at the lodge cleaned our catch, then vacuum packed and froze it in preparation to be shipped back home. Another option was to have the resident lodge chef prepare you catch for dinner that night. This trip was truly a fisherman's dream come true!

In addition to all the great fishing, a bonus to the trip was all the wildlife we saw, including humpback whales, killer whales, sea lions, sea otter, eagles, brown bear, and all kinds of waterfowl and other birds. We visited the Five Finger Lighthouse, waded the Little Pybus River for dollies, pinks, and silvers, broke off pieces of icebergs from the sea, sat around the campfire, looked at the starfish, and much more with no flies, mosquitoes, or any kind of bothersome bugs.

continued on page 10

continued from page 9

A number of people have shown an interest in going to Alaska in 2012 after hearing about the wonderful experiences I had on my trip. I have decided to put together a trip back to Pybus Point Lodge in Alaska and would like to invite you to come along with me on this once-in-a-lifetime adventure. Now is the time to make a commitment if you would like to go.

I have reserved seats on the float plane from Juneau, Alaska to Pybus Point Lodge the morning of August 8th. A deposit of \$500 is required and the lodge accepts checks or credit card payments.

To be a part of the Ezell/Lloyd trip, you need to get your deposit to Pybus Point Lodge no later than April 1, 2012. We only have 20 slots available and they will be filled on a paid deposit basis. If you need help or have questions, contact Jody of Pybus Point Lodge at (801) 763-8310; Captain Lloyd Malone at (865) 599-3014; or Ezell Cox at (423) 526-3295.

I know you will not be disappointed in the fishing and the overall quality of the experience. This will truly be a “not to be forgotten” adventure!

— **Ezell Cox**



***Come experience excellent fishing, fine dining and incredible wildlife viewing opportunities along with Ezell Cox and Llyod Malone on their upcoming return trip to Pybus Point Lodge in Alaska.***

# **Outlook for current fishing spots**

---

## **Cherokee Lake**

The baitfish seek out the warmer water, so look for the sun-warmed banks and into deeper water after a cool night. The gulls and herons will continue to show where the best bait locations are to be found. Top water breaks are common this time of year, so go prepared to cast into them. Large schools can often be found on the fish finders, making jigging a technique that works well. The premium locations are normally upstream of the German Creek area and into the extreme headwaters.

## **Norris Lake**

Looking for the active gulls or surface feeding fish may be the key to success in catching fish as the water starts to warm in the shallow, sun-warmed areas. Remember the creel and size limits on striped bass are 36-inch minimum with a one fish creel until April 1, 2012. The largest concentrations of striper will be on the upper half of the reservoir, often in the shallow, sun-warmed stained water.

## **Watts Bar and Melton Hill**

The winter time striper bite was influenced much less by the warm water discharge at the steam plants than in some past years because of the mild winter with lots of hydroelectric power. The baitfish will start to show up in the shallow, sun-warmed flats with the gulls and herons helping to find the feeding stripers. Watts Bar creel and size limits remain at a 36-inch minimum size and a one fish creel until April 1, 2012.

## **FISHING REGULATIONS**

New fishing licenses are required as of March 1, 2012. Annual management changes of our fisheries are normal and they always take effect on the first day of March. There are also some seasonal striped bass CREEL AND SIZE limit changes that take place every April and November. It is each fisherman's responsibility to know the rules and stay legal. Each body of water may have exceptions you need to be aware of before exposing yourself to a fine.

Go online to Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency at [www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org) or pick up a 2012 Fishing Regulations book at sporting stores or TWRA offices. Wearing life preservers are required below the dams and a good habit anytime on the water for personal safety.

— **Ezell Cox**

## **YOUR 2012 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND STAFF**

### **President:**

Doug Steffe 865-278-2363  
dougsteffe@centurytel.net

### **Vice President:**

Cory Malabey 865-659-3947  
clmalabey@charter.net

### **Treasurer:**

Bud White  
423-754-0541

### **Secretary:**

Keith Shannon  
keith.shannon@gmail.com

### **Assistant Treasurers:**

Allan Franklin and Ann Howe

### **TSBA DIRECTORS**

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

### **TSBA STAFF**

#### **Newsletter Printing**

**& Distribution:** Jim Blazier (jblazier@comcast.net) & Bill Ballou

#### **Newsletter Editor:**

Sherry Wehner (swehner9@gmail.com)

#### **Membership:**

Bud White 423-754-0541  
(tn1fishinfool@yahoo.com)

#### **Web Site**

Keith Shannon (keith.shannon@gmail.com)

#### **Add Sponsor Coord.**

Gary Reinitz 856-278-1046

#### **Public Relations**

Allan Franklin 865-805-3120  
Ezell Cox 423-626-9547

#### **Tournament Coord.**

Todd Asher 865-789-1991  
Allan Franklin 865-805-3120

#### **Co-op Supplies and**

#### **Raffle Prizes:**

Steve Nichols 865-254-7855  
kidchevy@comcast.net

#### **Advisor:**

Ezell Cox 423-626-9547



## **2012 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>).

Mar 19	Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m. The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge Speaker: Clay Cunningham - artificial lures
Apr 16	Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m. The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge Speaker: Bill Carson - Fishing methods
May 21	Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m. The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge Speaker: Mike Smith, Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery
Jun 18	Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m. The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge
Jul 16	Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m. The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge
Aug 20	Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m. The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge
Sep 17	Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m. The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge
Oct 6	Annual fish fry - No monthly meeting
Nov 19	Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m. The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge
Dec	There is no monthly meeting in December

**FABRIC**  
Commercial Awnings  
Residential Awnings  
Retractable  
Boat Enclosures  
Party Tent Rentals

**ALUMINUM**  
Awnings  
Canopies  
**Gemini Letters**

**MIKE ALLEN**  
Owner



**MOUNTAIN**  
**AWNING & FENCE, LLC**  
Toll Free: 1-866-746-3686

Free Estimates

For All Your Paving Needs

**B&C Asphalt Paving Co., Inc.**

Wayne Beeler  
Vice-President

Plant 423-626-1234

Residence 423-626-7951

Mobile 526-7161

## **LIVEWELL SYSTEMS, INC.**

**Custom Bait Tanks**

**Ron Vest**  
Owner

W: (864) 295-4206  
H: (864) 269-2212

614 Old Pendleton Rd. • Easley, SC 29642  
Makers of Super Bait Tanks II

**B&B**  
**STRAIGHT CREEK**  
**BOAT DOCK**



**Full Service Dock**  
**on Norris Lake**  
*New Tazewell, TN*

**423-626-5826**

*Maynard & Delbert Brooks*

**Hickory Star**  
**Marina**  
*"Home of the Stripers"*  
**865-992-5241**  
**Full service marina**  
**on Norris Lake**  
**Near Maynardville TN**

**German Creek Boat Dock**  
**On Cherokee Lake**  
**In Bean Station, Tennessee**

**The Shad-Man**  
**SHAD AVAILABLE**  
**YEAR ROUND**  
**ONLY \$3.00 PER**  
**DOZEN**  
**CALL 865-767-3350**



## TSBA 2012 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.

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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(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:** 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 monthly 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.



*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**



**March 19, 2012: Monthly Meeting  
Flatwater Grill  
100 Melton Lake Drive, Oak Ridge  
Dinner at 6:00 p.m.; meeting at 7:00 p.m.**