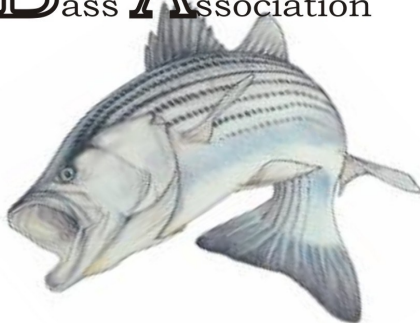


Tennessee Striped Bass Association

Get Hooked !



May/June 2022



David Mullins with a nice striped bass!

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

Join us on Facebook [Tennessee Striped Bass Association](#)

June 2022 Club Meeting

The June meeting will be held on Thursday, June 2nd at Shoney's, 315 E. Emory Rd, Powell, TN 37849. Dinner at 6; meeting begins at 7. Topics will be catching bait with Allen Franklin and keeping bait with Keith Shannon. Allen will bring cast nets for hands-on instruction in the Shoney's parking lot for anyone that would like a quick lesson. 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.





Ralph McCool with a fat hybrid!

Summertime River Fishing

In the previous newsletter, I discussed how to fish the tailwaters immediately below Tennessee's hydroelectric dams. I understand fishing in fast flowing, turbulent water, often with lots of company, is not everyone's idea of a good time. Fortunately, striped bass can be caught and released in the first fifteen miles or so below dams all summer long since the water is usually below seventy degrees and well oxygenated. To maximize survivability, it is imperative that fish are landed and released quickly. For tackle, I typically use heavy baitcasting gear, 25+ pound line, planer boards, and 2/0-6/0 circle hooks depending on the size of the bait. I typically use large gizzard shad for bait but will use alewife or skipjack if I'm lucky enough to have them. The following describes how I do it.

In the morning, when there is little or no current, stripers don't necessarily seek out structure and cover. At this time, it is simple and effective to pull planer boards down the main channel to intercept schools of feeding striped bass. I set the bait as few as five feet behind the planer if there is a lot of cover like trees and rocks and as much as thirty feet behind the planer if I'm fishing open water. I typically keep my speed between one and one point five miles per hour.

In the afternoon, when the current is typically at its fastest, stripers often relate to outside bends of the river channel, shoals and islands, particularly those that have cover like fallen trees, rock piles and stumps. If the fish are not particularly aggressive, you must get your bait as close as possible to the fish. This requires setting the bait close to the planer and actively maneuvering the bait as close to the cover or bank as possible. I can't stress this enough. I often see boats keep their bait twenty feet from the bank and catch nothing. I follow a hundred yards or so behind them, fish tight to the cover and catch multiple fish. When you find a fish on a piece of cover, he very often has friends with him. Make repeated passes on the cover. If you have plenty of bait, pitching your shad into heavy shoreline cover can be very effective.

For reasons only the stripers understand, sometimes fish aren't in their "usual" places in the afternoon. When this happens, I'll anchor next to a shoal or shallow flat, set out boards and or cut bait and wait for fish to come to me. This can turn a slow day into really good one as the bite in the last hour of daylight becomes fast and furious.

- Keith Shannon



Keith Shannon with a nice 30+ pounder!

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:

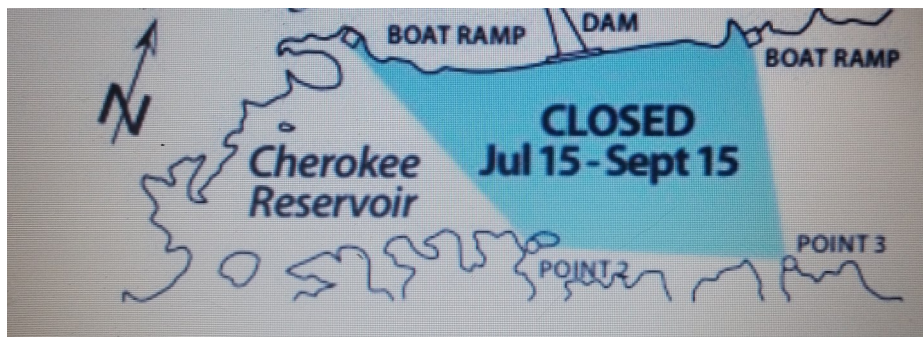
32–42 inch PLR; only one fish may be over 42 inches

June and July 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.

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.

Dwight Allen with a potential state record striper!



YOUR 2022 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND STAFF

President: Keith Shannon

Vice President: Seeking candidate

Treasurer: Eric Rauch

Secretary: Keith Shannon

Board Chairman: Allan Franklin

TSBA DIRECTORS

Bill Ballou, Jim Blazier, Steve Nichols, Cory Malabey, James Pierce, Eric Rauch, Bob Biscay, Hal Basdekis

TSBA STAFF

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Facebook Coordinator: Allan Franklin/Steve Nichols/Eric Rauch

Sponsor Coordinator: Justin Rose

Public Relations: Ezell Cox

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

P.O. Box 7303

Knoxville, TN 37921

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 2022. TSBA can provide newsletters for our sponsors to distribute. Thanks!




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T.S.B.A., Inc. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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.
- * You'll have access to all areas of the TSBA, Inc. web page.

Is this a renewal ___ or a new membership ___

Your name _____ -- _____
Spouse's name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone(_____) _____
E-Mail address _____

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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GET HOOKED!