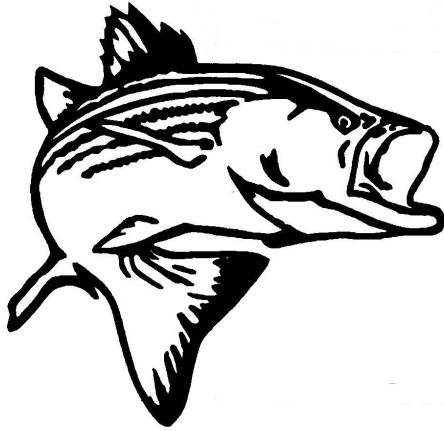


**Catch  
the  
Striper  
Fever!**

# T.S.B.A.



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

**June  
2012**



*Brian Harris is looking very happy with a catch he made while fishing on the Clinch River with his father, Gary Harris, just below Melton Hill Dam. They encountered at least 30 blow-ups and caught over 20 nice fish weighing in the high teens along with one 24 pounder.*

## Letter from the Prez

Our last monthly meeting had a great turn out with over 50 members in attendance. A convenient buffet meal was set up in the room before the meeting. We were fortunate enough to have two great speakers from TWRA. And if that was not enough, we were all able to enjoy watching a video produced by member Roy Hawk on the super large screen. As I looked around the meeting room with a view of the lake out the full height windows, I thought to myself we were very fortunate to have such a Great Place to meet.

We have been meeting at the Flatwater Grill for almost two years. The meeting room and special meal deal were arranged by then manager Dean Russell, a TSBA member. When Dean moved on to a new opportunity, we were able to continue our meeting room deal with the new management. Recently, however, a second management change began to question our arrangement and unfortunately informed us of a price increase at our recent meeting. Our officers and members at the meeting agreed that new pricing was more than the majority of the members were willing to pay and it was time to make a CHANGE and move our meetings.

With the help and recommendations of our club officers and directors, we have decided to hold our next meeting at the Bass Pro complex at the Sevierville exit on I-40, east of Knoxville. A meal has been arranged in the restaurant under the TSBA name and will start at our normal time of 6:00 p.m. At 7:00 p.m. the group



*The Bass Pro Shops located at 3629 Outdoor Sportsmans Place, Kodak, TN is the new home of our monthly meetings.*

will move to a conference room on the second floor. I am hoping that the new location will be more accessible to some of our new members and will not be too much further for our regulars. Please bear with TSBA as we CHANGE our monthly gathering location to what will hopefully be a suitable site with more options for continued, interesting meetings.

Come to the next meeting if you can and as always let me know how we can make it better. The fish are beginning to form their warm water schools ... the best way to find them is...

GO FISHING!

— Doug Steffe

## **July Expectations**

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Expect to find the thermocline starting to develop and get deeper in the stratified calm waters with 80+ degrees on the surface. Striped bass are temperate bass, so they will seek out the deeper, cooler temperatures. The gizzard and threadfin shad will seek out the warmest water they can find and the striper will follow them to feed then return to their thermal refuge quickly. The alewife are also temperate and will seek out deeper, cooler water. They can be found by using a good fish finder. The gulls, cormorants and herons can be a great help in locating the baitfish, even if they are not feeding. 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 in the last several years. Be safe and mindful of the extra activity on the lakes as the other large boats with skiers, wake boarders, and swimmers 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 late this month. Please do not kill a fish that is not part of your harvest limit in the hot summer months.

— Ezell Cox

# Minutes of the May meeting

TSBA's monthly meeting was held at the Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge on May 21, 2012. Approximately 50 members attended the meeting. President Doug Steffe opened the meeting by introducing new members and the guest speakers, Bobby Wilson and Mike Smith.

Bobby Wilson, TWRA's Chief of Fisheries, updated the crowd on several issues important to striper fishing. First, the commercial fishing study has not been funded and no action will be taken on it until next year. Moreover, the commission is studying potential changes to the "Tennessee rig" configuration, skipjack herring creel and possession limits and seasonal restrictions at the Bull Run Steam Plant. Potential restrictions at the Bull Run Steam Plant will be contingent on future public surveys.

The next presentation was a video, narrated by Doug Steffe, which showed the striped bass spawning and rearing process at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery. Guest speaker Mike Smith, TWRA's Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery Manager, provided additional commentary during the video and answered questions after the video. He discussed the increased survival rate of striped bass when raised to 2.5 inches before they are released, aging techniques and the use of hormones to induce ovulation in fish captured for the breeding program. The video is available to watch by going to <http://youtu.be/BxUi-xpicdo>.

After a brief break, tournament director Allan Franklin solicited input from members and it was agreed that the Striper Bowl will be held on Cherokee Lake on June 23. The entry fee will be \$15 per person.

Doug Steffe asked the crowd for input on topics for upcoming meetings. Potential topics include the use of artificial baits, tackle, boat rigging, bait catching and keeping, seasonal techniques, river fishing tactics and lake fishing tactics.

Finally, Doug Steffe informed the club members that the Flatwater Grill will raise the price of the meal to over \$27 and levy a \$250 monthly fee for using the banquet room next month. Predictably, members decided that TSBA needs to seek a different, more centrally located venue for future meetings.

— **Keith Shannon, Secretary**

## **June Meeting**

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Please join us on June 18, 2012 for the TSBA monthly meeting. Our guest speaker will be TSBA Advisor Ezell Cox, who will lead a discussion on catching and keeping live bait. Ezell has advice to share that will be important to know as anglers face the challenge of keeping fish alive during the hot summer months.

### **IMPORTANT!**

TSBA's monthly meeting location has been changed. Please join us at our new location for dinner and the meeting.

**Bass Pro Shops (Kodak/Sevierville)  
3629 Outdoor Sportsmans Place,  
Kodak, TN**

Bass Pro Shops is located at Exit 407 on Interstate 40. We will have dinner at 6 p.m. in the restaurant located inside the store. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in a conference room on the second floor.

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# It's tournament time!

TSBA is hosting the annual Striper Bowl Tournament. Please join fellow members in supporting this important fundraising event. This much anticipated tournament was traditionally used to raise money to support the Kids Fishing Day program, which was discontinued in 2010. This year 50% of the proceeds from the tournament will go into a fund to support community outreach programs such as fishing with Wounded Warriors; the remaining 50% will be paid out to the winners.

- Who:** TSBA members. (Non-members are welcome to participate, but they must sign a release form and are not eligible to win first place).
- What:** Catch and release tournament. Longest 2 fish wins, with length to be recorded by digital camera or video with a rigid ruler. Harvesting of fish is allowed.
- Where:** Cherokee Lake, launching from the Grainger County Park boat ramp.
- When:** Saturday, June 23, 2012
- Time:** 5:30 a.m. Registration  
6:00 a.m. Tournament starts  
10:00 a.m. Tournament ends
- Fees:** \$15 per person; optional \$5 for longest fish.
- Register:** Sign-up at the June 18 meeting or 30 minutes prior to kick-off on the day of the tournament.
- Contact:** Allan Franklin, TSBA Tournament Coordinator, at (865) 805 - 3120 if you have questions.



***The winner of the Striper Bowl tournament will be immortalized with their name engraved on the travelling Striper Bowl Trophy. Previous winners include Larry Atchley (2009); Keith Shannon (2010); and Wayne Beeler (2011). Keith Shannon is pictured above receiving the missing, but recently found, trophy. There's plenty of room left on the Striper Bowl trophy for your name!***



***TSBA President Doug Steffe with a nice catch made while fishing with Ezell. Doug encourages novice anglers to participate in the club tournaments. The more tournaments you enter, the more you learn: you don't need to catch a winning fish to benefit from a tournament.***



# A concerned fisherman

Because I spend a lot of time on east Tennessee's reservoirs and rivers, I see things. I am an active TSBA member and strongly believe in conservation of our great fisheries! I have the right to voice my opinion and feel like its time to speak out.

I hate to see the constant abuse of the creel limits and people abusing fish. Its not just the stripers either: it is most all species. One example was a weigh-in at a bass tournament on Cherokee last summer. After the guys weighed the bass, they showed no concern when the fish were released and all floated belly up. Over 30 bass were left to rot at the boat ramp.



***Bud White is an accomplished angler who operates a fishing guide service. Bud is a great example of someone taking an active ownership in a public resource.***

## Questions

I see many people killing and eating fish that are caught in contaminated waters. WHY? How do we educate people about contaminants and selective harvest? HOW? It really upsets me to watch out of state guides coming to Tennessee lakes and rivers to take the fish, especially from contaminated waters like Watts Bar. WHY? The reason they come to Tennessee is because they have fished out their lakes by abusing them. How can we educate these guides and stop the constant abuse they inflict on Tennessee waters? I also wonder why TWRA allows so many jug lines. Stripers are caught on these and killed in large numbers. If you put out 50 jugs and catch and kill 15 striper that night, you are way over your creel limit. WHY? On two different occasions I saw gill nets on Watts Bar. How do you stop these guys? HOW? I am very concerned that Tennessee Fisheries are going to decline in numbers and quality fish. What is the answer?

## Members respond

An out of state TSBA member responded to Bud's post on his blog saying, "I do come from out of state to fish, in large part because our fisheries in western North Carolina have been over-fished and abused. I cannot understand why anyone would eat fish when there is a sign at the ramp that advises not to. I asked a guide why he lets his clients keep fish out of Watts Bar when there is a warning about contaminants, and his response was that a biologist told him that



a person would have to eat a huge amount of fish to be dangerous. Wouldn't it be in the best interest of a guide to recommend NOT eating the fish? The more fish there are, the easier it will be to put his clients on fish. It seems simple to me. Since there is already an advisory against eating the stripers, perhaps Watts Bar could be a catch and release fishery only, or at a minimum institute a slot limit so more of the bigger fish will be released. I don't know what the solution is, but I would sure be willing to help in any way I could. Another issue I have noticed is fish being caught on too light of tackle and fish being beat to death on the rocks by bank fisherman. It is just a huge lack of respect for the resource, and it sickens me."

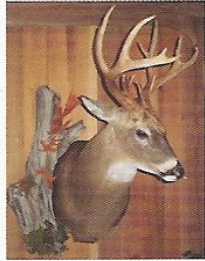
TSBA member Nate Bailey says, "I'm glad people like Bud are looking out for my favorite pastime. Bud is a professional and has to deal with issues on a higher level. For underclassmen like myself, I recommend that we all just try to lead by example. I have been influenced in a good way by Bud and others. What I do in return is try to pass on good fishing habits to others. When the word gets out that you can put fish in the boat, you become very popular and have somewhat of a platform to speak from. SO USE IT!!! You don't have to send an email to a politician to make a difference. Start out with your own fishing buddies and go from there."

#### **TWRC responds: education, not regulation**

Harold Cannon, District 2 Commission, appreciates Bud's concerns and wrote that "the starting point towards developing a resolution to the issues identified was said best in your blog; that being through education. We can develop all the regulations in the world (which you should know I am against), and attempt to enforce these regulations. However, unless there is a concerted effort towards starting the education process first, any regulatory approach will probably end in failure. The organization that you are a part of – TSBA – is to be commended for the steps that it has proactively taken. Specifically, their efforts to better educate participants in area Bass Tournaments has gone a long way in reducing the mortality of the striped bass caught during the tournaments. But we would also agree that a lot that can still be achieved through education. I also acknowledge that some of the circumstances you have identified violate our existing regulations. You and members of the TSBA also know how short-staffed our agency is when it comes to enforcement. For that reason, we truly need the fishing community's help in advising us when such violations are identified in order that the appropriate action can be taken.

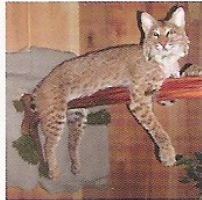
#### **A call for support**

Bud's final comment on these issues is a call for support, stating that he "would like and need everyone's thoughts on this." Visit Bud's website at <http://www.monsterstriperguide.com/>, where you can read Bud's blog in full.



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## ***Madisonville Marine, Inc.***



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# **Outlook for current fishing spots**

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## **CHEROKEE LAKE**

The striped bass and alewife will be seeking refuge in cooler water as the lake warms up into the high 80's. This will cause them to move downstream from the headwaters and out of the warmer shallow coves. Looking for the large concentrations of baitfish and bait-eating birds is still a good way to find stripers/hybrids, but breaking fish on the surface will slow with only a few showing up early in the morning. The gulls, cormorants, and herons will continue to show where the best bait is located, even if they are not actively feeding. Locating schools of fish on the fish finder will allow for some jigging of lures and spoons. Large schools can often be found on the fish finders, allowing jigging to work well on the main channel points and humps near the dam area. The premium locations are normally downstream of the German Creek area all the way to the dam.

**REMEMBER THE NO FISHING ZONE STARTS JULY 15 IN FRONT OF THE DAM.**

## **NORRIS LAKE**

Finding large schools of baitfish or looking for surface feeding fish in the early hours of daylight can still be effective, but the best tool will be the fish finder as they start to go deeper in the water column to find a thermal refuge. The largest concentrations of striper will be mid-lake and downstream half of the reservoir still in some of the major deep coves, but near deep water main channel humps. The bait-eating birds are scarce on Norris, so using them to locate fish is not as helpful as on other lakes. Baitfish and striped bass will be much easier to locate on the fish finder as they move away from the banks and out of the coves.

## **WATTS BAR & MELTON HILL**

The striped bass bite in the tail waters and downstream river will develop this month and only get better as the flow at the dams increases. The release schedule plays a major role in the quality of fishing below the dams and it seems to be much better with flow. Top water bites can happen all summer in the tail waters and downstream. Release schedules can be looked up on the TVA web site to improve your catch rate. The baitfish are in the shallow, sun-warmed flats and coves. Watch for herons hunting baitfish in these areas to locate stripers throughout most of the summer.

— **Ezell Cox**

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

### **President:**

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423-754-0541

### **Secretary:**

Keith Shannon  
keith.shannon@gmail.com

### **Assistant Treasurers:**

Allan Franklin and Ann Howe

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Ezell Cox 423-626-9547

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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 the ***Bass Pro Shops (Kodak/Sevierville), 3629 Outdoor Sportsmans Place, Kodak, TN.***

- Jun 18      Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m.  
Bass Pro Shops in Kodak, Tennessee  
Catching and Keeping Live Bait- Led by Ezell Cox
- Jul 16      Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m.  
Bass Pro Shops in Kodak, Tennessee  
Speaker: Mike Smith, Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery
- Aug 20      Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m.  
Bass Pro Shops in Kodak, Tennessee  
Topic: River Fishing and Summer Lake Fishing
- Sep 17      Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m.  
Bass Pro Shops in Kodak, Tennessee  
Topic: Rigging your boat for striper fishing - Led by D. Steffe
- Oct 6      Annual fish fry - No monthly meeting
- Nov 19      Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m.  
Bass Pro Shops in Kodak, Tennessee  
Topic: Striper tackle
- Dec      There is no monthly meeting in December



**Brad Lenderman**

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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.

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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**



**June 18, 2012: Monthly Meeting  
Bass Pro Shops  
3629 Outdoor Sportsmans Place  
Kodak, TN  
Dinner at 6:00 p.m.; meeting at 7:00 p.m.**