

Tennessee Striped Bass Association

GET HOOKED!
April, 2013



Jay Girardot with a 50.5 lb striper.

Letter from the Prez

Spring greetings to everyone. With the late unseasonably cold weather and another large rise and fall of the lakes, improving fishing trips are around the corner. Both Norris and Cherokee are above their target elevation rises and have the typical spring time debris. So keep a watchful eye for those floating prop benders. The water temperatures have been 10-15 degrees colder than last year and will be warming quickly. The fish and bait will become more active as they fatten up for their spawning attempt. Spring time fishing has great opportunities for catching (and releasing) the bigger fish!

Our newsletter team has launched the 'new look' this month and will be refining the content and internal layout over the next few issues. They could use your feedback on the improvements and any additional content. I will be adding a topic in the Fishing Forum or send an email to Jim Blazier or Eddie Dills.

The new Website launch was delayed due to transferring old site content. But is progressing and should be ready in the next couple of weeks. Please bear with us and continue to check the site for the new format.

<http://tennstripedbass.com/>

If you were wondering why you did not receive a March issue of the newsletter.... you were not alone. TSBA club Officers and Directors decided that a reduction from 11 to 8 issues was needed to keep up the quality of the content and staff energized. We still need your pictures, inputs and articles to keep the letter fresh & interesting.

Springtime fishing is the best cure for your 'cabin fever'. Call a buddy or launch the boat and 'Go Fishing'! Catch, Picture & Release that big fish and send us or post the pic.

— *Doug Steffe, TSBA President*

Fishing Regulations

LOOK FOR THE NEW REGULATIONS ON UNBRELLA RIGS

New fishing licenses are required to fish starting each March 1st. It is each fisherman's responsibility to know the rules and stay legal. NO FISHING ZONE begins on July 15th until September 15th on Cherokee Lake. Changes are normal in the management of our fishing each year, and those changes become effective on March 1st. Each body of water may have exceptions you need to be aware of before exposing yourself to a fine. There are some seasonal striped bass CREEL AND SIZE limit changes that take place April 1st and November 1st. Go on line to Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency at 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.

NEW TENNESSEE FISHING LICENSE REQUIRED MARCH 1ST.

— *Ezell Cox*



TSBA member Bo Boshiers with a Norris Lake striper caught on umbrella rigs.

February Meeting Minutes

TSBA's monthly meeting was held at Bass Pro Shops in Sevierville on February 18, 2013. Approximately 50 members attended the meeting. President Doug Steffe opened the meeting by introducing new members then gave the floor to the chairmen of the financial and website committees.

Bud White, Chairman of the Website Committee, commented that he had been searching for a new website designer. Cory Malabey, Chairman of the Finance Committee, indicated that Eagle Bend Fish didn't need any equipment donated.

Doug presented the proposed new logo, asked for comments and input from crowd. The Fish logo will be in color rather than black and white.

The featured speaker this month was Todd Asher. Todd discussed how to catch, keep and use skipjack herring for bait. For more information on the content of the presentation, please see the Meeting video link.

After a brief break, Doug stated Senator Lamar Alexander was planning a public forum on February 21 to discuss the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's plan to restrict boat access below dams on the Cumberland River. All members were encouraged to sign petitions and send letters to their representatives on this issue. It was stated that TSBA supports all efforts to keep these areas open.

After Fishing Reports and 50/50 drawing meeting was concluded.

Minutes by Keith Shannon.

Meeting Video filmed and edited by Roy Hawk.

March Meeting Minutes

TSBA's monthly meeting was held at Bass Pro Shop on March 18, 2013. 50 plus members were in attendance. Meeting was called to order by president, Doug Steffe. Guests and new members were introduced.

The Norris Lake Fishing Advisories committee (NLFAC) annual meeting was held Tuesday March 12. 5 TSBA appointed members attended the meeting. A brief history and purpose of the committee was given. Eric Rauch spoke on the outcome of the meeting. Mission statement presented and newly adopted By-Laws were discussed. Direction and new structure of NLFAC should be helpful in improving the Striped Bass resource on Norris.

Special guest, local TN. Fisheries & Wildlife Commissioner Harold Cannon was introduced. Harold addressed the club on his positive view of the NLFAC meeting and assured the members that the TFWC would listen to committee recommendations and would strive to help make Norris a better fishery. He also encourage all with concerns or comments to feel free to send him an email. Harold was thanked for his attendance and his efforts as a commissioner.

Doug introduced feature speaker Tom Blackburn and his presentation on Leadcore and Downrigger Trolling. Tom discussed equipment, lures and presentation using the 2 methods of trolling. A handout was available and many pieces of tackle were passed around. Many questions were asked by members and answered by Tom.

Bud White discussed upcoming TSBA tournaments. The 1st is scheduled for April 20th out of Hickory Star marina on Norris lake. Details of the tournaments can be found on the TSBA Fishing Forum.

Steve Nichols presented some examples of club hats and shirts. He was in the process of putting together an order.

After the 50/50 drawing the meeting was adjured.

Minutes by Jennifer Davis.

Norris Lake Fishery Advisory Committee (NLFAC)

One of the more important functions of our club has to do with our participation in NLFAC. This committee was founded in 1998 to resolve a long-running controversies surrounding TWRA's management of Norris Lake's sport fisheries and Striped Bass stocking. The formation of TSBA was based on this highly charged controversy and we have evolved into the positive, non-confrontational culture of today.

NLFAC is a community-based group of advisors to the Tennessee Fisheries and Wildlife Commission (TFWC) on fishery management issues for Norris Lake. It is comprised of 5 sub-groups: Tennessee Sportsman's Association (TSA), Tennessee Striped Bass Association (TSBA), non-affiliated anglers, county government, and businesses associated with Norris. Each sub-group has equal numbers of 4-5 members. TSBA has faithfully had 5 members at each meeting since the beginning. Our TSBA group over the years for the most part, has been quiet concerning the Striped Bass fishery on Norris Lake. The long time goal was to monitor any new actions against Striped Bass stockings.

The late 90's controversy had resulted in the elimination of stocking Striped Bass in the once trophy class Striper lake, Norris. It was stopped based on the mis-beliefs of the Tn. Sportsman Assoc. that the Striped Bass were affecting other game fish such as crappie. Through NLFAC, a compromise between TSBA and TSA resumed the annual stocking at the reduced rate of 3 per acre. While other E.Tn lakes have been managed based on science and need, the Norris stocking rate has remained the same, mostly based on the fear of renewed controversy. Although the Eagle Bend hatchery has strived to give Norris a quality 3 fingerling per acre, we have seen the catch rate and number of members fishing Norris decline.

Over the years the members of NLFAC realized that without structure and defined ways of working, we were not getting much done and rarely made constructive recommendations. With the originally conceived guideline of 100% agreement by all members, formal proposals had been hard to pass, due to only one or two against the majority.

At this year's meeting held March the 12, a new positive, cooperative relationship between the members was realized. All present decided that if we wanted to help the Norris lake fishery we needed to work together. A detailed By-Law document was reviewed, revised and approved. 3 Officers were elected and additional meetings proposed. A key feature of the By-Laws, will allow a majority approval of proposals, giving constructive Striped Bass improvements a chance of being passed by the committee. The TWRA managers and TFW Commissioner present were all pleased with the new direction of NLFAC and are eager to work with the now organized group.

— *Doug Steffe*

Our TSBA NLFAC members; Eric Rauch (NLFAC Vise Chairman), Ezell Cox, Allan Franklin, Kyle Rutherford, Doug Steffe



TSBA President Doug Steffe fishing on Norris Lake.

Wintertime Changing To Springtime Fishing Expectations

A great way to find the right places to look for fish is from past history. Look at the last few years of information available on fishing websites, articles, pictures, and magazines. Many times the best clue is to find the largest baitfish concentrations that will seek out the warmest most stable temperatures. March is the beginning of transition from winter patterns to the pre-spawn migrations. Striped bass will be migrating into the shallow, relatively warmer, incoming rivers and feeder creeks. The surface action can be great and the gulls are still very much worth following. The pre-spawn gorging can add as much as 20% weight to the hybrid /striped bass post-spawn. They will be found early in the month roaming the deep, open water in large schools as they feed on small threadfin shad that are dying, and struggling to survive. With the longer days of sunshine, water temperatures are expected to climb from 45 degrees F to the high 50's in some areas by the end of the month. Find the gulls to be in the feeding zone with breaking fish on the surface being likely.

— Ezell Cox



TSBA Advisor Ezell Cox on a January fishing trip.

**TSBA Monthly Meeting
Monday, April 15, 2013
Bass Pro Shops in Kodak, Tennessee
Exit 407 off TN I-40 Sevierville/Kodak, TN**

We are not eating as a group.
Individuals are encouraged to meet in the restaurant of their choice.

7 p.m. Meeting – 2nd Floor Conference Room

**Topic: The Ideal Bait Tank Environment.
How to keep your bait healthy and happy.
Presented by Keith Shannon**



Mike Maddalena with a 40+ lb striper.



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Hot Spots

CHEROKEE LAKE

Successful catch and release in past years will allow some 36 inch plus striped bass to be caught pre-spawn this spring weighing up to 25 pounds. The downstream end of the lake will have good fishing from Point 19 to the dam. Look for surface breaks and feeding gulls, large schools can be found at times in very shallow water. Live bait should be easy to catch in most of the warm coves. Casting and trolling with artificial lures may still be the most effective method. John Sevier steam plant may be off-line. If this happens the early season bite may not develop there if the plant is not discharging warm water into the lake.

NORRIS LAKE

SIZE (36 INCH) AND CREEL LIMIT (ONE) in effect on NORRIS REGULATIONS November 1ST until April 1st. Find the large schools of bait fish by locating gulls whether feeding or not, and looking for surface feeding fish. Water temperature will go from the mid 40's to the high 50's in some locations and should be good to consider looking for the bait in the warmest water you can find. The Brown Algae bloom begins as the temperature warms into the 50's and bait fish are attracted to it to feed and the striped bass follow. The best fishing as the migration begins will be found mid-lake in the major creek feeds and from Hickory Star on the Clinch River and Springs Dock on the Powell River and upstream. Artificial lures are very effective but with some warmer water to be found on sunny days, live bait could also be pulled along the shallow, sun-warmed banks with planner boards.

WATTS BAR & MELTON HILL

SIZE (36 INCH) AND CREEL LIMIT (ONE) in effect on Watts Bar REGULATIONS November 1ST until April 1st. Look for the bait and fish in front of the major coves or where you find the most bait fish on the stained, sun warmed banks. The Kingston Steam Plant often has large concentrations of bait fish 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 also has suffered around them. The fish in Watts Bar & lower Clinch Watts bar have contamination warnings so should not be harvested.

— *Ezell Cox*

YOUR 2013 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND STAFF

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Allan Franklin 865-694-8888

2013 TSBA Calendar

Please join us at TSBA meetings and events. Monthly meetings are held the third Monday of the month at the *Bass Pro Shops (Kodak/Sevierville), 3629 Outdoor Sportsmans Place, Kodak, TN.*

Feb. Meeting Link

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNz56Jq2VIO&feature=youtu.be>

Speaker: Todd Asher
Topic: Skipjack Catching and Keeping

Mar. Meeting Link

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OAI3OyUgEyO>

Speaker: Tom Blackburn
Topic: Trolling for Striper

Apr 15 Monthly Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Keith Shannon
Topic: Catching and Keeping Bait

May 20 Monthly Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Mike Smith
Topic: Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery

Jun 17 Monthly Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Alan Colette
Topic: Artificial Baits

Jul 15 Monthly Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Mike Smith
Topic: TWRA Striper Stocking Summary

Aug 19 Monthly Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Jim Farmer
Topic: CastAway Tackle

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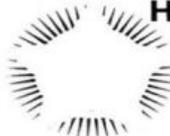
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TSBA 2013 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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 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.

Tennessee Striped Bass Association

GET HOOKED!

The TSBA is a non-profit corporation that supports TWRA and its Striped Bass and 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 and share our knowledge with fellow Striped Bass anglers.

Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 163
Sharps Chapel, TN 37866



TSBA Monthly Meeting
Monday, April 15, 2013
7:00 p.m.

