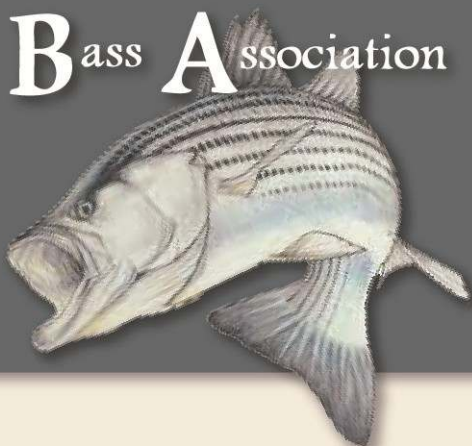


# Tennessee Striped Bass Association

**GET HOOKED!** }  
May 2013



*TSBA member Bill Cate*

# Letter from the Prez

Hello members. The spring lake rises came quicker than normal. Norris reached full pool ahead of schedule and crested 2 plus feet above. The Dam spill way as well as the sluice gates were opened to control the inflows. Cherokee also rose ahead of schedule and is a few feet from its summer pool. As a result of all this inflow the shore debris has remained in the main channels. Fishing has continued to be a challenge, influenced by the large lake rises and colder water temperatures. With May's warmer weather, better days should be coming soon.



This month I would like to recognize the members who help out with the running of our club. There are a lot of folks who spend their valuable free time supporting TSBA. We have new Web and Facebook sites, supported by Terry Reinitz and Bud White. The newsletter is created, reviewed and printed led by the team of Jim Blazier and Jenifer & Eddie Dills. We have our Sponsor Coordinator Gary Reinitz, who keeps up with all of the businesses that support the club. The Tackle Supply co-op is run by Steve Nichols, who searches and purchases the great deals on the gear we use. We have a great group of officers, directors and advisors who give their time and inputs throughout the year. It takes a lot of effort to keep the club functioning and no one single person could do it alone. Thanks to all who help keep our TSBA growing and serving its members.

We are always looking for more member participation in all aspects of the club. The newsletter is an important tool in communicating with the majority of our members. We can improve the letter with your pictures, inputs and articles. Please help our team keep the letter fresh & interesting by sending in club related material. I believe it is quite rewarding to see your pictures or stories in our widely distributed newsletter.

A great way to get material for sharing is to get out and 'Go Fishing'!

— *Doug Steffe, TSBA President*

# April Meeting Minutes

TSBA's monthly meeting was held at Bass Pro Shop on April 15, 2013. 40 plus members were in attendance. Meeting was called to order by president, Doug Steffe. Guests and new members were introduced.

A surprise guest was found shopping in Bass Pro for a dock part needed for one of the TWRA public docks. Norris TWRA Creel Clerk Paul Shaw was introduced and gave an overview of his function. Paul described what data was collected and how the information was used. He also offered easy access to his weekly fishing reports. All members were encouraged to cooperate and help Paul and all TWRA Creel Clerks on our lakes.



*Paul Shaw and Keith Shannon*

The featured speaker, Keith Shannon, was introduced. Keith is our TSBA Officer/Secretary and is a Chemistry/Science teacher in the Vonore school system. He has been observing and researching our bait tanks environments and the effects it has on our baits. His findings were presented at our meeting. Highlights of his recommendations were controlling bait stress by adding salts, keeping the water cool and supplying sufficient infused air. Keeping the bait for extended periods require removing Ammonia and Carbon Dioxide through water and filter changes, keeping the tank water surface free of foam and keeping the lid open. The full presentation with more detail can be found on the TSBA fishing forum and the video can be viewed at the link on our calendar on page 13.

The Newsletter editing was discussed. The current editor is unable to continue and a new resource was discussed. Several options were presented and it is hopeful that the letter will be published next month.

The first club sponsored tournament was discussed. The event is scheduled for Saturday, April 20 on Norris, at Hickory Star Marina. Free launching, breakfast available, bait available, fish locations to be shared, new points system to be featured. All encouraged to attend.

Meeting adjourned.

# TSBA Club Tournament

## April 20 on Norris Lake

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This year's format was quite different from past events and it went over very well. We held our first event of the season on Norris Lake. We had great participation with 13 boats and a total of 36 participants. It was a great day of fun with most boats landing fish. We would like to thank all involved for the support. Special thanks to Jay Girardo for supplying the bait for a lot of us and Hickory Star Marina for their hospitality.

**The next TSBA tournament will be held on Saturday, May 18. We will use the same format. Blast off at German Creek Dock at safe light; Check in at 1 pm. \$40 a boat.**

— *Bud White*



1st. Place \$185.00, Big Fish \$130.00,  
2 Eagle Claw Rods and some Gamakatsu hooks!

Cpt. Doug Steffe, Club President, and outstanding crew, Kyle Rutherford & Greg Dee, pulled off a clean sweep. They had a 2 fish total of 64 3/8 in. They also won the Big Fish with a 34 in. striper. Greg won the Door Prize - StriperSlayers Planer Boards.



2nd. Place \$130.00, 2 Eagle Claw Rods!

Cpt. Dennis Bryant and crew, John Vincenzo & Steve Nichols, proved their skills with a 2 fish total of 62.5 inches.



3rd. Place, \$80.00, Bulk spool of Ande Line!

Cpt. Eddie Dills and Craig Thibodeaux squeaked in with a 2 fish total of 60 inches.

Bud White and Crew took 4th place with a 2 fish total of 59 3/4 inches.

Jay Girardo and crew ended up in 5th place with a total of 55.75 inches.

# TSBA Tournament Trail

## Points Standings

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### CAPTAINS EARNED POINTS

Doug Steffe 30pts. (*1st*)

Dennis Bryant 15pts. (*2nd*)

Eddie Dills 10pts. (*3rd*)

Bud White 8pts. (*4th*)

Jay Girardo 7pts. (*5th*)

Todd Asher 5pts.

Ezell Cox 5pts.

Mike Allen 5pts.

Tim Edwards 5pts.

Brandon Helton 5pts.

Dick Brogan 5pts.

Gary Harris 5pts.

Felix Taylor 5pts.

### CREW MEMBERS EARNED POINTS

Kyle Rutherford 30pts.

Greg Dee 30pts.

John Vincenzo 15pts.

Steve Nichols 15pts.

Craig Thibodeaux 10pts.

### **These participants (crew) all received 5 points:**

Nick White, Jim Raugh, Hunter Caldwell *with Cpt. Bud White*

Joe Asher, Joe G. *with Cpt. Todd Asher*

Matt Kaiser, Dessine Kaiser *with Cpt. Ezell Cox*

Howard Allen, Tim Allen, Brad Allen *with Cpt. Mike Allen*

Dan C., Joe D. *with Cpt. Tim Edwards*

James Harris *with Cpt. Brandon Helton*

Bo *with Cpt. Gary Harris*

Dave C., Kenny *with Cpt. Dick Brogan*

Carol and Bill *with Cpt. Jay Girardo*

— *Bud White*



# Fishing Regulations

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## LOOK FOR THE NEW REGULATIONS ON UNBRELLA RIGS

New fishing licenses are required to fish starting each March 1<sup>st</sup>. It is each fisherman's responsibility to know the rules and stay legal. NO FISHING ZONE begins on July 15<sup>th</sup> until September 15<sup>th</sup> on Cherokee Lake. Changes are normal in the management of our fishing each year, and those changes become effective on March 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 1<sup>st</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>. Go on line to Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency at [www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org) or pick up a 2013 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

## Springtime to Early Summer Fishing Expectations

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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 with nutrient rich water that is normally murky. As the water temperature starts to exceed 70 degrees in the rivers and shallow coves, the stripers will start migrating back downstream to find cooler refuge. The alewife spawn can be some of the most awesome night fishing in April, May, and June. Surface action, especially in the mornings, remains good until July. Catch and release is successful until July almost everywhere in stratified lakes and 75 degrees or less in flowing rivers. As the water levels change in spring and early summer, being aware of hazardous floating debris can save injury and boat damage.

— Ezell Cox

# Bill Cate - Old Man of our Striper Club

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I had been fishing for stripers in Norris for a number of years when I had a chance meeting with Bill Cate just upstream of Hickory Star Marina. Bill kept a boat at the marina and I trailered to boat ramps on Norris so the meeting was going to happen since we have a lot of the same passion. Stumpy point is the slang name we use for the location on Island F that we talked somewhere in the mid 80's for the first time. We talked enough to get acquainted then about the new Norris Lake Striper Club (Now TSBA) that Bill invited me to attend and I have been a active member ever since. A storm was blowing in on Norris to stop those huge,



*Bill's grandson, Johnathan Cate*



*Bill Cate*

demon striped fish from being stocked by TWRA so I joined the club that Bill was a leader in to help keep the stocking going. Bill has a tall, large frame that could be intimidating if he needed it to be. When we went to Nashville to lobby our legislators I stood as tall and wide as I could right beside him in front of all those anti-striper fishermen to prevent them from getting into the senators and representatives with their message. One little runt of a fellow was able to sneak below and between us and looked back to see if he was going to regret it. Enough said about that conflict since Bill was one of the major reasons we won that war and today the stripers are still stocked in Norris.



We had some striper tournaments that Bill liked to fish in and, I might add, normally finished in the money. Bill and I went down to Tullahoma to fish in a tournament with a bunch of his old Nashville mafia friends where I really found out about some of *CANDLE LIGHT BILL'S* past. It was a fun trip that maybe I should say no more about. We got rooms at



*Bill's son, Jeff Cate*

Shanghi for one of the tournaments and I recall Bill fussing at me for waking him up in the middle of the night smoking. Likely helped influence me to quit smoking. I went to help put his Star craft in the water, when I looked back it was filling with water and Bill was in the back trying to put the plug in from knee deep over the back of the boat. We managed to fix all problems to leave the Powell River side and head to a secret location named by Bill, *HOT ROD HOLLOW*, to win the tournament. First, second, and third place came from there and we still fish there a lot. If you wanted to find Bill on the lake most days, just go look in the back of Dark Hollow. Often, you'd find him with one of his sons or some of their friends like Dan, Gordon, or Joey. It is great to hear the tricks they played on each other like cutting the line with a big fish on the other end because they were in competition with each other. Another



*Bill's daughter-in-law, Brenda Cate*

trip Jeff (son) calmly stated to his dad, "that looks like a submarine," as he described the rod being pulled from the rod holder going straight away from the boat by a fish to never be seen again.

— *Ezell Cox*

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# Hot Spots

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## **CHEROKEE LAKE**

Striper / hybrid spawns can start by late April in the headwaters and major coves with creek in feeds then mostly complete by mid May. Surface feeding is common in April, May, and most of June. Bait eating birds will help indicate where the best place to fish is at. Stripers / hybrids can be found scattered all over the lake ranging from the John Sevier steam plant to all the major coves with baitfish. Night fishing with the alewife spawn in progress is at a premium until the surface temperature starts to exceed 75 degrees. After the spawn is complete, the slow migration back downstream begins. Best fishing will be the lower 2/3 of Cherokee. Catch and release will be successful until July.

## **NORRIS LAKE**

SIZE (36 INCH) AND CREEL LIMIT (ONE) in effect on Norris. REGULATIONS: November 1<sup>ST</sup> until April 1<sup>st</sup>. The spawn takes place in the Clinch and Powell Rivers and many of the large coves on Norris. Spawn is complete by mid to late May then the migration back downstream begins. Excellent fishing can be found in the Loyston/Lost Creek area around point 19 upstream to point 29. The Powell River side is great below 15 and many of the major creeks like Cove, Big, Cedar, Davis, Mill and Lost Creek. Find the large schools of bait fish, and look for surface feeding fish.

## **WATTS BAR & MELTON HILL**

SIZE (36 INCH) AND CREEL LIMIT (ONE) in effect on Watts Bar. REGULATIONS: November 1<sup>ST</sup> until April 1<sup>st</sup>. Look for the stripers in front of the major coves or where you find the most bait fish and bait eating birds. Pulling side planner boards down the banks or casting can catch some of the trophy stripers Watts Bar is known for. As the upstream lakes fill, the water flow can be slow but when the flow resumes, the top water bite can be outstanding all the way into July. Catch and release works good until the water temperature exceeds 75 degrees. 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**

### **President:**

Doug Steffe 865-335-3815  
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 Treasurer:**

Allan Franklin  
865-805-3120

## **TSBA DIRECTORS**

Todd Asher, Bill Ballou, Jim Blazier, Eddie Dills, Ron Gabler,  
Cory Malabey, Larry Nowell, Eric Rauch, Bud White, Doug Steffe

## **TSBA STAFF**

### **Newsletter Printing & Distribution:**

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Jim's email (jblazier@comcast.net)

### **Newsletter Editors:**

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### **Membership:**

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(tn1fishin fool@yahoo.com)

### **Web Site:**

Terry Reinitz and Bud White

### **Adv. Sponsor Coord.:**

Gary Reinitz 856-278-1046

### **Tournament Coordinators:**

Todd Asher 865-789-1991  
Bud White 423-754-0541

### **Co-op Supplies and Raffle Prizes:**

Steve Nichols  
kidchevy@comcast.net

### **Advisors:**

Ezell Cox 423-626-9547  
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. Exit 407 off TN I-40.***

### ***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. Meeting Link***

**<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWjsmfzX2Jg&feature=youtu.be>**

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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# 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](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.

# 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, May 20, 2013**  
**7:00 p.m.**