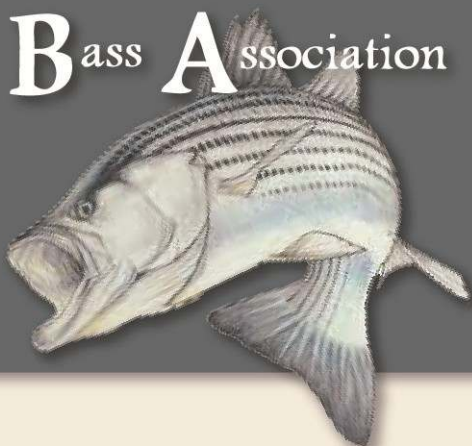


Tennessee Striped Bass Association

GET HOOKED! }
July 2013



} *TSBA Vice President Cory Malabey*

Letter from the Prez

Greetings fellow members. We are through the spring season and heading into the summer. Our lake elevations are holding steady and the rivers have been averaging high flows. The spring fishing was off, most likely due to the high rainfall. However the summer fishing is beginning to develop and good catches are being reported. Most lake surface temperatures are in the low 80's and depths below 25 feet are in the upper 60's. As our surface waters warm into the upper eighties, our lake fish are going to be difficult to release. TSBA recommends keeping your limit and ending your trip. It is a sad sight to see a floating fish, which was unable to go back down to the cool water.

A fishing access battle on the Cumberland River had a victory this last month. The Army Core of Engineering had decided to limit boat access to fisheries below the major Cumberland River dams, stating it was needed for safety. While some folks have had issues below these dams the vast majority have been fishing these productive waters for years. A grass roots movement of TN and KY fisherman signed petitions, contacted the local politicians, and even engaged TWRA in an effort to stop this action. Our TSBA members were encouraged to sign petitions and send messages of opposition. The TN and KY politicians jumped on board opposing these actions and took the battle to the federal level in Washington. Our TWRA Executive director Ed Carter took the public position of not recognizing and enforcing access to these proposed restricted areas. Several rallies were held where our TN Wildlife Federation, Mike Butler along with the politicians and TWRA spoke of their opposition. All these action led to the Freedom to Fish Act, which was, unbelievably, quickly passed by congress and signed into law by the White House. This law gives a 2 year moratorium on further actions by the Corps Engineers, while a permanent ban is passed. The power of an organized group of fisherman can make a difference. TSBA thanks and congratulates all who got involved and helped with this effort!

Our new web site is up, running and looking GOOD! The Fishing Forum site is also getting some good posts and pics, but could always use more. The East TN lakes are looking great and there for you to get out on them and 'Go Fishing'!

— Doug Steffe, TSBA President

May Meeting Minutes

TSBA's monthly meeting was held at Bass Pro Shops May 20, 2013. Approximately 35 members attended the meeting. President Doug Steffe opened the meeting by introducing new members and the guest speaker, Mike Smith.

The presentation was a video, which showed the striped bass spawning and raising 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 collecting fish for the spawning program, 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. He also commented that some natural reproduction may have occurred this spring due to the high flow rates below the dams.

After a brief break, Doug Steffe informed the club members that Eddie Dills and his wife will be the newsletter editors and encouraged members to check out the Club's new website, <http://tnstripedbass.com/>.

June Meeting Minutes

TSBA's monthly meeting was held at Bass Pro Shops June 17, 2013. Approximately 35 members attended the meeting. President Doug Steffe opened the meeting by introducing new members and the guest speaker, Alan Colette.

Alan is a shallow water fishing fanatic. He explained some of his favorite fishing techniques as well as some tips for fishing artificial baits around the dams. We eagerly await the results of his hovercraft-powered fishing trips into seldom fished waters. Members are encouraged to watch the entire June meeting on Youtube.

After Alan's presentation, Doug Steffe informed the club members that the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will reopen all waters on the Cumberland River downstream of the dams that had been closed to fishing. Senator Lamar Alexander was largely responsible for pressuring the USACE to reopen these waters to fishermen. Big props to our homey Lamar.



Devon Malabey

Early to Late Summer Fishing Expectations

Late summer catch and release is not recommended, so if you kill it please harvest it and quit fishing for the striper / hybrid.

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 reservoirs the stripers will start migrating back downstream to find cooler refuge or upstream to the cool discharge at the tailraces. Catch and release is successful into July almost everywhere in stratified lakes and 72 degrees or less in flowing rivers. Summertime is stressful for the larger striper and even hybrids when cool water refuge cannot be found. Also the larger reservoirs have stratified water that won't allow dissolved oxygen to mix below the thermal cline so many of the striper / hybrids find the coolest water at the deepest part of the reservoir in the fore bay of the dam where there is oxygen injected in the summer.

— *Ezell Cox*

Fishing Regulations

LOOK FOR THE NEW REGULATIONS FOR 2013 FISHING SEASON 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 online to Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency at 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

Fishing Details, Details & Details

I have fished with and around a lot of people with all levels of skills for the striped bass over the years. The thing that stands out most in my observation is how quickly or slowly each person develops the understanding of what is working and why so they can repeat it.

Terminal tackle details for live bait fishing is one of the easy ones to understand if you are sitting next to someone who is catching and your boat is not. There are many more things to look at than you would think about quickly. First and most often success or lack of is the selection of your live bait. Seasonally the striped bass is one of the most selective on size and species in its feeding habits than most other species of game fish. Some of the questions you need to ask are: Where did you get the bait? How are you keeping it? Which size is working best? What is your water temperature? What chemicals are you using? How often are you changing bait, speed, depth? and many others that make you sound like a news reporter on site questioning. Check hook size, type, and style to make sure it is related to your line and live bait size. Leader material and its length, swivel, sinker size, line size and type do make a difference for the seasons and conditions you are fishing.

— Ezell Cox

Down Rod Fishing for Striped Bass

BIG FISH ON Trophy Striper Guides

The down rod is one of the most effective and consistent methods of catching freshwater stripers, day & day out, throughout the year, it is hard to beat a down rod. A down rod is basically a Carolina rig with a heavy weight and relatively long leader. A standard down rod (if there was such a thing) consists of a line counter reel, a fairly limber 6 to 9ft rod, the main line, an egg sinker placed on the main line, a swivel, a 4 to 8 ft leader, the hook and most importantly a fresh frisky live bait!

Let's cover each component of the rig in more detail. Your decision of what rod & reel combination to use is primary based on the size of striper that you are targeting. All reels should have a good drag and a line counter, so that you can get your baits to the strike zone as quickly as possible. For "average" size fish between 5 and 20lbs, a "normal" sized striper line counter reel, spooled with 15lb mono and a 7ft light/medium action rod. You want a softer tip to allow the smaller baits that are used to target this class of fish to have some freedom of movement. Some entry level equipment would be the [Daiwa Accudepth Plus 27LC](#) or [Okuma Convector CV-20D](#) reels mounted on rods such as the [Shakespeare UGLY Stick Striper rod model # USCA 70](#) or an [Okuma Classic Pro GLT Striper Live Bait rod model # CST-LB-701ML](#). Again, this is entry level equipment, as you progress in your angling skills, you might want to upgrade the quality of your gear. If you're targeting larger stripers between 15 and 30lbs, you would want to upsize your tackle accordingly, using an Accudepth Plus 47LC spooled with 25 or 30lb test line mounted on a 7ft medium heavy rod. Monster stripers of 25 to 50lbs should be targeted with a large reel such as an Accudepth Plus 57LC spooled with 50lb test on 7ft heavy action rod. The very large baits used when targeting monster stripers also require moving to a larger egg sinker – between 3 and 5oz – to keep the bait as straight down as possible. A longer rod such as 8 or 9 ft is sometime used to cover more water – the additional 2ft spread on each side of the boat sometimes makes the difference in getting bit or not.

Another important part of the down rod equation is your rod holders. You need a quality rod holder that is very strong, holds the rod firmly and allows for easy removal of the rod under the heavy pressure that stripers generate. My favorite rod holders are made by [DriftMaster](#). I prefer the heavy duty "Pro" series. Since you are fishing straight down, the reel does NOT need to be "locked" into the holder, simply having the rod in the holder is enough. If your reel is "locked" into the holder, there is a very good chance you will NOT be able to remove it once a fish is on.

The terminal tackle used for down rods varies just a bit, again based on the size of the fish you're targeting and the depth you're fishing. As far as the swivels go, a simple barrel swivel, matched to the line class you are using is sufficient. If you're targeting monster stripers, you should move to crane swivels as they are slightly stronger than barrel swivels. The weight used can run from 1/2oz to 6oz. If you're fishing with dissimilar size weights, the heaviest weights should always go in the front of the boat and the lightest weight in back. This way, as you move around on the trolling motor, the lines will not tangle as much. If your lighter weight rigs are in the front they will kick back into the more vertical heavier rigs in the back. Using the light weights in the back allows you to cover a wider variety of depths. As you speed up and slow down on the trolling motor, they will rise and fall vertically in the water column. My standard down rod weight is 2oz egg sinker. If you're fishing very large baits in fast current or trolling at a higher speed, you want to increase the weight of your sinker to keep the bait down in your target zone. There are some variations available in the weights you use. Some examples of these variations are egg sinkers with swivels at both ends, long slender pencil weights with swivels on both ends, egg sinkers that are painted red or black (to reduce their visibility) or "invisible" egg sinkers made of glass. I personally like a normal egg sinker, that has been "aged" in the boat for while. Having the sinkers banging and rolling around in your tackle container will get the shine off of them. I don't like a brand new shiny sinker.

Your leader size should be the same size or larger than your main line. Some people recommend a lighter leader so that you lose less terminal tackle when you get your rig hung up in something. I would rather lose my terminal tackle than a good fish. Since the leader is so much shorter than the main line, it has much less stretch and therefore will break before your main line. Your leader can be mono or fluorocarbon. Fluorocarbon is only needed in very clear water. All my leaders are fluoro since I never know what conditions I will be fishing on for any given trip and the last thing I want to do is re-tie all my rigs on the water. Leader length is determined by two factors – the size of the bait and depth that you are fishing. You want shorter 5ft or so leaders on your bigger baits. This is primarily to reduce tangling, as the bigger bait pretty much can swim wherever they want. Putting them on a short lease helps keep them from getting together. If you're fishing your down rods in shallow water – 12 to 25ft, a shorter 5ft leader helps keep the bait closer to your targeted depth and also helps prevent tangling of all size baits, since the "spread" vertically will be much smaller in shallower depths. This will be covered more in the tips section.

Hook size is determined solely on the size bait you are using. Match the hook to your bait and do NOT over power your bait with too large of a hook.

If you are a “set it and forget” type of angler, circle hooks are great as the fish will hook themselves when they take the bait and make their run. If you’re more of a hands on angler who likes to hold the rod in your hands and set the hook, then I would recommend octopus hooks. As always, you want a sharp hook that is strong. Always remember to wet your knots when tightening them down. I personally like a palmor knot.

Obtaining and caring for live bait is a whole subject of its own. I am just going to say you need to have the LIVELIEST bait possible. Your bait is THE most important part of the puzzle when striper fishing; the better your bait, the better you will do. For smaller baits, check them fairly often as they will often get bit and killed or taken while you’re not looking. Larger baits will be making the rod tip bounce so you should easily be able to tell if they’re ok or not.

Here are some various down rod fishing tips. When fishing in deeper water with fish throughout the water column, stagger your baits to determine what depth the fish are most active. For example, on Lake Lanier in the summer time, the thermocline might be at 30ft and you’re marking fish from 40 to 80. Place your rods at 40, 50, 60, & 70 feet. Having the large spread along with longer 8ft leaders allows you to cover as much water vertically as possible. The deeper you are fishing, the more you can tighten down your drag as you have plenty of stretch available in your main line. Tightening down your drag is especially helpful when fishing near timber - just remember to back it off a bit when the fish gets close to the boat. When fishing 12 to 25 ft below the boat you want a looser drag as you don’t have as much stretch available. Always place your baits above the fish you are marking. Stripers suspended in the water column look and feed up. If you’re marking fish and you’re not getting bit, drop down the bait 15/20ft below the fish and quickly reel your baits up though the fish. This will often trigger a bite. This technique is called power reeling. Sometimes banging on the bottom of the boat with a 2×4 or broom handle will “call” the fish to the boat. Stripers are curious by nature and will come to investigate. I prefer to play loud ROCK & ROLL to draw them in. Other variations on this technique are jumping in the water for a quick dip during the summer or leaving your outboard running. When fishing in shallower water, I keep the rod closest to me on the bottom, bouncing along, pulling it up quickly if I see a tree or other obstruction. Often only that bait that is right on the bottom is the one getting bit. If the fish are hitting softly, it helps to have everyone hold a rod and set the hook on them manually, rather than letting them set the hook themselves using the rod holder. Just hold on tightly in case a big fish makes a strong hit.

You can watch this [Lake Lanier Stripers Fishing Video](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_lmlLa04Ao) [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_lmlLa04Ao] to watch live bait on down rods in action catching stripers.

—— Capt. Mike Maddalena 1/14/10

TSBA Members' Photo Page



Greg Dee took some out of town friends on their first striped fishing trip.



Would you like to see your fishing pictures in our newsletter?
Send them to jeneddie@comcast.net.

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CHEROKEE LAKE

(NO FISHING ZONE in effect July 15TH until September 15TH)

Catch and release is not recommended so please go prepared to keep and quit fishing for striper / hybrid in late summer. The large amount of rainfall this year is cause for concern about survival of the largest striped bass on Cherokee.

Summertime is stressful for the larger striper and even hybrids when cool water refuge cannot be found. Also the larger reservoirs have stratified water that won't allow dissolved oxygen to mix below the thermal cline so many of the striper / hybrids find the coolest water at the deepest part of the reservoir in the fore bay of the dam where there is oxygen injected in the summer. The best fishing will be the lower ¼ of the lake near the No Fishing Zone and most downstream of German Creek.

NORRIS LAKE

Catch and release is not recommended so please go prepared to keep and quit fishing for striper in late summer.

Best fishing can be found in the Loyston/Lost Creek area around point 19 downstream to the dam. The Powell River side is good downstream of point #12 at Davis Creek. Find the large schools of bait fish and the deep schools of striper are easy to find with good fish finders.

WATTS BAR & MELTON HILL

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 tributary lakes are now full and cool water flow at the tailrace begins the striped bass will move out of the warmer lake water. Top water bite can be outstanding all the way into late summer. Catch and release works good until the water temperature exceeds 72 degrees. Successful catch and release is not always successful in late summer. 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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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.***

February Meeting Link

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

Speaker: Todd Asher

Topic: Skipjack Catching and Keeping

March Meeting Link

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OAi3OyUgEyO>

Speaker: Tom Blackburn

Topic: Trolling for Striper

April Meeting Link

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

Speaker: Keith Shannon

Topic: Catching and Keeping Bait

May Meeting Link

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_-syAvk...e=youtu.be

Speaker: Mike Smith

Topic: Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery

June Meeting Link

http://youtu.be/IMO_JjqbIZA

Speaker: Alan Colette

Topic: Artificial Baits

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

Speaker: Mike Smith

Topic: TWRA Striper Stocking Summary

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

Speaker: Jim Farmer

Topic: CastAway Tackle

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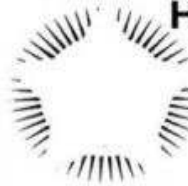
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TSBA 2013 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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, July 15, 2013
7:00 p.m.