

Tennessee Striped Bass Association

GET HOOKED! }
August 2013



*Dennis Bryant,
and his grandson, Cory Bryant*

Letter from the Prez

Summer greetings to everyone! Our weather has been wet but with below average temperatures. This has kept the lakes at near full pool later than I have ever seen and have kept the rivers flowing. The fishing has been affected by these factors by moving the fish around. It has been a challenge to find them and when you do they haven't stayed in the area for long. But some nice fish and good numbers are being caught for those who are keeping their lines wet and searching.

The last TSBA meeting had one our favorite featured speakers, TWRA Eagle Bend hatchery manager Mike 'Stump' Smith. He brought good information and numbers on our Striper stockings. At the meeting time, Norris, Boone and Cherokee had been completed. The updated link with Watts Bar and other central TN lake numbers is now available and can be found at the link in the July Meeting Minutes. This daily updated "Fish Stocking" data is a new TWRA feature, requested by the Commissioners (TN Fish & Wildlife Com.) and maintained by our Region 4 personal. Another helpful topic from the meeting was the Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature profiles. Mike led a good discussion on its meaning and how it can help find FISH. If you missed the meeting, check out our video link on page 13 and the profile links in the July Meeting Minutes. On behalf of TSBA, I would like to extend our appreciation of all the efforts by the TWRA fisheries personal for the successful 2013 stockings, and especially to Mike Smith for coming out to our meeting and sharing the details.

*With the coming off month for our newsletter, I want to start informing our members of the **TSBA Annual Fish Fry**. Our event is scheduled early this year, on **Saturday, September 21 at 2:00 p.m.** We will not have a club meeting that month, but we will discuss details at our next meeting and post details on the fishing forum, TSBA web site, and send out an email a week or so before the event. Be sure to mark your calendars for this event. In the mean time, clean and oil your reels, sharpen your hooks, launch the boat or hop on board and Go Fishing!*

— Doug Steffe, TSBA President

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 runs 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

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 thermocline 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

July Meeting Minutes

TSBA's monthly meeting was held at Bass Pro Shops in Sevierville on July 15, 2013. Approximately 35 members attended the meeting. President Doug Steffe opened the meeting by introducing new members and the evening's speaker, Eagle Bend fish hatchery manager, Mike Smith.



Mike, who has over 30 years of experience raising and stocking fish, gave a very in-depth presentation about how the hatchery produces our stripers. The hatchery staff captures brood stock from the rivers and transports them back to the spawning tanks at the hatchery. Stripers will spawn in these tanks unharmed and will eventually be released. The fertilized eggs will then remain in the tanks to hatch. At a water temperature of 65°F the eggs will hatch in 24 to 36 hours. The fresh fry are then fed very well and eventually stocked in the growing ponds. After achieving a size of 2 ½ inches, they will be stocked in area lakes and river systems.

Smith said this year's striped bass stocking goals were met in all East Tennessee waters and that survival and growth rate for stocked fish should be excellent. Stocking data can be accessed at <http://www.tn.gov/twra/fish/Reservoir/stockings.pdf>. He also said natural reproduction may have occurred on river-fed lakes due to the rainy spring.

Some fish will also be traded to other states like Ohio and Indiana for Musky and other species. By trading fish it saves our program money which is very good management. Tennessee has a year-round growing season. A striper can reach 1 ½ lbs the first year. In prime conditions a striper may reach 10 to 12 lbs in 3 years. A full grown striper may reach over 60 lbs.

Mike discussed some of the science and biology that is involved at the hatchery, and then he answered all the questions our members had.

After a brief break, Doug Steffe discussed the temperature and dissolved oxygen profiles collected in early July by TWRA at several Norris Lake and Cherokee locations. As of early July, Norris Lake water conditions were good. Cherokee Lake's were marginal. Water quality profiles can be accessed at http://www.tnfish.org/WaterQualitySampling_TWRA/TWRATennesseeReservoirWaterQualitySamples.htm. Striped bass can't tolerate temperatures greater than 80 degrees or dissolved oxygen levels less than 4 ppm for long periods of time. Since incoming river water tends to be quite warm, striped bass will generally move downstream and below the thermocline to find suitable water conditions. Striped bass accumulate stress when living in marginal water conditions as the summer progresses. As a result, most large fish will not survive if they are released after being caught. This is the time of year to take two fish of legal size and go home and have a fish fry.

After a brief break, the members discussed the maintenance and repair of baitcasting reels.

— *Keith Shannon*

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.***

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| August 19 | Monthly Meeting - 7:00 p.m. |
| Speaker: | Jim Farmer |
| Topic: | Castaway Tackle and Trolling |
| September 21 | TSBA Fish Fry - 2:00 p.m. Grainger County Park - Cherokee Lake |
| October 21 | Monthly Meeting, 7:00 p.m. |
| Speaker: | Bill Carson |
| Topic: | Humminbird Fish Finders |
| November 18 | Monthly Meeting, 7:00 p.m. |
| Topic: | Striper Fishing Tackle |

Fishing with the Next Generation

This old leatherneck—from much sun over the years and a marine from the late 60's— has been enjoying a lot of youth in the boat to help bend some poles. I love their enthusiasm and excitement of seeing the huge fish, and that is just the one we are putting on the hook as bait. My favorite age group (under 14 years) is the one that has to wear approved floatation (lifejacket) while aboard. I find they listen and respond to instructions very good so it is up to us as instructors / leaders to coach them in a good, responsible, ethical, safe way. Let them know the creel & size limits so they can play by the same rules everyone else does. A typical start to the trip is to size and put the life jacket on while making sure everyone needing a fishing license has one. Then let the rules be known, like stay seated while engine is running, and don't play with the bait. I normally go into slow detail on putting the bait on the hook, operation of the rod & reel and they are always interested in the fish finder. They actually become good at understanding the electronics very quickly. FISH ON as the entire tip of the rod is in the water, so I let the previous instructions work or coach the removal of the rod from the rod holder, placement of handle, pump and reel, hold the rod tip higher, as I get pictures. It is always fun to see the excitement when the huge fish is dipped into the boat. We have already talked about catch and keep or release quickly, so it is never a problem.

These pictures from 2013 are from some happy, happy, happy youth as the duck guys would say. They had almost as much fun as I did.

—— *Ezell Cox*





TSBA Members' Photo Pages



TSBA Editor Eddie Dills



Todd Kilby

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



Nate Bailey



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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. Dissolved oxygen and temperature at depth are available at http://tnfish.org/WaterQualitySampling_TWRA/files/CherokeeReservoirWaterQualityProfileAugust2013_TWRA_Negus.pdf.

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. Dissolved oxygen and temperature at depth are available at http://tnfish.org/WaterQualitySampling_TWRA/files/NorrisLakeWaterQualityProfilesAugust2013_TWRA_Negus.pdf.

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. 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 Meeting Links

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=OAi3OyUgEyQ>

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_-svAvk ... e=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_-svAvk...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 Meeting Link

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXVpEsv5mY&feature=youtu.be>

Speaker: Mike Smith

Topic: TWRA Striper Stocking Summary

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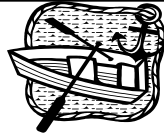
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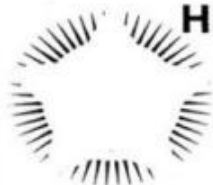
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As a member:

- *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.

Your Name _____

Spouse's Name _____

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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 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, August 19, 2013
7:00 p.m.