

# Tennessee Striped Bass Association

**GET HOOKED!** }  
April 2014



*Bill Breeding,  
with a Cherokee Lake Striper*

# Letter from the Prez

*We had great gatherings at our February and March meetings. In February, TSBA member Clay Cunningham shared lots of useful information on fishing for stripers with artificial bait. It's great to have options as we pursue our sport. Thanks to Clay for traveling all the way from the Atlanta area to be with us. Jim Negus of TWRA came to our March meeting. He discussed stocking levels in Norris versus other area lakes, as well as oxygen/temperature profiles. It's always good to have TWRA staff attend our meetings.*

*Those of you who weren't able to attend the February meeting likely aren't aware of a special event in which some of our members recently participated. Oak Ridge National Labs needed some stripers from Norris to compare with ones from Watts Bar. They contacted TWRA for a collection permit, assuming that they would use gill nets to collect their sample. Also, they wanted several fish that were at least 11 pounds. Gill netting is indiscriminate and could have killed several fish in an effort to get the number of fish that would meet these criteria. Due to our strong relationship with TWRA, we were asked to help by putting together some teams to catch the needed fish for ORNL. Ezell Cox and several other TSBA members took to the water on a morning when the temperature was 24 degrees. They successfully collected all the needed fish, while releasing several smaller ones. Thus, only the fish actually needed for the study were harvested. I think it says quite a lot about our ties to TWRA and their respect for TSBA that we were asked to participate in this effort.*

*Thanks to the work of Steve Nichols and John Vincenzo, we now have new tournament rules for our TSBA tournaments. They have been designed in an effort to get more members to participate in the tourneys. See pages 4 - 6 of this newsletter or check out the TSBA Forum for more information.*

*Remember that by now you should have your new fishing license. It still amazes me that they are so inexpensive compared with how much we enjoy what TWRA does for us every day. It's one of the best bargains available.*

***Our next meeting will be held at the Mandarin House Chinese Buffet (314 Merchants Drive, Knoxville) at 7 p.m. on April 21. Please try to join us for dinner at 6 p.m.***

***— Eric Rauch, TSBA President***



***Fred England***

# **TSBA Tournament Rules for 2014**

**1st Event: April 26 at Norris Lake Hickory Star Marina**

**2nd Event: June 21 at Cherokee Lake**

**3rd Event: August 23 at Watts Bar Lake**

**4th Event: October 25 at Cherokee Lake**

**5th Event: December 20 at Norris Lake (TSBA Championship)**

1. All tournaments will be yardstick, CATCH AND RELEASE events determined by photos. The total length for the boat will be the length of the two largest Stripers or Hybrids or a combination of both caught at that tournament.
2. Length of fish will be determined from tip of its nose to the V of its tail on a legal measuring device (ruler).
3. A legal measuring device will be provided by the tournament director. Said device will be returned to the tournament committee member at the end of the tournament. The catch will not be counted until the ruler is returned. A fee of \$20.00 will be assessed for a lost ruler.
4. Entry fee is \$10.00 a person. (Entry fee payouts will be discussed at the April TSBA meeting.) Also, the optional Big Fish fee will be \$10.00 per person.
5. All anglers must comply with TWRA regulations as written for each lake.
6. Boaters must have all of the required safety equipment on board.
7. All boaters must have liability and medical insurance on their boat.

8. All participants must sign a "sign in sheet" the morning of the tournament.

9. It is recommended that non-boaters contribute \$25.00 to the boater per day. This is to offset his cost of providing the equipment and fuel.

10. No alcohol or illegal drug is allowed to be on any boat during the fishing event.

11. Each of our tournaments will be a non-team event, meaning that the length by all fish caught on the boat will be awarded and the same number of earned points will be awarded to each qualifying member on that boat. Points will be awarded as follows:

1st 100 pts each boater and non-boater  
2nd 95 pts each boater and non-boater  
3rd 90 pts each boater and non-boater  
4th 85 pts each boater and non-boater  
5th 80 pts each boater and non-boater  
and it continues 75, 70, 65, etc.

- In addition to the points awarded for catching, each member will receive 5 pts for fishing the tournament.

- In the event of a tie: for example...If the tie was for 4th place, both parties get 85 pts, 5th place pts are skipped and it continues with 6th place and so on.

12. No member may leave his boat during a tournament to access an area to fish. A member may leave the boat only to access a restroom during a tournament. In the case of an emergency, a tournament committee member should be advised as soon as possible.

13. All boats must arrive at the designated weigh-in point by the time established by the tournament director or the whole catch will be disqualified.

14. Only the boater and drawn member earn points for Angler of the Year. The same guest may participate in up to two tournaments per season, but after that must become a member to continue participation. A guest or a non-drawn member will not earn points toward angler of the year. The boater must still participate in the blind drawing. Therefore, even when a boater brings a guest or a non-drawn member to fish in a tournament, a club member will also be drawn to fish with them.

15. Pairings for each tournament will be determined at the TSBA meeting preceding that tournament by the use of a blind draw, with boaters in one hat and non-boaters in another. In the event that there are unequal numbers of boaters and non-boaters, before the draw the tournament director will ask for boaters to become non-boaters or vice versa as needed.

19. The decision of the tournament director is final.

20. There will not be separate categories for the non-boater and the boater Anglers of the Year.

21. The winner of the Angler of the Year awards will be determined by tournament-earned points at the end of the season. In the event of a tie, the largest fish caught during that season will determine the winner.

22. Regardless of whether you choose to be a boater or a non-boater at any tournament during the season, your points earned will be awarded and totaled together.

# Fishing Regulations

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## LOOK FOR THE NEW REGULATIONS FOR 2014 FISHING SEASON ON UMBRELLA 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 runs 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 online to Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency at [www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org) or pick up a 2014 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*



*Bill Haas, and his son, Bill.*

# Hot Spots

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**Safety should be your first priority when fishing as the water is used much more in warm water months.**

**Be aware of floating hazards as the water rises to summer operating levels.**

## CHEROKEE LAKE

Migration to the headwaters & major creek feeds for staging & pre-spawn begins with the warming of inflow waters March, April & May. The shallow sun-warmed flats begin to hold bait fish where a planner board works wonderfully. Some of the stripers / hybrids remain on the lower end of Cherokee but the water temperature takes longer to warm except in the back of the major creeks & shallow flats. Top water action is often good, so keep something to cast handy. Look for large concentrations of bait fish, herons, gulls, or breaking fish. Catch and release will continue to work great until the first of summer around July.

## NORRIS LAKE

SIZE (36 INCH) AND CREEL LIMIT (ONE) in effect on NORRIS November 1<sup>ST</sup> until April 1<sup>st</sup>. The inflow rivers & creeks warm much faster than the deep water channels so a migration to headwaters starts as the water warms. The striper migration to the headwaters & major creek feeds begin for the spring spawn that takes place in early May. Some stripers can still be found mid-lake and downstream around the large coves & creeks often moving onto the shallow sun-warmed flats where the bait is located. A good side planer works great pulled over them. Top water action can be good early mornings & late evenings so take something to cast. Catch and release is very successful now until mid July.



# Hot Spots

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## WATTS BAR & MELTON HILL

SIZE (36 INCH) AND CREEL LIMIT (ONE) in effect on Watts Bar November 1<sup>ST</sup> until April 1<sup>st</sup>. New Tennessee fishing license required March 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. The steam plants warmed water attracts bait that attracts game fish well into April, but then as the shallow flats and coves begin to warm, the stripers will also move with them. As the upstream lakes begin to fill to summer operating levels and flow resumes at the dams, the fishing also improves in the tailrace. Catch and release works great. The fish in Watts Bar & lower Clinch Watts Bar have contamination warnings so should not be harvested.

— *Ezell Cox*



*Cory Bryant,  
grandson of Dennis & Georgia Bryant*

# **Fishing Pre-Spawn Stripers**

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Top water action is common as the stripers continue to add pre-spawn weight. Moving upstream into warmer, shallower water inflows may help where the pre-spawn & migration for the spawn develops. As the different species of shad spawn begins, the striper / hybrid will be there to feed. First gizzard spawns start with water temperature reaching 60 degrees in the stained, shallow flats. Alewife & threadfin just a little later - mostly nighttime on rocky banks or floating debris. Catch & release is very successful this time of year.

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.

— ***Ezell Cox***



***Got some bent pole action you would like to brag about?  
Send your pics to [jeneddie@comcast.net](mailto:jeneddie@comcast.net)  
and we'll feature you in an upcoming newsletter.***

## A-Plus Construction, LLC

Commercial/Residential Contractors

David Powell

407 Forest Park Blvd  
Knoxville, TN 37919  
P.O. Box 11106  
Knoxville, TN 37939

Office: 865-633-5533  
Cell: 865-643-3283  
Fax: 865-588-9330  
Email: david@a-plusconstruction.net



**102 Cross Park Drive**  
*(Located on HWY 61, across from Anderson Co. High School.)*  
**Clinton, TN 37716**  
**Hours: Mon-Sat 8 am - 8 pm, Sun 9 am - 7 pm**  
**Pick-Up Trucks Welcomed**

## LIVEWELL SYSTEMS, INC.

**Custom Bait Tanks**

**Ron Vest**  
**Owner**

**W: (864) 295-4206**  
**H: (864) 269-2212**

**614 Old Pendleton Rd. • Easley, SC 29642**  
**Makers of Super Bait Tanks II**

## **YOUR 2014 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND STAFF**

### **President:**

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erauch01@gmail.com

### **Vice President:**

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### **Treasurer:**

Bud White  
423-754-0541

### **Secretary:**

Keith Shannon  
keith.shannon@gmail.com

### **TSBA DIRECTORS**

Bill Ballou, Jim Blazier, Greg Dee, Eddie Dills, Ron Gabler,  
Cory Malabey, Larry Nowell, David Powell (Board Chairman),  
Eric Rauch, Doug Steffe

### **TSBA STAFF**

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

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#### **Web Site:**

Terry Reinitz and Bud White

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

Gary Reinitz 856-278-1046

#### **Tournament Coord.:**

Bud White 423-754-0541

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

Greg Dee  
greg@kingdomlandscapes.com

#### **Advisors:**

Ezell Cox 423-626-9547  
Allan Franklin 865-694-8888

## **2014 Meeting Links**

### ***January Meeting Link***

<http://youtu.be/iczS2iiVIA>

Speaker: Bill Ballou

Topic: Maintaining Fishing Reels

### ***February Meeting Link***

<http://youtu.be/eltvqHoDT4w>

Speaker: Clay Cunningham

Topic: Using Artificial Lures

### ***March Meeting Link***

<http://youtu.be/9USRSC0JA-4>

Speaker: Jim Negus, TWRA Biologist

Topic: Water Quality and Dissolved Oxygen Levels at Norris Lake



**TSBA April Meeting  
Monday, April 21 at 7 p.m.**

**Mandarin House Chinese Buffet  
314 Merchants Drive, Knoxville**

We have a private room reserved.

Join us at 6 p.m. for dinner.

***Tennessee Striper Fishing using Lake Erie  
Big Water Planer Board Techniques***  
will be presented by **Stephen Scott.**

Free Estimates

For All Your Paving Needs

## **B&C Asphalt Paving Co., Inc.**

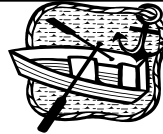
**Wayne Beeler**  
Vice-President

Plant 423-626-1234

Residence 423-626-7951

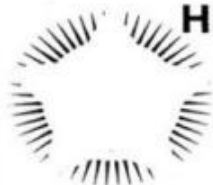
Mobile 526-7161

## **B&B STRAIGHT CREEK BOAT DOCK**



***Full Service Dock  
on Norris Lake  
New Tazewell, TN***

**423-626-5826**



## **Hickory Star**

### **Marina**

*"Home of the Stripers"*

**865-992-5241**

**Full service marina  
on Norris Lake  
Near Maynardville TN**

# TSBA 2014 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 club 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 21, 2014**  
**7 p.m.**