

Tennessee Striped Bass Association

Get Hooked !

April 2017



Monthly Meeting First Monday at Puleo's Grill, 110 Cedar Lane off Merchants Rd. at I - 75

TSBA web site <http://tnstripedbass.com/> for the latest news.

Join our Facebook group: [TN Striped Bass Association](#)

Members Photos



Eric Rauch

Fun with Ezell



Cover photo; David Powell

Important Reminder !

Dues are due for 2017

It is time to renew your TSBA membership. When you renew, please select email as your preferred method of receiving the newsletter. Those trophy shots look so much better when viewed online! Make the switch this year and see what you have been missing.

Paypal Payments can be sent to: tennstripedbass@gmail.com

April Expectations

Expect to find the temperature climbing into the high 60's and even low 70's in the protected, stained water. The baitfish will seek out the warmest water they can find and the stripers will follow them to feed. A brown algae bloom on the surface coupled with sun-warmed, stained, shallow water where the gulls and herons are feeding can be a great help in locating the baitfish. Brown algae blooms, which are often misidentified as lake turnover or even spilled oil on the surface, are a great attractant for the shad. Try to spot the blooms on the surface. The striper will be where the bait is most abundant. Artificial baits can be very productive this time of year. You may want to try JIGGING, CASTING, or TROLLING. Umbrella rigs have become a favorite method the last several years.

Be aware of the new hazards floating on top of the water as the lakes begin to rise. Large live bait is working well again and normally easy to catch this time of year. Put the out-riggers (planer boards) back in the boat. You'll need them to get the bait into the shallow water without spooking the fish and also to cover a much larger area.

Ezell Cox

March Meeting Minutes

On March 6 2017, TSBA held its monthly meeting at Puleo's restaurant in Knoxville, TN. The meeting was attended by forty people, including seven first-time attendees.

The meeting's speaker was Jim Farmer of Castaway Tackle. Jim uses artificial baits almost exclusively and, accordingly, his presentation discussed his favorite baits at different times of the year. The following is a brief synopsis of Jim's presentation.

January/February – Small baits including jerkbaits, Bombers, umbrella rigs, spoons and bucktails are his favorites. He prefers to fish bait-rich creeks, particularly at night under a full moon.

March/April – Use larger baits including spoons, bucktails and umbrella rigs during the day. At night, use topwater baits such as wake baits and Bomber Long As at night when the shad and herring spawn.

May/June – Fish creek mouths with large walking baits and wakebaits. Casting bucktails and spoons is also effective.

July/August – It's too hot to fish for striper in most lakes so go do something else, unless you want a couple fish for a fish fry. If you want to catch a couple eaters, use huge spoons and bucktails vertically on deep schools of fish on the main lake.

September/October – Use big swimbaits, surface poppers and wakebaits on the main lake as the water cools. Be aware that during most of this period catch and release is not practical as the water is still quite warm. Use discretion.

November/December – Fish can be found in bait-rich creeks as well as roaming the main lake. Jim likes to use smaller topwater baits, spoons and bucktails. At night, use small Bombers.

Jim feels you can never go wrong with white or chartreuse baits and a flashy, dressed rear hook.

Fishing reports were improved compared to last month with catches reported mid-lake on Cherokee Reservoir as well as near the Route 33 bridge and Hickory Star regions of Norris Reservoir. A few fish had been caught in the lower ends of the Clinch and Tennessee Rivers of Watts Bar Reservoir.

Outlook for current fishing spots

Cherokee Lake

The baitfish seek out the warmer water, so look for the sun-warmed banks and into deeper water after a cool night. The gulls and herons will continue to show where the best bait locations are to be found. Top water breaks are common this time of year, so go prepared to cast into them. Large schools can often be found on the fish finders, making jigging a technique that works well. The premium locations are normally upstream of the German Creek area and into the extreme headwaters.

Norris Lake

Looking for the active gulls or surface feeding fish may be the key to success in catching fish as the water starts to warm in the shallow, sun-warmed areas. Remember the creel and size limits on striped bass are 36-inch minimum with a one fish creel until April 1, 2017. The largest concentrations of striper will be on the upper half of the reservoir, often in the shallow, sun-warmed stained water.

Watts Bar and Melton Hill

The winter time striper bite was influenced much less by the warm water discharge at the steam plants than in some past years because of the mild winter with lots of hydroelectric power. The baitfish will start to show up in the shallow, sun-warmed flats with the gulls and herons helping to find the feeding stripers. Watts Bar creel and size limits remain at a 36-inch minimum size and a one fish creel until April 1, 2017.

Ezell Cox

Club Meeting; Speakers for 2017

February: James Everett and Michael Hick- TVA River Forecast Center

March: Jim Farmer- Cast Away Bait and Tackle

April: Keith Shannon, Alan Franklin and David Powell- discussion on finding, catching, and keeping live bait

May: Fuzzy Lambert- Humminbird/ Minn Kota Electronics and trolling motors

June: Captain Mack Farr

July: Captain Chadwick Ferrell- Fishing the boils and tailraces tips and tricks

August: TWRA Mike Smith- Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery discussion on striper stocking

September: Club Fish Fry (no regular club meeting) Fish Fry will be at Grainger County Park September 9th

October: Ken Cutsinger with TWRA- Water Safety, First Aid, and boating requirements

November: Open meeting- Year end review and recommendations for 2018

December: Board of Directors meeting (no regular club meeting)

The club is looking for a member in good standing to take over the position of : **web administrator**, Duties include: uploading new content, keeping the information on the website current and accurate by updating. If you are interested contact one of the board members.

February Meeting Minutes

On February 6 2017, TSBA held its monthly meeting at Puleo's restaurant in Knoxville, TN. The meeting was attended by twenty-seven people, including four first-time attendees.

The meeting's speaker was Mike Reichert, Lead Engineer of TVAs River Forecasting Department. Jim described TVA's mission and methods for maintaining our local reservoirs. The following is a brief synopsis of Mike's presentation.

TVA's mission consists of six multipurpose objectives: navigation, flood damage reduction, power generation, water supply, recreation and water quality. TVA is responsible for forty nine dams and over 40,000 square miles of watershed

TVA maintains over 800 miles of navigable waterways over which 40,000,000 tons of cargo are shipped annually. The economic impact of commercial navigation is enormous, saving over \$400,000,000 vs. comparable shipping methods and saving consumers an estimated \$9,000,000 annually.

The reservoir system provides storage capacity to mitigate flood damage, particularly in Chattanooga, which was washed into the Gulf of Mexico repeatedly prior to the construction of the dam system. Tributary (non-navigable) reservoirs are typically lowered twenty five to fifty feet in the winter to store water from heavy rainfall events. The drawdown is required because surface runoff is much higher in winter months than summer months.

TVAs dams provide thirteen percent of the electricity generated by TVA. The dams are the cheapest, cleanest and most flexible form of power generation in the system.

Recreation in the form of fishing, boating, whitewater rafting, camping, swimming and sailing are supported by keeping the water level more or less stable during the peak recreation season to facilitate boat access, fish spawning success and tailwater recreation including everyone's favorite: boil fishing.

TVA maintains adequate water quality by meeting minimum water flow and dissolved oxygen requirements for plant and animal life. Proper water temperature is also ensured for gas/coal/nuclear plant cooling.

Finally, TVA makes sure minimum water depths are maintained so over seven hundred water intakes can supply domestic and industrial needs.

Fishing reports were pretty bleak with anglers having occasional success "following the birds" on Cherokee and Norris reservoirs.

TSBA. Striper collection with ORNL. February 6, 2017

When February rolls around it is once again time for the ORNL. to do their annual collection of the Striped Bass for contaminate testing. Our club has participated in this event the past 4 or 5 years. It is always more fun to catch a fish on rod and reel rather than electro-shocking or setting out nets that often results in bycatch and greater fish mortality. We had a great turnout this year helping to achieve the goal of six adult fish for testing. It was a great day to get out on the water with friends share our knowledge, and take the people from ORNL. along with us. This year TSBA members had seven boats in the lineup to accommodate the four representatives from ORNL. and two TWRA. officers.



Back row left to right; Bobby Monk, Gary Harris, Steve Nichols, Michael Jones, Paul Shaw, Joe Asher, Jason Langford. Front row left to right; Bobby Crabtree, Jay Girardot, Bob Biscay, Chet Moore, Nikki Jones, Eric Rauch, Trent Jett, Kenneth Lowe. Ezell Cox behind the camera.

Everyone getting their boats ready to go.



Paul Shaw (TWRA) out with Joe Asher.

TSBA collection with ORNL. Feb. 6 2017



Kenneth Lowe
ORNL



Nikki Jones, Paul Shaw

New Members List: Welcome to the club guys

Robert Metz - Harrison, Oh
Frank Zimmerman - Stow, Oh
James Rigney - LaFollette, Tn
Michael Carter - Knoxville, Tn
Michael High - Knoxville, Tn
Lawrence Douglass - Crossville, Tn
Joseph Campbell - Russell Springs, Ky
Jason (Chris) Stansberry - Seymour, Tn
Stuart Bilbrey - Jacksboro, Tn
Melvin Brook - Lily, Ky
Robert Fuller - Charleston, Wv
Tob Trenkamp - Hamilton, Oh
Jacob (Jake) Plasters - Gallipolis, Oh
Josh Treadway - Rockford Tn
Columbus Whaley - Sevierville, Tn
John Galliher - Norwood, NC

Clay Haselton, Kingsport, Tn
Jim Wallace, Knoxville, Tn
John Vincenzo, Knoxville, Tn
Tommy White, Sevierville, Tn
Sam Lanning, Rogersville, Tn
Jacob Lanning, Rogersville, Tn
David Maurer, Guilford IN
Gary Conley, Chapmanville WV

How to Contribute to the Newsletter:

Please send in any pictures or news that you think would interest club members – we are always glad to hear from you. You can e-mail photos and reports to: bcbusy@att.net We usually put the newsletter together around the end of the month, but send your information any time and we will work it in.

Members Photos



Bobby Crabtree

Wilbur Harris



YOUR 2017 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND STAFF

President: David Powell

Vice President: Cory Malabey

Treasurer: Art Muchow

Secretary: Keith Shannon

Board Chairman: Eric Rauch

TSBA DIRECTORS

Bill Ballou, Jim Blazier, Steve Nichols, Cory Malabey, David Powell, Eric Rauch, Allan Franklin, Bob Biscay, Hal Basdekis

TSBA STAFF

Newsletter Printing: Jim Blazier, Larry Nowell & Bill Ballou

& Distribution: Jim's email jblazier@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor: Bob Biscay bcbusy@att.net

Membership: Art Muchow

Web Administrator: Terry Reinitz tennstripedbass@gmail.com

Forum: David Powell david@a-plusconstruction.net

Sponsor Coordinator: Justin Rose

Advisors: Ezell Cox 423-626-9547

Allan Franklin 865-805-3120

TSBA Sponsors

TSBA. Appreciates all the support we get from our sponsors. If you would like to see your business listed in our newsletter please consider renewing for 2017. TSBA can provide newsletters for our sponsors to distribute. Thanks!



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TSBA 2017 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: TSBA

2954 Lake Forest Circle

Talbott, TN. 37877

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.

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2954 Lake Forest Circle
Talbot, Tn. 37877

Tennessee

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