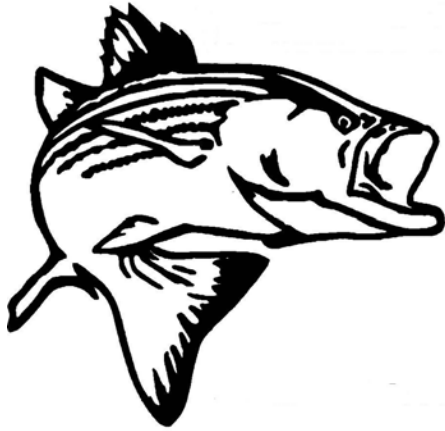


**Catch
the
Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



**Tennessee
Striped Bass
Association,
Inc.
Newsletter**

**November
2012**



It doesn't get much better than bending multiple poles on a beautiful fall day! This edition of the TSBA newsletter is dedicated to giving you ideas and strategies for fishing successfully during the fall season.

Letter from the Prez

Greetings TSBA friends,

The fall fishing season is flying by with most of the leaves on the ground or floating on the waters. The lake draw-downs have slowed with winter targets just a few feet away. The fish are starting to show up in their more predictable locations and are feeding aggressively in preparation for the winter, coldwater metabolism slow down. Huge schools of bait have been visible on the surface when the weather is sunny or on our fish finders when it is cloudy. Fishing around the bait should result in success.

As the year comes to a close, TSBA will begin the planning process for next year's guest speakers, club functions, and election of members to serve as club officers and members of the Board of Directors. We are also in need of help with the coordination and printing of the newsletter. This important function has been held by the same person (Jim Blazier) for many years. A backup person for this important position would be most helpful. If you are interested in helping with the newsletter, let me know by email or speak to me at the November meeting.

The November issue is the last newsletter planned for 2012, as we take December off for the holidays. We share the newsletter with other striper clubs and have received several compliments on the content and format. The clubs have asked for permission to show their members our letter and hope to pattern theirs more like ours. I would like to thank our Editor, Sherry Wehner, for her efforts and interest in the content and quality of our newsletter. We also are fortunate to have the monthly coordination of pictures, stories, and printing by Jim Blazier and the regular contributions made by Ezell Cox.

Thanks to all that have sent in pictures or articles in the past, keep it coming as they are the material that makes the newsletter so special! Our East Tennessee winters have some beautiful days, and can be rewarding if you find and take the time to Go FISHING!

— Doug Steffe, President



Above: Flipping bait on Norris lake. An ideal method for finding fish in the fall is to locate a shallow water temperature transition, holding lots of forage. When the sun is out, the small flips appear like rain. President Doug Steffe, pictured below, uses this strategy to find fall bait concentrations and the result was a hook up. Water temperature on the other side of the leaves was 5 degrees colder.



The Elections Aren't Over Yet!

The November club meeting agenda will include an election for three positions on the TSBA Board of Directors. Like most organizations, our club is led by Officers and the Board of Directors. We currently have ten members serving on the Board: Todd Asher, Bill Ballou, Jim Blazier, Billy Davis, Erik Engebretsen, Ron Gabler, Jeff Jolly, Eric Rauch, Doug Steffe, and Bud White.

The club members will elect the Board of Directors at the November meeting. Members serving on the Board of Directors will elect the Officers at the December business meeting. I have been a TSBA officer for several years now and I am pleased to report that this process has been working well. Unlike other political processes, with multiple parties and agendas, our group has a common cause - the promotion and conservation of the striped bass. Our main goal is to keep the club interesting for our members. We are always looking for member input and welcome new participation in the management of the club. **If you are interested in becoming a TSBA director or officer, contact me by email or speak to me at the November meeting.**

— Doug Steffe, President



Ten year old Kelsy Munsy made a great catch this past October. No doubt she benefitted from her guide - Grandfather Ezell Cox.

Reminders

Be sure to visit our website at www.TNStripedBass.com

To view the August meeting on YouTube: [Click Here](#)

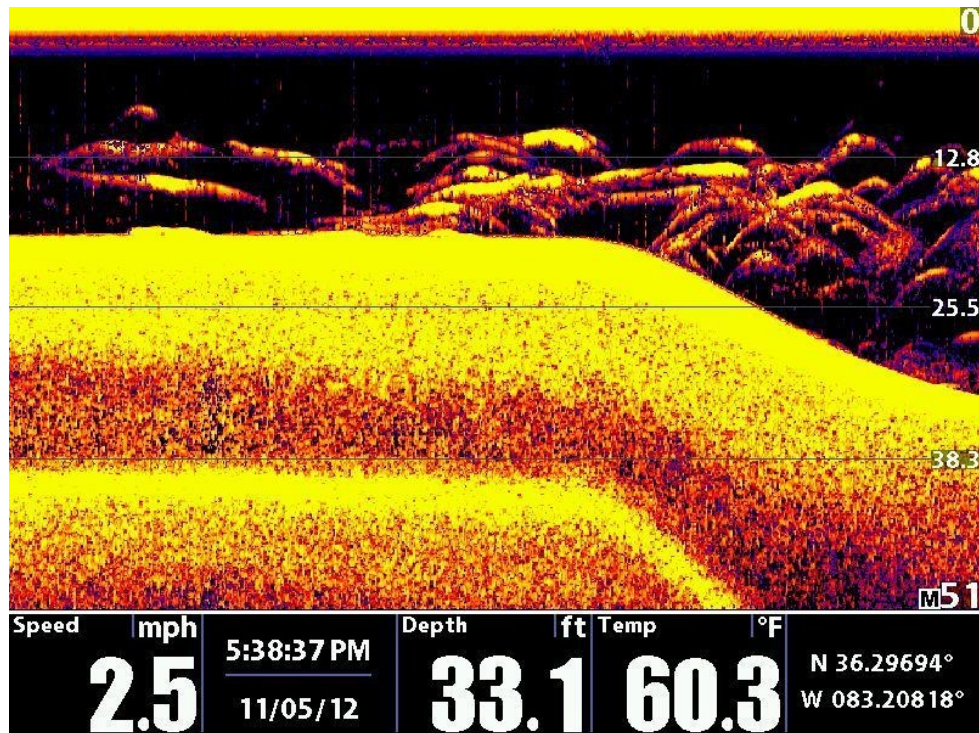
To view the September meeting on You Tube: [Click Here](#)

Annual **membership renewals are due** in January. See page 15 for the simplified renewal process for returning members.

December Expectations

Since the lake temperature is homogenized top to bottom now, stripers will be free to roam the waters top to bottom, bank to bank, and end to end in search of baitfish concentrations. This sometimes makes stripers difficult to locate, so finding the large schools of baitfish will often be easier. 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. The winter months bring some of the best surface feeding and the RETURN OF THE GULLS will help find the stripers. Cold water temperatures will change the feeding habits of the striper so be aware of the slower metabolism and the need to use smaller bait and lures as the temperatures dip below 50 degrees. Catch and release also is an option again. Winter is a great time to be on the water, but it also requires some preparations to make it a safe, uneventful, fun trip.

— **Ezell Cox**



On those cloudy days of fishing during the fall season, your fish finder will be your best bet for locating striped bass. Ezell Cox sent in this screen shot of lots of stripers being caught on November 5 on Cherokee Lake.

November Meeting

Please join us on November 19, 2012 for the TSBA monthly meeting. We will discuss striper tackle and hold the Board of Directors election. Our meeting location is:

**Bass Pro Shops (Kodak/Sevierville)
3629 Outdoor Sportsmans Place,
Kodak, TN**

Bass Pro Shops is located at Exit 407 on Interstate 40. We will have dinner at 6 p.m. in the restaurant located inside the store. **The meeting will take place in the restaurant this month.**

Bud White Wins the Powell River Fall Classic

On Sunday, November 4, 2012, a group of determined fishermen set out on the Powell River side of Norris Lake to compete in the Powell River Fall Classic (PRFC). The PRFC was a follow up to the Powell River Striper Championship held in the spring. Flat Hollow Marina was the starting point of what turned out to be a very competitive day of fishing. Fish were located far upstream in areas where most of the participants had never fished.

Fifteen anglers were entered in the contest, but there could be only one winner. After a strong showing in the spring event, Bud White was able to continue his mastery of the Powell River winning first place with a two fish total of 64+ inches and the big fish prize with a striper just over 32". Team Steffe (Doug and Ezell) was a close second and the Nate Bailey team finished third.

The Powell River events this year have been a lot of fun and produced a good amount of fish. Robb Morris and I are already planning next year's events. Thanks to all who fished with us or supported our tournaments in some way. See you next year!!!!

— Nathan Bailey



*You know the
striped bass in
Norris Lake
hated to see
this crew com-
ing up the
Powell River!*

Striper Slayers Cherokee Challenge

I was so inspired by the two tournaments hosted by Nathan Bailey on Norris Lake, that I decided to host a striper/hybrid tournament on Cherokee Lake. I really believe that tournaments are a great way to have fun and make friends. They also provide the opportunity for experienced anglers to share their knowledge with others about responsible fishing.



Fishermen, conservationists, professional guides and now tournament coordinators Bud White and Mike Allen cordially invite you to attend the striper/hybrid tournament they are sponsoring this December.

Striper Slayers Guide Service and Sunny Marine will host the Cherokee Challenge on Saturday, December 1, 2012. The event will begin at the German Creek Dock, with registration beginning at 7 a.m. Blast off is at 8 a.m., and weigh-in will be at 2:30 p.m.

This will be a catch-and-release yardstick tournament. The entry fee will be \$50 per boat and \$20 for the big fish side pot. The two longest stripers combined with the two longest hybrids will win first place. There is a trophy and cash award for first, second, and third place. Striper Slayers Guide Service will donate planer boards to second and third place winners. Sunny Marine will donate gift cards for door prizes!

This event will take place weather permitting and is open to everyone!

—— **Bud White, Treasurer**

Some Advice on Fall Striper Movements

Fishing in East Tennessee lakes can be a challenge in the fall season. A month ago, the mature stripers were mostly down the lakes in the deeper, cool, oxygen-rich waters near the dam. Then the waters began to flow through the dams and the temperatures began to cool, releasing the fish from the confines of their late summer refuge. Within days these fish are on a major move; many of them are stressed from low oxygen, a lack of food and a slow metabolism from the deep cold waters. Their instincts are to feed and seek the huge schools of bait which have formed in the upper waters of the feeder rivers and large creeks of the lakes. We believe that current flow, forage scent and shallow-water bait concentrations draw the striper great distances to these areas.

These fall bait concentrations can be found in the nutrient rich, warm, shallower areas of your lake, with flows. This concentration can move daily or even hourly, based on water temp. Fishing the upper-most concentrations and being close to the occasional feeding packs will catch fish. Artificial baits trolled through schools can work, but frisky live bait seems to work the best. A spread of different size baits will help determine the best size for the fish in the area, but a larger size usually works the best. Presenting down lines near the bottom of the bait balls or close to the bottom can attract the fish to your bait over the school of small forage. Planer boards pulled with long, lightly weighted lines or shorter un-weighted lines will help cover wider areas.

As the rivers and creeks get colder, the bait concentrations move down the lake, following the warmer deeper water. When the surface waters cool to the 40's and below we then transition into the winter striper pattern, when artificial baits will start to work better than live bait. Good luck with finding the BAIT concentrations and fish!

— **Doug Steffe, President**



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Outlook for current fishing spots

CHEROKEE LAKE

The stripers have been scattered all over the reservoir, but they have migrated to where the most abundant baitfish are concentrated for the winter. Looking for the large concentrations of baitfish and bait-eating birds is a good way to find stripers/hybrids with breaking fish on the surface again being likely. The gulls returning for the winter will be a helpful tool in finding the feeding fish. The premium locations will be in or near the main channel where the water is deepest with less change in temperature around mid-lake and downstream. The larger stripers that have survived the summer stress are quickly recovering and putting on the weight, so catch-and-release will be successful again. We should see some 25 pound stripers in Cherokee by spring.

NORRIS LAKE

THE SIZE (36 INCH) AND CREEL LIMIT (ONE) CHANGES IN NORRIS LAKE REGULATIONS begin in November. Find the large schools of baitfish by locating gulls, whether feeding or not, and looking for surface feeding fish. Other bait-eating birds are scarce on Norris to help find the baitfish, but the gulls and a good fish finder will get you in the right area on the lake. The premium locations will be in or near the main channel where the water is deepest with less change in temperature around mid-lake and downstream. Good catch and release practice is successful even with the largest striper in the cool waters of the winter months. The best fishing is around the gulls in the large deep coves and main channel.

WATTS BAR & MELTON HILL

The striped bass bite in the tail-race often moves downstream for the coldest months of winter in front of the major coves or where you find the most baitfish. The Kingston Steam Plant often has large concentrations of baitfish, especially if the warm water discharge influences the area's water temperature. The baitfish will often find the warmest water. The cooler, longer nights will equalize the temperature in the coves and river to allow the bait to use the river more, so look for the sun-warmed banks. Top water bites are common, so look for the breaking fish and be prepared to cast or pull the planer boards across the action. The survival of released fish in the winter months is great. The fish in Watts Bar & lower Clinch Watts Bar have contamination warnings so should not be harvested.

— **Ezell Cox**

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2012 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.***

Nov 19 Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m.
Bass Pro Shops in Kodak, Tennessee
Topic: Striper tackle
Topic: Board of Directors election

Dec There is no monthly meeting in December.




Member Brian Joyce and his mother, pictured left, out fishing with Ezell on Norris Lake this past October.



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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 _____

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.



The TSBA is a non-profit corporation that supports TWRA & its Striped Bass & 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 & share our knowledge with fellow Striped Bass anglers.

**Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 163
Sharps Chapel, TN 37866**



November 19, 2012: Monthly Meeting

**Dinner at 6:00 p.m.
Meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.**