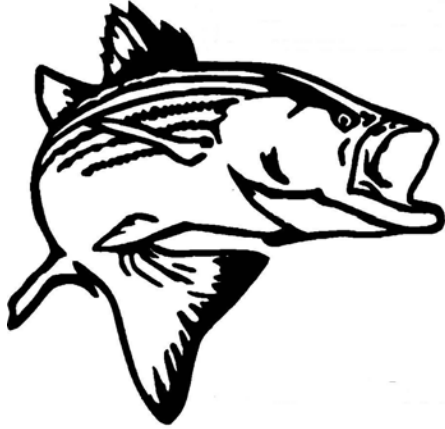


**Catch
the
Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



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

**October
2012**



Many of you may recognize Steve Nichols as the TSBA "supply guy" who organizes group purchases of tackle for the club. See page 6 for his very entertaining story as a green-horn learning how to fish for striped bass.

Letter from the Prez

Greetings Fishing Friends, the Fall fishing season has arrived. In the last month, lakes and rivers in East Tennessee had a mid-month surge with record rain falls. This inflow filled the dropping lakes and scattered the fish with stained river and creek flows. But within a few days, the waters cleared, dams began to generate, and the fishing improved. There are many influences affecting our striper fishing, but water flow is a big one! This TWRA web site is a great way to track the ups, downs and predictions of our waterway's:

<http://www.tva.gov/river/lakeinfo/index.htm>

They even have an app for your smart phone that loads quicker than the web site:

http://www.tva.com/river/mobile_app.htm

October is a wonderful month to be out on the water. The fish are moving from the deep waters of the lakes to the shallow head waters of creeks and rivers. Surface action begins to increase and my favorite method of live bait fishing - planer boards - become very effective. The waterways will have less traffic and the scenery will become the best of the year. Seeing the fall colors of the trees reflecting on the water is a spectacular bonus, along with the heart pounding excitement of a fish blowing up on surface bait.

The annual fish fry was another fun event for members. I hope you attended, but if you did not, please enjoy the pictures in this month's newsletter. The fish fry event was our October meeting, so please make note the next meeting at Bass Pro will be held on November the 19th.

I am hoping the Fall season will be enjoyed by all that can find the time and motivations to get out there and GO Fishing!

— Doug Steffe, President



The Striper Bowl Trophy finally found its rightful owner(s) at the fish fry. Wayne Beeler, the 2011 winner of this tournament was presented with the trophy. His possession of the trophy was short-lived however, as he then presented the 2012 tournament champ, Jennifer Davis with the trophy.



Ezell Cox has a new role in the club - one as a fashion trendsetter!

September Meeting Minutes

Around 40 members and guests attended the meeting. Several new folks showed up with two new members joining our ranks. Our first discussion topic, How to rig your boat for striper fishing, was led by Doug Steffe. Various pictures of boat riggings were shown. The following topics were reviewed with inputs from our experienced members:

Trolling motors -	boat weight, location, viewable (to driver), Connection and power requirement
Bait tank -	placement, weight, access, plumbing, power
Console -	location, gauges, switches, fish finder, mountings
Rod holders -	types, mountings, locations
Seating -	type, mounting, flexibility
Canopy -	bimini, umbrella
Trailer -	single vs. double axle, swing away tongue, tie downs, transom support, LED lights, reflectors

After a short break, the club members reviewed the 2013 U-rig proposal of 3 hooks, either single or treble, per rod. Based on inputs received, TSBA has concerns on the use of multiple hooks, especially trebles on trolled umbrella rigs. The current regulation and several alternate versions were reviewed. A club recommendation on the wording of a possible regulation was compiled and will be forwarded to TWRA. TSBA members are encouraged to send individual comments on the proposed changes to fishing regulations by email to TWRA.Comments@tn.gov with a subject line referencing the 2013 fishing regulations. Comments are due by October 15.

The third topic discussed was the planning details for the upcoming fish fry. A list of duties and supplies was reviewed and volunteers signed up. Tennessee Angler Recognition Program Applications were supplied by TWRA and were distributed among the group.

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



Doug Steffe and Roy Hawk are reviewing information on the laptop prior to starting the September meeting.

November Expectations

Lake Turnover and mixing takes place through the month of October in the reservoirs of Tennessee. Stripers are now free to roam the waters top to bottom, bank to bank, and end to end in search of bait fish. This can make stripers difficult to locate; often the best clue for finding them is to find the largest baitfish concentrations.

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. The month of November offers some of the best surface feeding and the return of the gulls to help find the stripers. Catch and release also is an option again.

The scenery is wonderful on the water this month. The lack of storms, heat, humidity, ski boats, jet skis, and the lack of boat traffic from school starting, football, hunting and other seasonal activities makes it a welcome season to fish.

— **Ezell Cox**

Hooked on Stripers

I was first introduced to striped bass fishing in August of 2010. A friend of mine, Darrell Gross, said one day, "Let's go striper fishing on Norris Lake. I know a guy that will take us striper fishing cheap!" I was a little hesitant to pay a guide to go fishing. I thought that I was a fair fisherman and didn't need help. However, I thought "what the heck - let's try it with the guide." This was my first striper trip and first guided trip. What was I in for?



Steve Nichols, pictured above left alongside Bill Ballou, provided discount tackle to members at the fish fry. Steve is the author of this month's feature article.

Little did I know the guide was the accomplished angler Allan Franklin. We met Allan on a warm August night about 8:00 p.m. at Norris Dam, where we climbed aboard his magnificent boat. I had never seen the likes of a boat such as this one! First thing I noticed was his large bait tank, the biggest minnow bucket I have ever seen. It was full of baitfish, about 6 to 10 inches long. The bait looked like fish to me. "Huh," I thought, "this seems a bit over kill but, I'm all in at this point."

As we left the boat launch, Allan began to look at his large fish finder a lot. He was saying things like "I'm marking a few fish and bait here and there." But why did he need bait on the fish finder when we had a tank full? This too was new to me, but he seemed to know what he was doing, I guess. We rode around the lake about an hour to an hour and a half, which Allan called "marking some fish and bait." He was also explaining what we were doing while riding and marking fish, so I listened closely, not wanting to appear as a total greenhorn. Duh!! Was I green!!! Finally, Allan says "let's fish here," and we did. Hard and fast the action was on, and I couldn't believe

it. We caught several fish really fast, as fast as we could get bait down to the depth that Allan said. Wham! Another fish. He, like all of you experienced guys, knew what he was doing. He would look at the fish finder and say "You're about to get a bite," and you did, almost every time. Absolutely Amazing!!!!!!

What a new experience for me!! That was a night to remember! It was a feeding frenzy and we were right in the middle of it for about an hour. What a fun time! We went home happy and tired.

After thinking about that trip for a while, it took eight months before I tried again in April of 2011. I happened to get an invite from another club member to go fishing for stripers. This trip came on a spur of the moment offer to ride along with Ezell Cox and do a little fishing. I knew of Ezell through the ETF website that we both belong to. Ezell has answered so many questions from this greenhorn and many others on that website. I bet he thought, "what am I in for now?" I asked so many questions that I'm sure he thought the only way to shut me up was to show me a little something to help me along.

We met at Melton Hill Dam for some river fishing. Unlike my other trip with Allan, this one was started at 5:00 a.m., foggy and a little cool. Two different ways of fishing the same fish. After getting into the boat with Ezell, we began to chat and ride around again very much like I did with Allan. Big bait tank, big fish finder, bigger everything as needed for the task. I am definitely seeing patterns here. Ride around, mark some fish, and find the bait. WOW!!! These two guys have the same mission, and have knowledge I craved to know. And friendly too! My kind of folks. What else could a greenhorn need, except fish? Needless to say Ezell found me a fish, we only got one fish that day, but it was a whopper to me, about 20 lbs. I was really happy. Ecstatic I would say. HOOKED, I believe is the word that comes to mind. I think I got it or it got me, I don't know which.

Ezell, while talking that day, told me of a club where everyone is knowledgeable and friendly and would help me or anyone who asks in the right way. Come to the meeting he said, and see for yourself, and I did. It was the TSBA and Ezell was right: everyone has been most helpful, I must say. Everyone I asked to help - did. Many of

you guys have taken me fishing and I thank you all: Doug ,Jay, Terry, John, Bud ,Capt. Lloyd, Larry, Ron, Dennis, Bill, Allan and of course Ezell. I have a small goal. It is to fish with as many of you as I can. This will make me a much better fisherman and you a good friend. This is a long term goal, so be aware I'm going to ask you to go fishing, or I'm offering to take you fishing with me.

Well, here I am about 15 months into striper fishing and I love it. I had to buy everything I fish with new because everything I owned was too light weight. I think I have a good handle on it now though, by watching you guys. I have learned a lot. I don't have it mastered like most of you do, but I'm here and ready for the challenge. I would like to thank TSBA members: without you, the greenhorns would be lost. THANKS CLUB!!

—— **Steve Nichols, The Supply Guys**



Steve Nichols, left, and Larry Nowell, right, had a great time on a fishing trip with Ezell Cox this past August. Steve caught his personal best - a 41.5 inch striper - on this trip. After catching some large gizzard shad at daylight to use for bait, the three were set for a pole bending experience on Norris Lake.



November Meeting

The annual fish fry took the place of our monthly meeting for the month of October. Please join us on November 19, 2012 for the next TSBA monthly meeting. 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 begins at 7 p.m. in a conference room on the second floor.



Fish Fry attendees were lucky enough to have Sammy Robinette prepare some of his famous hush puppies to help feed the crowd. Looks like Lloyd Malone, right, might be trying to learn a few of Sammy's secrets!



When the TSBA hosts a fish fry, they don't horse around! This professional grade equipment was brought in to fry an enormous amount of fish for the event.



Farrell Adams and Kevin Hammett set up their catering cook tent and graciously prepared the fish and hush puppies for around 70 people. One man band Tommy White provided the music and PA system.

Everyone really appreciated the effort these guys put forth to make the annual fish fry another success.





The cast net throwing competition is a favorite event at the annual fish fry. This year's winners are (from left to right) Sammy Robinette, first place; Bud White, second; Doug Steffe, third. For the women's event, Georgia Bryant, pictured below, right, was back in the swing of things and took first place. Jennifer Davis, Annette Nichols and Becky Steffe tied for second place.





Anglers trying to master the art of cast net throwing take heart: even Sammy Robinette, our winner of the men's cast net competition, can have a bad cast. These photos show Sammy's great form, and the close-up below shows his tangled rope on a bad cast.





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Outlook for current fishing spots

CHEROKEE LAKE

The stripers have scattered all over the reservoir, migrating to where the most abundant bait fish are concentrated. Looking for the large concentrations of baitfish and bait-eating birds is again a good way to find stripers/hybrids with breaking fish on the surface again being likely, especially early mornings. The baitfish are much more abundant in the head waters while often being visible on the surface and game fish are quick to find them for a surface feeding opportunity to cast at. The premium locations have done a complete change from the dam so are normally on the upper most parts of the reservoir but will stay in locations that have lots of bait including some of the large coves. The larger stripers that have survived the summer can quickly recover from being stressed with the warm water and low dissolved oxygen of the summer so catch and release will be successful again. IT LOOKS LIKE THE LARGE STRIPERS HAVE SURVIVED THE SUMMER WITH THE SMALL EXCEPTION OF THE ONES CAUGHT IN THE BAD POCKET OF WATER AS THE MAJOR LAKE DRAWDOWN STARTED. We should see some 25 pound stripers in Cherokee by spring.

NORRIS LAKE

THE SIZE (36 INCH) AND CREEL LIMIT (ONE) CHANGES IN NORRIS REGULATIONS begin November 1ST. Finding large schools of bait fish, or looking for surface feeding fish at dawn can be the most effective way to find fish as they have scattered all over the reservoir. Often bait fish are much more abundant on the shallow incoming water of creeks, coves and rivers so that is where the most game fish will also go to feed. Good catch and release practice will again be successful even with the larger striper as they recover from the stress of summertime. The best fishing quickly moves into the large coves with creek feeds and the rivers where the most abundant bait fish populations are located.

WATTS BAR & MELTON HILL

The striped bass bite often moves downstream of the tailrace in front of the major coves or where you find the most baitfish. The Kingston Steam Plant often has large concentrations of baitfish. 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. Release schedules can be looked up on the TVA web site to improve your catch rate by being there at the right time. Limited handling of the fish can improve the survival of released fish. The fish in Watts Bar & lower Clinch 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 ***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

Dec There is no monthly meeting in December.




The background of a forested ridge turning to fall colors is a bonus to anglers who pursue the sport of striper fishing during this especially relaxing time of year.

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TSBA 2012 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 _____

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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.



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.**