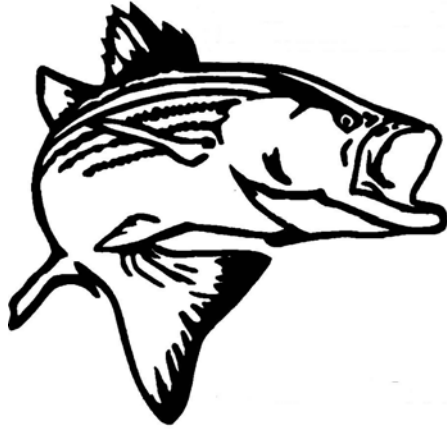


**Catch  
The  
Striper  
Fever!**

**T.S.B.A.**



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

**May  
2009**

## **Save the Date**

**Saturday, June 13**

**Kids Fishing Day Cherokee Lake  
Grainger County Park  
Pavilion**

**Sunday, September 20**

**Fish Fry, Granger County Park Pavilion  
on Cherokee Lake**

# President's Letter

I want to say thank you for a great turnout at this years Striper Bowl. We had over 25 anglers compete and raised over \$450 for this year kids fishing day. I appreciate those that came out to support the Club.

I want to take a minute and apologize for the issues we have been having with the web site. It appears there are several errors that have disabled the site. We have tried enlisting help from several people to try and correct the problem with no luck. Currently we have switched over to the old site for our use until we can get the problem corrected, or develop a new site. Please be patient, as I know this is not as user friendly as the newer one, but we are working to remedy the problem. Pictures are a little more difficult to post with the old site, if you have some pictures you want posted, please send them to me at [Erik.Engebretsen@Chilis.com](mailto:Erik.Engebretsen@Chilis.com) and I will get them added to the news letter for all to see.

Remember to start planning now to attend some of the upcoming events:

June 13<sup>th</sup> is the Kids fishing day at Grainger County Park on Cherokee Lake

September 20<sup>th</sup> is the TSBA fish fry at Grainger County Park on Cherokee Lake

Both events were a huge success last year and I look forward to even more fun this year. I hope everyone can attend.

One last note, for those that fished the Striper Bowl Tourney this year, it was a huge reminder for all of us about the dangers on the lakes in the summer months. Everyone who has a pontoon boat, jet ski, or 80mph bass boat is on the water, and most of them it seems have no clue how to operate them safely. Make sure you are constantly aware of your surroundings and don't take for granted that other boaters can see you. Remember that fishing is fun, but coming home safely to your family is most important.

Tight lines and see you on the water,

Erik

---

## **Minutes of the April Meeting**

The Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc. met at the Clinton Shoney's (I-75 exit 122) at 7:00 pm on April 20 2009. There were the usual order-what-you want dinner and discussions from around 6:00 to 7:00. There were 27 people in attendance. We had one new member and a visitor from Indiana.

The speaker for the evening was Wes Adams .He introduced his topic as "Striper Fishing - 101" but in some cases he got a lot deeper into it than that .He covered a wide range of topics. To the best of my ability they were:

### **Plan your trip**

Before you go decide what you want to do and what places you want to try. If the first place hasn't produced in 30 min. go to the next. Keep moving according to your plan until you find fish.

### **Boats**

Aluminum- used by many people – lighter – stronger – more open  
Fiberglass –Better ride in rough water – quieter to fish from

### **Equipment**

#### **Rods**

Use a soft rod for down lines – 7 ft Shakespeare Ugly Stix rated 2# to 7# line This type rod is too soft to pull boards well but will produce more hook-ups on down lines

#### **Reels**

Any of the Ambassador series for most stuff  
Shimano have a better drag for heavier lines  
Penn 200 series reels have the best drags for really heavy-duty dragging fish out of brush and stumps and are reasonably priced.

#### **Line**

20# or less for open water lake fishing – lots of people like Ande Premium monofilament line  
Set your drag with a scale at 25% of the break strength with the rod pointed at the scales and then leave it alone.

## **Graphs**

Spend the money for a good one

## **Bait**

Throw in front of the boat as far as you can, not to the side

Let the net sink to the bottom

Move 25 or 30 feet before the next throw

If the net gets hung on something try to get hold of the horn (the plastic ring at the top of the net) to pull from. You may not rip it up quite as bad getting it out.

Put your bait straight into the tank. It is less handling

Change the water and resalt frequently. Salt is cheap

If bait is easy to get and you are not going far, get a lot and throw out the extra when you get to where you are going to fish

Change bait frequently. Every 10 or 15 min. if you have plenty

## **Technique**

Get set up 50 yards before you start to fish. It lets you make your noise away from your fishing area.

Look at topo maps and try to find the route fish will take from deep water to a feeding area.

Fish the bottom near contour break lines if you are in 30 feet or less.

Use 4 down rods max.

Try dragging the bottom with a Carolina rig and slow troll.

Change speeds and make small turns

Fish from the bank if you can. Hook bait in the tail and they will try to swim up and look great.

## **Fighting a Fish**

If you have a fish on that is pulling line, point the rod straight at him. You have set the drag at 25% with the rod pointed straight and when you point it up that all changes. Trust the set up.

Use the boat to pull a fish out from the bank. Keep the boat away from the fish if you can.

Fish with your big motor up and out of the way.

Try not to use a lipper or a landing net. Remove the hook while the fish is in the water.

Don't hold a fish vertical for a picture, hold it horizontal. It does less damage to the fish. Go to [www.capmel.com/Holding\\_fish\\_vertically.htm](http://www.capmel.com/Holding_fish_vertically.htm) for a good article on this.

## Observations

Big fish come from:  
Spring spawn areas  
Summer cool water refuges  
The bank

## OTHER BUISNESS

The club is going to try to have an open fishing day the Saturday after the May meeting (Sat., May, 23). John Butler is going to coordinate it. The intent is for people to get to fish with someone they don't usually fish with. John will try to match boats and people. We will set a location at the May meeting .If we have too many boats there someone will stay and watch them.

Call John at 865-207-7627 and leave your name and whether you would/will bring a boat.

We have a new sponsor, *Lakeview Market*. They are located at the corner of Old Andrew Johnson Hwy and SR-92N as you turn to go to Cherokee Dam. Stop and get a drink or something and let them know you are a TSBA member.

Dick Vornheim,  
TSBA V.P.



Todd Asher with a 47 lber on a cut bait trip  
with Erik in early April

## MAY QUESTION OF THE MONTH

### **Have you ever had to remove a hook from yourself or a buddy before you continued to fish?**

We had 18 yes and 7 no responses. Several of the "Fishing Reports" responses are worth reading if you haven't done so already and please feel free to continue share your experiences.

The following is a short summary of the information I found by searching the Internet.

#### **Retrograde Technique**

Retrograde technique is the simplest of the removal techniques but has the lowest success rate. It works well for barbless and superficially embedded hooks. Downward pressure is applied to the shank of the hook. This maneuver helps rotate the hook deeper and disengage the barb, if present, from the tissue. The hook can then be backed out of the skin along the path of entry.

#### **String-Yank Technique**

The string-yank technique is a highly effective modification of the retrograde technique and is also referred to as the "stream" technique. It is commonly performed in the field and is believed to be the least traumatic because it creates no new wounds. It may be used to remove any size fishhook but generally works best when removing fishhooks of small and medium size. This technique also works well for deeply embedded fishhooks, but cannot be performed on parts of the body that are not fixed (e.g., earlobe).

A string, such as fishing line, should be wrapped around the midpoint of the bend in the fishhook with the free ends of the string held tightly. A better grip on the string can be achieved by wrapping the ends around a rod such as a screwdriver. The involved skin area should be well stabilized against a flat surface as the shank of the fishhook is depressed against the skin. Continue to depress the eye and/or shank of the hook, taking care to keep the shank parallel to the underlying skin. A firm, quick jerk is then applied parallel to the shank while continuing to exert pressure on the eye of the fishhook. The fishhook may come out with significant velocity so bystanders should remain out of the line of flight.

## What to do:

Cleanse the hook and puncture wound with povidone-iodine or another antibiotic solution. For hooks lodged superficially, first try the simple "retrograde" technique. Push the hook back along the entrance pathway while applying gentle downward pressure on the shank (like the downward pressure in the "string" technique below). When a single hook is superficially embedded in a stable skin surface such as the back, scalp or arm, a simple way to remove it is by using the "string" technique. Align the shaft of the hook so that it is parallel to skin surface. Press down on the hook with your index finger to disengage the barb. Place a loop of fishing line over your wrist and around the hook, and with a **quick** jerk opposite from the direction the shaft of the hook is running, pop the hook out. When done properly, this procedure is painless and does not require anesthesia. The hook may shoot out in the direction that the string is being pulled, so be careful that no one is standing in the path of the fishhook.

When the hook is deeply embedded, the barbed end of the hook is protruding through the skin, or you are unable to utilize the previous techniques, proceed with the tried and true "push through" maneuver. Push the point of the hook along with its barb up through the skin. Now cut off the tip of the hook and remove the shaft or cut off the shaft of the hook and pull the tip through.

If a treble hook is embedded cut off the free hooks prior to removing the embedded hook.

## What not to do:

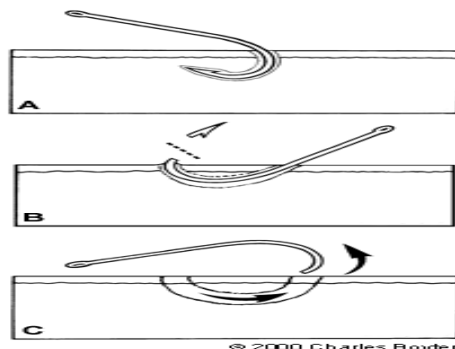
- Do not try to remove a multiple hook or a fishing lure with more than one hook without first removing the free hooks or embedding them in a protective material.

**Do not attempt to use the "string" technique if the hook is near the eye.**

## Discussion:

With the string, retrograde and needling techniques, there is no lengthening of the puncture track or creation of an additional puncture wound. The quickest and easiest method for removing a fishhook is the string technique. It is a technique you can use in the field because no special equipment or anesthesia is required, but it is not recommended when the hook is positioned on a skin surface that is likely to move when the string is pulled. This movement will cause the vector of force to change and therefore the barb may not release.

Jim Blazier



## Fishing Hot Spots



### **Cherokee Lake - Good**

Point #1 at the dam upstream to Point #21 above the 25E bridge. Hybrids are more tolerant of the warm water and can often be caught in schools in shallow water. They can also be released normally without mortality. The humps in the middle of the lake near the dam usually become excellent.

### **Norris Lake - Fair**

33 Bridge downstream to Point #19 on the Clinch side. Below Point #14 at Blue Springs downstream to Point #11 below Springs Dock on the Powell side. Look on the inside bends of the river and in front of the major coves with creek feeds.

### **Below Fort Loudoun & Melton Hill Dams - Good & Improving**

Many of the stripers will go upstream to the discharge at the dams. Put your sinker and hook close to the bottom with plans to lose a few for the most catches. Pulling side planer boards down the banks can also catch fish for miles downstream

## June Expectations

The reservoir stripers have finished the spawn run and continue to move slowly downstream as the thermocline gets deeper. Top water action is in the early morning or not at all, but a good fish finder will start showing the schools of stripers that are deep enough not to shy away from the boat. The confluence of the major creeks and old river channel near mid lake are good target areas. The large, shallow flats that transition quickly to deep water are also excellent places for stripers to hold. The stripers normally feed aggressively after the spawn is complete. Catch and release starts to become questionable this month; however, in the tailrace and rivers below dams you will be able to release successfully during most of the early summer. The stripers will continue to migrate to the tailrace discharge the entire month of June and should be great by month end.

**May 18th Speaker**  
**Mike Smith, TWRA**  
**@ Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery**  
**Pizza & Drinks @ 6:00**

**DIRECTIONS:** From I-75 north of Knoxville, take Exit 122, TN 61, Norris-Clinton. Turn west (left if from I-75 North) onto TN 61 towards Clinton. Go about 3.8 miles and take the first left after crossing the large bridge over the Clinch River. This road is not well marked - watch for the TWRA Hatchery and Wildlife Observation Area signs. If you go through a stoplight after crossing the river, you have gone too far. Shortly after turning off of TN 61, you will arrive at the hatchery gate on the right (coordinates N 36.1210°, W 84.1153°).

# April Striper Bowl

The Annual contest was held this Saturday on Cherokee. The bite had been good for most of the week, but slowed down for the 3-8 pm contest. 23 members and 3 guests battled the wind, boats and a bright 80+ deg. day. At the weigh in, most fish were under 10 lbs hybrids and the totals were close. 8 anglers weighed in up to 2 fish and our 1st multiple winner champion was crowned. The contestants raised over \$450 for the Kids Day event later this summer. We had a great turn out and a good day on the water..

## Results:

- 1st Larry Atchley 16.18 lbs.
- 2nd Erik Engebretsen 14.74
- 3rd Charles Ramsey 13.84
- 4th Joe White 12.5
- 5th Doug Steffe 10.82 ( Big fish...Striper)
- 6th Ron Whilden 9.32
- 7th Dennis Bryant 7.26
- 8th Bill Cate 6.04



2008 Striper Bowl Winner, Janine Johnson, handing over the trophy to 2009 winner, Larry Atchley.



Charles Ramsey, 3rd place finisher.

Erik Engebretsen, 2nd place finish in 2009 Striper Bowl



Doug Steffe with his 10.8 striper, big fish of the Striper Bowl.

Joe White, 4th place finisher.



# 2009 Tennessee Fishing Regulations

While most Tennessee anglers know the basic laws governing our favorite sport, it is wise to periodically review them as there are subtle differences between the various bodies of water that we frequently fish. Furthermore, the regulations are periodically modified by the TWRA to meet the changing needs of our fisheries. The following is a summary of the current fishing regulations published by the TWRA as they apply to Striped and Hybrid/Cherokee bass in east Tennessee.

## Statewide or General Regulations

- 1 – The daily creel limit is two Striped or Hybrid bass in any combination.
- 2 – The minimum length for both species is 15” which is determined by laying the fish on a flat ruler, closing its mouth and squeezing its tail lobes together to produce the maximum length.
- 3 – The total possession limit is twice the daily creel limit but you may not have any more than the daily creel limit with you while afield. It is unlawful, while afield, to have altered any fish of any species so that its species and/or length can not be determined.
- 4 – There is no limit as to how many fishing poles you can use at any one time.
- 5 – Umbrella Rigs – Umbrella rigs are defined as an array of more than three artificial lures or baits (with or without hooks) used by a single rod and reel combination. If the hook size is 6 (not 6/0) or larger, then only one lure or bait may have a hook and that hook must be a single hook with only one point.
- 6 – All boaters and passengers must wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket within the area designated and appropriately marked as a hazardous area below the dam and/or lock.
- 7 – If you are 13 years or older, you must have a valid Tennessee fishing license in order to take, or attempt to take, fish by any method or if you assist someone else to do so. There are several exceptions which are listed in the 2008 Tennessee Fishing Guide available at Wal-Mart or any sporting goods store where you can also buy your license. Also, you can buy your fishing license online by going to [www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org) and clicking the link “online licensing” or you can call 1-888-814-8972. There will be an additional fee of \$3.25 to charge your license to a credit card. Tennessee hunting and fishing licenses run from March 01 through the following February.
- 8 – It is illegal to sell, or offer to sell, fish without a commercial fishing license.
- 9 – It is illegal for any angler to refuse to let a TWRA officer conduct inspections to determine if the state’s wildlife laws are being properly observed. This includes license and creel limit checks.

10 – It is legal to use game fish as bait provided the fish were legally harvested or purchased and you obey the daily creel and length limits. Please note that you will need either a valid Tennessee fishing license that includes trout or a receipt showing that you purchased the trout if you have any trout in your possession.

11 – It is unlawful to possess or transport live specimens of the following animals – Silver carp, Bighead carp, Black carp, Blueback herring, New Zealand mud snail, Round Goby, Rudd, Ruffe, Snakeheads, Swamp eels and Zebra mussels. The Blueback herring is the species that is of most concern to live bait fishermen as it's legally used as bait in neighboring states and it's difficult to distinguish from the Alewife which is a very popular and legal baitfish here in east Tennessee.

## Exceptions to the Statewide Regulations

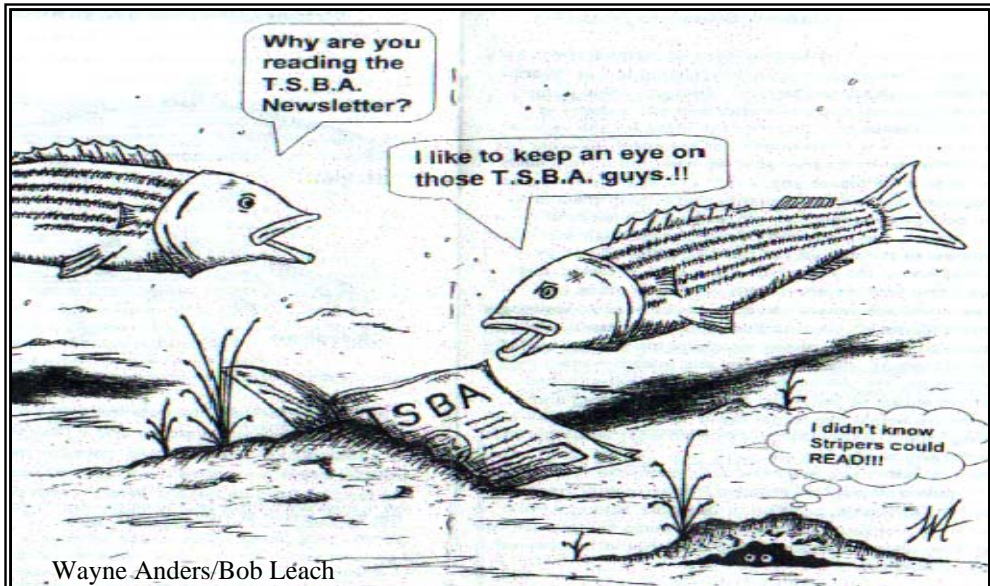
Cherokee Reservoir – Don't forget the "No Fishing Zone" that is in effect on Cherokee from July 15 through September 15. This is from the boat ramp south of the Cherokee dam across the lake to point 2, upstream to point 3 and the back across the lake to the primitive boat ramp just north of the dam. This restriction applies to all species of fish and not just Stripers and Hybrids. Fishing from the bank is allowed.

Cordell Hull & Melton Hill Reservoirs – There is a "Protected Length Range" or PLR on both of these reservoirs and all Striped bass between 32" and 42" must be immediately released unharmed back into the reservoir. While the daily creel limit is two, only one striped bass over 42" can be kept. These special regulations do not apply to the waters below the dams forming these reservoirs.

Norris & Boone Reservoirs – The rules for Norris and Boone reservoirs from April through October are identical to the statewide regulations. However, from November through March, the daily creel limit for striped bass is one fish with a minimum length of 36". Creel limits are in combination with Cherokee/hybrid bass.

Watts Bar – From April through October, the regulations are identical to the statewide regulations. However, from November through March, the limit is two fish (striper & hybrid bass) per day in combination but only one may be a striper and it must have a minimum length of 36". These regulations do apply to the tailwaters of Melton Hill and Fort Loudon dams as they are considered part of Watts Bar.

Bob Leach



Wayne Anders/Bob Leach

Bob Leach and Janine Johnson  
@ 2009 Striper Bowl



Ezell Cox and Grandkids  
relaxing at the Striper Bowl

Keith Shannon with an uninvited  
guest at the Striper Bowl.



## **YOUR 2009 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND STAFF**

**President:**

Erik Engebretsen 404-683-0181

**Vice President:**

Jim Blazier 865-694-8014  
jblazier@comcast.net

**Treasurer:**

Doug Steffe  
865-278-2363, 865-335-3815

**Secretary:**

Dick Vornehm  
865-938-1883

**Asst. Treasurer:**

Allan Franklin  
865-805-3120

### **TSBA DIRECTORS**

Bill Ballou, John Butler, Erik Engebretsen, Janine Johnson,  
Kyle Rutherford, John Seiber, Keith Shannon

### **TSBA STAFF**

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JSeiber@tennstripedbass.com

**Public Relations:** Allan Franklin 865-694-8888  
Ezell Cox 423-626-9547

**Sponsor Coordinator:** John Butler 865-207-7627

**Kids' Fishing Day:** Allan Franklin 865-805-3120

**Tournament Coordinator:** Allan Franklin 865-694-8888

**Fish Hatchery Meetings (Pizza):** Allan Franklin 865-694-8888

**Door Prizes:** Bob Leach 865-471-1365

**Open Fishing Day Coordinators:** John Butler & Dwayne Clark  
865-207-7627, 865-964-9295

**Fishing Trip Raffle:** Jim Blazier 865-694-8014

## 2009 TSBA Calendar

*Please attend TSBA events and join us at the meetings.*  
Monthly meetings will be held at Shoney's Restaurant, 2405 Andersonville Highway. Get off I-75 at Exit 122 (Hwy. 61 - Clinton/Norris), head east. Shoney's will be on the left.

May	Norris Lake Advisory Committee Meeting
May 18	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery
June 13	Kids' Fishing Day - Grainger County Park-Cherokee
June 15	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
July 20	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery
August 17	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
September 20	TSBA Fish Fry - Grainger County Park-Cherokee
October 19	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM - Nominations for Directors and Officers
November 16	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM - Election of Directors and Officers
December 21	Board of Directors Meeting - Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7PM

The TSBA web site offers up-to-date fishin' reports to all  
TSBA members. Visit the web at:

**[www.TNStripedBass.com](http://www.TNStripedBass.com)**

The current password is:

Username: "fish" Password: "finder"

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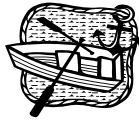
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## T.S.B.A. 2009 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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.

Is this a renewal \_\_\_\_ or a New Membership \_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ # of minor children in family \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Referred By: \_\_\_\_\_

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**

Note: All members must sign and submit this membership application with the 2009 dues. 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**



**May 18 - Monthly Meeting  
Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery  
Speaker: Mike Smith, TWRA  
Pizza & Drinks**

