



LAKE NORFORK STRIPER CLUB

NEWSLETTER

www.norforkstripers.org

APRIL 2016

APRIL TOURNAMENT RESULTS



A happy Fred with his fish and his money!



Fred Gordon, as we all know as Fishin Fred, won our April tournament with a 4 lb. 12 oz. striper

Although we would have liked to see more fish weighed in, we did have great weather which made for a great day on the water. We had 17 members out there after those elusive Stripers. There were many stories about the ones that got away. Several bass

were caught but Fred Gordon turned in the only legal size Striper: A whopping 4# 12 oz that paid \$44.00 green dollars. This fish was landed on a sexy shad in Big Creek. Caught at 25 feet deep in 42 feet of water.

Steve Adams was the lucky ticket winner. Steve selected one of the new inflatable life vests.

Next month our New Tournament Director, Moose West, will be on the scene. Please welcome Moose and let him know you appreciate his service to the club.

Our next tournament will be the May two-day tournament, followed by a picnic at Hickory park, where all members and families are invited to attend. LNSC provides the burgers and brats, water and sodas. Members are asked to bring a side dish or dessert.

Check out the tournament times and weigh-in data on page two for more details. We look forward to seeing you at the tournament and the picnic.

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TOURNAMENT REMINDERS

1. Register Early
2. Pay with Cash
3. Always watch the message board for any changes in weigh-in times or location change.
4. Know the tournament rules (see the web site).
5. Watch the rather and think safety first!
6. Have fun and enjoy the day on our great Lake Norfolk!

2016 LNSC TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

May 20 and 21 – Friday and Saturday – 5:30 am Friday until 10:00 am Saturday at Panther Bay Launch Ramp. Live bait or Artificial baits are both allowable for this tournament. Entry fee is \$10 per contestant for the tournament and an additional \$5 each for the OPTIONAL biggest fish weighed for the tournament. The single biggest fish pays 100% of all big fish entry fees. Each contestant in any boat that has a big fish contestant must also pay the big fish entry fee. Three weigh-ins at Panther Bay Launch Ramp. FRIDAY – 10:00 to 10:30 am AND 6:00PM to 6:15 PM, then on SATURDAY – 10:10 – 10:30 am. Contestants may weigh up to 3 fish at ANY weigh-in time but no more that a total of three fish for the tournament. When the three fish limit is reached, there will be no culling allowed. Total weight for up to three fish weighed will determine the winners. !

JUNE 16 – THURSDAY - 5:15AM until 10:00AM at Quarry Park Launch Ramp. Artificial baits ONLY allowable for this tournament. Weigh-in time at 10:10 – 10:30 AM.

JULY 14 – THURSDAY - 5:15AM until 10:00AM at Quarry Park Launch Ramp. Artificial baits ONLY allowable for this tournament. Weigh-in time at 10:10 – 10:30AM

AUGUST 11 – THURSDAY - 5:45 am until 10:00 am at Quarry Park Launch Ramp. Artificial baits ONLY allowable for this tournament. Weigh-in time starting at 10:10 – 10:30AM

SEPTEMBER 16 and 17 – Friday and Saturday – 6:00AM Friday until 10:00AM Saturday at Quarry Park Launch Ramp. Live bait or Artificial baits are both allowable for this tournament. Entry fee is \$10 per contestant for the tournament and an additional \$5 each for the OPTIONAL biggest fish weighed for the tournament. The single biggest fish pays 100% of all big fish entry fees. Each contestant in any boat that has a big fish contestant must also pay the big fish entry fee. Three weigh-ins at Panther Bay Launch Ramp: FRIDAY – 10:00 to 10:30AM and 6:00 to 6:15 pm, then on SATURDAY – 10.10 – 10:30AM. Contestants may weigh up to 3 fish at ANY weigh-in time but no more that a total of three fish for the tournament. When the three fish limit is reached, there will be no culling allowed. Total weight for up to three fish weighed will determine the winners.

October 7 and 8 - Friday – Friday and Saturday – 6:00AM Friday until 10:00AM Saturday at Quarry Park Launch Ramp. Live bait or Artificial baits are both allowable for this tournament. Entry fee is \$10 per contestant for the tournament and an additional \$5 each for the OPTIONAL biggest fish weighed for the tournament. Same rules as the May two-day tournament.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Where are the fish?

They are still there. Where is there? Big Creek is active with lots of Stripers, Wipers & white Bass. Most of the channels are still holding Stripers and activity is picking up in Diamond Bay. The morning bite seems to be slow. Fred Gordon found one still hungry during the tournament and Moose West (our new tournament director) almost had a bite. He said it straightened out his hook. Darrel Binkley said the best time has been 5:00 – 9:00PM. There has been lots of surface activity closer to the shore. A slow retrieve on your stick bait seems to be working the best.



May tournament will be a two day event. (5/20 & 5/21 followed by a picnic at Hickory Park. More information on the picnic will be sent out later. The picnic will be instead of our May meeting.

An old fishing legend, Buck Perry, said “you can’t catch fish where fish ain’t” I’ll be looking for you on the water.

John Gerard, LNSC President

Battle of the Basses

By Randy Zellers

Largemouth, spotted and smallmouth bass are top-level predators in Arkansas waters. When striped bass, a new, larger predator, was introduced to a lake, many anglers worried that the black bass would be history. But both basses can flourish without affecting each other.

According to Mike Armstrong, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission chief of fisheries management, the striper is an open-water fish that rarely relates to any sort of shoreline cover. While black bass prefer ambushing prey from cover, stripers swim the lake looking for schools of shad that eat plankton. And with the vast, open water of Arkansas’s large reservoirs, there’s plenty of room for both predators.

“Any time we add a species to a body of water, we monitor it closely for any impact,” said Mark Oliver, AGFC assistant chief of fisheries management. “We don’t want to do anything that will damage our fisheries or their ability to produce black bass, our most popular sport fish. Because stripers can’t reproduce naturally in our lakes, if we see anything bad, we can adjust stocking rates to manage the lakes.”

Dinner Plans

The stripers' impact on a lake's food supply is a concern for anglers. It doesn't take a genius to realize a 30- to 40-pound fish needs lots of food to survive. According to biologists, there's no need to panic.

"Stripers eat shad," Oliver said. "Bass and other species will eat shad, but they also eat smaller sunfish, crayfish and other food sources found near the shore."

Armstrong further explained the striper diet. "When we have a shad kill, the stripers will starve out because they can't adapt to the warmer, shallow water where the rest of the food lives."

A study done on Tennessee's Norris Reservoir in 1998 confirmed this. Mississippi State University fisheries biologists assessed that even when shad were decimated from a winter kill, the removal of stripers from the reservoir increased other game-fish populations by a scant 3 percent.

Bass Buffet

Anglers also worry that stripers are eating native game fish, including crappie and black bass. While no one denies that a bass or two may have fallen victim to the thousands of stripers in open water, biologists stress the two species' habitats are so different that there's no noticeable impact of stripers on the bass population.

"It's the nature of being a fish," Armstrong said. "Big fish eat smaller fish, whether it's a striper, crappie, bass or catfish. But stripers and black bass don't share the same territory. I'm sure a few small bass have roamed out into open water and been eaten by a striper, but stripers don't move into the cover-laden habitat near the shore that bass dominate. The reason we stock stripers is to take advantage of open water in the middle of our lakes no other species could use."

To ensure healthy fisheries, biologists sample the striper population annually, looking at the condition of fish and what they're eating.

"In 30 years and thousands of stripers sampled, I've seen two black bass in the stomachs of striped bass," Oliver said.

According to Oliver and Armstrong, the biggest predator of black bass is larger black bass. Any angler will tell you that largemouth will eat pretty much anything they can swallow, and their fingerling-sized cousins aren't off the menu.

This article was originally featured in the March/April 2008 issue of Arkansas Wildlife magazine. To subscribe or learn more about the magazine, contact the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, (501) 223-6300, or visit www.agfc.com.

note: the above was reprinted with consent from Arkansas Game and Fish

THE ABOVE ARTICLE IS ONE IN A SHORT SERIES OF ARTICLES THAT ARE INTENDED TO PRESENT FACTUAL STUDIES AND INFORMATION TO HELP DISPEL A GREAT AMOUNT OF FALSE INFORMATION REGARDING THE IMPACT OF STRIPED BASS ON OUR LOCAL FISHERIES.

Identification of Striper, Wiper, White Bass, and White Perch

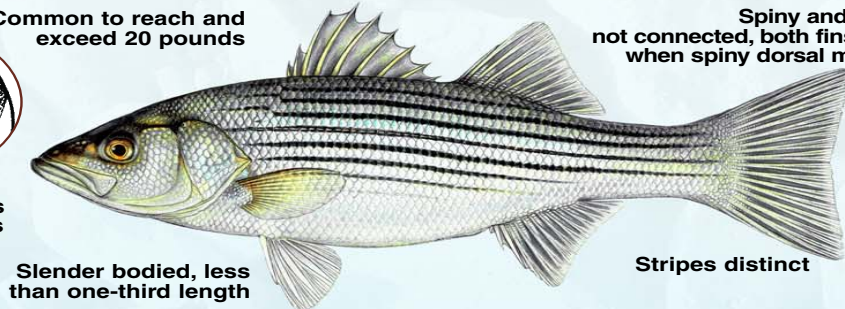
Similar appearances, varying length and creel limits, and the recent appearance of the aquatic nuisance species, the white perch, make proper identification of the striped bass, striped bass hybrid (or wiper), white bass, and white perch very important for Kansas anglers. White perch have become established in Cheney and Wilson reservoir and Kingman State Fishing Lake. White perch are capable of out competing native fish for food and space. Therefore, anglers are prohibited from moving white perch from one body of water to another. The following information will aid in the identification by providing distinguishing characteristics of each species. Individuals in a species and differing water conditions may impact the ease of identification and close examination may be needed. There is no daily creel limit on white bass or white perch. Creel limits on wipers and striped bass is 2/day statewide, check your regs for combined/aggregate limits at some lakes.

STRIPED BASS



Back of tongue has TWO tooth patches

Common to reach and exceed 20 pounds



Slender bodied, less than one-third length

Spiny and soft dorsal fins not connected, both fins do not pop-up when spiny dorsal manually erected

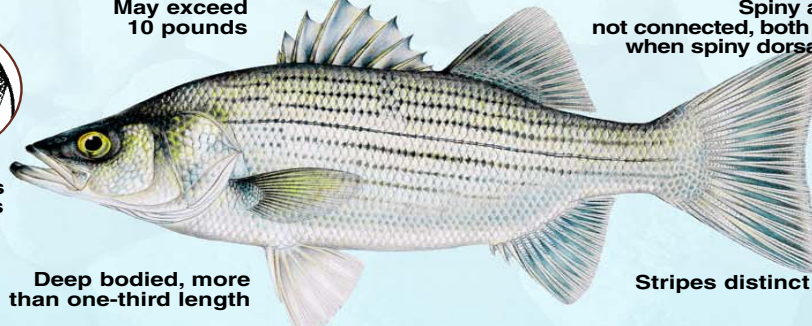
Stripes distinct

WIPER



Back of tongue has TWO tooth patches

May exceed 10 pounds

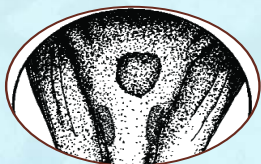


Deep bodied, more than one-third length

Spiny and soft dorsal fins not connected, both fins do not pop-up when spiny dorsal manually erected

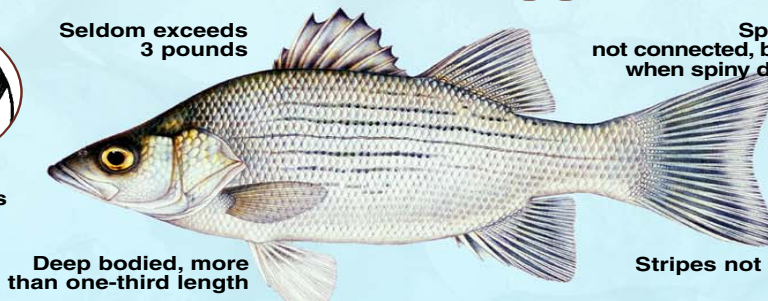
Stripes distinct

WHITE BASS



Back of tongue has ONE tooth patch

Seldom exceeds 3 pounds



Deep bodied, more than one-third length

Spiny and soft dorsal fins not connected, both fins do not pop-up when spiny dorsal manually erected

Stripes not distinct

WHITE PERCH

Seldom exceeds 1 pound



Deep bodied, deepest part just in front of or at the beginning of the spiny dorsal fin

Spiny and soft dorsal fins connected, both fins pop-up when spiny dorsal manually erected

No distinct stripes

Artwork by Joseph R. Tomelleri



FISHING REPORT FROM LOU GABRIC AT HUMMINGBIRD HIDEAWAY RESORT

Norfolk Lake's fishing scene is getting exciting. The lake surface water temperature has reached 60 degrees and should increase a little this week with the forecasted warm nights and daytime temperatures. As the water temperature increases the fish will increasingly become more active. For me the best bite on the lake at this time is for largemouth and smallmouth bass. Many of the bigger fish have moved to the banks and are starting their spawn. If you are a bass fisherman it is definitely a great time to come and fish the lake. A couple of our guests over the weekend landed over 20 smallies on a centipede with approximately half of them being of keeper size. I landed some nice fish this morning using a swim bait, and jerk bait as well as live bait. Another of our guests was fishing from our dock casting a spinner bait to the shore line and landed 5 largemouth bass, one a 4 pounder. Watch for top water action early and late in the day. They are also coming up for a Zara spook even if you don't see the fish break surface.

Striped bass fishing has had its ups and downs over the last several weeks. They are still scattered though out the lake. When you locate big schools of baitfish the stripers will be close by. The stripers, hybrids and white bass are all in similar type areas. Look back in creeks and coves and on shallow flats. In the early mornings I have found them in shallow water, but as the sun comes up they are moving out to deeper water along with the shad. Trolling a swim bait has been picking up a few nice fish as has fishing with live bait. The night bite is continuing, but like the day bite, one day you can find them then the next day they have moved on and you're looking again. I have been using Kastmaster type baits as well as small spinners to catch these species. With the warming of the water, I anticipate top water action for these species to start very shortly, so keep a watchful eye out. It could happen anywhere- could be in 100 feet of water or along the shoreline.

Crappie fishing is starting to heat up. The best locations for the biggest numbers of fish are back in the shallow waters of the major creeks. Find some brush close to shore and cast out a 1/16 jig and let it fall slowly. When your line tightens set the hook. I landed an almost 16 inch fish the other night while striper fishing. I was throwing a Smithwick Rogue and this fish just hammered my bait. All you could see was the head and the bill of my bait. Talk about being aggressive!

Lake Norfolk's current level is falling slowly and sits at 552.88 ft above sea level. The Corps is running one generator sporadically to maintain the lake close to the normal pool of 553.8. The main lake is clearing, but still a bit stained. The creeks and coves are partially clearing with the backs still stained. The surface water temperature is approximately 60 degrees.

Happy fishing and see you on the lake.

NOTE: Many thanks to Lou for his fishing reports. We appreciate him sharing his experiences and knowledge with us.

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE
JUNE 27TH

Our May picnic will replace our regularly scheduled meeting for the month of June.

Tournament awards and drawing will be held at the picnic

CLUB MEMBERS

The President would like to know what subjects or persons you would like to see us bring in for speakers at our meetings. Please offer your suggestions!

★ Stripers
★ Hybrids
★ Walleye
★ Bass



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MONDAY- APRIL 25TH - 7pm
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