

Asian Carp Update, June 3, 2020

The Watts Bar Ecology and Fishery Council has taken the lead in the efforts to keep Asian carp out of the upper Tennessee river basin. The POA Asian Carp Committee and the Tellico Village Fishing Club support its members in finding solutions and keeping consistent pressure on elected officials and government agencies to prevent carp migration.

Tellico Lake is an amazing asset to East Tennessee, and keeping out this invasive species is a high priority for those of us who live and play in this area. We are very thankful for the efforts of the WBEFC and their partner organizations who continue to keep this issue in the forefront at the local, state, and federal levels.

Keith Sanderson, a Tellico Village property owner and member of the WBEFC will be our guest at the June 17th POA Board meeting to give an update on their considerable efforts and explain how you can help to provide the consistent pressure needed to ensure these carp stay out of our lake and beyond.

In the meantime, please visit the Facebook page, Stop Silver Carp in TN (<https://www.facebook.com/stopsilvercarpinTN>). There you will find links to videos, news articles, like the one in the May 21st issue of the Connection, and other relevant information as it becomes available.

Also, there is a tab on the Tellico Village POA website (<https://www.tellicovillagepoa.org/category/asian-carp/>) dedicated to the Asian carp effort, which includes links to additional information as well as sample letters and contact information for elected officials. Please join or continue the letter writing campaign to ensure that our concerns are heard by those who can make a difference.

Remember to join us on-line at the June 17th board meeting for the update from Keith Sanderson who recently shared a couple of bits of good news. He reported that, even though there was a previous report of Asian carp spotted in the Chickamauga Reservoir near Chattanooga, they have not found any recent evidence of a carp population there. Also, they are hopeful that the abundantly rainy spring and early high-water levels may have disrupted the spawning process in the Tennessee River basin. Hopefully, he will have more good news for us at the next board meeting!