

January 10th, 2023



## THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

### Suffolk-Nansemond Chapter



S-N IWLA Chapter Newsletter

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### IWLA State/National

[IWLA Virginia Division](#)

[IWLA National](#)

### Backyard Conservation News

[AskHRgreen.org](http://AskHRgreen.org)

[Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#)

[Department of Conservation & Recreation](#)

[Division of Wildlife Resources](#)

[Hoffler Creek Wildlife Foundation and Preserve](#)

[Nansemond River Preservation Alliance](#)

[SCCC - Suffolk Clean Community Commission Recycling](#)

### The Blue Heron Times (January, 2023 Issue)

#### Meetings

Chapter Board of Directors meetings are held on the second Monday of each month. They last met at 7pm on **Monday, January 9th** at the Constantia House behind Baker's Funeral Home. Next month's Board meeting will be at 7pm on **Monday, February 13th** at the same location.

Chapter Members Dinner meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The next dinner meeting will be held at the [Kings Fork Community House](#) on Kings Fork Road on **Wednesday at 6:30PM on January 18th**.

The dinner menu will be pork loin with blueberry reduction sauce, roasted potatoes, green beans, rolls, iced tea, and desserts. The cost will be \$10. The guest speaker is not yet confirmed as of the time of this publication.

#### Calendar of Events

You can review our full chapter website calendar online at <https://sniwla.org/sniwla/calendar> for the most recent information about meetings and upcoming events. A courtesy extract for the first quarter is shown below:

**MON 1/9 at 7pm - Chapter Board Meeting.**  
**WED 1/18 at 6:30pm - Chapter Dinner Meeting.**  
**MON 2/13 at 7pm - Chapter Board Meeting.**

#### President's Note

Another year has come and gone. And it was a good year. We had our first Captain Bob's BBQ sale and it was successful. Hopefully this coming year we can get back to having our annual pancake supper. We made progress on our dam remediation project.

I am looking forward to the coming year and all the accomplishments we can achieve.

To paraphrase John Wayne – The new year comes into us at midnight very clean. It's perfect when it arrives, and it puts itself in our hands. It hopes we've learned something from last year.

Respectfully Yours,

Chris Ferguson,  
 Chapter President,  
 Suffolk-Nansemond IWLA

[TerraScapes Environmental Consulting](#)

[The Wildlife Society](#)

[Virginia Conservation Network](#)

[Virginia Master Naturalist](#)

## Classifieds

[Chuckatuck Trading Post](#)  
(757)255-9295  
5969 Goodwin Blvd,  
Suffolk, VA 23452

[Suffolk Radio & TV Service](#)  
Radio/Television Repair  
(757)539-2110  
536 W. Washington Street  
Suffolk, VA 23434

[Appomatox River Company](#)  
(757)890-0500  
3009 W. Mercury Blvd.  
Hampton, VA 23666

[Arzillo Recycling](#) (Scrap Metal)  
(757)539-8593  
Locations: Suffolk & PTMS Blvd

## Shop at AmazonSmile and Amazon will make a donation to:

Izaak Walton League Of America Inc  
Suffolk-Nansemond Chapter

See <http://sniwla.org/sniwla/donations-2/>



WED 2/15 at 6:30pm - Chapter Dinner Meeting (Chili Cookoff).

THR 2/16 IWLA National Midwinter Board Meeting.

SAT 3/11 at 8am - \*Adopt-A-Road Cleanup.

MON 3/13 at 7pm - Chapter Board Meeting.

WED 3/15 at 6:30pm - Chapter Dinner Meeting.

WED 3/15 - Deadline for Tobin Award Submittals.

SAT 3/18 at 9am - Chapter Rimfire Members Shooting Competition.

FRI 3/31 - \*Chapter BBQ Fundraiser. *Note: Events marked with an asterisk count towards work hour credits for meeting the chapter's annual membership volunteer participation requirement.*

### Holidays/Advisories:

1/1 - New Year's Day.

1/16 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

2/14 Valentine's Day.

2/20 - President's Day.

3/12 Daylight Saving Time starts.

3/17 St. Patrick's Day.

## Chapter Member Dues and Fees

Chapter Ikes, thanks to those members who have mailed in their dues and participation fee. Your memberships are in the process of being renewed. You will receive your membership cards along with the new gate combination at the February dinner meeting or by mail. If you have not sent a check to pay your dues, avoid the \$20 late fee by paying your dues at the chapter dinner meeting on January 18, 2023.

So that you are aware per the chapter policy a membership card cannot be issued until the 2022 participation fee is paid. If you have questions pertaining to your membership renewal, please contact the Membership Chair by sending an email to [Alan.Ferguson.IWLA@gmail.com](mailto:Alan.Ferguson.IWLA@gmail.com). You can find the chapter policies on the chapter website at <https://sniwla.org/sniwla/>

Submitted by Alan Ferguson,  
Membership Chair

## Volunteer of the Year

Chapter Ike Bob Marchant has been named 2022 Volunteer of the Year at the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

"Bob provided over 50 hours of volunteer service to the refuge, primarily assisting with re-siding a large storage shed. Even in the heat of the summer, Bob stayed on his weekly schedule. Bob also shared his knowledge and mentored his assistants, who were the Youth Conservation Corp crew members. Bob also assisted with public events. Bob has been a long-standing volunteer and friend of the Refuge. Thank you, Bob!"

--Chris Lowie, Refuge Manager  
Great Dismal Swamp National  
Wildlife Refuge



## Chapter Committees and Volunteers

The S-N IWLA Chapter is driven by its members' participation on its various committees. As a member of the S-N IWLA you bring a unique combination of skills and abilities to the chapter. We thank the numerous members who have volunteered and provided leadership and service to the Chapter and its Mission. The Board of Directors is in the process of assembling a list of committees and the names of members who have an interest in that committee. This will help committee chairs when contacting our membership for assistance.

An attachment listing the various committees was included with the 2023 membership renewal. If you returned that attachment noting your choice of committees you would consider serving with, thank you. If you have not yet made your choice, please show your support for the chapter by making your selection and returning the form. You can find the Committee Volunteer List Form posted on the chapter website in PDF format under the chapter website menu >**Members>Documents and Forms**, or by clicking on this link: <https://sniwla.org/sniwla/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Committee-Volunteer-08-17-2022.pdf>.

There are three ways to return this form to the Membership Committee. You can (a) bring it to the chapter dinner meeting on January 18th, 2023, (b) email the form as an attachment (or just list your choices) in an email to Membership Chair Alan Ferguson at [Alan.Ferguson.IWLA@gmail.com](mailto:Alan.Ferguson.IWLA@gmail.com) or (c) mail your printed form to Alan Ferguson at 3231 Matoaka Road, Suffolk, VA 23434.

Members, to review a list of committees and see who chairs each one, click on <https://sniwla.org/sniwla/committees/>. Also, to learn more about each committee, you may access the password-protected [Members-Only](#) portion of our chapter website to review end-of-year committee reports. These reports highlight the committee's accomplishments for the previous year and upcoming goals for the coming year.

Thank you for supporting our chapter.  
Chris Ferguson, President

## Recipe of the Month - Garlic Mushroom Pasta



Source Credit: *Samantha King*

[SaltandLavendar.com](http://SaltandLavendar.com)

<https://www.saltandlavender.com/garlic-mushroom-pasta/>

Servings: 2

### Ingredients

- 4 ounces uncooked pasta
- 3 tablespoons butter divided
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1/2 medium onion chopped
- 7 ounces cremini mushrooms sliced
- 3 cloves garlic minced
- 1/2 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1/4 cup chicken broth or veg broth or white wine
- 1/2 teaspoon lemon juice + zest of 1/2 lemon
- 1/2 cup freshly grated parmesan cheese
- 2 tablespoons fresh parsley chopped
- Salt & pepper to taste

### Instructions

1. Boil a salted pot of water.  
Cook the pasta al dente according to package directions.
2. Meanwhile, prep your ingredients.
3. Add oil and 1 tablespoon of butter to a skillet over medium-high heat.  
Once the pan is hot, add the onions and mushrooms. Sauté, stirring occasionally, until the water has been released from the mushrooms & cooked off.  
Ensure everything gets a good sear and is browned/caramelized (this gives a ton of flavor). It'll take 8-10 minutes or possibly a bit longer.
4. Stir in the rest of the butter, plus the garlic and mustard.  
Cook for about a minute.
5. Add in the broth and lemon juice + zest, let it bubble for a minute or so.
6. Take the pan off the heat and stir in the parmesan cheese and parsley.  
Add a splash of the hot pasta water prior to draining the pasta (a couple tablespoons) and then toss the pasta with the sauce.  
Season with salt & pepper as needed and serve immediately.

## New Chapter Member

The chapter gained an additional member when chapter President Chris Ferguson swore in Chris Timpey. Because there was not a member's meeting in December, Chris was sworn in during the December Board of Director's meeting. Welcome to the chapter Chris! Below, Chris Timpey (on the left) is shown being sworn in.



## Conservation News - National Heritage Area Bill for Great Dismal Swamp

As recently published in the Suffolk News Herald, on January 6th, 2023, U.S. Senators Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine applauded President Biden's signing of the *Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area Act*, legislation to direct the Secretary of the Interior to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating the Great Dismal Swamp and its associated sites as a National Heritage Area. The Great Dismal Swamp has served as a home of native people and wildlife for thousands of years as well as played an important role in African American history. The late Congressman A. Donald McEachin led the introduction of this bill in the U.S. House of Representatives, and Warner and Kaine introduced its companion in the U.S. Senate.

This legislation comes as Suffolk prepares to develop a \$1.3 million trailhead project, which was announced earlier this year. The project was first written into the Great Dismal Swamp Refuge's comprehensive plan in 2006 in hopes of expanding environmental education. However, the project just recently started making progress when the Friends of the Great Dismal Swamp Wildlife Refuge received a \$50,000 grant from Dominion Energy. The grant was used to purchase the land and materials necessary for the enhancement.

Adjacent to the new trailhead, the City of Suffolk will purchase a piece of land to create a city park, according to that May news story. The city received a \$200,000 grant from the Virginia Outdoors Foundation that will be used to both purchase the land and build the park — including a playground and picnic area.

The Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area Act is championed by numerous organizations committed to safeguarding the Swamp's unique history and resources, including the Wilderness Society, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Nature Conservancy and the Great Dismal Swamp Stakeholder Collaborative, a coalition that includes the Nansemond Indian Nation, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, the Meherrin Indian Nation, the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe, Preservation Virginia and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Chapter board member Mike Lane commented "although not mentioned in the Suffolk News Herald article, our Suffolk-Nansemond IWLA chapter is part of the Great Dismal Swamp Stakeholder Collaborative (GDSSC)". As stated on their website <https://www.gdssc.org/>, GDSSC is a series of linked conservation and cultural preservation projects – organized in collaboration with federal, state, and municipal leaders -- that reflect the complex ecological history of the Swamp and the rich history of its local communities. Their mission is to (i) strengthen the relationship between cultural, tribal, environmental, and governmental organizations in order to (ii) advance activities that are equitable, inclusive, and mutually beneficial for all stakeholders, while (iii) respecting the Swamp as its own stakeholder, with its interests held in trust by the members of the Collaborative.

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## IWLA National Conservation News

*Message from Janette Rosenbaum, IWLA National Strategic Communications Manager*

2023 will be a pivotal year for the Izaak Walton League. We'll launch the new Nitrate Watch program to help volunteer scientists protect clean water in their communities; fight for a Farm Bill that will reduce water pollution and ensure healthier food in the grocery store; and launch our ambitious vision for conservation and outdoor recreation. We want to reflect for a moment on our centennial celebration and all the amazing things we accomplished together in 2022:

- In January, we kicked off our 100th anniversary by gathering for a premier of a new video celebrating our first century of conservation leadership. [Revisit this six-minute summary of our history](#) – and preview of our future. Also in January, National Public Radio and the Chicago Sun-Times highlighted our centennial milestone, bringing attention to our legacy of conservation accomplishments.

- In February, we held our first listening session to ask hunters, anglers, conservation groups, farmland owners and other stakeholders what Congress should do to promote more conservation on America's farms and ranches. Throughout the year, we traveled the country to gather ideas for how to improve agriculture programs that drive day-to-day decisions on agricultural lands. [Read about what we heard and share your own idea.](#)
- In the spring, we wrapped up Season 5 of Salt Watch with more than 5,300 test results submitted by over 850 volunteers in 24 states – an enormous increase from the previous year. Salt Watch volunteers organized a powerful outreach program that changed the conversation about road salt in Wisconsin, brought communities together to take action on excessive road salt in Virginia, and successfully advocated for smarter salting practices in Pennsylvania. Season 6 is turning in even more incredible results – [don't miss your chance to get involved.](#)
- In June, building on 100 years of defending clean water, we filed an [amicus brief](#) with the Supreme Court to protect small streams and wetlands under the Clean Water Act. The case, Sackett v. EPA, has the potential to devastate protections for wetlands and degrade water quality nationwide. Over the course of the year, the League's Save Our Streams volunteers doubled the number of locations they were monitoring in Iowa. The League's SOS trainers certified more new monitors in Iowa in 2022 than in the previous four years combined. You can get involved with SOS from wherever you are – you can even start from home with our [online workshops.](#)
- In July, we launched a plan for our second century to tackle critical conservation challenges. We'll build on our strengths to secure a future where every community has clean air and water, people of all ages rediscover their love of the outdoors, and common-sense solutions are turning the tide against climate change. [Read our new vision statement.](#) In several events over the summer, we partnered with other groups and engaged volunteers to clean up litter in and around the Missouri River. Those events resulted in over 10,000 pounds of trash being pulled out of the Mighty Mo.
- In August, we helped secure \$19 billion to expand conservation, reduce water pollution and combat climate change on millions of acres of farms and ranches. The Inflation Reduction Act represents the largest investment ever made in climate-friendly agriculture – plus it makes unprecedented investments in transitioning America to the renewable energy future we know must be achieved in order to meet our obligations to subsequent generations. [Read more about this historic victory.](#)
- In September, we engaged kids and adults at the Missouri River Outdoor Expo, one of the largest such events in the Midwest. We also took a stand against manmade changes to the river that are resulting in the destruction of Tribal lands through rampant erosion.
- In November, a pre-launch of Nitrate Watch, our newest community science program, rapidly attracted volunteers in 24 states. Watch for more information on how you can get a Nitrate Watch test kit and find out whether your water is contaminated by this dangerous pollutant.
- In December, the National Rifle Association's American Hunter magazine featured the League in an [article highlighting our 100 years](#) of remarkable conservation leadership. With our broad base, deep roots, and strong reputation for expertise, the magazine said, we're positioned to carry on our legacy into the next 100 years.
- Finally, in the closing hours of 2022, the Environmental Protection Agency [finalized a regulation](#) that changes which waters are protected by the Clean Water Act. Compared to the previous regulation, this new rule will better protect tributary streams and wetlands that affect water quality downstream.

With your support and hard work, we are continuing to build a legacy that every Izaak Walton League member can truly be proud of. Thank you for all that you make possible – and, as always, thanks for being part of our conservation community. Here are five easy ways anyone can get involved in supporting the Izaak Walton League: Subscribe to "Conservation Currents": [iwla.org/subscribe](https://iwla.org/subscribe); Follow the League on Facebook: [facebook.com/iwla.org](https://facebook.com/iwla.org); Join the League: [iwla.org/join](https://iwla.org/join); Get League gear: [iwla.org/shop](https://iwla.org/shop); Support our 2nd Century Campaign: [iwla.org/donate](https://iwla.org/donate).

## The Science and Poetry of snowflakes

*Submitted by Alan Ferguson*

*Source Credit: University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, [The Science and Poetry of snowflakes](#)  
Scott Jared, The Well, Thursday, January 13th, 2022*

Whether you see them as “water with wings” or “hexagonal dendrites of ice,” snowflakes bring magic and wonder. Some even come from the Bahamas. Think of snowflakes, and what immediately comes to mind? Floating, feathery crystals that make you feel like you’re in a snow globe? Or, do you think of tiny hexagonal dendrites of ice formed through the Bergeron Process? Whatever your thoughts, Carolina has the right folks to delight and inform us on either view and much, much more about snowflakes. Let’s start by having climatologist Charles “Chip” Konrad unpack the facts about how snowflakes form. Then Michael Chitwood, Carolina professor and poet, will explore the lyrical wonder of snowflakes.

Konrad is director of the University’s Southeast Regional Climate Center and is also a professor in the geography department in the College of Arts & Sciences. He teaches classes such as Introduction to Weather Climate, in which he says students often express fascination with snowflakes. Snowflakes are formed by what meteorologists call the Bergeron Process, named for Swiss meteorologist Tor Bergeron, who studied clouds and precipitation. It begins in the coldest part of a cloud, where temperatures range from minus 12 degrees to minus 2 degrees Fahrenheit. “We know in the atmosphere that the temperature drops rapidly with increasing height,” Konrad said. The unique environment of clouds contains super-cooled water, ice crystals and water in a gas state or vapor. Snowflakes begin when the super-cooled water makes contact with a microscopic ice crystal. At that point, water vapor near the ice crystal gets deposited onto the crystal, going directly from a gas to a solid, a process called deposition. A snowflake is born. “They start off as microscopic ice crystals that are hexagonal with these six faces on them,” Konrad said. “There’s some preferential deposition on the corners of the hexagon and over time that’s where the crystal grows.” The growth forms branches to become a dendrite, a fancy term for a tree shape with a main trunk and big branches sprouting out to smaller branches. “The tree builds out on a microscale as the snowflake gets bigger and bigger until gravity takes over and it falls,” Konrad said. Michael Chitwood, a teaching assistant professor of English and comparative literature, has published nine books of poetry. He knows a thing or two about aesthetics. So, why do snowflakes fascinate us? “It’s the movement,” Chitwood said. “They don’t go down like rain. Sometimes they actually go back up, which makes me think of them as water with wings. “Even people who live in places where it snows a lot think they’re a beautiful, graceful thing to watch. Whereas rain is kind of a pedestrian everyday occurrence, well, snowflakes, like the song says, create a winter wonderland.” To illustrate one beautiful property of snowflakes, Chitwood points to what is arguably the most famous snowfall in American literature. It’s the sound of snowflakes on the wind, described in the third stanza of “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening:”

Whose woods these are I think I know.  
His house is in the village though;  
He will not see me stopping here  
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer  
To stop without a farmhouse near  
Between the woods and frozen lake  
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake  
To ask if there is some mistake.

The only other sound's the sweep  
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep.  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep  
*--Robert Frost.*

Yes, we've heard that sweeping sound and others, too. "There's also a kind of ticking sound that snowflakes make when they hit the ground," Chitwood said. Sound makes Konrad, the scientist, think of one of the more interesting properties of snowflakes — their effectiveness at absorbing sound. "It's so quiet oftentimes, particularly if it's snowing so heavily that sounds get extremely muted. I think that speaks to the aesthetic, the sound of the quietness as they fall," Konrad said. Chitwood also presents a poetic Bergeron Process in "Because You Asked about the Line between Prose and Poetry":

Sparrows were feeding in a freezing drizzle  
That while you watched turned into pieces of snow  
Riding a gradient invisible  
From silver aslant to random, white, and slow.  
There came a moment that you couldn't tell.  
And then they clearly flew instead of fell.  
*--Howard Nemerov.*

For the full article, see <https://thewell.unc.edu/2022/01/13/the-science-and-poetry-of-snowflakes/>.

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