



1922 2022

A Century of Conservation Leadership

# THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

## Suffolk-Nansemond Chapter



S-N IWLA Chapter Newsletter

### The Blue Heron Times (November, 2024 Issue)

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Suffolk Nansemond Chapter of  
the Izaak Walton League of  
America

#### Meetings

Chapter Board of Directors meetings are held usually on the second Monday of each month. They last met at 7pm on Monday, November 11th at the Constantia House behind Baker's Funeral Home. **Note: there is no Board meeting in December. Also, the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) meeting was canceled.**

Chapter Members Dinner meetings are held usually on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The next chapter dinner meeting will be held at **6:30pm on Wednesday, November 20th**, at the Oakland Church Community Life Center in Chuckatuck located at 5641 Godwin Blvd, Suffolk, VA 23434. The dinner menu will be baked ham, sweet potato and pineapple, green bean casserole, tossed salad, rolls, dessert and beverages. The cost will be \$10. The guest speaker will be Susan Stanley, Wildlife Biologist at the Great Dismal Swamp. Susan will be addressing species and biodiversity in the swamp. **Note: there is no monthly chapter dinner meeting in December.**

#### 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 through the end of this year is shown below:

SAT 11/9 at 10am - Prospective Member Orientation.  
SAT 11/9 at 8am - Chapter \*Park Combo Workday & Adopt-A-Road Cleanup.  
SAT 11/9 at 9am - Suffolk \*Litter Control Recycle/Tire Amnesty at Carolina Rd.  
MON 11/11 at 7pm - Chapter Board meeting.  
WED 11/20 at 6:30pm - Chapter Dinner Meeting.  
MON 12/2 - CANCELED: LRPC Meeting.  
SAT 12/14 at 10am - Prospective Member Orientation.

*Note: Events marked with an \*asterisk count towards work hour credits for meeting the chapter's annual membership volunteer participation requirement.*

#### HOLIDAYS

11/11 - Veterans Day.  
11/28 - Thanksgiving Day.  
11/29 - Native American Heritage Day.  
12/24 - Christmas Eve.  
12/25 - Christmas Day.  
12/31 - New Year's Eve.

#### President's Note

It is the time of year to count our blessings and give thanks. The farmers are bringing in the crops and the fields laid fallow for the year. The leaves are putting on their festive colors. Starting to notice the smell of wood smoke in the air. Best of all, it is flannel weather.

Finally, this makes the beginning of the holiday season with family gatherings for Thanksgiving and Christmas. This is an opportunity to catch up, reminisce and give thanks.

As we set down for Thanksgiving let us not forget all our blessings, our fellowship in conservations and those less fortunate.

"In November, the smell of food is different. It is an orange smell. A squash and pumpkin smell. It tastes like cinnamon and can fill up a house in the morning, can pull everyone from bed in a fog."

-- Cynthia Rylant

Respectfully Yours,

Chris Ferguson,  
Chapter President,  
Suffolk-Nansemond  
IWLA

## IWLA State/National

[IWLA Virginia Division](#)

[IWLANational](#)

## Backyard Conservation News

[AskHRgreen.org](#)

[Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#)

[Department of Conservation & Recreation](#)

[Division of Wildlife Resources](#)

[Hoffer Creek Wildlife Foundation and Preserve](#)

[Nansemond River Preservation Alliance](#)

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

[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

## 2025 Membership Dues and 2024 Service Participation Hours

*Message from Alan Ferguson, Membership Chair*

Membership renewal notices were mailed out on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. Please be on the lookout for them in your mail.

If you have not received it by the November dinner meeting, please contact Membership Chair, Alan Ferguson at email address [Alan.Ferguson.IWLA@gmail.com](mailto:Alan.Ferguson.IWLA@gmail.com).

Membership dues can be paid at the November dinner meeting or by mail using the address label provided with your renewal notice. Membership dues not paid by the January dinner meeting are considered late and the member will be charged a \$20 late fee.

Each member is required to provide 8 hours of direct service to the chapter. Our membership [participation policy](#) can be found on the chapter website under the Members/Members Participation Policy main menu.

If you know that you did not meet the 8-hour minimum, you can include the \$50 fee with your membership dues. This would save the Chapter from sending you an invoice and delaying your membership renewal. Please send your participation forms or your check, made payable to **S-N IWLA**, to **Alan Ferguson at 3231 Matoaka Road, Suffolk, VA 23434**.

## Newsletter Editor Correction

A correction is noted for the September Issue of our chapter newsletter: the guest speaker for our August chapter dinner meeting was **Andrea** Davis, not Angela Davis. We thoroughly enjoyed her presentation on Sustainable Landscaping Practices.

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## Recipe of the Month - Chicken Thigh Osso Bucco

Chicken Thigh Osso Bucco is a nice twist on the Italian classic dish Ossobuco which in Italian means 'bone with a hole', a reference to the marrow hole at the center of a cross-cut veal shank.



Source Credits:

<https://www.thegratefulgirlcooks.com/>

<https://dinnerthendessert.com/clinton-kelleys-chicken-thigh-osso-bucco/>

Yield: 8 servings

### Ingredients

- 8 chicken thighs (bone-in, skin on)
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon Kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 onion (diced)
- 1 carrot (peeled, diced)
- 2 cloves garlic (minced)
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1 cup white wine
- 1 cup chicken stock
- 1/2 teaspoon dried rosemary
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- parsley for garnish
- several potatoes

### Instructions

Add the flour in a shallow plate and season with salt and pepper. Dredge both sides of the chicken thighs in the seasoned flour, shaking off the excess.

In a large Dutch oven over medium heat, add olive oil. Sear the chicken thighs until browned on both sides. Do this in two batches of 4 so you don't crowd the plate. Remove browned thighs to a plate.

Add the onion and carrot and sauté until soft, about 5 minutes. Add 2 cloves minced garlic, and cook about 1 more minute. Add tomato paste mix well with all the ingredients. Cook for another minute.

Add the wine, chicken stock, rosemary and thyme. Cook until the liquids are reduced by about half. Add the chicken back to the pan. Reduce heat to low.

Cover and simmer 45 minutes until chicken is cooked through. Serve over mashed potatoes with a chicken thigh and a spoonful of veggies and sauce. Top with parsley if you would like.

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## Recipe for Mexican Black Bean and Corn Salad

By popular request, the recipe for the bean and corn salad, that was served at the September chapter dinner meeting, is shown below. As was commented by Chapter Ike Troy Merryfield, "That was absolutely the most fantastic corn salad I have ever had!!!!!!".

**Recipe Source Credit:** Chapter Food Chair Claudia Powell

### Ingredients

- 3 cups corn kernels, cooked
- and cooled
- 2 medium tomatoes, diced
- 1 can black beans 15
- ounce size, rinsed and drained
- 1/2 small red onion, finely
- chopped
- 1/2 cup chopped parsley
- For the vinaigrette:
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- grated zest and juice of 1 lime
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 tsp chili powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp ground cumin
- 1/4 tsp ground chipotle powder

### Instructions

Place the corn, tomatoes, black beans, red onion and chopped parsley in a large mixing bowl.  
Combine all the ingredients for the vinaigrette in a small measuring cup  
Whisk until well combined.  
Pour over the salad and toss.  
Serve immediately or place in the fridge for about an hour to allow flavors to meld.  
This salad will keep well for 4-5 days in the refrigerator.

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## Recap of the September Chapter Dinner Meeting



The September 19th member's meeting was held at the Oakland Community Life Center. A taco bar accompanied by an array of deserts were enjoyed by attendees. The guest speakers for the evening were Conservation Police Officers, Kyle Jones and Bonnie Braziel (pictured here). The officers discussed their areas of responsibility including enforcement of fishing and hunting regulations and boating safety.

Officer Braziel is also a K9 officer, and she introduced her partner "Officer Grace". (Note the badge attached to Officer Grace's



collar). Officer Braziel explained some of the ways her K9 partner is used in the field. The uses range from locating missing persons or tracking poachers to evidence recovery. Using her special K9 talents she is very helpful in recreating the circumstances of a scene by locating shell casings as well as other evidence. The Conservation Police rely on input from the general public to aid in identifying and correcting problems. If you see a violation or note problems such as night hunting or trespassing, you can call the 24hr crime line at 1-800-237-5712. For the full article see the news posting on our chapter website entitled [September 2024 Members Meeting](#).

## Recap of the September Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge 50 Year Celebration



On a beautiful, sunny morning on Saturday, September 21st, S-N IWLA chapter board member Mike Lane, members Ray and Claudia Powell (shown here on the left), and members Kathy and Bob Marchant (shown here below on the right), participated in the 50th anniversary Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (GDSNWR) celebration held at the new Jerico Ditch trailhead entrance off of White Marsh Road. A display table was setup to meet-n-greet the general public, and for handing out free turkey feathers, bottled water, juice boxes, and informational flyers about our chapter. The



flyer described our mission statement, park resources, and scheduled activities throughout the year.

There were several scheduled activities at the event including guided nature walks, bus tours and bike rides, as well as educational program talks given by GDSNWR personnel on history, wildlife and land management. The Nansemond Indian Tribe gave a Dance Demonstration and there was a theater performance "A MaroonStory" presented at the main stage. There were live animals on display at the wildlife rehabilitation tent, as well as archery, inflatable axe throwing, scavenger hunts, arts and crafts, and food vendor trucks.

All-in-all it was a very enjoyable day and it was a lot of fun to talk with local Suffolians and folks from neighboring Hampton Roads communities as well as folks just passing through from out-of-state.

For the full article including more photographs taken by chapter Vice President Darden Langston at the event, see news posting on our chapter website entitled [Great Dismal Swamp 50 Year Celebration](#).

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## Recap of October River Cleanup

On the morning of Saturday, October 12th, Chapter Board Member Mike Lane, and Sam Chambers (Chapter Save Our Streams(SOS)/Clean Water Liaison Chair) helped clean up trash along the Nansemond River shoreline by participating in a river cleanup event being coordinated by Suffolk's Litter Control Department (Keep Suffolk Beautiful). Said Sam Chambers, "Mike Lane and I picked up 18 bags (lot of heavy glass) and some furniture and scrap metal".

Thanks, guys for representing our chapter at this cleanup event!



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## Recap of the October Chapter Dinner Meeting



On the evening of October 16th about 30 Chapter members and guests showed up for the annual fish fry dinner meeting, cooked up by Chapter Ikes Jonathan Echols and Les Ward, with some help from the cooking committee, as well as other members, in supplying coleslaw and desserts. The fish, hush puppies, and french fries were absolutely delicious!

The guest speaker for the evening was Cathy Fox (shown here on the left), a "Stop the Bleed" instructor, who educated the group with hands on instruction on how to recognize situations where there is life-threatening



bleeding and how to use proper techniques for intervening effectively. She stressed the importance of calling 911, locating the source(s) of the bleeding, applying compression with pressure and/or wound packing, applying tourniquets as required, and staying around until help arrives. For more information see the website <https://www.stopthebleed.org/> and also the full news article posted on our chapter website entitled [October 2024 Chapter Dinner Meeting](#).

At this dinner meeting, Chapter President Chris Ferguson swore in new member Jim Funk, shown above to the right. Welcome to the chapter, Jim!

## Recap of the November 2nd Chapter Campfire Roast at the Park

What started as a casual conversation at the Chapter Picnic earlier this year became an enjoyable fall evening around the fire ring at the park on Saturday evening. The Chapter sponsored the first Campfire Roast on November 2, complete with fire-roasted hot dogs and the campfire classic, s'mores. The weather couldn't have been more perfect, brisk but not too cold. Everyone circled around the fire ring as the daylight faded. There were no bugs, no snakes and no soccer games. The only sounds were friendly conversations and requests for more marshmallows to toast.



The Campfire was an opportunity to get together with no agenda, no "to do list" and just enjoy the fellowship. Chapter Ikes gathered round the campfire and shared stories and smiles. For the little ones, it was their first experience seeing a campfire. Our honorary furry Ike, Lucy, enjoyed herself lying next to the warmth and sharing the hot dogs that ended up missing mouths and hitting the dirt. This was the first Campfire Roast hosted by the Chapter and based on the comments, it should be considered a "do over".



For the full article including more photographs see the news posting on our chapter website entitled [November 2024 Park Campfire Roast](#).

## IWLA National League Advocates for Grasslands Conservation - Press Release 10/15/2024

Washington, D.C. – The North American Grasslands Conservation Act was introduced in the House of Representatives on 10/8/2024 and once passed the legislation will be one of the most significant steps for grassland conservation efforts in the 21st century.

“Conserving and restoring grasslands will help improve water quality, protect critical wildlife habitat and fight climate change. The investments in this legislation are a critical down payment in protecting some of our most endangered ecosystems,” said Jared Mott, Conservation Director for the Izaak Walton League of America. “We are grateful for the leadership of Representatives Mace, Davids, Fitzpatrick, and Thompson and the rest of our coalition partners and look forward to advancing the solutions found in this common-sense, bipartisan legislation.”

The Grasslands Act would kickstart the voluntary protection and restoration of grasslands and sagebrushsteppe ecosystems – and the livelihoods and wildlife dependent upon them. Functionally, the legislation is modeled after the successful North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) and would create a landowner-driven, voluntary, incentive-based program to conserve America’s critically imperiled grasslands. There’s urgency to maintain these grassland biomes for agriculture, wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration and for future generations while supporting ranchers, farmers, Tribal Nations, sportsmen and women and rural communities.

More than 45 organizations are collaborating in support of the Grasslands Act. A full roster of those groups can be found at [www.ActforGrasslands.org](http://www.ActforGrasslands.org). Additionally, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology has partnered with the coalition to develop the [www.MapForGrasslands.org](http://www.MapForGrasslands.org) website, which provides a powerful tool to visualize the loss of grasslands habitat. For more information, see the full Press Release entitled "League Advocates for Grasslands Conservation" posted on the IWLA National website under the Media/NewsRoom main menu.

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