



*S-N IWLA Chapter Newsletter*

### Points of Contact

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### IWLA State/National

[IWLA Virginia Division](#)  
[IWLANational](#)

### Backyard Conservation News

[AskHRgreen.org](#)  
[Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#)  
[Department of Conserv. & Recreation](#)  
[Division of Wildlife Resources](#)  
[Hoffler Creek Wildlife Foundation](#)  
[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 St.  
Suffolk, VA 23434

**Appomattox River Company**  
(757)890-0500; 3009 W. Mercury Blvd.  
Hampton, VA 23666

**Arzillo Recycling (Scrap Metal)**  
(757)539-8593; Suffolk & PTMS Blvd.

### The Blue Heron Times (June, 2025 Issue)

### Meetings

Chapter Board of Directors meetings are held on the second Monday of each month. They last met at 7pm on **Monday, June 9th** at the Constantia House behind Baker's Funeral Home. The next month's Board meeting will be at 7pm on **Monday, July 14th** at the same location.

Chapter Members Dinner meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The next chapter dinner meeting will be held at **6:30pm on Wednesday, June 18th** at the Oakland Church Community Life Center in Chuckatuck located at 5641 Godwin Blvd, Suffolk, VA 23434.

The dinner menu will be roasted pork loin with sides of yams with pineapple, a vegetable medley, tossed salad, rolls, tea, and ice cream for dessert. The cost will be \$10. The guest speaker will be Austin (AJ) Kulp who will give a presentation on Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences.

### Chris Ferguson is New IWLA VA Division National Director/Board Member

*A Message from Ernie Padgette, President IWLA Virginia Division*

"All; Christopher Ferguson has agreed to serve as our new National Director and Division BOD (Board of Directors) member. He is assigned our two chapters (Norfolk-Chesapeake and Suffolk Nansemond) in the tidewater area. Please join me in welcoming him aboard.

Thanks; *Ernie P.*"

### NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS:

At the June 18th dinner meeting the Nominations/Elections Chair will present a slate of officers and board members for the 2025-2026 term, and additionally, nominations will be accepted from the floor.

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## 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 **July** is shown below:

SUN 6/1 - IWLA National Award Submissions Due.  
SAT 6/7 at 11am - Park Gazebo Area Use Reserved.  
SAT 6/7 at 9am - \*River Cleanup (Keep Suffolk Beautiful/ National Clean Bay Day).  
MON 6/9 at 7pm - Board Meeting.  
WED 6/18 at 6:30pm - Dinner Meeting with Nominations of Officers and Board Members.  
SAT 6/28 at 8am - \*RECYCLING DRIVE by Keep Suffolk Beautiful at Florence Bowser Elementary.  
MON 7/14 at 7pm - Board Meeting.  
WED 7/16 at 6:30pm - Dinner Meeting with Elections of Officers and Board Members.  
FRI 7/19 & SAT 7/19 - IWLA National Convention.

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

### HOLIDAYS and COMMUNITY EVENTS

SAT 6/14 - Flag Day. SUN 6/15 - Father's Day.  
THR 6/19 - Juneteenth. FRI 7/4 - Independence Day.

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## President's Note

The June Solstice or Summer Solstice is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. Despite recent temperatures and rainy weather, summer is here, and you should get out and enjoy it. We are also halfway through the year. It is a good time to volunteer to cut the grass or clean up the park for your work credits if you are unable to make it for a workday. Check with Jimmy Fanny as to what needs doing. Whatever you do, get out and enjoy our natural world and all its wonders. "The castle grounds were gleaming in the sunlight as though freshly painted; the cloudless sky smiled at itself in the smoothly sparkling lake, the satin-green lawns rippled occasionally in a gentle breeze: June had arrived."  
– J.K. Rowling

Respectfully Yours,

Chris Ferguson,  
Chapter President,  
Suffolk-Nansemond IWLA

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## Recipe of the Month - Pasta Alla Norma (Pasta with Eggplant)

Source Credit: <https://www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-ideas/a34151085/pasta-alla-norma-recipe/>  
by [Makinze Gore](#), [Delish Test Kitchen](#).

Servings: 4



### Ingredients

- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil, plus more as needed
- 1 lb. eggplant, cut into 1-inch cubes
- Kosher salt
- 1 lb. rigatoni
- 1 small yellow onion, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp. dried oregano
- 1/4 tsp. red pepper flakes
- 1 (28-oz.) can crushed tomatoes
- Freshly ground black pepper
- Ricotta salata, for serving
- Basil, for serving

### Instructions

1. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil.
2. Add rigatoni and boil until al dente according to box instructions.
3. Reserve 1 cup pasta water, then drain.
4. In another large pot over medium heat, heat oil.
5. Add eggplant, working in batches as necessary to not overcrowd the pan.
6. Cook eggplant until crispy and golden and soft inside, 8 to 10 minutes.
7. Place on a plate to drain and season with salt. Repeat with remaining eggplant, adding more oil as needed.
8. Drain all but 2 tablespoons of oil from pot or add more oil as needed.
9. Add onion and cook until soft, 5 minutes.
10. Add garlic, oregano, and red pepper flakes and cook until fragrant, 1 minute more.
11. Add crushed tomatoes and bring to a simmer.
12. Season with salt and pepper. Let simmer 10 minutes.
13. Add pasta and 1/4 cup pasta water and toss to coat.
14. Add in eggplant, along with any oil on the plate.
15. Add more pasta water to loosen sauce as needed.
16. Serve warm with ricotta salata and fresh basil.

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## Recap of May Member's Picnic at the Park on May 17th



After the previous day's torrential rains and winds with resulting fallen trees and power outages throughout the eastern seaboard, on Saturday morning, May 17th, the weather turned out to be just perfect for a



chapter picnic at the park. Cool breezes and sunny weather were enjoyed by about twenty-five chapter Ikes and their family members who gathered at the park gazebo for a hamburger and hotdog cookout. At this picnic, a new member Rob Lurie (shown on the left in this photo to the right), was welcomed into the chapter after being sworn in by Vice President Darden Langston. For more photos taken at this event, see the news article posted on our chapter website entitled [May Members Picnic at the Park](#).

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## Recap of Scavenger Hunt Youth Activity at Chapter Park on May 24th



On a beautiful Saturday in May, our chapter conducted the first pilot Youth Program Scavenger Hunt. In addition to the park tree and plant life that have been marked, Youth Committee members hid deer antlers, snake skins, turkey feathers, broken arrows and other artifacts along the walking trail that wraps the lake.

This year the event was kept to a small number of participants

to test out the concept. This small group of hunters was very sharp and in fact were able to capture four Teddy Bears that had escaped capture during the Teddy Bear Hunt in April. At the end of the Scavenger Hunt, hunters proudly displayed their booty. Two of our Tiny Ikes, Anna and Jessica, did exceptionally well as you can see in the photo to the left. To the right is a photo of another Tiny Ike proudly displaying a deer antler that she found. For more photos taken at this event, see the news article entitled [Recap of Scavenger Hunt Youth Activity](#) posted on our chapter website.



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## \*Volunteer Opportunity - NORTH SUFFOLK RECYCLING DRIVE - Keep Suffolk Beautiful

When? **Saturday, June 28, 2025 8 AM – 11 AM**

Where? **Florence Bowser Elementary School** located at 4540 Nansemond Parkway, Suffolk, VA 23435

### Items Accepted for Drop-Off:

- Gently used clothing & shoes, Electronics (TVs ≤42", no tube TVs)
- CFL bulbs & batteries, Plastic bottles, jugs & bags
- Glass containers, Cardboard, paper & magazines
- Eyeglasses & hearing aids (also accepted by the Lions Club, who will be on-site selling brooms)
- Household hazardous waste (cleaning supplies, automotive products, indoor pesticides, paint – limit 5 gallons, ID required)
- Personal documents for shredding (prevent identity theft)
- U.S. flags (for proper decommissioning)
- Plant pots (accepted by Suffolk Master Gardeners)
- Mosquito dunks available for Suffolk residents (bring Suffolk ID)

**Questions? Call (757) 514-7604 or email [ksb@suffolkva.us](mailto:ksb@suffolkva.us).**

\*Note: Although this event is not coordinated by our S-N IWLA chapter, our members can earn chapter volunteer work credit hours towards accumulating the required annual minimum volunteer participation hours. See <https://sniwla.org/sniwla/membership-info/membership-participation-policy/> for more information.

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## IWLA National Conservation Issue: Protect Public Lands, Clean Water, and Natural Heritage.

*Message from Jared Mott, Conservation Director, Izaak Walton League of America*

"Right now, the House budget reconciliation bill includes a dangerous provision that would authorize the sale of up to 500,000 acres of public lands in Utah and Nevada—land that belongs to all Americans. This proposal bypasses the bipartisan Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA), which ensures that revenue from land sales is reinvested in conservation and public access. If allowed to proceed, it sets a dangerous precedent that could lead to even more widespread public land sell-offs in the future."

For more information, see the IWLA National news article posted on their web site at:  
<https://iwla.org/conservation-priorities/advocate/#/>.

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