



THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Suffolk-Nansemond Chapter



S-N IWLA Chapter Newsletter

Points of Contact

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Chapter website: sniwla.org

WebMaster: webmaster@sniwla.org

IWLA State/National

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

Backyard Conservation News

AskHROrgreen.org
[Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#)
[Department of Conservation & 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 Street
Suffolk, VA 23434

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

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

Meetings

The Chapter's Board of Directors met at 7pm on **Monday, September 8th** at the Constantia House behind Baker's Funeral Home. Next month's Board meeting will be at 7pm on **Monday, October 13th** 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, September 17th** at the Oakland Church Community Life Center located in Chuckatuck at 5641 Godwin Blvd, Suffolk, VA 23434.

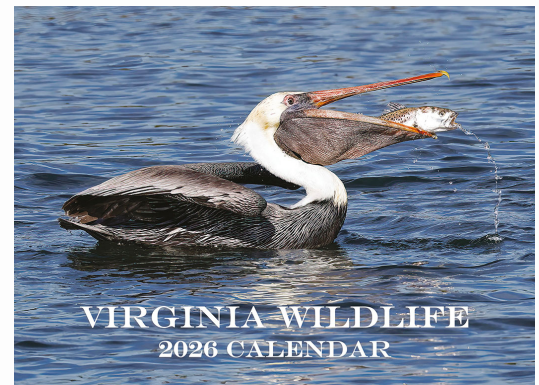
The dinner menu will be Italian sausage and pepper subs, tossed salad with dressing, and iced tea with assorted desserts. The cost will be \$10. In lieu of a guest speaker, the Treasurer will present a history of our chapter covering how the park and fishing pond were created by our chapter's founding charter members, an overview of recent park parcel acquisitions, and current status of the chapter park's dam. We encourage new members to come to the meeting to learn more.

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 **October** is shown to the right.

2026 Wildlife Calendars

Get Your 2026 Wildlife Calendars! You can buy a DWR (Department of Wildlife Resources) 2026 wildlife calendar at the September Chapter dinner meeting sign-in table.



The cost will be \$10 each, which is 37% off the retail price. Quantities are limited. Any questions please contact Virginia Wahab at wahabv@cox.net who is coordinating the sale of these wildlife calendars.

MON 9/8 - Board Meeting.
SAT 9/13 at 9am - Center-Fire Shooting Competition.
MON 9/17 at 6:30pm - Dinner Meeting.
SAT 9/20 at 8am - *Park Maintenance Workday.
SAT 9/27 at 9am - *Fishing Rodeo Youth Event (Open-to-Public).
SAT 10/11 at 8am - *Park Maintenance Workday.
WED 10/15 at 6:30pm - Fish Fry Dinner Meeting.
SAT 10/18 - *Blue Star Youth Fishing Event.

HOLIDAYS and COMMUNITY EVENTS:
MON 9/1 - Labor Day.
SAT 9/13 at 11am - Taste of Suffolk Street Festival Downtown.
MON 10/13 - Columbus Day.
SAT 10/25 at 3pm - Suffolk Halloween *Cleanup.

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

President's Note

Last month I commented on the unseasonably cool weather at the start of August and here we go again. I am not complaining, little to no use of A/C or heat, although I have smelled a few wood fires while out and about.

September 1st is the start of Meteorological Fall, while Astrological Fall is September 22nd-23rd. This is an enjoyable time to go outside and enjoy nature or volunteer in the park. We have several events coming up for which you can volunteer.

Soon the even crisper days will be here, with fall foliage, apple picking and fresh pressed apple cider.

"September has come, it is hers whose vitality leaps in the autumn, where nature prefers trees without leaves and a fire in the fireplace." – Louis MacNeice

Respectfully Yours,

Chris Ferguson,
Chapter President,
Suffolk-Nansemond IWLA

Membership Participation Policy

*Changes to the Policy that were Made Effective as of January 1st, 2025. **Note: This article is reprinted from the August, 2025 newsletter issue.***

Members, we are over halfway through the 2025 calendar year. Have you provided your 8 hours of service to the chapter? A reminder, the Board of Directors made changes to the Membership Participation Policy at their November 2024 Board meeting, effective as of January 1st, 2025. The Board was prompted to make these changes to encourage participation by its members in chapter events and activities. The following committees schedule service events throughout the year and give a variety of opportunities to earn service hours:

- Adopt-A-Road,
- Park Maintenance,
- Food & Facilities,
- Save Our Streams,
- Fund Raising,
- Scholarship,
- Membership Orientation, and
- Youth Programs.

You can find a written summary of the activities for each of these committees on the chapter website at <https://sniwla.org/sniwla/committees/>. The Board increased the non-participation fee for this year from \$50 to \$150. The fee cannot be prorated for hours of service less than 8 hours. Members who turn 75 or are older are exempt from providing service but are welcome to participate. All completed participation forms are required to be submitted to the Membership Committee by December 1st to be credited for the required service hours.

Additionally, policy exemption waiver request forms will need to be completed and submitted for approval by the board before December 1st and preferably not at the last minute.

To see the Membership Participation Policy click on <https://sniwla.org/sniwla/membership-info/membership-participation-policy/>. To see the chapter calendar and the upcoming events click on <https://sniwla.org/sniwla/calendar/>.

Alan Ferguson
Membership Chair

Recipe of the Month - Crock Pot Tortilla Soup



Source Credit: Holly Nilsson

<https://www.spendwithpennies.com/author/holly/>

<https://www.spendwithpennies.com/slow-cooker-chicken-tortilla-soup>

Servings: 6

Ingredients

- 2 Chicken breasts, boneless skinless
- 15 oz Black beans, canned
- 1/4 cup Cilantro, fresh
- 1 cup Corn, frozen kernels
- 3 cloves Garlic, large
- 1 Jalapeno
- 1 Onion
- 14 oz Tomatoes
- 10 oz Tomatoes with chilies, canned
- 4 cups Chicken broth
- 2 tsp Chili powder
- 1 tbsp Olive oil
- 2 tsp Cumin
- 6 Corn tortillas (6-inch, small)

Instructions

1. Cook onion, garlic, and jalapeno (or green chiles) in olive oil until they are softened and add to the Crock Pot.
2. Place all ingredients in the slow cooker and cook on high for 4 hours or low for 8.
3. Before serving, shred the cooked chicken and add back to the soup.
4. Serve with tortilla strips or broken up tortilla chips for extra crunch!

Chapter IKE Mike Lane receives prestigious IWLA National Conservation Award



Chapter IKE Mike Lane received a 2024 National Conservation Award at the August, 2025 chapter members' meeting. The award was presented to him by chapter President, Chris Ferguson. Mike received the award for his contributions both to the chapter and other community conservation projects. Of particular note, Mike's involvement was instrumental in the creation of the Jericho Lane Trailhead Project at the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Mike spent many hours involved with the project from 2003 until 2024. Through his patience and dedication, working in collaboration with state and local organizations, the project was dedicated on Sept. 21, 2024 to align with the refuge's 50th anniversary.

Mike has been a chapter member since 1989 and currently serves on the Board of Directors. He has previously served on the National Board of Directors as well. He holds a degree in Forestry and Wildlife from Virginia Tech. After working for several years on wildlife projects and as a forester, he worked as a wetlands scientist for about 12 years with an environmental consulting company. He has been self-employed since 2003 as an environmental consultant. He enjoys canoeing, hunting, fishing, hiking and working on rare plant conservation efforts around his farm. He is involved in a number of

conservation and outdoor recreation related projects and has served on Suffolk's Clean City Commission for many years. He has provided guidance to the chapter on numerous conservation projects and issues over the years and has helped the chapter with a number of regulatory and property related matters. Mike chairs several chapter committees including the Conservation/ Environmental Issues committee and the Adopt-A-Road committee.

Congratulations, Mike, on the well-deserved recognition of your conservation contributions to both the chapter and the community!

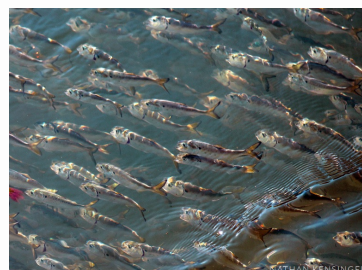
This article has been posted on our chapter website at <https://sniwla.org/sniwla/chapter-ike-receives-national-iwla-award/>.

Recap of the August Chapter Dinner Meeting



The guest speaker for the meeting was Will Poston. Will is a Forage Campaign Manager for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF). Will is currently focused on the Menhaden fishery in the Chesapeake Bay. A school of menhaden is shown to the right.

For a CBF handout that summarizes Will's presentation, see [Menhaden Fact Sheet](#). Also, for more information about why menhaden are important to the health of the Chesapeake Bay, see <https://www.cbf.org/about-the-bay/chesapeake-wildlife/menhaden/index.html>.



New member Thomas Tomasco (shown on the left in the picture below) was sworn in by chapter president Chris Ferguson. Welcome to the chapter Thomas! Also, the 2025-2026 Officers and Board of Directors also were sworn in at the meeting. Pictured below from left to right are board members Eric Fjell, Mike Lane, Jimmy Fanny, Gary Brown, Chris Trimpey, Secretary Priscilla Taylor, Treasurer Tim Doxey, board member Bruce Kliche and Vice President Darden Langston. After being sworn in, the Vice President swore in Chris Ferguson as chapter president. This article is posted on our website at <https://sniwla.org/sniwla/august-2025-members-meeting/>.



Local Community Event: Taste of Suffolk Downtown Street Festival Scheduled for September 13th

Suffolk Parks & Recreation is holding their 19th annual Taste of Suffolk Downtown Street Festival on Saturday, September 13, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in historic downtown Suffolk, with an After-Party from 5 to 8 p.m. It will feature a day of delicious food, entertainment, and activities for children, all within walking distance. For more information, see <https://www.tasteofsuffolkva.com/>.

Park Maintenance *Work Day Scheduled for Saturday, September 20th

Message from Board Member/Park Manager Jimmy Fanny

Members, once again, we need your help! There's a lot to be done to spruce up the park for our upcoming Fishing Rodeo event. Priority tasks include the tasks of mowing throughout the park, blowing leaves from the gazebo area, and trimming weeds especially from around the pond's perimeter to facilitate bait casting. Also we should trim any overhanging limbs alongside driving/walking paths. Any potholes in driving paths should be filled and if any ditches are clogged with leaves they should be cleared.

Members should plan to assemble at the park gazebo at **8am** to review the work that needs to be done. Tools needed may include mowers, trimmers, leaf blowers, rakes, shovels, chain saws and pruning tools. Please wear heavy work boots and bring gloves, sunscreen lotion, insect repellent, hearing protection, and safety glasses.

**Note: This event is applicable for chapter work hour credits in accordance with our Chapter's [membership participation](#) policy.*

Chapter Youth *Fishing Rodeo Open-to-the-Public Event is Scheduled for Saturday, September 27th

Message from Gary Brown, Fishing Rodeo Event Coordinator;
Article reprinted from the chapter newsletter August, 2025 issue.

Our chapter is hosting the annual open-to-the-public Youth *Fishing Rodeo at our chapter park on Saturday, September 27th at 9am. Please R.S.V.P the event coordinator, Chapter Board Member Gary Brown, at gtbrown213@gmail.com in advance to sign-up to participate. For more information, see the flyer below. To access a printable PDF version of it, click on the flyer itself or browse to the chapter news article entitled Youth Fishing Rodeo under our chapter website's news menu.

For this event, Gary is asking our Chapter members to donate single-serving pre-packaged snacks. He asks that you bring these items to the September monthly chapter dinners meeting. **Gary will coordinate the collection of all donated items so that we know what we will have on hand for the event.** The Chapter will provide beverages for the event such as bottled water and juice box drinks with coolers/ice to keep them cold.

Also, for those members who are interested in volunteering to work at this event, please contact Gary using his contact info shown above to sign up for specific work roster assignments. Alternatively, you may sign up with Gary at the September dinner meeting mentioned above. **Note: The hours you work will be credited to help you meet your chapter membership participation annual 8 hour requirement.*

Suffolk-Nansemond Chapter Izaak Walton League of America

Youth Fishing Rodeo
Saturday, September 27th 2025



Location: 480 Kings Fork Road, Suffolk, VA
Parking Instructions:
Go through front gate at the chapter park's main entrance

Registration/Safety Briefing 8am - 9am
Fishing 9am - 11:30am

Beverages and Snacks will be provided

Open-to-the-Public Event
For kids ages 4 -15 Cost \$5 per angler

Only 25 spots are available, please R.S.V.P the event coordinator, Gary Brown, at 757-642-0008 or gtbrown213@gmail.com in advance to sign up.

We will provide all equipment and anglers will be given certificates. No fishing license is required. Bring your kids to show them how much fun they can have fishing!!

Chapter website: <https://sniwla.org> flyer revision v2025-07-27

S-N IWLA Chapter is Hosting *Blue Star Connect Outdoors for a Fishing Event on Saturday, October 18th

On October 18th, the S-N IWLA chapter will host Blue Star Connect Outdoors for a fishing event. We are expecting 30-40 kids and 35 adults. The scheduled date is **October 18th from 9am to 12pm Noon**; this is a rain or shine event.

**Note: This will be the last event that the Youth Committee will be offering this year for members to be able to earn hours towards their annual [membership participation policy](#) requirement.*

In order to make the event a success volunteers are needed for the following positions:

- Fishing Instructors (qty 6).
- Parking Control (qty 2) -- *may also serve as a Fishing instructor.*
- Artifact Hiders/Safety Monitors (qty 2) -- *may also serve as a Fishing instructor.*

Volunteers will assemble at the park at 8AM for safety/event briefings/preparations to ensure we are fully prepared for Blue Star Connect Outdoors arrival.

To learn more about Blue Star Connect Outdoors please visit their website at URL: [Blue Star Connect Outdoors - Blue Star Families](#).

If you are interested in a fun event to obtain some of your annual required volunteer hours and/or have items found in nature that could be found by children at the event, please contact Mr. Chris Trimpey, our chapter Youth Program Chair, at email: chris_trimpey@hotmail.com or (757) 449-4910 to sign up for the event.

[forward to a friend](#)

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