October 14th, 2025

*S-N IWLA Chapter Newsletter*

**The Blue Heron Times (October, 2025 Issue)**

## Points of Contact

**President: Chris Ferguson**
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**Park Use Reservations Chair: Allen Kiger**
akiger00@hotmail.com **757.650.8530(m)**

**Membership Chair: Alan Ferguson**
SNIWLAmdr@gmail.com
**757-292-3705(m)**

**Speaker Coordinator: H.J. Miller**
info@sniwla.org **m:757-539-9290**

**Chapter website:** sniwla.org

**WebMaster:** webmaster@sniwla.org

## IWLA State/National

IWLA Virginia Division

IWLA National

## Backyard Conservation News

AskHRgreen.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**

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

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

## Meetings

Chapter Board of Directors meetings are held on the second Monday of each month. They last met at 7pm on **Monday, October 13th** at the Constantia House behind Baker's Funeral Home. The next month's Board meeting will be at 7pm on **Monday, November 10th** at the same location.

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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, October 15th** at the Oakland Church Community Life Center located in Chuckatuck at 5641 Godwin Blvd, Suffolk, VA 23434.

The dinner menu will be a Fish Fry with hush puppies, cole slaw, french fries with assorted desserts cooked up by Chapter Ike Jonathan Echols with help from Chapter Ike Les Ward and the Cooking Committee. The cost will be $10.

The guest speaker for the evening will be Linda Byrd-Masters, who's presentation is entitled "It Takes A Village…Two Approaches to Conservation".

Linda is a graduate of both ODU (undergrad – Counseling) and Virginia Tech (M.S. Plant Science and Pest Management; worked at Tidewater AREC in Suffolk 1993 to present; Lab and Research Specialist for the Plant Pathology Department; volunteer with the Historic Southside Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalist; native of Nansemond County/Suffolk, husband Jim, son Travis; enjoy kayaking, outdoor adventures, playing music, camping with friends, and any time spent in Hatteras NC.

## President's Note

It is that time of year; October is here. It's a great time to go outside and enjoy what nature has to offer. Warm days. cool nights, flannel shirts and blue jeans, apples, and fresh cider. Clearly my favorite time of the year.

The chapter has had a busy year. Despite the forecast, the fishing rodeo had a good turnout, and the fish did not read the forecast.

There is still time for Chapter Members who have not yet done so to get their required minimum of 8 volunteer work hours for this year. See the article directly below entitled "Volunteer Opportunities" for more information.

"In the entire circle of the year there are no days so delightful as those of a fine October, when the trees are bare to the mild heavens, and the red leaves bestrew the road, and you can feel the breath of winter, morning and evening—no days so calm, so tenderly solemn, and with such a reverent meekness in the air."
—Alexander Smith

Respectfully Yours,

Chris Ferguson,
Chapter President,
Suffolk-Nansemond IWLA

## Volunteer Opportunities

Members, a reminder, there are three scheduled events remaining for the calendar year at which you may earn volunteer participation work hours prior to the December 1st, 2025 cut-off in accordance with the Chapter's membership participation policy as posted on our chapter website.

As shown under "Calendar of Events", they are:

## 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 end of year is shown below:

**WED 10/15 at 6:30pm - Fish Fry Dinner Meeting.**
**SAT 10/18 - *Blue Star Youth Fishing Event.**
**SAT 11/1 at 10am- Prospective Member Orientation.**
**SAT 11/8 at 5:00pm - Campfire Roast Members-Only.**
**MON 11/10 at 8pm - Chapter Board Meeting.**
**WED 11/19 at 6:30pm - Chapter Dinner Meeting.**
***THERE ARE NO MEETINGS in DECEMBER.***

***VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY EVENTS:***
**SAT 10/25 at 3pm - Suffolk HALLOWEEN *CLEANUP event.**
**SAT 11/15 at 9am - Suffolk SCCC *Recycle Event.**

***HOLIDAYS:***
**MON 10/13 - Columbus/Indigenous Peoples' Day**
**FRI 10/31 - Halloween.**
**SUN 11/2 - Daylight Savings Ends.**
**TUE 11/4 - Election Day.**
**TUE 11/11 - Veterans Day.**
**THR 11/27 - Thanksgiving.**
**FRI 11/28 - Black Friday.**
**THR 12/24 - Christmas Eve.**
**SAT 12/25 - Christmas Day.**
**WED 12/31 - New Year's Eve.**

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

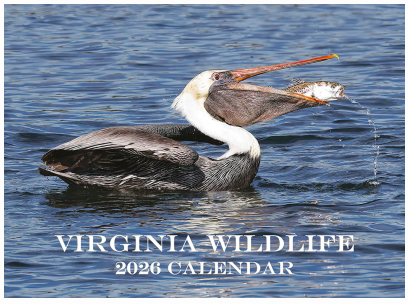
- Chapter-sponsored *Blue Star Youth Fishing Event scheduled for 10/18 at our chapter park.
- City of Suffolk-sponsored community event HALLOWEEN *CLEANUP scheduled for 10/25.
- City of Suffolk-sponsored community event "SCCC *Recycle Event" scheduled for 11/15.

More information about each of these three events is provided later in this newsletter issue.

Also, if any Member is in need of additional volunteer participation work hours, they may contact Chapter Board Member/Park Maintenance Chair Jimmy Fanny directly at jimfan@juno.com or mobile number 757.672.6735 for instructions on specific work tasks that need doing at the chapter park that a Member could do on their own time solo. Such work would be recorded on the park gate sign-in sheet by checking the work column with an X an annotating the work that you did in the comments.

## 2026 Wildlife Calendars

Get Your 2026 Wildlife Calendars! You can buy a DWR (Department of Wildlife Resources) 2026 wildlife calendar at the October Chapter dinner meeting sign-in table. Donation cost is $10. This equates to 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.



## 2026 Membership Dues - Action Required

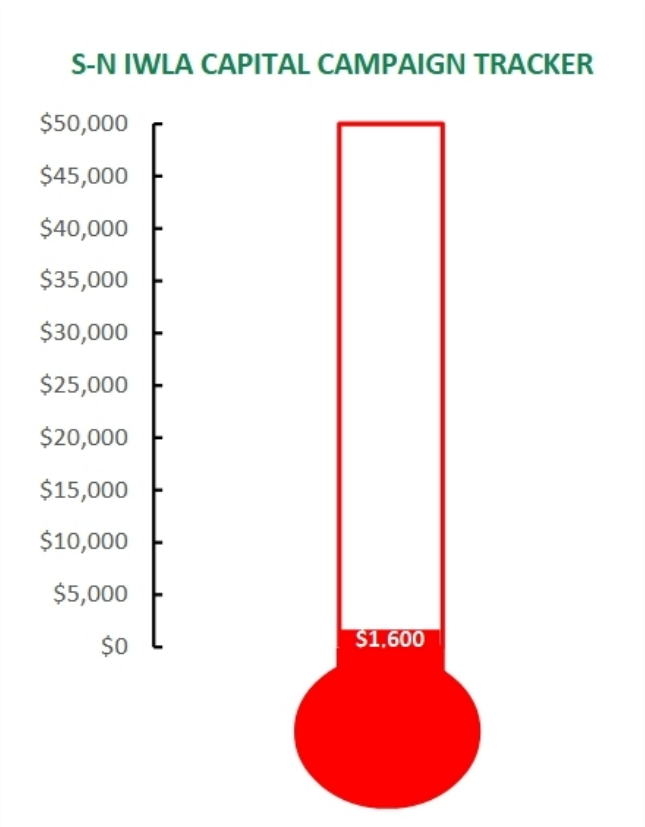
Members, would like to remind you that membership renewal notices for the 2026 year will be available for pickup at the upcoming October dinner meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, your renewal notice will be mailed to the address we currently have on file.

Should you have recently moved or need to update your mailing address, kindly contact our Membership Chair, Alan Ferguson, at SNIWLA.mdr@gmail.com as soon as possible to ensure your notice is sent to the correct location.

Membership dues can be paid in person at the October or November dinner meetings, or by mail using the address label provided with your renewal notice. Please note, dues not received by the January 2026 dinner meeting will be considered late and will incur a $20 late fee.

We thank you for your continued membership.

## S-N IWLA Chapter Capital Campaign




*Information about the Capital Campaign Tracker graph shown here:*

This graph shows that we've accumulated $1,600 in donations thus far towards our goal of raising money for expenses related to repairs and/or alterations of our chapter park dam.

We are asking members to consider making a contribution to the Capital Campaign. This tracker will be included in future newsletters and updated at members' monthly meetings. Please contact our Treasurer if you are willing to make a donation.

Any help is very much appreciated.

Contributions may be tax deductible; see your tax professional.

## Recipe of the Month - Creamy Crab and Shrimp Seafood Bisque

*Source Credit: https://cooktopcove.com/2024/06/30/this-dish-is-my-partners-weakness-he-keeps-going-back-for-more/*

*By Georgia Lynn*

Servings: 4

**Ingredients**

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 celery stalk, finely chopped
- 1 carrot, peeled and finely chopped
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 4 cups seafood or chicken broth
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 cup milk
- 1/2 pound fresh crab meat
- 1/2 pound shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1/4 cup dry white wine
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1 teaspoon Old Bay seasoning
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley

**Instructions**

1. In a large pot, melt the butter over medium heat.
Add the onion, garlic, celery, and carrot, and sauté until the vegetables are tender, for about 5-7 minutes.
2. Stir in the flour and cook, stirring constantly, for about 2 minutes to eliminate the raw flour taste.
3. Gradually whisk in the seafood or chicken broth, then bring the mixture to a boil.
Reduce the heat and let it simmer until slightly thickened, about 10 minutes.
4. Add the heavy cream, milk, crab meat, shrimp, white wine, and tomato paste.
Stir to combine and continue to simmer until the shrimp are cooked through and the flavors have melded, about 10-15 minutes.
5. Season the bisque with Old Bay seasoning, salt, and pepper.
Taste and adjust the seasoning as needed.
6. Remove the pot from heat and let the bisque cool slightly.
Use an immersion blender to puree the soup to your desired consistency.
If you don't have an immersion blender, you can carefully transfer the soup to a countertop blender in batches.
7. Reheat the bisque gently if needed, then ladle it into bowls.
Garnish with fresh chopped parsley before serving.

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## *BlueStar Youth Fishing Event October 18th - Volunteers Needed

*Message from Chris Trimpey, S-N IWLA Board Member/Youth Program Committee Chair.*
*Article reprinted from the Member Advisory eblast of September 23rd.*

On **Saturday, October 18th, from 9AM-to Noon**, our IWLA chapter will host a Blue Star Connect Outdoors for a private fishing event. We are expecting 40+ kids and 45+ adults. This is a rain or shine event.

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

- Fishing Instructors (qty 6)
- Parking Control (qty 4) - may also be a fishing instructor
- Safety Monitors (qty 3) - may also be a fishing instructor
- Floater (qty 1)
- Fishing gear/bait issuance (qty 1)

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
Contact Mr. Chris Trimpey, our chapter Youth Program Committee Chair, at email: chris_trimpey@hotmail.com or (757) 449-4910 to sign up for the event.

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## Recap of the Annual Chapter Youth Fishing Rodeo Held September 27th

The chapter hosted an open to the public fishing rodeo on Saturday September 27th. The weather reports were full of warnings of rain and thunderstorms that resulted in a low turnout. Only six of the fifteen registered participants attended the event. Those who did attend had a great time and stayed dry until the very end of the event when a stray rain shower passed by.

The fish apparently didn't pay attention to the forecast because all the participants were able to catch multiple fish. A drawing for a fishing pole and beginner tackle box was held at the end of the event.

One young participant went home with the prize and a big grin on her face. Even though the turnout was low, the event was a great success.

Gary Brown, the event coordinator is shown here awarding certificates to each participant depending on if it was their first fish, a bluegill or a bass that they caught.

For a slideshow of more photos taken at this event, see https://youtube.com/shorts/NbZPpw6m7dI?feature=share.

For social media sharing, this article is posted on our website under the News menu at https://sniwla.org/sniwla/september-2025-youth-fishing-rodeo/.

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## Chapter Campfire Roast at the Park Planned for Saturday, November 8th - Members Only

We're planning to hold the 2nd annual Members-only campfire weenie roast at the chapter park on **Saturday, November 8th from 5-8pm.**

If you're interested in coming out for some camaraderie around the campfire, please R.S.V.P Chapter Food Chair Claudia Powell via email to powelcje@gmail.com or via text to 757.504.8159 with a head count of the number of adults, and the number of children that are planning to attend.

The Chapter is providing hot dogs, buns, condiments, and s'mores fixings: graham crackers, marsh mellows, and chocolate bars.

***Drinks are bring-your-own-beverage (BYOB) and also please bring your own roasting sticks.***

Should be fun! We will send out a reminder eblast as we get closer to this event.

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## Volunteer Opportunity - Suffolk HALLOWEEN *CLEANUP Scheduled for Saturday, October 25th at 3pm

*Note: Although this event is not coordinated by our S-N IWLA chapter, our Chapter Members can earn chapter volunteer work credit hours towards accumulating the required annual minimum volunteer participation hours by volunteering to help at this event.

What? Suffolk Halloween *Cleanup
When? Saturday, October 25 · 3:00 – 5:00pm
Where? Nansemond Brewing Stationm 212 E Washington St, Suffolk, VA 23434, USA

Keep Suffolk Beautiful is hosting a scary Halloween Cleanup! We highly encourage participants to dress up in their Halloween costumes! Prizes will be awarded to the 'Most Original' and 'Most Eco-Friendly' costumes! Litter grabbers, reflective vests, gloves, and bags will be provided on-site.

No registration needed, participants will meet outside of the Nansemond Brewing Station (212 E. Washington St., Suffolk VA 23434) to sign in and receive equipment such as litter grabbers, safety vests, gloves, and bags. The cleanup will sweep through the enchanting streets of Downtown Suffolk, casting a spell of beauty over the area. Afterward, brave volunteers are invited to linger and enjoy a chilling pint at the brewery or a wickedly delicious meal at one of the nearby eateries. This is a pet-friendly event. For more information, please contact us by phone at (757) 514-7604 or email KSB@suffolkva.us.

See https://www.suffolkva.us/1347/Halloween-Cleanup for more info.

Also, for questions about recording/submitting your volunteer work hours, you may contact our Chapter Save-Our-Streams Coordinator Samuel Chambers at geogr4.sam@gmail.com. Also, see https://sniwla.org/sniwla/membership-info/membership-participation-policy/.

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## Volunteer Opportunity - Suffolk SCCC (Clean Community Commission) *Recycle Event Scheduled for Saturday, November 15th at 9am

*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.

What? SCCC *Recycle Event - Public Works Operations Center on Carolina Road
When? Saturday, November 15 · 9:00am – 1:00pm
Where? 800 Carolina Rd, Suffolk, VA 23434, USA
Recycle event will be at the Public Works Operations Center on Carolina Road (SE quadrant of Rt.13 Bypass @ Carolina Rd. (Rts.13/32).

For questions about recording/submitting your volunteer work hours for credit, see https://sniwla.org/sniwla/membership-info/membership-participation-policy/.

forward to a friend

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