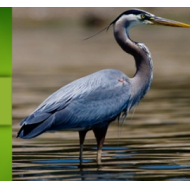




THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Suffolk-Nansemond Chapter



The Blue Heron Times March, 2026 Issue

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
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](#)
[TerraScapes Environmental Consulting](#)
[The Wildlife Society](#)
[Virginia Conservation Network](#)
[Virginia Master Naturalist](#)

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

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

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

[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, February 9th**, at the Constantia House behind Baker's Funeral Home. The next month's Board meeting will be at 7pm on **Monday, March 9th** 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, March 18th** at the Oakland Church Community Life Center located in Chuckatuck at 5641 Godwin Blvd, Suffolk, VA 23434.

The dinner menu will be meatball subs, tossed salad, and assorted desserts. The cost will be \$10.

The guest speaker will be Mike Pullen Taxidermist, Owner of Pullen's Wildlife Taxidermy Studio, Suffolk, Va., since 1998.

Biography: Mike has been doing taxidermy since studying at the Southeastern School of Taxidermy, Wicomico, Va. He has won Blue, Gold and Red ribbons in competition, as well as Amateur of the year in 1996 and Best of Show in the Eastern Regional Taxidermy Competition.

President's Note

Faith and begorrah, tis the time of the year we are all a wee bit Irish. I hope this message finds you well.

It looks like the weather is calming down and spring is coming on. This is good time to clean up your yard and garden but be mindful of early nesting birds. You may have to leave that tree or bush untrimmed.

We have a lot of exciting activities coming up. Be sure to sign up to help and come out and avail yourself of those opportunities.

"Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's Party!'" --Robin Williams

Respectfully Yours,
Chris Ferguson, President,
Suffolk-Nansemond IWLA

Biography(continued):

Mike has mounted small game, large game, exotics, fish, and birds, though now concentrating on game heads. A State licensed taxidermist with in-house tanning provides quality work with a good turn around time. In addition to his taxidermy experience, Mike is a retired teacher of 33 years in Public Education. A member of the IWLA, past President of the Nansemond-Suffolk Silhouette Club and a State certified Trapper trainer add to his outdoor pleasures.

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. *NOTE: after accessing the Chapter calendar in your web browser using the hyperlink shown above, you may wish to add this calendar to your own personal Google calendar by scrolling down and clicking on "Add to Google Calendar".* A courtesy extract through the end of May is shown below.

MON 3/9 at 7pm - Board Meeting.

SAT 3/14 at 9am to 12pm - *Suffolk St. Patrick's Day River Cleanup.

SAT 3/14 at 10am to 12pm - * Youth Build-A-Birdhouse Event (Open-to-the-Public).

SUN 3/15 - Deadline for Submittal of Chapter Tobin Award Nominations to the Chapter Award Chair.

WED 3/18 at 6:30pm - Dinner Meeting.

FRI 3/27 - *Great Suffolk Cleanup (Keep Suffolk Beautiful) event (Day 1 of 2).

SAT 3/28 - Great Suffolk Cleanup (Keep Suffolk Beautiful) event (Day 2 of 2).

SAT 3/28 at 8am - *Park Maintenance Workday.

SAT 3/28 at 10am - Prospective Member Orientation.

SUN 4/1 - Scholarship Submission Deadline.

MON 4/13 at 7pm - Board Meeting.

WED 4/15 at 6:30pm - Dinner Meeting.

SAT 4/18 - *Youth Teddy Bear Hunt Open-To-The-Public).

SAT 4/18 - IWLA VA Division Meeting.

SAT 4/25 at 10am - Prospective Member Orientation.

SAT 5/2 at 9am to 12pm NOON - *Suffolk Nansemond River Cleanup (National Clean-the-Bay Day).

SAT 5/9 at 9am to 12pm - Chapter Members-Only Shooting Competition .22 RimFire.

MON 5/11 at 7pm - Board Meeting.

There is no monthly dinner meeting in May, instead there is a member's only picnic at the chapter park:

SAT 5/23 at 11-30am to 2pm - Member's Only Picnic (Hamburgers and Hotdogs).

Note: Events marked with an asterisk count towards work hour credits for meeting the chapter's annual membership volunteer [participation requirement](#). **IMPORTANT: Although the Suffolk Great Cleanup event is not coordinated by our S-N IWLA chapter, our members can earn chapter volunteer work credit hours by participating in this two-day event **ONLY on Friday, March 27th**. Due to a conflicting previously scheduled S-N IWLA park workday, volunteer work credit hours on Saturday, March 28th for this cleanup event will not be granted.*

HOLIDAYS/COMMUNITY EVENTS:

SUN 3/8 - Daylight Savings Time Begins.

TUE 3/17 - St. Patrick's Day.

SUN 4/5 - Easter Sunday.

MON 4/6 - Easter Monday.

WED 4/15 - Tax Day.

SAT 4/25 - Suffolk Earth & Arts Festival.

TUE 5/5 - Cinco de Mayo.

SUN 5/10 - Mother's Day.

MON 5/25 - Memorial Day

In Memorium

On a sad note, Herbert James (HJ) Miller passed away on March 2, 2026. He joined the Suffolk Nansemond Chapter of the Izaak Walton League in 1999. He served as President for three years and as a National Director for three years. Ernie Padgett, past Virginia Division President remarked that “Nubby” was a true friend of the Virginia Division for many years. HJ also received the Chapter Tobin award in 2007. As of lately, he served as the Chapter Historian and Speaker Coordinator.

HJ's obituary link can be found at: <https://www.parrfuneralhome.com/obituary/herbert-hj-miller>.

Recipe of the Month - Quinoa Apple Salad

Source Credit: My Fast Recipe (Quick and Easy meals):

myfastrecipe_kitchen https://www.pinterest.com/myfastrecipe_kitchen/

Ingredients:

- 1&1/2 cups vegetable broth
- 3/4 cup tricolor quinoa, rinsed
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries
- 1 gala apple, diced into 1/4 inch cubes
- 1/4 cup celery, diced into 1/4 inch cubes
- 1/4 cup fresh parsley, chopped
- 1/4 cup candied walnuts

For the Maple Dijon Vinaigrette:

- 3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 1 teaspoon maple syrup
- 1 tablespoon dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
- 1 garlic clove (minced)
- 1/4 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt

Cooking Instructions:

1. Bring the vegetable broth and rinsed quinoa to a boil in a medium-sized saucepan.
2. Add the cranberries, cover, and remove from heat.
3. Let stand for 15 minutes, then fluff with a fork.
4. Transfer to a large salad bowl.
5. Whisk the ingredients shown under *Maple Dijon Vinaigrette* together.
6. Pour this vinaigrette into the bowl with the quinoa and mix.
7. Then mix in the diced apple, celery, parsley, and candied walnuts.
8. Serve hot or cold.

Recap of the February 18th Chapter Chili Cookoff Dinner Meeting

For the February 2026 chapter dinner meeting, Chapter Food Chair Claudia Powell coordinated the much anticipated 8th annual Chapter chili cookoff.

Several chapter members signed up to bring 14 pots of chili, 5 plates of cornbread/muffins, and 4

plates of delicious assorted homemade desserts.

About 40 Chapter Ikes showed up altogether to sample the various chili recipes and to vote on their favorite.

Chapter President Chris Ferguson presented the award certificates: 1st place "Golden Ladle" went to Doug Watson (in photo on the left), and 2nd place "Silver Ladle" to Jacob Bosco (in photo on the right).



At this dinner meeting, Chapter President Chris Ferguson swore in two new members: Richard White (on the left), and Dan Lewandowski (on the right), as shown in this photo. Welcome to the chapter, gentlemen!

Vice President Darden Langston reminded all members to re-familiarize themselves with and to follow the chapter's range rules and to expect a follow-up members-only email eblast with clarifying information.

There were a few other announcements reminding members about upcoming chapter events and Suffolk community events scheduled for March as shown on the chapter website calendar: Chapter Youth Birdhouse Building event, Suffolk River Cleanup, and a Chapter Park Maintenance Workday; and for April a Suffolk Tire Amnesty Recycle event and the annual Chapter Youth Teddy Bear Hunt.

Members were reminded that we have an ongoing capital campaign requesting donations for anticipated dam maintenance expenses. Also, Chris pointed out that the deadline for submittal of nominations for the Chapter's Tobin Award is due March 15th, and that the deadline for submission of chapter scholarship applications is April 1st; also, he reminded Members that all scheduled chapter Youth events are open-to-the-public.



2026 *Build-A-Bird House Chapter Youth Event Open-To-The-Public

Article Reprinted from the Chapter February Newsletter Issue

Message from Chris Trimpey, Youth Program Coordinator and Board Member

The first Chapter Youth event for 2026, Build your own Birdhouse, will be conducted on **Saturday, March 14th from 10am to 12pm Noon**. This activity is focused on Tiny IKEs from ages 3-10 and is OPEN TO THE PUBIC this year. To register for the event, please contact: Mr. Milton Chalkley via email: mdchalk3@msn.com or call: (757) 774-2629. To access the flyer for this event for printing or sharing on social media, click on the flyer below, or visit the chapter news article initially published in the February Chapter Newsletter issue at: <https://sniwla.org/sniwla/build-your-own-birdhouse-youth-activity-scheduled-for-saturday-march-14th-2026-open-to-the-public/>.



THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Suffolk-Nansemond Chapter



Upcoming Event

Build Your Own Birdhouse

- **Date:** 14 March 2026
- **Time:** 10am to 12pm Noon
- **Max. # of participants:** 15
- **Age:** 3-10
- **Cost:** free
- **Tools provided**
- **Birdhouse Kit provided**

To Register:
Milton Chalkley
Email to: mdchalk3@msn.com
Call: (757) 774-2629



About Us

Chartered in June of 1954
501(c)(3) non-profit organization

Our Mission

Conservation, maintenance, and protection of the soil, forest, water, and other natural resources of the city of Suffolk, VA and surrounding areas.

Contact Us



Visit Us:

480 Kings Fork Road, Suffolk, VA



Email:

info@sniwla.org

Chapter Website

<https://sniwla.org>



COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM 2026

- **14 March:** Build your own Bird House
- **18 April:** Teddy Bear Hunt
- **20 June:** Scavenger Hunt
- **12 September:** Fishing Rodeo

For More Info or Registration:
info@sniwla.org OR <https://sniwla.org>

What We Offer

- 45 acre park
- Fishing Pond
- Archery Range
- Walking trails
- Picnic area
- Bird Observation

*Suffolk St. Patrick's Day River Cleanup Event March 14th

Article Reprinted from the Chapter February Newsletter Issue.

Message from Samuel Chambers, S-N IWLA Chapter SOS (Save-Our-Streams) Chair

WHEN? March 14th, 2026 9AM-Noon

WHERE? Constant's Wharf Park and Marina

The St. Patrick's Day River Cleanup welcomes individuals, families, or groups for a comprehensive public cleanup on both land and water. The primary focus will be the Nansemond River in the Downtown Suffolk area. Participants opting for river cleanup need to bring their own kayak or canoe. On-site, we'll supply cleanup essentials, including reflective vests, grabbers, gloves, and bags. For those cleaning from the river, longer grabbers will be provided. If you choose land-based cleanup, you can work from the wharf or be guided to specific nearby sites that require attention. It's crucial to tackle litter before it reaches the river! For more information, see <https://www.suffolkva.us/1289/St-Patricks-Day-River-Cleanup>. Contact me at geogr4.sam@gmail.com if you have questions.

Thank you,
Sam

**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.

Nominations for Annual Chapter Tobin Award Are Due March 15th

Article Reprinted from the Chapter February Newsletter Issue

Message from Virginia Wahab, Chapter Award Committee Chair

Members, every year, Izaak Walton League chapters across the country present the IWLA National Judge John W. Tobin Volunteer Appreciation Award to one of their members. This award is a singular and distinct honor because it represents a chapter's acknowledgment of a dedicated member whose outstanding volunteer contributions to the chapter have made a difference throughout the previous year. Award Criteria: Who is the dedicated Ike among your chapter members—the one who shows up for all meetings, signs up first for work crews, serves on committees, helps maintain chapter grounds, and makes the organization run more smoothly? Who is the key volunteer for your chapter's conservation projects or outdoor activities? Give your chapter's outstanding volunteer a hearty "thank you" by nominating her or him for the Izaak Walton League's annual Judge John W. Tobin Chapter Volunteer Appreciation Award. So, please consider nominating a deserving fellow chapter member to receive this award by sending an email with your nominee choice ASAP via email at wahabv@cox.net so that our Chapter Award Committee has ample time to meet the submission cutoff of March 15th. Thank you, Virginia Wahab, Chapter Award Committee Chair.

***Park Maintenance Workday Scheduled for Saturday, March 28th at 8am**

Message from Board Member/Park Manager Jimmy Fanny

Members, we need your help! There's a lot to be done to spruce up the park for our upcoming April Teddy Bear Hunt. Members should plan to assemble at the park gazebo at 8am to form work crews for accomplishing 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 Volunteer Participation Policy.

***Great Suffolk Cleanup Event March 27th, 28th**

Message from Sam Chambers, Chapter Save-Our-Streams Chair

Members,

Keep Suffolk Beautiful is excited to announce the return of the 2026 Great Suffolk Cleanup, taking place on March 27th and 28th, 2026, throughout the city. This event is a powerful community-wide clean initiative aimed at removing litter and debris from our streets, neighborhoods, and parks.

Taking part in the 2026 Great Suffolk Cleanup is easy! Choose a spot, register online, pick up free supplies, and clean up on March 27–28 (or another day that works for you). Public Works provides all supplies—including litter grabbers, safety vests, gloves, and bags—and handles trash pickup, paving a clear path for you and your group to participate.

To learn more see <https://www.suffolkva.us/1748/THE-GREAT-SUFFOLK-CLEANUP>. Contact me at geogr4.sam@gmail.com if you have questions.

Thank you,
Sam

***IMPORTANT:** Although the Suffolk Great Cleanup event is not coordinated by our S-N IWLA chapter, **our members can earn volunteer work credit hours BUT ONLY ON Friday, March 27th; not for March 28th**--the reason is because of a conflicting previously scheduled S-N IWLA chapter park work day on Saturday, March 28th. See <https://sniwla.org/sniwla/membership-info/membership-participation-policy/> for more information about the chapter's volunteer participation requirement.

2026 Chapter Education Scholarships Applications are Open

Article Reprinted from the Chapter February Newsletter Issue.

Message from David Perdue, Chapter Scholarship Chair

Members, application submissions for 2026 Chapter Education Scholarships are Open as of February 1st, 2026 and are due no later than April 1st, 2026. This year we are awarding 2 (two) \$1,000 scholarship awards. See <https://sniwla.org/sniwla/scholarships/> for qualifications and instructions on how to make your submission. If you have any questions you can reach me via email at davidkperdue@yahoo.com. Thank you, David Perdue, Chapter Scholarship Chair

THANK YOU

Message from Claudia Powell

I want to thank all the members who brought pots of chili, cornbread, muffins, and desserts to the recent Chapter Chili Cookoff, and to members of the kitchen crew for helping out with serving and cleaning up. I'd especially like to thank the two members who gave me their chili recipes which you can download from our chapter website at: <https://sniwla.org/sniwla/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/WhiteChickenChiliRecipe.pdf> and <https://sniwla.org/sniwla/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/WhiteChickenTurkeyChiliRecipe.pdf>. If anyone else has other recipes they would like to share, please send them to me at powelcje@gmail.com for consideration of posting in subsequent newsletters as a Recipe-Of-The-Month.

Thank you,
Claudia Powell, Chapter Food&Facilities Chair

Volunteers are Needed for Chapter *Teddy Bear Hunt Scheduled for Saturday, April 18th (Open-To-The-Public)

Members, it is the time of the year when children start to anticipate the annual Teddy Bear Hunt! This year's event is scheduled for **Saturday 18 April from 10am-3pm** (with a rain date of 25 April).

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

- Registration (2),
- Archery (2),
- Parking Control (5),
- Teddy Bear Hiders/Safety Monitors (4),
- Photographers (2-3),
- Floater (1), and
- Fishing Instructors (4).

Volunteers will assemble at the park at 8am for safety/event briefings/preparations to ensure we are fully prepared for children starting their Teddy Bear Hunting at 10am.

If you are interested in a fun event to obtain some/all of your annual required volunteer hours, please 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."

To access a full-sized printable PDF version of the TBH event flyer shown below, or to share the flyer image via social media, see the [TBH news article](#) posted at our chapter website sniwla.org under the News menu.

**Note: Events marked with an asterisk count towards work hour credits for meeting the chapter's annual membership volunteer participation requirement. See <https://sniwla.org/sniwla/membership-info/membership-participation-policy/> for more information.*

2026 Suffolk-Nansemond IWLA Teddy Bear Hunt

Date: Saturday, April 18th, 2026

10:00 - 12:00 Teddy Bear Hunt (Ages: 3-10)

11:30 - 1:00 Lunch

1:00 - 3:00 Afternoon Youth activities available to participants include walking trails, fishing, and archery.

Location: 480 Kings Fork Rd, Suffolk, VA 23434

Cost: \$15 per family (covers parents/guardians and 1 child), \$5.00 extra for each additional child). Lunch is included for all.

Limited spaces are available, so please RSVP no later than April 11th, 2025 to Chris_Trimpey@hotmail.com or 757-449-4910.

A fun-filled family day of nature brought to you by the Suffolk-Nansemond Chapter of the Izaak Walton League

Flyer revision 2026-02-2221

The Story of the Teddy Bear

Did you know that the Teddy Bear was invented in honor of President Theodore Roosevelt? It all began when Theodore Roosevelt was on a bear hunting trip near Onward, Mississippi on November 14, 1902. He had been invited by Mississippi Governor Andrew H. Longino, and unlike other hunters in the group, had not located a single bear.

Roosevelt's assistants, led by Holt Collier, a born slave and former Confederate cavalryman, cornered and tied a black bear to a willow tree. They summoned Roosevelt and suggested that he shoot it. Viewing this as extremely unsportsmanlike, Roosevelt refused to shoot the bear. The news of this event spread quickly through newspaper articles across the country. The articles recounted the story of the president who refused to shoot a bear. However, it was not just any president, it was Theodore Roosevelt the big game hunter!



A replica of the original

Teddy Bear

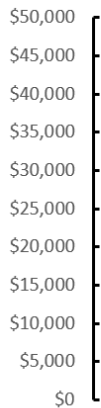


Clifford Berryman's 1902 cartoon that lampooned T.R.'s bear hunt

A political cartoonist by the name of Clifford Berryman read the article and decided to lightheartedly lampoon the president's refusal to shoot the bear. Berryman's cartoon appeared in the Washington Post on November 16, 1902. A Brooklyn candy shop owner by the name of Morris Michtom saw the cartoon and had an idea. He and his wife Rose were also makers of stuffed animals, and Michtom decided to create a stuffed toy bear and dedicate it to the president who refused to shoot a bear. He called it 'Teddy's Bear'.

After receiving Roosevelt's permission to use his name, Michtom mass produced the toy bears which were so popular that he soon founded the Ideal Toy Company. To this day the Teddy Bear has worldwide popularity and its origin can be traced back to Theodore's fate- full hunting trip in 1902.

<http://www.nps.gov/thrb/historyculture/storyofteddybear.htm>



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TRACKER

The graph to the left shows that we've accumulated \$7,040 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.

CAUTION: BE SURE TO MONITOR YOUR EMAILS CAREFULLY FOR POTENTIAL SPAM/PHISHING ATTEMPTS. The chapter will not send emails to members asking for any type of payment or donations.



Local Conservation News - Scallop Numbers Soar on the Eastern Shore

Source Credits: Ethan Smith, [College of William and Mary's Batten School & VIMS](#) (Virginia Institute of Marine Science)

Once locally extinct due to habitat loss, Virginia's bay scallop population is experiencing an unprecedented resurgence in restored eelgrass meadows, thanks to years of dedicated restoration work led by William & Mary's Batten School & VIMS Eastern Shore Laboratory (ESL) in Wachapreague. A recreational fishery could be on the horizon. For more information, see the full article posted at <https://news.wm.edu/2025/10/09/bay-scallops-surge-on-the-eastern-shore/>.



Suffolk-Nansemond Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America

w: <https://sniwla.org>

e: info@sniwla.org

Our USPS mailing address is: S-N IWLA, P.O. Box 351, Suffolk, VA 23439

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