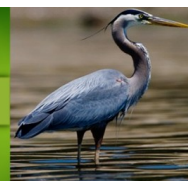




THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Suffolk-Nansemond Chapter



The Blue Heron Times April, 2026 Issue

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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

[Suffolk Radio & TV Service](#)
Radio/Television Repair
(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, April 13th** at the Constantia House behind Baker's Funeral Home. The next month's Board meeting will be at 7pm on **Monday, May 11th** at the same location.

Chapter Members Dinner meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The upcoming chapter dinner meeting will be held at 6:30pm on **Wednesday, April 15th** at the Oakland Church Community Life Center located in Chuckatuck at 5641 Godwin Blvd, Suffolk, VA 23434.

The dinner menu will be ham, yams with pineapple, green beans, rolls, iced tea and assorted desserts. The cost will be \$10. The guest speaker is Mr. Dana Spontak, Senior Project Manager/Wildlife Biologist with ECS in Chesapeake, VA whose presentation will be about bats. Dana manages Natural Resource and Environmental related Projects. He holds many professional certifications including Wildlife Biologist, Ecologist, Professional Wetland Scientist, Military Natural Resource Professional, and is a Federally Certified Marine Endangered Species Observer with more than 20 years of experience in the wildlife and environmental fields.

President's Note

Ahh, April. What can I say? The weather cannot make up its mind. The trees are blooming, everyone has a yellow car, and allergies are on full alert.

This looks like a good year is starting to shape up. We have many activities planned for the chapter this year. Be sure and sign up and participate.

"The beauty of April is not just in the flowers, but in the courage of seeds that dared to grow."

Respectfully Yours,

Chris Ferguson,
Chapter President,
Suffolk-Nansemond IWLA

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 June is shown below.

SUN 4/1 - Scholarship Submission Deadline.

MON 4/13 at 7pm - Board Meeting.

SAT 4/11 at 9am to 12pm NOON - *Suffolk Tire Amnesty Recycle Event (Carolina Road).

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 5/16 at 11:30am to 2pm - Member's Only Picnic (Hamburgers and Hotdogs).

MON 6/8 at 7pm - Board Meeting.

SAT 6/13 at 8am - *Chapter Park Cleanup Workday.

SAT 6/13 at 8am - Suffolk Florence Bowser Recycle Event.

WED 6/17 at 6:30pm - Dinner Meeting w/ Nominations for Chapter Officers and Board Members.

SAT 6/20 - IWLA VA Division Meeting at Clater Lake Chapter.

SUN 6/21 at 1pm to 4pm - *Chapter Youth Scavenger Hunt (Open-To-The-Public).

*Note: Events marked with an asterisk count towards work hour credits for meeting the chapter's annual membership volunteer [participation requirement](#). **IMPORTANT:** Chapter members will **NOT** be credited for work hours at the 6/13 Suffolk Florence Bowser Recycle event towards accumulating the required annual minimum volunteer participation hours. Reason is because a Chapter park member work day is already scheduled for this same day.

HOLIDAYS/COMMUNITY EVENTS:

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.

SAT 6/14 - Flag Day.

FRI 6/19 - Juneteenth.

SUN 6/21 - Father's Day.

Recipe of the Month - Spicy Shrimp Tacos with Jalapeno-Mango Salsa

Source Credit: [*Half Baked Harvest Every Day* by Tieghan Gerard](#)
Submitted by Ben Powell

Serves 4

Ingredients (Tacos + Salsa):

- 1&1/2 LBs large, raw shrimp, peeled, de-veined
- 2 tbsps olive oil
- 2 tps chipotle chile powder
- 1 tps smoked paprika
- 1 tps garlic powder
- 1 tps onion powder
- 1/4 tps ground cinnamon
- 1 medium jalapeno (2 for spicier salsa)
- 1 cup diced fresh pineapple
- 1 cup diced fresh mango
- 1/4 cup fresh cilantro
- Juice from 1 lime
- Juice from 1/2 orange
- 3 cups shredded cabbage

Ingredients (Sauce):

- 1 cup fresh cilantro
- 1/2 cup coconut cream
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1 piece of fresh ginger, peeled, finely chopped
- Juice of 1 lime

Ingredients (For Serving):

- Corn or flour tortillas, warmed in the oven or microwave
- Crumbled feta
- Sliced avocados
- Fresh cilantro leaves

Cooking Instructions:

1. Preheat the oven to 425°F.
2. **Make the tacos:** on a baking sheet, toss together the shrimp, olive oil, chile powder, paprika, garlic powder, onion powder, cinnamon, and a pinch each of salt and pepper. Arrange in a single layer on one side of the sheet. On the other side, add the jalapeno(s). Roast together until the shrimp is pink and cooked through, 10 to 12 minutes. Remove the baking sheet from the oven and turn on the broiler.
3. Using tongs, return the jalapeno directly to the oven rack. Broil until charred, about 1 minute, and then remove from the oven. When the jalapeno is cool enough to handle, remove the seeds, if desired, then roughly chop the pepper. In a medium bowl, combine the chopped jalapeno with the pineapple, mango, cilantro, lime juice, orange juice, and a pinch of salt.
4. **Make the sauce:** in a blender or food processor, combine the cilantro, coconut cream, garlic, ginger, lime juice, and a pinch of salt. Blend until smooth. Taste and add more salt as needed.
5. In a large bowl, toss the cabbage with 3/4 cup of the sauce to coat well.
6. Stuff the cabbage and shrimp into the warmed tacos. Top as desired with the remaining sauce, the salsa, feta, avocado, and cilantro.

Note: This recipe is very flexible. If you want less spice, you can use poblano or bell peppers instead of jalapenos. You can also drastically simplify the salsa (remove the pineapple, cilantro, lime juice, and orange juice), and still have a pretty good meal.

Recap of Chapter Build a Birdhouse Youth Event

On Saturday, March 14th, 2026, the Chapter Youth Committee held an open-to-the-public bird house building event for children at the club park. A total of five children attended. Two children were members (Tiny Ikes), two were invited guests, and one responded to club advertisement.

Each child built and painted a wren bird house from kits provided by the club as you can see in the photos below. The children all participated actively and thoroughly enjoyed the activity. All attendees were briefed on the club's conservation mission and provided with souvenir pencils, rulers, and whistles bearing conservation themes. A good time was had by all! For more photos taken at the event see our News article entitled [Recap of Chapter Build a Birdhouse Youth Event](#) posted on our chapter website.



Recap of the March Chapter Dinner Meeting

For the March monthly chapter dinner meeting, the kitchen crew served meatball subs with hoagie rolls, tossed salad, iced tea, and a variety of homemade desserts.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Chapter Ike Mike Pullen, owner of Pullen's Wildlife Taxidermy at his Studio in Suffolk, Va. which has operated since 1998. Mike brought with him samples of his craftsmanship, as you can see in these photos below. He enlightened us about the many years of hard work in his youth as an apprentice that were required to become proficient in his profession, and later how after he retired from his job as a shop teacher he was able to pursue his passion for Taxidermy full time. Mike talked about the special chemicals that he uses in tanning hides, and the various tools used in his trade such as scalpels and specialty pliers. He also educated us about the increasing encroachment of chronic wasting disease in the western part of Virginia, and encouraged us to pass our knowledge about the importance of hunting ethics on to the next generation and to take our kids with us while hunting, or in any type of outdoor activity.

For more information about Mike's presentation, along with more photos, see the news article posted on our chapter website entitled [Recap of the March, 2026 Chapter Dinner Meeting](#).



Recap of Chapter Road Cleanup

Message from James Bull, Adopt-A-Road Chair

Virginia's Adopt-a-Highway program enlists the support of over 20,000 residents in removing litter from Commonwealth roadsides. Running since the 1980s, this program is a key strategy in maintaining a positive travel experience for residents and visitors, and in preventing litter from entering local waterways.

On March 21st, eight (8) Chapter Members showed up to help me pick up trash from the roadside ditches alongside Kings Fork and Providence roads. As you can see in this photo, altogether we collected about 20 bags of trash which were staged at the park's front gate for later collection by Suffolk City personnel.



Recap of SCCC Recycle Event on April 11th, 2026

Message from Chapter Ike Ray Powell

On a beautiful Saturday morning on the 11th of April, Chaper Board Member Mike Lane and I showed up at the Recycling Center off Carolina Road to help Susan and Marc Davis stack tires and collect batteries at the scheduled SCCC (Suffolk Clean Community Commission) Recycling event.

Altogether we collected 785 tires and over a dozen lead-acid batteries. The tire recycling station is just one of several that receive many types of recycled materials, including paper to be shredded, scrap metal, household goods, batteries, etc. These recycle events are scheduled multiple times during the year by the SCCC and are announced in our monthly chapter newsletters and in our online website calendar.

But my favorite station at which to volunteer is the tire recycling station. Now, this station is not for the faint of heart, since it requires both strength, and stamina: tires are very heavy, must be stacked five-high, and are dropped off in huge quantities by the general public at very rapid intervals via a somewhat steady stream of panel van trucks, utility trailers, car trunks, and pickup beds. Frequently the tires when bounced around slosh nasty water on one's clothes, and heavy gloves are needed to avoid snags/cuts from frayed steel belts poking through rubber treads.

Over the decades, this type of work takes a toll on one's muscles and joints, particularly in the back and shoulders. Each time I participate in such an event I ask myself, "Self, why do I keep volunteering to do this?" You can find the answer to this riddle in the smiling faces you see in the photos below. I invite you to come on out to a future tire recycling event and volunteer to help us stack tires! —Ray

For more photos, see the full article posted on our chapter website under the News menu entitled [Recap of SCCC Recycle Event](#).



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

Article Reprinted (with changes) from the March Chapter Newsletter Issue.

Message from Chris Trimpey, Board Member/Youth Coordinator.

The Chapter Teddy Bear Hunt is scheduled for **Saturday, April 18th** (Open-To-The-Public). Rain date/bad weather date is Saturday, April 25th.

Thank you to everyone that has volunteered to work for the Teddy Bear Hunt. We have a full roster of people to support the event now.

The Shooting and Archery Ranges will be secured until the event is completed. All traffic movement in the area where Teddy Bears are hidden will cease at 9:45am until the bear hunt has been completed.

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. The event will run until approximately 3pm. After lunch and the group photo have been completed, children can fish, shoot archery, learn about fly fishing and learn how to use a compass/compass navigation.

To access a full-sized printable PDF version of the event flyer shown below, or to share the flyer image via social media, see the news article posted at our chapter website: <https://sniwla.org/sniwla/chapter-youth-teddy-bear-hunt-scheduled-for-saturday-april-18th-2026-open-to-the-public/>.

Please get the word out to family, friends, and anyone you think might be interested in the event.

POC: 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.

**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

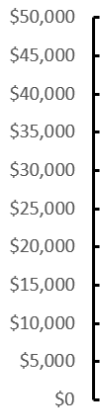


Clifford Berryman's 1902 cartoon
that lampooned T.R.'s bear hunt

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.

Suffolk *Litter Control River Cleanup Clean the Bay Day Event May 2nd at 9am

Message from [Sam Chambers](#), Chapter SOS Chair

WHEN? Saturday, May 2nd 9am to 12pm Noon

WHERE? Constant's Wharf Park and Marina

Individuals with access to kayaks or canoes are encouraged to bring their watercraft to assist with waterway cleanups. Volunteers who prefer to remain on land are equally needed and welcomed. All participants will be provided with necessary cleanup supplies, including grabbers, safety vests, gloves, and trash bags.

For those without personal watercraft, kayaks are available for rent at Constant's Wharf Park and Marina via the new Parks and Recreation kayak vending kiosk. Rentals are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, see <https://www.suffolkva.us/331/Clean-the-Bay-Day>.

**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.*

22 Rimfire Members-Only Shooting Competition Saturday May 9th at 9am

Message from Eric Fjell, Chapter Shooting Coordinator

Members, on Saturday, May 9th at 9am, we will conduct a Members-Only .22 rimfire shoot competition. There will be four classes; 25 yard open sighted handguns, 50 yard scoped handguns, 50 yard open sighted rifles, and 100 yard scoped rifles. Ammunition will be limited to .22 caliber rimfire; short long, or long rifle, subsonic or high velocity.

Each distance and firearm combination will cost \$5. Please contact Eric Fjell at kefjell@comcast.net or 651.373.4620 (m) to signup for this event.

Chapter Members and Guests Picnic Scheduled for Saturday, May 16th at 11:30am

Reminder to all Chapter Members: There is NO evening dinner meeting scheduled for the month of May; we are instead having a Members and Guests picnic lunch at the chapter park. See the flyer below for more information. Hope to see you all there!



Suffolk-Nansemond IWLA Members & Guests Picnic at the Park Saturday, May 16th, 2026 (11:30am—2pm)

Come out, enjoy your park, eat, play games, fish, practice archery, or just relax. Family, friends, and prospective members are welcome to attend.

There is no cost for this picnic.

Menu



Hot dogs & hamburgers, baked beans, three-bean salad, chips, bottled water, canned beverages, and assorted desserts.

Activities



Horseshoes



Fishing



Canoeing



Cornhole



Archery

IWLA National Scholarship Applications are due May 15th

Although applications for our Chapter's Education Scholarships have closed , there is still time to apply for an **IWLA National Conservation Scholarship**.

This year, IWLA National is awarding two \$2,500 scholarships and the **due date for applications is May 15**. For more information see <https://iwla.org/scholarship/>.



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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