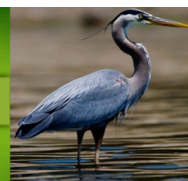




THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Suffolk-Nansemond Chapter



The Blue Heron Times July 2026 Issue

Points of Contact

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Chapter website: sniwla.org
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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, July 13th** at the Constantia House behind Baker's Funeral Home. The next month's Board meeting will be at 7pm on **Monday, August 10th** at the same location.

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

Elections for chapter officers and board members will be held at this dinner meeting.

The dinner menu will be Chicken and/or Beef Tacos (with all the trimmings), Corn and Black Bean Salad, iced tea, water, and ice cream for dessert. The cost will be \$10.

Our guest speaker for the evening is First Sergeant Henry (Skip) Reichle, Virginia Marine Police, who will discuss boating safety and equipment as well as touch on current concerns of the condition of the bay. He will also answer any questions he can and provide his email address for people to ask follow-up questions.

President's Note

Can you believe the United States is 250 years old? Shows what a group of like-minded individuals can do when they come together. Congratulations to all of us.

Likewise, the Izaak Walton League, and our chapter is a group of like-minded individuals. Working together, we can accomplish anything we set out to do. Please support our chapter and sign up for events.

July is hollyhocks and hammocks, fireworks and vacations, hot and steamy weather, cool and refreshing swims, beach picnics, and vegetables all out of the garden.

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 August is shown below.

MON 7/13 at 7pm - Board Meeting.

WED 7/15 at 6:30pm - Dinner Meeting w/ Elections of Chapter Officers and Board Members.

FRI-SAT 7/17 thru 7/18 - IWLA National Convention in Bloomington, MN.

TUE 8/4 - Chapter Firing Range Closure Entire Day in support of National Night Out (NNO).

MON 8/10 at 7pm - Board Meeting.

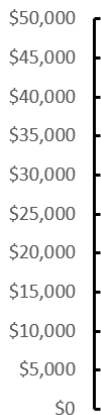
WED 8/19 at 6:30pm - Dinner Meeting w/ Swearing in of Chapter Officers and Board Members.

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

HOLIDAYS/COMMUNITY EVENTS:

FRI 7/3 - Independence Day (Substitute).

SAT 7/4 - Independence Day.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TRACKER

The graph to the left shows that we've accumulated \$6,567 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.

Recipe of the Month - Braised Pork Chops

Submitted by Ben Powell

Tender pork chops in a rich, creamy wine sauce.

Source Credit: *Essentials of Classic Italian Cooking, Marcela Hazan*

Servings: 4, Prep time: 5-10 minutes, Cook time: 1 hour 15 minutes

Ingredients:

- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 pork chops $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick
- Flour, spread on a plate
- 1 teaspoon garlic chopped fine
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup dry Marsala
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup dry red wine
- Salt and pepper
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon fennel seeds
- 1 tablespoon chopped parsley

Personal Notes:

I used thicker bone-in chops without any trouble. I bet you could get away with bone-in, boneless, thin, thick, etc. Score the fat on the sides of the chop with a knife in a cross-hatch pattern to keep them from curling while they cook.

Cooking Instructions:

1. In a liquid measuring cup or bowl, mix the Marsala, red wine, and tomato paste.
2. Add the oil to a sauté pan and turn the heat to medium. When the oil is hot, bread the chops on both sides with flour, shake off excess flour, and slip them into the pan. Cook until the chops are brown on both sides, flipping once, about 2 (ish) minutes total.
3. Add the garlic, stirring, until the garlic becomes a pale gold.
4. Add the wine-tomato paste mixture, salt, pepper, and fennel seeds. Let the wine simmer for 20 seconds.
5. Turn the heat down to a slow simmer and partially cover the pan. Cook for 1 hour, turning the chops over on occasion.
6. Add the parsley, turn the chops over to coat, then transfer them to a warm serving platter, using a slotted spoon or spatula.
7. Tip the pan and spoon off all but a small amount of fat. Add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup water, turn the heat to high, and scrape loose bits off the bottom and sides of the pan. When the pan juices become dense, pour over the chops and serve.

Recap of the June Chapter Dinner Meeting

The June 2026 members meeting was held on Wednesday, June 17th at the Oakland Christian Church community center. Dinner consisted of spaghetti, garlic bread, green salad and an array of deserts.



The guest speaker for the evening was Susan Stanley. Susan is a wildlife biologist who is currently acting as director of the Great Dismal Swamp Wildlife Refuge (GDS).

Her presentation covered some of the recent developments at the refuge.

The GDS fire crew has been merged into a new consolidated agency. All federal fire programs have been moved under the U. S. Wildland Fire Service.

The Pocosin Enhancement project is an area of the refuge being developed to enhance the habitat for the Red-Cockaded woodpecker. Clearing of some trees and underbrush better suits the woodpecker's habits. The Brothers Field Tract grassland project is an on-going project designed to establish a grassland area in the refuge.

Susan also described some of the public programs offered at the refuge such as the April Bird Walk weekends, a Christmas bird count and a July butterfly count. These programs are volunteer led and organized events. Speaking of volunteer organizations, she discussed how the chapter and the Virginia Division were instrumental in the original establishment of the refuge. It was noted that our S-N IWLA chapter and the IWLA VA Division have raised funds and provided many volunteer hours, partnering with the refuge on numerous projects including providing advocacy and assistance on many levels. The presentation ended with a discussion about the Suffolk Public Schools Fourth Grade Program involved in teaching local fourth graders about the refuge. Volunteers receive training in order to give in classroom presentations. If you are interested in volunteering for this program or learning more about it, contact Chris Lowie at lowie25@gmail.com.



The 2025 Chapter Tobin award was presented to Chris Trimpey (on the left) by Chapter President Chris Ferguson (on the right). Chris was recognized for his expansion of the chapter's Youth Program. The youth program added several new events designed to get more youth involved in the outdoors. In addition to our traditional fishing rodeo and Teddy Bear Hunt, he along with the other youth program committee members developed a scavenger hunt, a build a bird house and compass orientation event. Chris personally donated a significant amount of fishing equipment, greatly increasing the chapter's ability to afford more youth an opportunity to learn to fish. The Tobin award is an annual award presented to the chapter member who has contributed the most to facilitate the chapter's operation and the achievement of chapter goals. Congratulations Chris!

Three new members were sworn in by chapter president Chris Ferguson in the photo shown below on the left. They were Marc Davis, Josh and Jetta Roof (with son Jaxson). By the way, Josh is members Bob and Kathy Marchant's grandson, making them 3rd and potentially 4th generation IKES. Also, in the photo shown below on the right, David Perdue, the chapter scholarship committee chair, is shown presenting Ethan Caggiano with one of the two \$1,000.00 scholarships for 2026. Ethan was valedictorian for his graduating class at Smithfield High School. He plans on attending William and Mary majoring in geology with a minor in geographic information systems. His goal is to build a career in environmental conservation using science and mapping technology to better understand land use, support sustained agriculture and protect natural ecosystems.



Chapter BBQ Fundraiser Scheduled for September 24th

To obtain tickets for our upcoming BBQ Fundraiser in the fall, please contact Mr. Richard Wentz, our chapter Fundraiser Chairman, at email: rehwentz@gmail.com or (757) 635-1215. Also, you can scan the QR code or visit <https://sniwla.org/sniwla/chapter-bbq-fundraiser-thursday-september-24th-2026/> to share the flyer with social media sites or to download a printable version of it.



Suffolk Nansemond Izaak Walton League Fundraiser

BBQ Dinner Drive –Thru Pick Up



Thursday, September 24th, 2026
3:00 PM—6:00 PM

Westminster Reformed Presbyterian
Church, 3488 Godwin Blvd, Suffolk

\$15 Ticket per person

Captain Bob's BBQ & Fried Chicken
w/ Cole Slaw, Mac & Cheese, Hushpuppies

To support the S-N IWLA Conservation Projects &
Environmental Education

Tickets are available for purchase now!
To buy yours, contact:
Fundraiser Chair/Board Member Richard Wentz
e: rehwentz@gmail.com
m: 757.635.1215 (leave voicemail message).



Local Conservations News - Public Comment Period for VA Offshore Mining

On June 23, 2026, BOEM (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management) published a [Request for Information and Interest \(RFI\)](#) on potential leasing offshore Virginia, **opening a 30-day public comment period that will end on July 23, 2026.**

BOEM is evaluating whether to advance a competitive lease sale for minerals (other than oil, gas or sulfur) on the Outer Continental Shelf offshore the Commonwealth of Virginia. Federal regulations lay out a step-by-step path before any lease sale occurs. BOEM announced the publication of the Request for Information and Interest (RFI), identifying an initial area for comment. The purpose of this RFI is to evaluate industry interest and gather public input that could inform a potential lease sale for mineral.

If BOEM proceeds to the Area Identification phase of leasing, BOEM will prepare an environmental assessment and undertake consultations to analyze the action of leasing and authorization of preliminary activities. Preliminary activities include bathymetric, geological, geophysical, mapping, and other surveys necessary to develop a comprehensive Delineation, Testing, or Mining Plan. Such preliminary activities are those which have no significant adverse impact on the natural resources of the OCS. This environmental review will include necessary consultations under environmental and other statutes including Section 7 of Endangered Species Act, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act.

**Note: For more information, see <https://www.boem.gov/marine-minerals/critical-minerals/virginia-mineral-activities>.*

Local Conservations News - Suffolk, VA Wetlands Mitigation Bank

Source Credit: Suffolk News Herald

<https://www.suffolknewsherald.com/news/wetlands-bank-moves-forward-1ea7f73a>.

Suffolk planning commissioners unanimously recommended approval recently for a wetlands mitigation bank on Buckhorn Drive that would restore degraded wetlands on about 212 acres near the Isle of Wight County line. The commission voted 7-0 to recommend approval of CUP2026-00004, submitted by James Parker on behalf of Clearwater Mitigation VI LLC.

The request will go to City Council on July 15.

The Myrtle Mitigation Bank would be located at 2101 Buckhorn Drive in the Holy Neck Voting Borough. The project crosses jurisdictional lines between Suffolk and Isle of Wight County, but the conditional use permit applies only to the Suffolk portion. Staff said the property has long been used as a loblolly pine silviculture farm, which contributed to drained wetlands, loss of native habitat and nonpoint source pollution. The project includes two related efforts: a 204.3-acre mitigation bank and a 7.9-acre ecological restoration project. Both would restore degraded wetlands, place the land under conservation easement and be subject to oversight by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Environmental planner Cassidy McKelvie said the work would include plugging and grading ditches, retaining some logs and tree material for habitat, and replanting the site with native vegetation.



e: info@sniwla.org

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