



The Blue Heron Times August 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
[AskHGreen.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

[Appomatox 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, August 10th** at the Constantia House behind Baker's Funeral Home. The next month's Board meeting will be at 7pm on **Monday, September 14th** 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, August 19th** at the Oakland Church Community Life Center located in Chuckatuck at 5641 Godwin Blvd, Suffolk, VA 23434.

Chapter officers and board members will be sworn in at this dinner meeting.

The dinner menu will be Meatloaf, Three bean salad, buttered red potatoes, rolls, iced tea, water, and assorted desserts. The cost will be \$10.

Our guest speaker for the evening is Byron Carmean who will provide an update on the Virginia Big Tree program, a natural resources outreach and education program of the Virginia Cooperative Extension which is coordinated by the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation at Virginia Tech. Its mission is to increase the care and appreciation for all trees – big and small – and educate the Commonwealth about the value of trees and forests.

President's Note

August marks the end of summer. Days will get noticeably shorter and the daily temperatures will begin dropping. Back to school sales are in the stores and soon school will start for the next year. This is a good time for reflection and to complete tasks we intended to do sooner. Fall will be here before we know it.

"August is the border between summer and autumn; it is the most beautiful month I know." — Tove Jansson.

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 September is shown below.

THR 8/6 - Chapter Firing Range Closure Entire Day in support of National Night Out (NNO).
MON 8/10 at 7pm - Chapter Board Meeting.
WED 8/19 at 6:30pm - Chapter Monthly Dinner Meeting w/ Swearing in of Officers and Board Members.
SAT 9/5 at 8am - *Chapter Park Maintenance WorkDay.
SAT 9/12 at 9am- *Chapter Youth Fishing Rodeo (Open to the Public).
MON 9/14 at 7pm - Chapter Board Meeting.
WED 9/16 at 6:30pm - Chapter Monthly Dinner Meeting.
THR 9/24 at 3pm - *Chapter BBQ FundRaiser.
SAT 9/26 at 9am - *Suffolk Nansemond River Cleanup at Constance Wharf.

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

HOLIDAYS/COMMUNITY EVENTS:

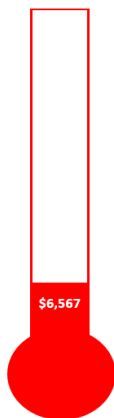
SAT 9/7 Labor Day.

Chapter Scholarship - Status Update on 2nd Award Winner

Message from David Perdue, Scholarship Chair

Our 2nd scholarship award winner for this year, Katie Gallahorn, will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. She is a student at Virginia Tech and is majoring in civil engineering. She has been working as a counselor at a summer camp outside of the local area. She will attend this month's dinner meeting to receive her scholarship award and will tell us about her academics over the previous year.

\$50,000
\$45,000
\$40,000
\$35,000
\$30,000
\$25,000
\$20,000
\$15,000
\$10,000
\$5,000
\$0



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 - Best Garlic Parmesan Flounder Recipe

Source Credit: <https://cookingheavenly.com/best-garlic-parmesan-flounder-recipe>

Serves: 4

Ingredients:

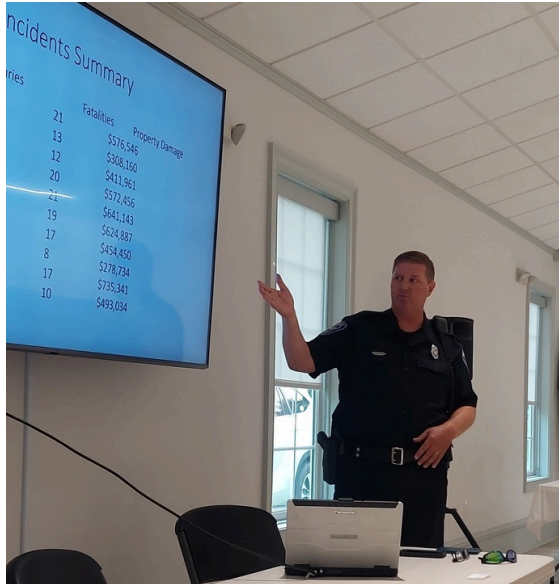
- 4 Flounder fillets (fresh or thawed)
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 cup breadcrumbs (preferably panko)
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon fresh parsley, chopped
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Lemon wedges for serving

Cooking Instructions:

1. Preheat Oven: Preheat your oven to 400°F.
2. Prepare Baking Dish: Lightly grease a baking dish with cooking spray or a little olive oil.
3. Make the Topping: In a medium bowl, combine the grated Parmesan, breadcrumbs, minced garlic, and melted butter. Mix well until evenly combined.
4. Season the Fish: Season the flounder fillets with salt and pepper. Lay them skin-side-down in the prepared baking dish.
5. Add the Topping: Generously spoon the garlic-parmesan mixture over each fillet, ensuring an even coating.
6. Bake: Bake in the preheated oven for about 12-15 minutes, or until the fish flakes easily with a fork and the topping turns golden brown.
7. Serve: Remove from the oven and garnish with fresh parsley and serve with lemon wedges.
Enjoy your delicious Garlic Parmesan Flounder!
For additional flavor, serve with garlic mashed potatoes, roasted asparagus, or a fresh garden salad.

Recap of the July Chapter Dinner Meeting

The July member's meeting was held on Wednesday July 15th, 2026 at the Oakland Christian Church community center. Beef and chicken tacos were on the dinner menu along with a selection of ice cream for dessert. The cooking committee has decided to hang up their aprons at the end of the year after several years of serving up some delicious meals. The chapter is looking for volunteers to step up and take over the tradition of serving meals at the dinner meetings. If you are interested in possibly becoming a cooking committee member in the future, contact any officer or board member and let them know.



The image shows a police officer in a dark uniform standing in a room, pointing towards a large presentation screen. The screen displays a table titled 'Incidents Summary' with columns for 'Incidents', 'Fatalities', and 'Property Damage'. The data is as follows:

Incidents	Fatalities	Property Damage
21	\$576,945	
13	\$308,160	
12	\$411,961	
20	\$572,456	
21	\$641,143	
19	\$624,887	
17	\$454,450	
8	\$278,734	
17	\$735,341	
10	\$493,034	

The guest speaker for the evening was First Sergeant Henry "Skip" Reichie of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. His presentation covered various aspects of boating safety. It included statistics on the number of boats, boating incidents/accidents as well as some specific boating regulations. He explained that an incident report is required to be filed when damage is in excess of \$2,000 by or to the vessel or it's equipment, or an injury occurs requiring medical attention beyond first aid, loss of life, or a disappearance of any person from a vessel occurs. In 2025, Virginia had 10 boating related fatalities. In those 10 fatal incidents, alcohol was a factor in 10%. 90% of the fatalities were due to no life jacket being worn. He also noted that 20% of fatal incidents involved paddle craft such as canoes and kayaks. Officer Riechie also reviewed some equipment requirements to have onboard your boat as well as a new "move over" law. To read more about this "move over law" and other boating tips and requirements log onto <https://dwr.virginia.gov/boating>.

Board Member/Nominations&Elections Chair Jacob Bosco coordinated the 2026-2027-chapter election process. After tallying the votes, Chris Ferguson was re-elected as president, Shawn Bailes was elected vice president, Elaine Doxey secretary, Priscilla Taylor treasurer, Ray Powell assistant treasurer. Darden Langston, Virginia Wahab and Mandy Bane were elected as new 3-year term board members.

Also, Richard Wentz and Darden Langston stressed the importance of selling tickets for the 24th of September BBQ fundraiser. It was noted that this year's event will be held on Thursday instead of the usual Friday. See the article directly below for more information about this fundraiser.

Chapter BBQ Fundraiser Scheduled for Thursday, September 24th

To obtain tickets for our upcoming BBQ Fundraiser scheduled for **Thursday, September 24th at 3pm**, 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 shown below with social media sites or to download a printable version of it.

**Note: Members, to volunteer to help out during this fundraiser with bagging and handing out food to-go containers, taking tickets, handling parking lot duty, etc., please contact Richard to help fill work roster assignments using his contact info above.*

The volunteer hours you work will be credited to help you meet your chapter membership participation annual 8 hour requirement. See <https://sniwla.org/sniwla/membership-info/membership-participation-policy/> for more information.



**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).



***Chapter Youth Fishing Rodeo (Open-To-The-Public) Saturday, September 12th**

Message from Gary Brown, Board Member/Fishing Rodeo Event Coordinator.

Our chapter is hosting the annual open-to-the-public Youth *Fishing Rodeo at our chapter park on **Saturday, September 12th at 9am**. Please R.S.V.P me at gtbrown213@gmail.com in advance to sign-up to participate. For more information, see the flyer shown 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.

Members, for this event, please consider donating single-serving pre-packaged snacks. You can bring them to me at the monthly chapter dinner meeting. I will coordinate the collection of all donated items. The Chapter will provide beverages for the event such as bottled water and juice box drinks with coolers/ice to keep them cold. And, for those of you who are interested in volunteering to work at this event, please get with me to confirm specific work roster assignments. **Note: The volunteer hours you work will be credited to help you meet your chapter membership participation annual 8 hour requirement.* See <https://sniwla.org/sniwla/membership-info/membership-participation-policy/> for more information.

Suffolk-Nansemond Chapter Izaak Walton League of America

Youth Fishing Rodeo
Saturday, September 12th 2026



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 v2026-08-09

***Chapter Park Maintenance Workday Scheduled for Saturday September 5th at 8am**

Message from Jimmy Fanny, Chapter Park Manager

Members, we have scheduled a park workday on **Saturday, September 5th at 8am**. In addition to helping keep the grass cut and the weeds trimmed, there may be additional tasks to accomplish as well; more details will be provided in a members-only eBlast to be sent out via email a few days before the workday.

So, plan to meet at the chapter park gazebo at 8AM to sign-in and receive individual work assignments. Please bring yard maintenance tools such as shovels, heavy duty rakes, lawn mowers, weed trimmers, chain saws, etc. and wear sturdy boots, work gloves, and safety glasses.

Don't forget the insect repellent and sunscreen, and be sure to bring bottled water!

**Note: The volunteer hours you work will be credited to help you meet your chapter membership participation annual 8 hour requirement. See <https://sniwla.org/sniwla/membership-info/membership-participation-policy/> for more information.*

***Suffolk Nansemond River Cleanup Saturday, September 26th**

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

Members, Suffolk's Litter Control Department (Keep Suffolk Beautiful) will be coordinating a Nansemond River cleanup in September.

WHEN? Saturday, September 26th, 2026 at 9am to Noon.

WHERE? Constant's Wharf Park and Marina 100 E Constance Rd, Suffolk, VA.

Volunteer on land or in your canoe or kayak. Grab your kayaks and join us for the Nansemond River Cleanup. This annual regional event is organized by Keep Suffolk Beautiful and the Izaak Walton League, and is aimed at enhancing the health of our watershed. We'll gather at Constant's Wharf Park and Marina. Suffolk personnel will provide cleanup supplies at the site. Volunteers planning to participate by boat should bring their kayak or canoe. Long grabbers will be distributed to those using boats. Stay updated by following Keep Suffolk Beautiful on Facebook and Instagram. This is a pet-friendly event.

For more information, call (757) 514-7604 or email KSB@suffolkva.us. Also, see <https://www.suffolkva.us/1244/Nansemond-River-Cleanup>.

**Note: Chapter members can earn chapter volunteer work credit hours towards accumulating the required annual minimum volunteer participation hours by participating in this river cleanup. See <https://sniwla.org/sniwla/membership-info/membership-participation-policy/> for more information.*

IWLA National Website Conservation Action Alerts

Action Alerts are an important tool that helps IWLA National leadership advocate for conservation. Chapter members decide the priorities which guides the League's advocacy focus and provides unique opportunities for our members and volunteers to share their story with their lawmakers. Follow this link for more information on how you can take action to support relevant conservation issues.

<https://iwla.org/conservation-priorities/advocate-for-conservation/#/>



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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<https://eocampaign1.com/rewards/dummy?p=6d52cb82-9000-11f1-a244-8746e70c533e&pt=campaign&t=1786445308&s=76f743f151c41d5555c4cfde1dc0724b7270c7f31fd9ee962a5e588a8de0bbce>

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S-N IWLA

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