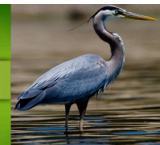




THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Suffolk-Nansemond Chapter



The Blue Heron Times October, 2026 Issue

Points of Contact

President: Chris Ferguson
president@snwla.org, 757-339-3905 (m)

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Park Use Reservations Chair: Allen Kiger
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Membership Chair: Alan Ferguson
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Chapter website: snwla.org
 WebMaster: webmaster@snwla.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

[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, October 12th** at the Constantia House behind Baker's Funeral Home. The next month's Board meeting will be at 7pm on **Monday, November 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, October 21st** at the Oakland Church Community Life Center located in Chuckatuck at 5641 Godwin Blvd, Suffolk, VA 23434.

The dinner menu is Fried Chicken, Cheesy Potatoes, Three Bean Salad, Rolls, Iced Tea, with Ice-Cream for dessert. The cost will be \$10.

The guest speaker will be Ashley Stimpson, a published author who is currently researching the Great Dismal Swamp. She will give a short presentation of all the surprising human stories hidden in our country's remaining swamps.

President's Note

Summer has drawn to a close and now it is Autumn with leaves putting on their coats of many colors.

Leaves change color in autumn because chlorophyll production stops as days shorten and temperatures drop, revealing yellow and orange carotenoids and allowing red anthocyanins to form. Shorter daylight and cooler nights trigger trees to break down chlorophyll, making hidden pigments visible and producing fall colors.

"Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go."--author unknown.

Respectfully Yours,

Chris Ferguson,
 Chapter President,
 Suffolk-Nansemond IWLA

2027 Membership Renewal – Important Reminder

Message from Alan Ferguson, Membership Chair

It's almost time to renew your membership for 2027!

Renewal notices will be available for pickup at our October 21st dinner meeting. If you're unable to attend, your notice will be mailed to the address we currently have on file.

Please Check Your Mailing Address

If you've recently moved or need to update your mailing address, please contact our Membership Chair, **Alan Ferguson**, at SNIWLA.mdr@gmail.com as soon as possible. This will help ensure your renewal notice reaches you without delay.

Ways to Pay Your Dues

Membership dues may be paid:

- **In person** at the October or November dinner meetings
- **By mail** using the address label included with your renewal notice

Important: Dues must be received by the **January 20, 2027 dinner meeting** to avoid a **\$20 late fee**.

Thank you for your continued membership and support of our organization. We truly appreciate your involvement and look forward to seeing you at our upcoming dinner meetings!

2026 Service Participation Hours

Message from Alan Ferguson, Membership Chair

Article Reprinted from the September Newsletter Issue

This is a reminder that each member is asked to complete 8 hours of service for the Chapter. There are two months left in the year to earn these hours. You can find the opportunities on the chapter website in the newsletter and posted to the chapter calendar. You can find the [calendar](https://sniwla.org/) at <https://sniwla.org/> under the Home tab. By selecting Calendar, you will see the chapter events. Those events listed beginning with an * can earn service hours. If you click on the event, you will learn the details of when, where and point of contact.

The full Member [participation policy](https://sniwla.org/) is on the Chapter website <https://sniwla.org/> under the Members tab.

Participation forms are to be received by December 1st. *Hours earned during the month of December will be applied to 2027.* A \$150 fee will be assessed to members not meeting the 8 hour minimum per the policy.

Please bring your [participation forms](#) to a dinner meeting or event. You may also mail them to Alan Ferguson, [3231 Matoaka Road, Suffolk, VA 23434](#).

Thank you for helping keep our Chapter strong, active and engaged.

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 the year is shown below.

WED 10/21 at 6:30pm - Monthly Dinner Meeting.
SAT 10/24 at 3-5pm - *Suffolk Halloween Cleanup in Downtown.
SAT 11/7 at 10am - Prospective Member Orientation.
SAT 11/7 at 5pm - Chapter Campfire Roast (Members and Guests Only).
MON 11/9 at 7pm - Board Meeting.
SAT 11/14 at 9am - *Suffolk Tire Amnesty Recycle Carolina Rd.
WED 11/18 at 6:30pm - Monthly Dinner Meeting (***Fish Fry, tentatively***).
TUE 12/1 - Chapter Volunteer Participation Forms are Due.

*Note: The events marked with an asterisk, even though coordinated by the City of Suffolk, count towards earning Chapter work hour credits for our annual membership volunteer [participation requirement](#).

HOLIDAYS/COMMUNITY EVENTS (through end of November)

MON 10/12 - Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day.
SAT 10/31 - Halloween.
SUN 11/1 - Daylight Savings Time Ends.
TUE 11/3 - Elections Day.
WED 11/11 - Veterans Day.
THR 11/26 - Thanksgiving.
FRI 11/27 - Black Friday.

Recipe of the Month - Meatloaf

Source Credit: Claudia Powell

Ingredients:

- o 1 lb ground beef
- o 1/2 lb ground pork
- o 1/2 c bread crumbs
- o 1/4 c ketchup
- o 1 tsp mustard
- o 1 tsp worchestershire sauce
- o 1/3 c water *see *note 1*
- o 1 egg
- o Bacon Strips to top loaf

Cooking Instructions:

1. Mix all ingredients together.
2. Form into a Loaf.
3. Bake at 350 degrees F for 1 hour.
4. Cool 10 minutes before slicing.

**note 1: Add water for desired consistency.*

DWR Wildlife Calendars

Article reprinted from the October Chapter newsletter issue.

Members, DWR (Department of Wildlife Resources) 2027 Wildlife Calendars will be available for purchase at the front check-in table at the October chapter dinner meeting for \$10, which is a discount of 37% off the retail price.

NOTE: LIMITED QUANTITIES ARE AVAILABLE.



Recap of Suffolk River Cleanup at Constant's Wharf on September 26th

On the morning of Saturday, September 26th, a small group of Chapter Ikes gathered to join a much larger group of Suffolkans in cleaning up trash from the Nansemond River. This event was organized by Keep Suffolk Beautiful whose stated goal is to enhance the health of our watershed.

As commented by Marc Davis, "we had a great clean-up; a veritable horde of high school students participated. When I left we had nearly 100 bags of trash, not including a chair, suitcase, grocery cart, etc." In the photo shown below are, from left to right, Chapter Ikes Jonathan Echols (arms spread wide), Robert Gardner Sr. with son Buddy (yellow vest), Mike Lane, and Marc Davis (sunglasses).



Recap of the Chapter BBQ Fundraiser held on September 24th

The Chapter held its annual BBQ fundraiser on September 24 from 3 to 6 PM. Once again, Captain Bob's delivered delicious dinners of pork BBQ, fried chicken, mac and cheese and cole slaw. And let's not forget those hush puppies!

We were able to sell over 400 dinners! Special thanks go to Darden Langston for his incredible efforts to elevate sales. While we always hope that the weather will cooperate, this year was a bit of a challenge. The Nor'easter kicked in the rainy mist along with the wind from time-to-time. Several patrons acknowledged the volunteers' commitment and thanked everyone for working in the less-than-ideal conditions.

In spite of the weather, the BBQ can definitely be considered a success. Thanks to everyone who purchased tickets, who worked to sell tickets and who supported the event.



Recap of September 26th Members' Dinner Meeting

The meeting was held on September 16th at Oakland Christian Church Community Life Center. Board Member Darden Langston offered the invocation and everyone enjoyed delicious chicken pot pie, cranberry sauce, rolls and desserts. Afterwards, Darden discussed the Suffolk Parks and Trails Alliance Peanut project. The effort places custom-painted fiberglass peanuts around town to highlight Suffolk's connection to our history of peanut production. Organizations can purchase a 5-foot-high peanut for \$2,000. Individual members may contribute to the purchase of one for the Chapter. Darden will manage this effort. Feel free to contact him at 757-377-8755.

Our guest Speaker was Zach Trees, Public Relations manager for Southeastern Public Service Authority (SPSA). The regional landfill supports Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Isle of Wight, Franklin and Southampton County (1.2 million people).

Zach provided an informative briefing on the new system called SPSA SORT (Separating Organics, Recycling and Trash). This initiative will reduce the overall waste burden to the environment and eventually recycle/repurpose 50% or more of our waste, extending the life span of the regional landfill by 35 years. SORT uses AI to separate waste streams and is managed by AMP Waste Management LTD.

The SPSA management team invites groups who are interested in the project or want to learn more to reach out to them. Small group tours of the facilities (located in Portsmouth) can be scheduled. For more information on SPSA, see the full article posted on our chapter website under the News menu at <https://sniwla.org/sniwla/september-2026-members-meeting/>.



Richard Wentz provided an update on the September 24 BBQ fundraiser. Chris Ferguson wrapped up with a request to thoughtfully consider assisting/leading the Cooking Committee. If you think you might be interested, please reach out to any member of the Board.

**Chapter Campfire Roast at the Park Saturday,
November 7th - Members and Guests Only**

We're planning to hold the 3rd annual Members-only campfire weenie roast at the chapter park on Saturday, November 7th 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 powelcjc@gmail.com or via text to 757.504.8159 with a head count of the number of adults and the number of children in your group that are planning to attend.

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

Drinks are bring-your-own-beverage (BYOB) and also please bring your own roasting sticks. Should be fun!



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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