

The Blue Heron Times November, 2026 Issue

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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
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. The last monthly Board meeting was held at 7pm on **Monday, November 9th** at the Constantia House behind Baker's Funeral Home.

Chapter Members Dinner meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The next monthly dinner meeting will be held at 6:30pm on **Wednesday, November 18th** at the Oakland Church Community Life Center located in Chuckatuck at 5641 Godwin Blvd, Suffolk, VA 23434.

The dinner menu, prepared by Chapter Ike Jonathan Echols with help from the kitchen crew, will be a Fish Fry with cole slaw, french fries, hush puppies, and assorted desserts. The cost will be $10.

The guest speaker will be Nick Flanders, Biology Department at Old Dominion University (ODU). Nick is working with Dr. Lytton Musselman on a book about the plant life at ODU's Blackwater Ecological Nature Area Preserve near Zuni.

President's Note

Benjamin Franklin praised the turkey as "a much more respectable bird" than the bald eagle in an oft-cited 1784 letter, but he never actually proposed it as the U.S. national symbol.

Today's commercial turkeys are bred for maximum meat production and are unable to fly.

Whether you hunt your turkey in the woods or at the local food mart, enjoy your Thanksgiving.

Do not forget the cranberries. The American cranberry (*vaccinium macrocarpon*) is one of the few commonly sold fruits that are native to North America.

Respectfully Yours,

Chris Ferguson,
Chapter President,
Suffolk-Nansemond IWLA

Calendar of Upcoming 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 calendar year is shown below.

SAT 11/14 at 9am - *Suffolk Tire Amnesty Recycle Carolina Rd.
WED 11/18 at 6:30pm - Monthly Dinner Meeting (Fish Fry)
TUE 12/1 - Chapter Volunteer Participation Forms are Due.

*Note: Events marked with an asterisk count towards work hour credits for meeting the chapter's annual membership volunteer participation requirement. **HOLIDAYS/COMMUNITY EVENTS:** WED 11/11 - Veterans Day. THR 11/26 - Thanksgiving Day. FRI 11/27 - Black Friday. THR 12/24 - Christmas Eve. FRI 12/25 - Christmas Day.

2027 Membership Renewal – Important Reminder

Message from Alan Ferguson, Membership Chair
Article Reprinted from the October Newsletter Issue (with revisions in italics)

It's time to renew your membership for 2027!

Renewal Notices
Renewal notices were handed out at our October dinner meeting. If you missed that meeting, you should have already received your renewal notice at the USPS mailing address we currently have on file for you.

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 *November* dinner meeting
- **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 October Newsletter Issue

This is a reminder that each member is asked to complete 8 hours of service for the Chapter. There are only a few weeks 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 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 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.

Recipe of the Month - Cheesy Potatoes

Source Credit: Maya Thompson, SteelHead Diner, https://www.steelheaddiner.com/author/maya/

Ingredients:

- 1 bag (32 ounces / 907 grams) frozen hash browns, thawed
- 1 cup (240 milliliters) sour cream
- 1 cup (113 grams) shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 (10.5 ounces / 298 grams) can cheddar cheese soup ***(substituted for cream of chicken soup in the original recipe)***
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 cup (113 grams) butter, melted

Cooking Instructions:

1. Prepare the oven at 375°F (190°C) and coat a 9×13-inch baking dish with cooking spray or butter.
2. In a spacious mixing vessel, thoroughly combine shredded potatoes with soup, tangy sour cream, melted butter, sharp cheddar cheese, aromatic garlic powder, pungent onion powder, seasoning salt, and freshly ground black pepper.
3. Transfer the creamy potato mixture into the prepared baking dish, ensuring an even distribution across the surface.
4. Create a crispy topping by blending crushed cornflakes (or Ritz crackers) with additional melted butter until well integrated.
5. Generously scatter the buttery crumb mixture over the potato base, covering the entire casserole with an even layer.
6. Place the casserole in the preheated oven and bake uncovered for 40-45 minutes, watching for a golden-brown and delightfully crisp top.
7. Remove from the oven and allow the dish to rest for 5 minutes, which helps the casserole set and makes serving easier.
8. Serve immediately while warm.

HELP WANTED - Positions: Chapter Food and Facilities Chair/Co-Chair for 2027

Message from Claudia Powell, Chapter Food and Facilities Chair

Members, the responsibilities are to:

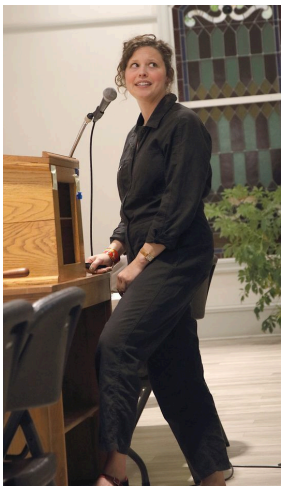
- Establish a list of Chapter Members who would be willing to plan, shop, prepare and serve a meal at a monthly chapter dinner meeting.
- Ensure all supplies are available including paper products (dinner plates, bowls, dessert plates, and cups) plastic flatware, plastic table covers, aluminum pans, sweet iced tea mix, gallon sized tea bags for non-sweet tea, and large trash bags.
- Facilitate sharing of left-over supplies between meetings.
- Set up meeting room and cover all of the tables that are used with plastic disposable cloths.
- Remember to turn on the exhaust fans when using the ovens and remember to turn the ovens and the fans off afterwards.
- After the meeting, coordinate cleaning up the kitchen and meeting room and returning tables/chairs to their original orientation, removing all of the trash, replacing all trash bags, resetting the 3 building thermostats to their original settings (directions will be on the kitchen whiteboard), unlocking and locking the meeting hall and returning the door key to the lockbox.

Signing up to cook a chapter dinner meal is an opportunity to get to know our members and share some laughs and stories as the meals are prepped. At a typical monthly dinner meeting approximately 30 to 35 meals are served. Cleaning up is usually a team effort with everyone pitching in.

If you are at all curious, please ask--it isn't a commitment. For more information, please contact Claudia Powell at powelcje@gmail.com or 757.504.8159

Recap of October Chapter Dinner Meeting

The October members meeting was held October 21st at Oakland Christian Church Community Center. Board Member Darden Langston called the meeting to order. After first-time guests were introduced, everyone enjoyed a dinner of fried chicken, cheesy potatoes, bean salad and rolls.



The guest speaker was Ashley Stimpson who is currently conducting research on east cost swamps; her current focus is the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Ashley is a free-lance environmental journalist and is currently the president of the Outdoor Writers Association of America. Besides writing by-lines for the New York Times, National Geographic and other national and local publications, Ashley is working on an article for Outdoor America about the Great Dismal Swamp and the Chapter's involvement with the Refuge. She is conducting research to support her upcoming book on the natural and cultural history of swamps in the United States.

Her presentation, "Swamp People", was about the five major east coast swamps and some of the key stories associated with each swamp and how they became national wildlife refuges. She discussed the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey, Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge here in Virginia, the Congaree National Park in South Carolina, the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and the Big Cypress National Park both in Florida. Her presentation concluded with a discussion of the importance of swamps for water filtration, flood control, wildlife habitat and the contact with nature for humans.

Board Member Darden Langston swore in new members Isaac Macias, and Autumn and Dominic Lipari (pictured below left to right).

Welcome to the Chapter, all!



Tim Doxey displayed an IWLA quilt, shown below, that was made in honor of a former chapter member.

The quilt was donated and will be raffled off at the Chapters Chili cook-off scheduled for February, 2027.



Recap of Chapter Campfire Roast held November 7th

On this cool, crisp Saturday evening, about a dozen or so Chapter Ikes gathered around the campfire at the chapter park for the 3rd annual Campfire Roast to cook hot dogs and s'mores with sticks, catch-up on all what's been going on, stare at the coals in the fire, laugh, tell stories, and enjoy the camraderie.









Volunteer Opportunity - *Suffolk Recycle Tire Amnesty Event Scheduled for Saturday, November 14th

Keep Suffolk Beautiful is hosting a Recycling Drive and Tire Amnesty Day on **Saturday, November 14, 2026**, **from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM** at Public Works Operations, 800 Carolina Road, Suffolk, VA 23434. This service is strictly for Suffolk residents as a free alternative to taking residential tires to the local landfill. **A valid ID is required.** ***ACCEPTED ITEMS are shown below:***

- TIRES (22 inches or less, no rims - Suffolk ID required)
- DISPOSAL OF UNSERVICEABLE OLD U.S. FLAGS
- FOOD AND TOILETRY DONATIONS
- EYE GLASSES AND HEARING AIDS
- HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE
- Also, Free Document Shredding is available.

Donations are Appreciated: Attendees are encouraged to bring non-perishable food and toiletry donations. If you have questions, contact Chapter Ike Marc Davis at mrfingr99@gmail.com. Also, for more info, see https://www.suffolkva.us/339/Recycling-Drive.

**Note: Although this event is not coordinated by our S-N IWLA chapter, members can earn chapter volunteer work hour credits towards the required annual minimum volunteer participation hours.*

Suffolk Parks and Trails Alliance Peanut Sculpture Donations Requested

Message from S-N IWLA Chapter Board Member Darden Langston

We are getting close to our target, but still need more donations to be able to purchase the peanut sculpture for display at our chapter park entrance.

Individual members of our S-N IWLA Chapter may make a contribution towards the purchase of one of these sculptures on behalf of the Chapter. **Feel free to contact me at 757-377-8755 if you wish to make a donation.**

Background Info: As was first announced at the September chapter dinner meeting, the Suffolk Parks and Trails Alliance group (a non-profit, volunteer-driven organization) is placing custom-painted fiberglass peanuts around town to highlight Suffolk's connection to our city's history of peanut production. Organizations can purchase a 5-foot-high peanut for $2,000. For more information, see the WRKR3 Local News article posted by Jessica Davis of WTKR News3 on Aug 25, 2026. Also, click on following photo to watch an instructional video posted in this news article.



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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