



# NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY & MUSEUM

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## **National Sporting Library & Museum's 2016 Polo Classic to be held at Great Meadow**

**MIDDLEBURG, Virginia – January 4, 2016** – The National Sporting Library & Museum (NSLM) announces its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Polo Classic will be held at Great Meadow in The Plains, Virginia on Sunday, the 11<sup>th</sup> of September, 2016. While the notable fundraiser for the NSLM will continue to include rousing polo play preceded by a plated lunch, the location of the event has changed to allow additional space for spectators and polo-related activities.

For the past five years, the NSLM's Polo fundraiser has been held at the Virginia International Polo Club in Upperville, Virginia. The event became increasingly successful at this location, attracting polo attendees from near and far. In 2015, "Polo tickets sold quickly and we realized the event was gaining great momentum and popularity," said NSLM Board of Directors Chairman Manley Johnson. "The change in venue allows us to grow the event and enhance the overall experience for spectators."

With the added space at Great Meadow, event organizers will offer additional covered spectator seating and tailgate spots, and sell general admission tickets for the first time in the event's history. "There will be plenty of room for those who want to take advantage of all the time-honored formal traditions of Polo, and for those who want to celebrate casually the day's events tailgating," said 2016 Polo Classic Chair Juliana E. May.

Great Meadow is owned and operated by the Great Meadow Foundation, a non-profit organization established in 1982 with the mission of preserving a 200-acre property in perpetual open space for community activities. The Foundation is managed by a Board of Trustees and staff who work together with the community to further its mission. "There has always been a strong bond between the National Sporting Library & Museum and Great Meadow Foundation," said Great Meadow Foundation President Rob Banner. "We are pleased to be working with another area non-profit as the host site for our 2016 Polo event," said NSLM Executive Director Melanie Mathewes.

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Proceeds from the Polo Classic support the NSLM's mission of preserving, promoting, and sharing the literature, art, and culture of equestrian, angling, and field sports. Funds raised in 2015 enabled the NSLM to offer over 60 public programs, host seven art exhibitions, and service more than 8,000 visitors. "Our Polo fundraiser is a celebration of sporting culture and an opportunity for sporting enthusiasts to experience a very exciting part of the NSLM mission," said Mathewes.

Eleven miles south of Middleburg off of VA-245, Great Meadow is used for steeplechasing, Twilight Polo, and many other community activities. The site has been home to the renowned Virginia Gold Cup race since 1985 and is quickly developing into a first-class equestrian center; hosting the first Nations Cup of Eventing ever held in America this summer, the final outing of the Land Rover US Eventing Team before competing at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The grounds contain four ponds, a small open air stadium used for Twilight Polo, The Shelia C. Johnson Grass Polo Field, and space for public and private events and activities. For more information visit [GreatMeadow.org](http://GreatMeadow.org).

Tickets for the NSLM's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Polo Classic will be available January 29<sup>th</sup> through the organization's website, [NationalSporting.org](http://NationalSporting.org), or by calling the NSLM at 540-687-6542 ext. 24. All proceeds from the event benefit the National Sporting Library & Museum, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. "We have high hopes for our 2016 Polo Classic," said May. "That is why the event's theme is *Great Expectations at Great Meadow*."

The National Sporting Library & Museum (NSLM) is located in Middleburg, Virginia, the heart of beautiful hunt country. Founded in 1954, the renowned research Library, and fine art Museum highlight the rich heritage and tradition of country pursuits. Angling, horsemanship, shooting, steeplechasing, foxhunting, flat racing, polo, coaching, and wildlife are among the subjects one can explore in the organization's general stacks, rare book holdings, archives, and art collection. The NSLM offers a wide variety of educational programs, exhibitions, and family activities throughout the year, and is open to researchers and the general public. While there is no admission fee to the Library, the Museum charges \$10 for adults, \$8 for youths (age 13-18), and \$8 for seniors. NSLM members and children age 12 and under are free. Library & Museum hours are Wednesday-Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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