

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Sporting Library & Museum Announces Return of the Polo Classic on September 14, 2025, Sponsored by MARS Equestrian™

Middleburg, VA — August 6, 2025 — The National Sporting Library & Museum (NSLM) is pleased to announce the highly anticipated return of the NSLM Polo Classic, presented by MARS Equestrian™, on Sunday, September 14, 2025, at Great Meadow in The Plains, Virginia.

A cherished tradition in Virginia's hunt country, and the NSLM's sole fundraising event, the Polo Classic supports everything the organization does. Proceeds from the event help the NSLM fulfill its mission through exhibitions, care of its collections and campus, educational programs, community events, and more. According to NSLM President and CEO, Elizabeth von Hassell, "The Polo Classic is crucial in supporting our work throughout the year. Not only does the event benefit the Library & Museum, but it is also a fun way for people to experience our mission first-hand and to enjoy an exciting day of polo at the beautiful Great Meadow."

This year marks a continued collaboration with MARS Equestrian™, a longtime partner and advocate for the equestrian community. "We are thrilled to once again bring together our supporters, sponsors, and polo enthusiasts for an unforgettable day of sport, culture, and philanthropy," said Elizabeth von Hassell, President & CEO of the NSLM. "The Polo Classic is more than a match—it's a celebration of tradition and a vital fundraiser for us."

The official artwork for the event poster, sponsored by McCormick & Co., was *Chukker xxxx*, 2025 by local artist, Natalie Fox.

The silent auction will be held in conjunction with the event to raise additional support for the Library & Museum. The auction features 23 unique experiences xxx. In addition to the silent auction, Salon Sponsor Lugano Diamonds will generously donate a \$25,000 piece of jewelry for an "Opportunity Draw." Guests of the Polo Classic had the exclusive opportunity to purchase a 1 in 100 chance for \$250 to win this beautiful piece, all in support of the NSLM. Rolls Royce?

Following the first match, the Blue Ridge hounds, led by huntsman xxx, will circle the field in the traditional Polo Classic "Parade of the Hounds". During the Dog Divot Stomp Sponsored by NUTRO™, at the half-way point of the second match, two lucky dogs, will receive the Best Turned Out Dog Award. During the divot stomp, guests will be treated to sparkling wine from sponsor Bouvet Ladubay.

Event Highlights Include:

- Two thrilling polo matches featuring top international and local talent

- Elegant field-side luncheon in the VIP Pavilion
- Best tailgate and best hat contests
- Exclusive MARS Equestrian™ experiences
- Artisan vendors, family activities, and more

Set against the picturesque backdrop of Great Meadow, this event attracts guests from across the country and raises crucial funds to support the NSLM's world-class exhibitions, research library, and public programming.

Tickets, sponsorship packages, and tailgate spaces are now available at NationalSporting.org. Early reservations are strongly encouraged.

About the National Sporting Library & Museum:

The National Sporting Library & Museum is in Middleburg, VA, the heart of beautiful horse 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 public. 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 aged 12 and under are admitted free of charge. Library & Museum hours are Thursday–Sunday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

About MARS Equestrian™:

MARS Equestrian™ is the equestrian sponsorship division of Mars, Incorporated, dedicated to enhancing the lives of horses, pets, and the people who care for them through purposeful partnerships in the equestrian community.

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