



**NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY & MUSEUM**  
A RESEARCH CENTER FOR EQUESTRIAN AND FIELD SPORTS

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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FROM:  
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*Melanie Leigh Mathewes*

**National Sporting Library and Museum  
Appoints  
Melanie Leigh Mathewes  
as Executive Director**

MIDDLEBURG, VA - The Board of Directors of the National Sporting Library and Museum (NSLM) announces the appointment of Melanie Leigh Mathewes as its new Executive Director after an extensive nationwide search.

Ms. Mathewes has served as the Executive Director of the Hermitage Museum & Gardens in Norfolk, Virginia, for the last eight years. During her tenure, she oversaw the first-ever strategic plan for the Hermitage, which resulted in numerous improvements in the physical plant, and a dramatic increase in membership and visitation. Prior to coming to the Hermitage, Ms. Mathewes was the events and exhibition specialist at the Norfolk Botanical Garden. In addition to leading the Hermitage, Ms. Mathewes joined the Virginia Association of Museums as council director for the Tidewater and Eastern Shore region in 2011. She is also an adjunct faculty member at Tidewater Community College, teaching courses in art history since 2010.

Her twenty year career with museums includes work at Agecroft Hall, The Museum of the Southwest, Fredda Turner Durham Children's Museum, Craven Arts Council, Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens, and Norfolk Botanical Garden. She holds a bachelor's degree in art history from Virginia Tech and a master's degree in museum studies from Virginia Commonwealth University.

In a statement announcing the appointment, Manuel H. Johnson, chairman of the NSLM Board of Directors, said: "We are very pleased that someone of Melanie's background and experience will become our Executive Director. Her record in Norfolk is most impressive, and when we interviewed her, we could see why she was so successful there. We look forward to working with her to take the National Sporting Library and Museum to an even higher level." Mathewes begins her duties at the NSLM on January 22, 2013.

*The National Sporting Library and Museum is dedicated to preserving and sharing the literature, art and culture of equestrian, angling and field sports. Founded in 1954, the institution has over 24,000-books dating from the 16th-21st centuries. The John H. Daniels Fellowship program supports the research of visiting scholars. The Museum, a newly renovated and expanded historic building on the Library campus, houses exhibits of American and European fine animal and sporting art. Information is shared through exhibitions, lectures, seminars, publications and special events. The NSLM is open to researchers and the general public.*

***Admission:*** free.

***Library Hours:*** Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

***Museum Hours:*** Wednesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday noon to 4 p.m.

***Web site:*** [www.nsl.org](http://www.nsl.org)

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