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2026 Hampton Classic Horse Show Opens with Exceptional Sport, Style and Tradition

Bridgehampton, NY – August 23, 2026 – The **Hampton Classic Horse Show** kicked off its 51st anniversary on Sunday with special ceremonies and top-level competition across multiple divisions. Starting the competition in grand fashion, 68 young equestrians in the 2-4 and 5-7 age groups competed in the **Leadline Division presented by Katherine Kaneb**. The class was officiated by 1996 U.S. Olympic team silver medalist and internationally renowned Grand Prix rider Peter Leone.

Celebrating 51 years of world-class equestrian competition in Bridgehampton, NY, the Hampton Classic features FEI CSI5* and CSI2* show jumping and USEF Premier hunter competitions with more than \$1 million in prize money, **August 23-30**.

During the Leadline competition, Leone commended the young exhibitors for their polished presentation, correct riding position and proper turnout of both horse and rider.

“I’m so impressed with the young riders I’ve seen today,” said Leone. “Beautifully turned out, correct position, and very respectful. I’m delighted to see how keyed-in they are with their trainers. A rider is made by being with a good trainer and having a good support team. Of course, at the core of it, is a child who loves their horse or pony. I’m honored to be filling in for Joe Fargis as the judge for the Leadline here. Joe is a mentor and hero of mine. I’m honored to step into his shoes and get these riders off to a positive start.”

Section Champions of Leadline 2-4 presented by Katherine Kaneb:

- 1. Millie Douglas of Roslyn, NY, riding *Maple Leafs Opulence*
- 1. June McCoy of East Islip, NY, riding *Deja Vu*
- 1. Adleigh Callahan of Southampton, NY, riding *Oopsie-Daisy*
- 1. Dalia Lituchy of New York, NY, riding *Blues Chues*



Millie Douglas and Maple Leafs Opulence were the Overall Champions in the Leadline 2-4 presented by Katherine Kaneb © KindMedia

Section Champions of Leadline 5-7 presented by Katherine Kaneb:

- 1. Annabelle Israel of New York, NY, riding *He's The One*
- 1. Alexis Waldman of New York, NY, riding *The Duke*
- 1. Cora Abrahamzadeh of Palm Beach, FL, riding *Sugarbrook What A Hoot*
- 1. Alba Barragen-Chen of New York, NY, riding *Tinkerbelle*



Annabelle Israel and He's The One were the Overall Champions in the Leadline 5-7 presented by Katherine Kaneb © KindMedia

The official **Opening Day** ceremonies followed in the afternoon with the introduction of officials and special guests before moving into the afternoon's highlight classes: the \$30,000 Jumper Challenge benefit class for the Kevin Babington Foundation (KBF), where \$4,500 was awarded to the Foundation thanks to proceeds from the entry fees, and the \$10,000 Marders Local Hunter Derby.

The Hampton Classic's official community partner, Stony Brook Southampton Hospital, was brought to the field to kick off the festivities. Partnered with the Hampton Classic since the show's inception in 1976, Stony Brook Southampton Hospital has received more than \$2 million in contributions from the show during that time.

Holliday Polk Ryals of Bayville, NY, was awarded the 19th annual **Long Island Sportsmanship Award**. Ryals, who has spent decades as a top trainer on Long Island, has been a positive force in the equestrian community. Many have described her as a kind, dedicated and selfless person with a real love of horses.



Holliday Polk Ryals earned the 2026 Long Island Sportsmanship Award © KindMedia

Additionally, the inaugural **Jean Lindgren Memorial Trophy** was presented to the Hampton Classic's Troy Powell. Powell has long been considered the heart of the show, recognized for her exceptional work, dedication and commitment to the Hampton Classic.

Established by former Hampton Classic equestrian manager Steve Stephens and his wife, Grand Prix rider Debbie Stephens, the Jean Lindgren Memorial Trophy honors the legacy of Jean Lindgren, one of the Hampton Classic's original Co-Executive Directors for 30 years. The award will be presented annually to a member of the Hampton Classic staff or crew who has demonstrated outstanding dedication and service behind the scenes. Presenting the award were Jean Lindgren's son, Baylis Greene; his wife, Julie; and two of their three children, Penelope and Bennett. Liz Soroka also joined the presentation on behalf of Steve and Debbie Stephens.



Troy Powell was awarded the inaugural Jean Lindgren Memorial Trophy © KindMedia

Other festivities included a showcase of horses participating in Monday's Animal Adoption and Welfare Day sponsored by Gotham Enterprizes. The event was organized by Valerie Angeli, Vice President of RedHorseStar Productions LLC. Joining Angeli in the ring were Capt. Tony Augustine of the Brookfield, CT, Police Department, a longtime advocate for animal welfare; Kelly Stackpole, founder and Executive Director of Rising Starr Horse Rescue in Wilton, CT; and the veterinarians, professors, staff and students of Lewyt College of Veterinary Medicine at Long Island University.

The Classic's Opening Day ceremonies also featured members of the Shinnecock Nation, who presented various traditional dances and intertribal songs. One of the oldest self-governing tribes in New York State, the Shinnecock Nation shared elements of its rich cultural heritage with spectators. Cultural educator John Boyd introduced the performers and explained that "Shinnecock" roughly translates to "People of the Stony Shore."

Additionally, the Hampton Classic celebrated Dennis Suskind and Emily Aspinall, who will be stepping down from their leadership roles after 35 years of service as the show's President and Vice President. Presenting proclamations in their honor were Edward P. Romaine, Suffolk County Executive; Ann Welker, Suffolk County Legislator; and Hampton Classic president-elect Lisa Deslauriers and Executive Director Shanette Barth Cohen.



The Hampton Classic celebrated Dennis Suskind and Emily Aspinall for their 35 years of service with assistance from Edward P. Romaine, Ann Welker, Lisa Deslauriers and Shanette Barth Cohen. © KindMedia

For live show results, visit HamptonClassic.com. Photos from the event are [available via Dropbox](#) with credits to KindMedia (unless otherwise noted in the folder name).

Each year, approximately 50,000 people – including many A-list celebrities – come to watch the nation’s best equestrian athletes compete at the Hampton Classic Horse Show. Rated **USEF ‘Premier-6’** for hunters and jumpers with designated **FEI 2* and 5*** jumping classes, the Hampton Classic features more than 200 competitions in six spectacular show rings, the Agneta Currey Boutique Garden with more than 70 vendors, and a wide selection of dining options, all on its world-class 60-acre showgrounds.

FEI competition begins on Thursday, August 27, with the **\$5,000 Citarella Open Jumper CSI2*** and **\$32,000 CSI5* BrainJuice Two-Phase** and continues throughout the weekend with seven 2*/5* classes featuring courses designed by Nick Granat (USA) and Anderson Lima (BRA). FEI competition also includes Friday’s **\$32,000 Wölffer Estate 2* Grand Prix Qualifier**, **\$116,100 Douglas Elliman 5* Grand Prix Qualifier**, Saturday’s **\$62,500 5* Winning Round**, and culminates with the **\$70,000 Hampton Classic 2* Grand Prix** and **\$400,000 Longines Hampton Classic 5* Grand Prix** on Sunday, August 30. The **\$30,000 Longines Rider Challenges** will also be presented on Grand Prix Sunday as two separate bonuses: \$10,000 for the FEI 2* division and \$20,000 for the FEI 5* division.

Other competition highlights include the **\$10,000 Stomp Capital 1.40m Open Jumper** (Tuesday), **\$40,000 1.45m National Grand Prix** (Wednesday), **\$10,000 Hunt & Go Stake presented by The Baran** (Thursday), **\$10,000 Harrods Junior/Amateur Welcome Stake** (Friday). **\$10,000 Hermès**

Equitation Championship (Saturday), \$30,000 Agneta & Brownlee Currey 1.45m Junior/Amateur Jumper Classic and \$10,000 Junior/Amateur-Owner Hunter Classic (Sunday).

Outside of the show rings, families can enjoy unique shopping in the Agneta Currey Boutique Garden and on Stable Row; hands-on activities, pony rides and petting zoo animals at the Kids Exhibition Tent; and many more fun activities during Kids Day (Saturday, August 29).

Daily entry to the Hampton Classic is \$25 per carload which includes grandstand seating on all days except Grand Prix Sunday. Admission is free on Monday. Admission is also free on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday for Seniors, members of the Military and those who bring three or more non-perishable food items for local food pantries.

Tickets for **reserved grandstand seats** for Grand Prix Sunday, August 30, are \$75 per seat and are available on the [Hampton Classic website](#). Tickets for the **Classic Club** (formerly the Judge's Box Lounge), which offers an elevated experience for watching Grand Prix Ring competition on Thursday-Sunday, August 27-30, are also available.

For those who can't make it to the show grounds, [complimentary live webcasts](#) of all Grand Prix and Aspinall Ring competitions air on the Hampton Classic website. Produced by ClipMyHorse.TV, the Grand Prix Ring livestreams are sponsored by Longines and the Aspinall Ring livestreams are sponsored by [ClipMyHorse.TV](#). In addition, WVVH-TV, Hamptons Television, broadcasts up to five hours of competition and highlights each day during the Classic. These broadcasts can also be seen online at [www.wvvh.tv](#).

For more information on the Hampton Classic Horse Show, please visit the Hampton Classic website at [www.hamptonclassic.com](#) or call 631-537-3177. Hampton Classic Horse Show, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable corporation.