WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW
OCTOBER 19-25, 2026 CSI5*-W/CSI2*
THE SHOW PLACE ARENA
PRESENTED BY
MARS Equestrian

For Immediate Release | October 20, 2026
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Live Stream   Results   Tickets

Sweet Sixteen for Stewart as Craddock and Mercer Claim WIHS 1.15m Jumper Titles

Upper Marlboro, MD – The 68th Washington International Horse Show (WIHS) presented by MARS Equestrian™ continued on Tuesday, October 20, 2026, and awarded the winners of the WIHS 1.15m Junior and Amateur Jumper Championships as well as professional hunter champions. Robert Mercer and Colina SN won the $12,500 WIHS 1.15m Junior Jumper Championship presented by MARS Equestrian™ while Elizabeth Craddock and Muchachomalo vd Knuffel were fastest in the $12,500 WIHS 1.15m Amateur Jumper Championship presented by MARS Equestrian™. Scott Stewart recorded his 16th Leading Hunter Rider title after taking the Grand Hunter Championship with California Love, owned by Dr. Betsee Parker.

Colina SN Strikes Again to Win with Robert Mercer

Amateur and junior jumper riders took center stage in The Show Place Arena on Tuesday afternoon as the flowing hunter course was replaced with the first technical show jumping course of the week. Debuting a spectacular start to the evening,13-year-old Robert Mercer landed the victory in the $12,500 WIHS 1.15m Junior Jumper Championship presented by MARS Equestrian™ with Colina SN.

Trusting the incredibly fast 16-year-old Swedish Warmblood mare (Colman x Quinar), owned by Taylor Landstrom, Mercer left nothing to chance and effectively shut the door on the remaining competition as he clocked in at 29.794 seconds.

"She has a really fast foot speed, so she's good at making the tight turns and getting there quickly and deep," he explained. "If you get there deep, she can just pop over it; she's a tiny little girl, but, obviously, she knows how to get around."

Robert Mercer and Colina SN were lightning fast to win in the 1.15m jumpers. Photo by Erin Gilmore Photography

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Craddock Saves the Best for Last

Heading in the ring as the final combination in the jump-off, Elizabeth Craddock and Muchachomalo vd Knuffel found the key to a winning ride, taking victory by two seconds in the $12,500 1.15m Amateur Jumper Championship, presented by MARS Equestrian™. They stopped the timers in 32.577 seconds. Craddock's barnmate, Samantha Hill, and Hematite, owned by Lion Hill LLC, finished second in 34.585 seconds. Laura Scalzi and her own Kaj were third in a time of 37.678 seconds.

"I really tried to focus on the plan we had talked about but with a little added competitiveness," said Craddock. "Overall, the course rode pretty well. It was pretty technical, but it's fun when it's technical like that. In the first line, we did seven strides in the first round so stepping up and getting it done in six strides and keeping her super straight was our main goal. In both rounds she did it great and was so responsive to everything I was asking."

Elizabeth Craddock and Muchachomalo vd Knuffel made their final indoor appearance a memorable one. Photo by Erin Gilmore Photography

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California Love Can't Be Beat

In a perfect performance, California Love swept the High Performance Hunter division with five blue ribbons, leading to the division championship as well as Grand Hunter Championship. With Scott Stewart in the irons, the pai were presented with the Mary Farren Perpetual Trophy for the division and the Rave Review Challenge Trophy for the grand presentation.

Stewart found California Love in Germany as a four-year-old, and people still ask Stewart if he came with his name, which is from his dam, Daytona Love, and sire, Clarimo.

"He has always been really laid back," said Stewart of the 11-year-old Holsteiner gelding. "I showed him a little bit as a five-year-old, then brought him out as a Green Conformation Hunter when he was six. He has been great ever since."

Photo by Erin Gilmore Photography

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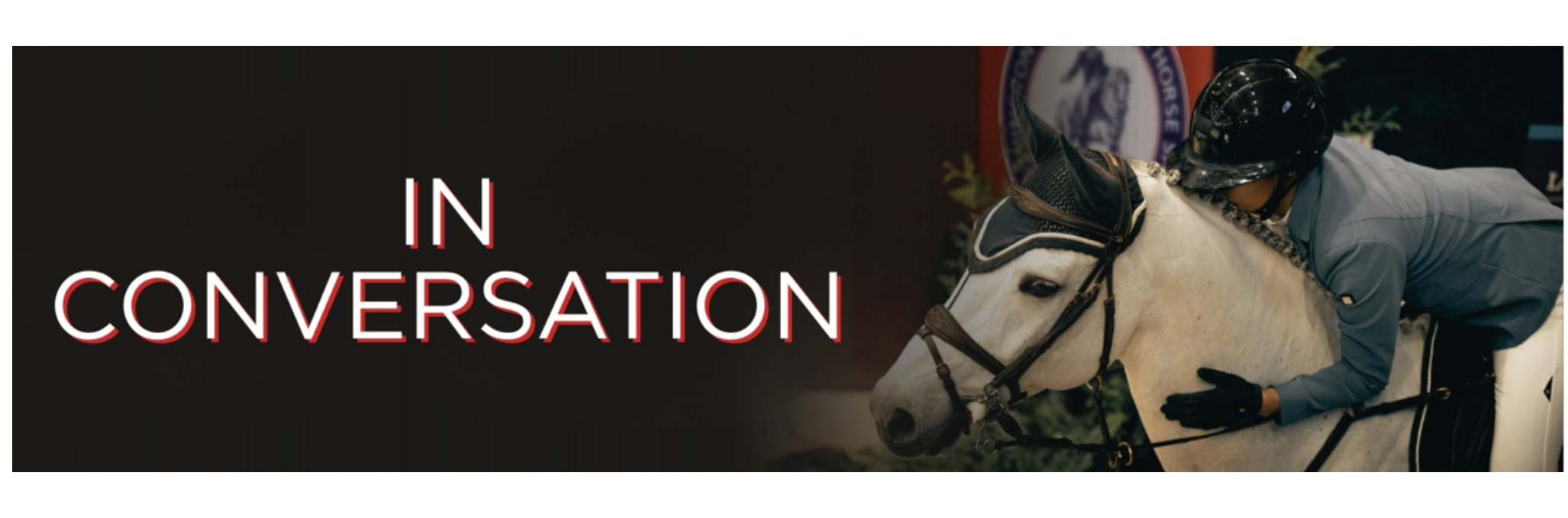

IN CONVERSATION

Hear from junior jumper winner Robert Mercer

Watch

Libby Craddock talks about her biggest win to close her indoor season

Watch

Scott Stewart discusses his 16th Leading Hunter Rider title and Grand Champion Hunter California Love

Watch

IN FOCUS

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High Performance Working Hunter
Champion: Navigator, Hunt Tosh, Ceil Wheeler
Reserve Champion: Encore, Scott Stewart, Rivers Edge

High Performance Conformation
Champion: California Love, Scott Stewart, Dr. Betsee Parker
Reserve Champion: On Point, Kate Conover, B R Farms LLC

Green Conformation Hunter
High Point Green Hunter Champion
Champion: In The End, Jacob Pope, Why Worry Group
Reserve Champion: Velvet Elvis, Jacob Pope, Balmoral

Green Hunter 3'6"
Champion: First Edition, Hunt Tosh, Douglas Wheeler
Reserve Champion: A Lister, Scott Stewart, Kulkin Equestrian Inc.

Green Hunter 3'3"
Champion: Cardiff Castle, Scott Stewart, Rivers Edge
Reserve Champion: O'Rockstar, John French, Maddock Horses LLC

Leading Hunter Rider Award
Sponsored by Dr. Betsee Parker
Scott Stewart

Leading Hunter Owner Award
Dr. Betsee Parker

PHOTO OF THE DAY

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COUNTDOWN TO THE ACTION

Buy your tickets today for the evening sessions on Ticketmaster.

Want to keep up with the action from anywhere? Watch the 2026 WIHS livestream on USEF Network throughout the week and on FEI TV for the week's five-star classes.

Daytime admission is free throughout the week. Parking is free at all times.

Don't Forget Your Tickets!

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22
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OCTOBER 24
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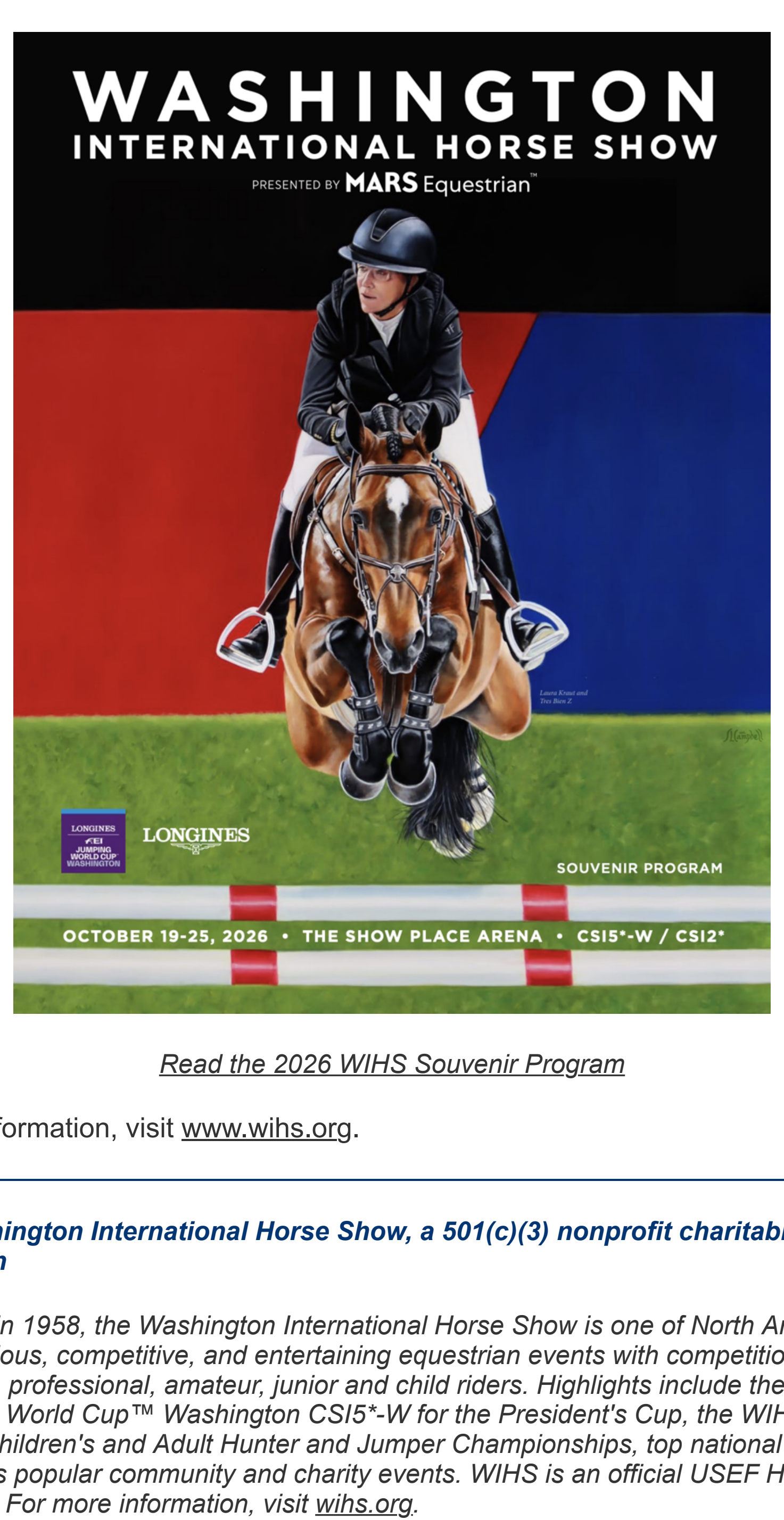
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Read the 2026 WIHS Souvenir Program

For more information, visit www.wihs.org.

About Washington International Horse Show, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization

Established in 1958, the Washington International Horse Show is one of North America's most prestigious, competitive, and entertaining equestrian events with competition for international, professional, amateur, junior and child riders. Highlights include the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Washington CSI5-W for the President's Cup, the WIHS Equitation Finals and Children's and Adult Hunter and Jumper Championships, top national hunters and jumpers, plus popular community and charity events. WIHS is an official USEF Heritage Competition. For more information, visit wihs.org.*