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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 4, 2018

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Morven Park Celebrates 42nd Spring Horse Trials

LEESBURG, VA – More than 280 riders participated in the Morven Park Spring Horse Trials, held March 31–April 1 at the Morven Park International Equestrian Center in Leesburg, Virginia. Riders of all ages and ability levels, from juniors to Olympic veterans, turned out for a spectacular spring weekend at Morven Park. An estimated 1,000 people—including riders, volunteers, spectators, and guests—were in attendance throughout the weekend.

Spring Horse Trials was the first event held in Morven Park’s new outdoor arenas, which opened to rave reviews. “The improvements that have been done on the grounds are amazing,” commented one of the riders, via an anonymous survey. Another survey respondent said, “Love it all. The new arenas are great. Loved the way the courses and underbrush were cleared making the spectating better.” The completion of the new arenas concluded Phase I of Morven Park’s Equestrian Center revitalization project.

This year’s Horse Trials competition featured 17 divisions from Beginner Novice through Intermediate. Show Jumping took place in the new Grand Prix Arena (at the location of the former Hedge Arena) and the Dressage competition was held in one of the two new arenas located in the steeplechase infield. As always, the Park’s renowned cross-country course was a major highlight of the event.

Some of the event winners included Allison Springer riding Lord Willing to victory in the Intermediate division, and Will Coleman riding Cooley Mahgeeta in the Open Preliminary division. Paul Ebersole riding Waterline finished first in Training Horse, and James Moore riding Marnie took first place in the Open Beginner Novice division. For a listing of all competitor results, visit www.MorvenPark.org.

“Thank you to all of the riders, horse owners, volunteers, sponsors, vendors, and spectators for making the Morven Park Spring Horse Trials spectacular,” said Sheryl Williams, Morven Park’s Executive Director. “We were thrilled to open the new arenas with Horse Trials, and we can’t wait to continue hosting equestrian events in them.”

The 2018 Spring Horse Trials would not have been possible without sponsors and vendors. The Park would like to thank our Blue Ribbon Sponsor, In Memoriam Pet Services, as well as Supporting Sponsors AHT Insurance, La Villa Roma Restaurant & Pizzeria, The Sue Smith Team – Sold by Sue Realty, and Yount, Hyde & Barbour – CPAs and Consultants. For more information about Horse Trials and the International Equestrian Center, visit www.MorvenPark.org. For those interested in Equestrian Center sponsorship, email StrategicPartnerships@MorvenPark.org.

Morven Park is a 1,000-acre nonprofit park in Leesburg, Virginia. Known as the “Central Park” of Loudoun County, Morven Park welcomes 200,000 visitors each year who come to enjoy exquisite scenery, formal boxwood gardens, the Morven Park International Equestrian Center, the Athletic Field Complex, the iconic Greek Revival mansion, museums, and hiking trails. Morven Park was once the home of Thomas Swann, Jr., governor of Maryland during the Civil War, as well as the home of Westmoreland Davis, governor of Virginia during WWI. For more information, or to support the Park, visit www.MorvenPark.org.

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