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## Harvest Cup throws in for 18th annual fundraiser

**Author(s): John Breerwood** **Date:** October 15, 2014 **Section:** St. Tammany

Oct 15, 2014 09:50 Guests at this year's **Harvest** Cup Polo Classic can once again enjoy an elegant atmosphere further enhanced by a new pavilion overlooking the field at Summergrove Farms.

"It's 40 by 60 feet, offering a place to party with a better view," Polo Manager Doug Parsons said.

The New Orleans Polo Club and the Junior League of Covington will host the 18th annual **Harvest** Cup Polo Classic from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 19, at Summergrove Farms in Folsom.

The **Harvest** Cup Polo Classic has become one of the premier events in St. Tammany Parish. Bailey Morse, vice president of Fund Development for the Junior League of Covington, said this event has "caught steam" and grown over the years.

"The New Orleans Polo Club graciously donates its personnel, riders and horses so that we can raise money for our community," Morse said.

The annual fundraiser supports various community projects throughout the year.

"It's a great excuse to get dressed up, and we encourage women to bring their big hats. Polo is definitely the event's focus, but it's not just polo," Morse said.

Beginning at 10:30 a.m., the Junior League honors generous donors at the patron pre-party. Then, attendees view a parade of local horses before the polo match. An award ceremony for the polo players directly follows the match, but the festivities do not end there.

Women can enter in the "Pretty Woman" Hat Contest, art lovers can participate in a live auction, and everyone can end the day with live music from New Orleans Rhythm and Blues Company.

Throughout the event, local vendors such as Champagne Distributors, Old New Orleans Rum, the Cypress Bar and La Provence will be present.

“Most are north shore establishments because of the proximity of the event,” Morse said. “It may be too far for some businesses across the lake. We don’t limit it to north shore vendors, but it’s taken on that feel.”

Football fans can watch the Saints/Lions game in the VIP lounge.

**Harvest** Cup tickets are \$100 in advance and \$125 at the door. The VIP lounge pass is \$30, and VIP parking is \$20. Funds benefit programs and entities such as the Therapeutic Riding Center, Kids in the Kitchen, Habitat for Humanity, the Children’s Museum of St. Tammany and several others. For tickets and more information, visit [www.jlgc.net](http://www.jlgc.net).

A polo player since 1991, Parsons said, “Polo players are a tight-knit group, but we’re not exclusive. The New Orleans Polo Club welcomes the public to join us for regular games at no charge.” The seasons run from March to June and September to November.

In the 1950s, Andrew “Red” Erwin, then St. Tammany sheriff and president of the Louisiana Thoroughbred Association, owned Broken R Ranch and ran it as a racetrack facility.

“What is now our practice track once had rails and a starting gate,” Parsons said.

The farm changed hands several times until David Finley bought the property in 2012 and named it Summergrove Farms.

For information on the New Orleans Polo Club, visit [www.neworleanspoloclub.com](http://www.neworleanspoloclub.com).

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