

Maryland Turfgrass '07 Conference & Trade Show Stamp Student Union University of Maryland at College Park

The 30th Annual Conference & Trade Show of the Maryland Turfgrass Council will be held again on the campus of the University of Maryland on January 17th & 18th, 2007. Encompassing the Grand Ballroom, Hoff Theater, Colony Ballroom and several meeting rooms of the Adele Stamp Student Union, Turfgrass '07 will feature two days of educational seminars, workshops and an industry-oriented trade show.

Originally begun in 1972 when a small group of professional turf managers organized the Maryland Turfgrass Council (MTC), the group has grown into a regionally significant 'umbrella group' that unites the interests of individuals, vendors, organizations and agencies to promote turfgrass research and education in Maryland. Each year, the Annual Conference & Trade Show provides a unique opportunity for turfgrass managers to interact and learn about new concepts, products and improvements in their industry. The conference historically was held in Baltimore, however, due to increasingly high costs for meeting at the Convention Center the MTC elected to relocate the conference to the Stamp Student Union in 2006.

Unlike previous Maryland Turfgrass Conferences, the first morning will feature a symposium and three workshops. The "Fungicide Spray Technology Symposium" is unlike any other offered nationally. It will feature the leaders in turfgrass-related fungicide application technology research. Their research efforts have disclosed many new insights on improving fungicide performance, but have also revealed that many widely accepted views and concepts on nozzles, spray volume, and surfactant selection have been counterproductive. If your facility budgets for significant fungicide usage you need to attend this symposium, regardless of whether you are a golf course superintendent, sports turf facility manager or LCO.

A 'Basic Turfgrass Management Workshops' has not been offered at the Maryland turf conference in over 25 years. This "Turfgrass 101" learning experience will provide attendees with the basic knowledge requirements for managing turfgrasses, regardless of your commercial interest. It will be taught by Dr. Cale Bigelow from Purdue University. Dr. Bigelow is a nationally renowned educator with "real world" experience with Mid-Atlantic growing conditions and challenges. Basic mowing, irrigation and fertility practices as well as species selection and pest management will be discussed. This workshop is a "MUST" for new employees and for office personnel. Even experienced turfgrass professionals will benefit from a refresher course and may be surprised to learn how some aspects of managing turfgrass has changed dramatically in recent years.

The 'Turfgrass Technicians Workshops' is a joint effort between the Maryland Department of Agriculture and Maryland Cooperative Extension. The workshop provides an overview of nutrient management concepts to include understanding a fertilizer label, measuring a lawn, sampling soil, understanding soil test results and spreader calibration. This workshop is great for new employees, and because it is offered in English and Spanish, it provides a fabulous opportunity to train workers who are learning to speak English.

The "Mid-Atlantic Turf Equipment & Manager Workshop" is a special opportunity for mechanics, parts distributors, equipment sales people and others to get together and talk about issues in their profession. This year's workshop will feature Mr. Phil Gallahan from E-Z-Go Golf Carts, who will provide a seminar on golf cart repair and maintenance. Following these workshops, we will have breakout sessions for individuals interested in golf course and turfgrass management, sports turf and orna-

mentals (Thursday only). We have invited leading national scientists and extension educators to provide our attendees the best possible learning and information exchange opportunities in turfgrass management in the Mid-Atlantic Region. This year, 46 speakers are scheduled for Turfgrass '07. While many presenters are drawn from the ranks of U.M. faculty and state agencies, several academics from other Universities are invited to present research findings and new ideas. Among them are researchers from the Kansas State University, Ohio State University, Penn State University, Purdue University, University of Connecticut, University of Massachusetts, and the United States Department of Agriculture. From the University of Maryland, Dr's Jennifer Becker, Mark Carroll, Peter Dernoeden, Kevin Mathias, Joe Sullivan and Ms. Betty Marose will present their research and extension experiences from the past year. Between 4:00-6:00 PM on Wednesday (Jan. 17), a reception in the Grand Ballroom trade show will feature heavy hors d'oeuvres and other complimentary refreshments.

Although the annual Conference and Trade Show is one of the few high-profile events sponsored by MTC each year, the group is a major supporter of turfgrass research and scholarships at the University. In recent years, MTC has contributed over \$200,000 to the Univ. of Maryland Foundation and the Paint Branch Turf Research Facility in College Park- both of which have helped make the U.M. turf research program one of the most productive in the nation. Currently, the MTC is working to sponsor a comprehensive demographic and economic analysis of the Maryland turfgrass industry, which is now estimated to be the State's largest agricultural enterprise with a total value of nearly \$2 billion.

The MTC website www.md-turf-council.org hosts numerous Maryland extension publications, links and other information to assist turfgrass managers. It also includes program and registration information for Turfgrass '07.

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