**Turfgrass and related Professionals involved in the Maryland Turfgrass Industry:**

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| ***2017*** ***Turfgrass******Education Sponsors*** |
| *PLATINUM**SPONSORS**Chesapeake* *Valley Seeds**Landscape Supply, VA**Newsom Seed**Genesis Turfgrass**GOLD SPONSORS**BASF**Fisher and Sons**SILVER**SPONSORS**Syngenta**BRONZE SPONSORS**Blades of Green & B.O.G. Pest Control**Harrell's* |
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 Once again it is time to renew or become a member of the MTC. Your MTC is the “umbrella” organization representing the entire green industry. Membership is the primary function used to raise funds your elected Board of Directors utilize to monitor the legislative action across the State, promote turfgrass use and support Turfgrass Research and Education at the University of Maryland.

 **Please complete and return the combined “2018 Dues and Turfgrass Education Sponsor” attached form or go to our web page** [**www.MDTurfCouncil.org**](http://www.MDTurfCouncil.org/) **if you prefer to pay by PayPal on line.** Please note the *Membership Dues fees* all remain the same as last year.

 **Combined on the same form for your convenience** is a portion of the form for continuing or becoming a ***Turfgrass Education Sponsor****.* With these funds we work directly with the University of MD in promoting Turfgrass Education. We have changed the names of the particular levels of sponsorships to avoid confusion with the dues membership levels.

 As MTC Members and Turfgrass Education Sponsors you too are eligible for benefits. Identified members get discounts at all MTC & M.A.T.E. functions, plus free recertification for Pesticide and Fertilizer Applicator recertification classes offered by the MTC at MD locations.

 MD combined Pesticide and Fertilizer Applicator recertification classes sponsored by the MTC and Uof MD scheduled thus far for 2018 include Friday, March 30 at MDA and Friday June 22, 2018 at the Univ. of MD Research Farm. Locations are being sought for two additional classes (1 in W. MD and 1 on Shore this fall)

 As a “Turfgrass Education Sponsor” your benefits increase with the level you wish to participate. Please take a moment and consider helping get the word distributed of some of the best Turfgrass Research in the US that is being done at the Univ. of MD by your sponsorship. Also this is a great opportunity to get your name in front of your peers, while helping promote Turfgrass Education and Turfgrass Research. **(The Sponsorship levels are explained below)**

 Enclosed also is a program outline and application to attend the 3rd Mid Atlantic Turfgrass Expo, January 29 to February 1, 2018. It will be once again in the Fredericksburg Expo Center, Fredericksburg, VA which basically is the center when you look at a map of MD&VA. There is free parking, great hotels right next door and plenty of good restaurants. All PROFITS from MATE go equally to the Univ. of MD and VPI for local Turfgrass Research. We are looking at a couple similar facilities being built in MD where we could rotate the program but thus far none are complete. Each year the general program and Mechanics Workshop just get bigger and better thanks to all the efforts of the Univ. of MD and VPI professors, especially Dr. Tom Turner, Univ. of MD and Dr. Mike Goatly, VPI.

 If you have any question, problems or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

 Thanks;

**MTC “Turfgrass Education Sponsors Program”**

 In 2015 we started a **“Turfgrass Education Sponsors Program”** to provide our vendors, supporters, friends and members of the MTC yet another opportunity to get your company name and web page out in front of all of the industry. Response was so favorable that we have decided to expand the program more yet this year in hopes of even surpassing our previous success. We have changed the “names” of the different sponsorship levels from **“strong metals”** to more **“Outstanding Leadership”** rolls to possibly correct some confusion with our dues levels of the past. These funds are used by the MTC to help expand Turfgrass Education working closely with the University of Maryland Turf Programs in College Park. We are inviting ***YOU*** to:

 Become a ***2018 Advocate Sponsor*** with a **$2500 donation**. As an “**Advocate Sponsor”** you will be listed on all the sponsor's signs, be encouraged to display a table top display at all the functions listed on “Backer Sponsor” below FREE of CHARGE and we will list your company name on our letter head plus we will list your company name and web page linked to your web page on our web “Sponsors” page and all e-blasts we do throughout the year. Quarterly, we will blast an advertisement to our blast list of your choice. Additionally, you will be entitled to exhibit FREE of CHARGE using a single booth at the next M.A.T.E. Conference (additional booth space maybe purchased directly from M.A.T.E.) **or** you may choose to enter a foursome at the Annual MTC/Univ. of MD Golf Tournament for Turfgrass Research.

 Become a ***2018 Benefactor Sponsor*** with a **$1000 donation**. As a “Benefactor Sponsor” you will be listed on all the sponsor's signs, be encouraged to display a table top display at all the listed “Backer Sponsor” functions FREE of CHARGE (except the M.A.T.E. Conference) and we will list your company name on our letter head plus we will list your company name and web page linked to your own web page on our web “Sponsors” page and all e-blasts we do throughout the year (a new system we just started that is working very well). Additionally, you will be entitled to do a single annual advertisement blast for your company

 Become a ***2018 Supporter Sponsor*** with a **$500 donation**. As a “Supporter Sponsor we will provide the same signs showing your company name and web site at all the same function as those listed for the “Backer Sponsor”, plus you will be encouraged to display a table top display at all the “Backer Sponsor” functions FREE of CHARGE (except the M.A.T.E. Conference).

 Become a ***2018 Backer Sponsor*** with a **$250 donation**. As a “Backer Sponsor” we will provide signs showing your company name and web site at all the MTC Sponsored Pesticide and Fertilizer Applicator Recertification Classes, The MTC/ Annual MTC/Univ. of MD Golf Tournament for Turfgrass Research and at the MTC Display at next winter's M.A.T.E. Conference plus any other MTC sponsored activities.

 Become a ***2018 Patron Sponsor***. If you don’t feel comfortable with one of the sponsorships listed above but still would like to help. Provide a donation of whatever amount you possibly can and we will express our gratitude by listing you as a “Patron Sponsor” on our letter head and on our web site.

 Please complete the combined, single page, Membership Dues and Turfgrass Education Sponsor form and return as soon as possible. Please be generous and be a **“2018 Turfgrass Education Sponsor”** and help us continue supporting the University of Maryland Turfgrass Programs for years to come as the University of Maryland Turfgrass Programs continues to support us.

 The MTC Dues and Sponsorship Year runs from February 1 to the following January 31. If you are new to the MTC, pay your dues by Jan.26 and be considered a “member” for registration at both the 2018 and 2019 M.A.T.E. Conferences. So don’t wait, complete your single page form today.