

MY
MARYLAND
STATE FAIR

more than a fair, we're a culture

PRESENTED BY



TOYOTA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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3rd ANNUAL NATURE PLAY SPACE

AT THE 137TH MY MARYLAND STATE FAIR

Eastern Region Association of Forest and Nature Schools to Join in the Fun

MORE THAN A FAIR, WE'RE A CULTURE...NatureCULTURE!

TIMONIUM, MD – More Than A Fair, We're A Culture...NatureCULTURE! *Nature Play Space*, returning for its third year to the 137th MY Maryland State Fair will be built by Urban Gardens, Inc. Located next to the MY Maryland Horseland Tent, *Nature Play Space* will provide the opportunity, during the Fair, for children to freely and safely play and explore sand, maze, nature art, gardening, balancing, building, listening, observing and other stations. The 137th MY Maryland State Fair runs from Thursday, August 23 – Monday, September 3, 2018. *Nature Play Space* is open Friday, August 24 – Monday, September 3, 11 AM – 7 PM.

"I feel it is important to get kids back outside in natural settings, like we used to do as kids," said Maryland State Fair Board Member Donald Litz. "*Nature Play Spaces* provide an early physical, intellectual and creative play connection for children with nature and fosters a sense of wonder and awe, as well as future environmental stewardship."

The Eastern Region Association of Forest and Nature Schools (ERAFANS) lends great support to the event this year. ERAFANS director Monica Wiedel-Lubinski and Litz have coordinated a rotating schedule of experienced nature-based educators and child care providers to explain the benefits of each nature play station to parents as their children play. An informative brochure will also be provided to visitors who would like to create a natural play space at their home, school, or park.

"more"

More Than A Fair, We’re A Culture! The 137th MY Maryland State Fair presented by Toyota is a fun and educational destination complete with daily exhibits, presentations and entertainment sure to captivate visitors of all ages. No other event provides so much food, fun, family entertainment, and education for so little. The Maryland State Fair, located in Timonium in Baltimore County, starts with **M&T Bank presents *Fox-45FAMFest Preview Night with Ridemania*, on Thursday, August 23 from 5 PM – 9 PM in the State Fair Park. Midway rides, games and food areas open until 11 PM. Exhibit Halls, Barns, Midway Rides, Food, Games, and more open Friday, August 24 through Monday, September 3, 2018.** General Fair hours are Monday through Friday, Noon to 10 PM, Saturdays, Sundays, 10 AM – 10 PM and Labor Day Monday, 10 AM to 8 PM.

Hear live national and local entertainment during the **M&T Bank Presents LIVE! OnTrack! Concert Series**, featuring celebrated new Country artists **Chase Bryant** and **Chris Lane** on August 24; and, Rock band **Smash Mouth** on August 25; Legendary Classic Rockers **Jefferson Starship** on September 1; and, Country music sensation **Chris Janson** on September 2. Concerts begin at 7:30 PM, in the **LIVE! OnTrack!** Infield.

Enjoy **thrills & chills on the Midway** and **tame rides in Kiddie Land** play fun, **Fair games**, and taste a **feast of Fair and farm foods**, Monday-Thursday, 12 Noon-close and Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays & Labor Day, Monday, 10 AM–close.

Explore **The 4-H/Home Arts, Farm & Garden Buildings, and The Exhibition Hall** for thousands of the best-of-the-best of Maryland creations and exhibits, Monday – Friday, 12 Noon – 10 PM, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 AM – 10 PM, and Labor Day Monday 10 AM – 8 PM. **The Mosner-Miller Museum/DNR Building** closes daily at 8 PM.

See all kinds of **livestock and horses in the Cow Palace, Barns, Show Rings and Birthing Center**. Early risers are welcome to arrive early to attend the livestock and horse shows in the various livestock barns, buildings and show rings. Go to www.marylandstatefair.com for 4-H and Open Class Show schedules.

Experience **Live Thoroughbred Horse Racing**, Friday, August 24 – Sunday, August 26 and Friday, August 31 – Monday, September 3. Post Time: 1 PM. Also enjoy Simulcast Horse Racing daily in the Grandstand and OTB.

Participate in **agriculture education activities at U-Learn Farm, U-Learn Food & Fiber, The Birthing Center, the Innovation Station, Horseland, Nature Play Space**, and more at various times throughout the Fair.

Admission to the Fair is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors (62 and older) and \$5 for children (6-11). Children five-years-old and younger are admitted free. Rides are individually priced. Limited parking on the Fairgrounds is available on a first-come, first-served basis for \$5. Taking the **Light Rail** is recommended. **Uber and LYFT drop-off** and pick-up areas in the Deereco Road Park & Ride Lot. Visit www.marylandstatefair.com.