



SAFE TO GO TO THE DOGS-AGAIN!

Once again, one of Mike Veeck's teams, the Charleston RiverDogs, is planning a special recognition and fund-raising event in support of STMA and SAFE - the foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments. SAFE was formed by the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) to respond to the challenges facing those responsible for the care of athletic fields.

Veeck is proposing the plan for consideration to all of his teams, and hopes it will "catch on" with other teams as well. The event will include a half-day "on the field" workshop for sports turf managers, complete with vendor participation. The next part of the package will be a Sports Turf Managers Night at the Ballpark. Perks for the supporting chapter of sports turf managers will include: discounted tickets to that night's game; a table display that can be used for couponing, distributing information and branding by sports turf related sponsors; public address announcements and matrix board commercials about sports turf managers and participating sponsors; and a "first pitch" opportunity.

The rewards for STMA include the opportunity to inform the public about who sports turf managers are, what they do, and why it matters. The rewards for attendees: a great workshop and a fun evening at the ball-

park with peers, family, and friends.

The rewards for SAFE: funding! And a perk for the facility is more fans in the stands!

The 2003 Sports Turf Managers Night at the RiverDogs netted a check for \$1,000 to SAFE from the team. The RiverDogs are a Tampa Bay Devil Ray affiliate in the South Atlantic League. Their home field is Joseph P. Riley Jr. Park, which is located in beautiful downtown Charleston right on the Ashley River. The ballpark, built in 1997, has all the amenities of a modern professional baseball facility.

Funding for SAFE will help support research for better science, technology, and equipment. And it will support the education and training of sports turf managers and aspiring sports turf managers. Most importantly, your donation will help provide the best sports surfaces for all levels of play.

A safe, playable field is the strong foundation of any game. Working together, we can build the SAFE Foundation into a strong resource for sports turf managers around the world. Contact Steve Trusty (Steve@st.omhcoxmail.com) for information on making contributions to, or receiving research endorsements from, the SAFE Foundation.



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