

Spring Seminar

A Great Success

by Terry Updike

May 25, 32 people gathered at the University of Notre Dame for the STMA Indiana Chapter Spring Seminar. Terry Updike officially opened the session, and invited attendees to take part in the day's full schedule.

• Dr. Zach Reicher, professor of turf science at Purdue University, presented information on the effects of Gray Leaf Spot on perennial ryegrass. This potentially devastating problem has impacted broad sections of golf courses and athletic turf across regions of the Northeast and parts of the Midwest. It appears to be spreading into new areas.

Dr. Reicher alerted attendees to its symptoms, and recommended cultural practices to help avoid infesta-

tion and to cope with one if it occurs. He provided information on upcoming turfgrass programs, and fielded questions from the group.

• Janet Kelly, superintendent of grounds for IPFW University of Fort Wayne, described the process of building nine new native-soil soccer fields on the campus this past spring. She explained soil-sampling procedures used to control the make-up of the soil profile and insure field uniformity. She went on to discuss details of installation, seeding, grow-in, and ongoing maintenance. Kelly hopes to have the fields ready for play this fall.

• After lunch in the Notre Dame Stadium Press Box, Athletic Facilities Manager Dale Getz con-

ducted tours of the stadium's football field, one of the lacrosse fields, and the baseball field. The sand-based football field had weathered its first season of play the previous year, and had come through in good shape.

Notre Dame had just been selected to host the NCAA regional baseball competition leading up to the College World Series, so Getz explained the extra steps they were taking to prepare for the weekend games.

• The day's events ended with a demonstration of athletic field painting by Mark Whitlam of Pro-Stripe Athletic Field Paint. Whitlam showed proper operation of a paint machine, how to work with stencils, and how to lay out field lines.

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