

Further Developments In Daconil Lawsuit

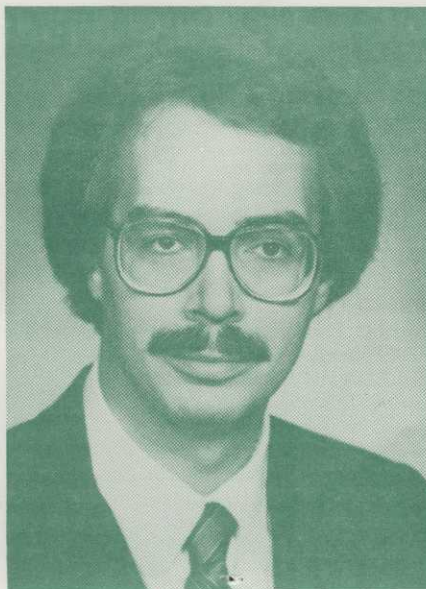
The country club that is charged along with Diamond Shamrock Corporation with responsibility for the death last year of a young Navy officer who played golf the morning the greens were sprayed with Daconil fungicide has told the court that the death was a result of an unforeseeable allergic reaction to the chemical. At the same time, the club has filed a cross-claim that in the event of a judgment against it, Diamond Shamrock should be required to pay the award, since such a judgment would be the result of the corporation's negligence and/or carelessness in failing to provide the proper instructions and warnings concerning the use of the product it had manufactured and supplied. Daconil has been made and widely used for more than 15 years, and the EPA has indicated it was unaware of any serious problems resulting from its use. Its label on the chemical's containers warns it should be kept away from eyes, skin, and clothing and not inhaled or ingested.

DIRECTORS MEET NOV. 1

As a result of the change in November meeting date, the Nov. 3 meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Nov. 1 at Leisure World, an hour before the evening program starts.

Musser Tournament Won by BVCC Team

A Bonnie View Country Club team of Lance Poe, Jeff Staton, Mark Bertoldi, and Ken Braun fired a 5 under par best-ball of 67 on October 14 at Woodmont Country Club to win low gross honors in the annual Musser Tournament. Low net went to the Hunt Valley team of Bob Orazi, John Haines, Bruck Baker, and John Banks with a two best-ball total of 128, one stroke in front of the Baltimore Country Club team of Dean Graves, Terry Haviland, Steve Potter, and Rick Baeth. Third net was won by the Twin Shields foursome of Tim Rooney, Bill Mathews, John Shields, and Jeff Shields. Long drive winner was John Dobson of Woodmont, while Dean Graves took closest to the pin.



John M. Schilling

Schilling Named New GCSAA Executive Director

John M. Schilling, Associate Executive Director of the GCSAA, was appointed as the association's new Executive Director effective September 7, succeeding Jim McLoughlin, who had resigned earlier in the year. In making the announcement, President Bob Osterman noted that since joining GCSAA in 1978 Schilling had been involved in almost every aspect of the association's affairs, including serving as Director of Communications and editor of *Golf Course Management*, manager of informational services, Director of Marketing and Sales, and Director of Conference and Show.

Schilling is a graduate in journalism from the University of Kansas and has completed his course work for an M.A. degree in business administration at Kansas. He and his wife, Pamela, live in Topeka with their sons, John and James.

SCHEDULE OF 1983 MEETINGS

November 1 — Leisure World
December 13 — Belle Haven Country Club

THATCH AND WATERING (Continued from page 2)

The effect of thatch on water infiltration may be different than its effect on water-holding capacity. In the past it has generally been felt that thatch reduces the amount of water getting into the soil. Studies done at several Minnesota golf courses as well as laboratory studies at the University of Minnesota suggest two important aspects concerning thatch and water infiltration rate: 1) for a short period of time, dry thatch can reduce severely the rate of water infiltration, and 2) once the thatch is wet with water flowing through it, the thatch will not reduce the rate of water infiltration. In laboratory profiles of sand without thatch and with a thatch layer at the surface that had been allowed to dry, initial water infiltration rate was much different for the thatch-covered profiles and the profiles without thatch. After a short period of time during which the water was constantly kept ponded on the surface of the profile, the infiltration rates changes until there was no difference between the thatch-covered profiles and those without thatch. The period of time during which thatch restricted water infiltration was always less than 10 minutes. It appeared that this reduction was due to the hydrophobic quality of the thatch.

Infiltration rates, after establishing a constant rate, were measured at six golf greens, one athletic field, and two turfgrass roof gardens with the surface thatch layer present. The surface thatch was then removed and the infiltration rate measured again. Removal of thatch did not significantly increase the steady-state infiltration rate at any of the sites. Evidence indicates that thatch, even thin layers of thatch, can have significant effects on the water relations of greens, particularly if the thatch dries out. Though the thatch-water relations are complex and much remains to be learned, the following suggestions seem appropriate:

1) From the aspect of water relations, thatch is excessive whenever the majority of the plant roots are now growing through the thatch and down into the soil to an acceptance depth.

2) A syringe irrigation cycle to wet the thatch prior to an expected thunderstorm or irrigation when the thatch is excessively dry will probably increase the amount of water that gets into the soil.

3) It is important to set the irrigation schedule to apply water long enough to wet the thatch. Once the thatch is thoroughly wet, it will not restrict the rate water enters the soil.

4) If the rate of water infiltration is excessively low even after the thatch is wet, alleviating solid compaction by aeration will probably improve water relations more than thatch reduction.

Reprinted from The Gateway Green, Mississippi Valley GCSA Newsletter