

A View From The Divot Crew

U.S. Senior Open,
Olympia Fields
Country Club



LeAnn Scott
Arthur Clesen, Inc.

For over ten years, I have avoided working on a golf course again for exactly that reason—it is work! But after nearly a decade of sitting behind a desk, I decided to put the agronomy degree back to work and volunteer on the grounds crew during the U.S. Senior Open at Olympia Fields Country Club. After reviewing my credentials, Dave Ward appropriately placed me on The Divot Crew. He must have figured that there was no machinery involved, and the potential for damage was minimal. Dave must have been in contact with my previous employers.

From Tuesday through Saturday, our crew of around fifteen dutifully followed the last group of the day filling the some-

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A View From the Divot Crew

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times large divots with a dyed green sand. The USGA required that the divots were filled level and left no footprints. This may seem like a rather tedious and mindless job (turns out, it was) but The Divot Crew perfected it to an art form. A highlight for The Divot Crew was recovering a divot made by Arnold Palmer, no kidding. How they knew that Arnie himself had made this divot is still a mystery.

As it turned out, one of the best parts of being on the divot crew was getting a brief glimpse behind the scenes at a major golf tournament grounds crew. By the time the tournament week rolled around, all of the years of preparation were over and were paying off. Only the daily maintenance

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was left. Everyone knew their job and also knew how important that job was.

There were around thirty grounds crew staff with seven volunteers who ranged in experience from a potential hazard (myself) to turf Ph.D.s (Dr. Tom Voigt and Dr. Wolf). All told, it was a long week with rather low pay (being a volunteer and all), but I can't say enough for the grounds crew from top to bottom. Not only did they know their job and their golf course extremely well but were a pleasure to work with. Considering the long hours these guys had put in the last few months, there was a lot of camaraderie and pride in what they had accomplished. A special thanks to Enrique, Efrain, Dude, Oscar, and the rest of The Divot Crew. ■

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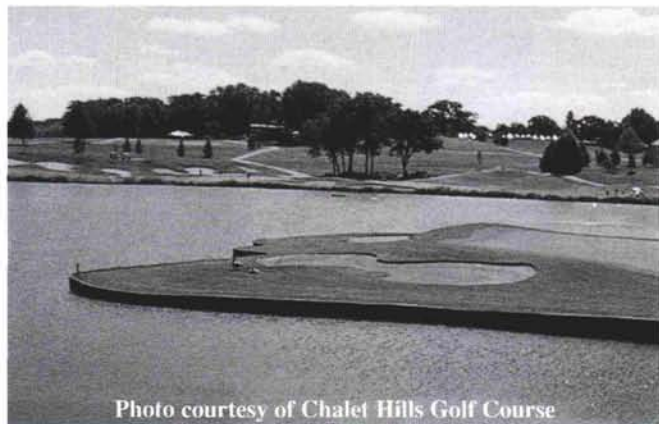


Photo courtesy of Chalet Hills Golf Course

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