

\* \* \* \*

## For Steve Hamelau, It All Came Together in Alexandria

If a person has the opportunity to live where he *really* wants to live, does the type of work he *really* wants to do and can engage in recreational pursuits he *thoroughly* enjoys, that person is indeed fortunate.

Steve Hamelau, head golf course superintendent at Alexandria Golf Club in west central Minnesota, considers himself *most* fortunate. As a young Iowa farm lad who loved to fish, hunt and trap, he used to vacation with his parents in the Alexandria area and thought that some day here's where he *really* wanted to live.

**That opportunity came 13 years ago** and Hamelau, now 44, thoroughly enjoys an unusual lifestyle that not only includes tending to the challenging responsibilities at Alexandria Golf Club but also involves serving as a respected fishing guide, producing a 30-second weekly fishing show on KSAX-TV, an Alexandria television station, and overseeing the production of various outdoor promotional videos with his two sons, Mitch and Jonathan.

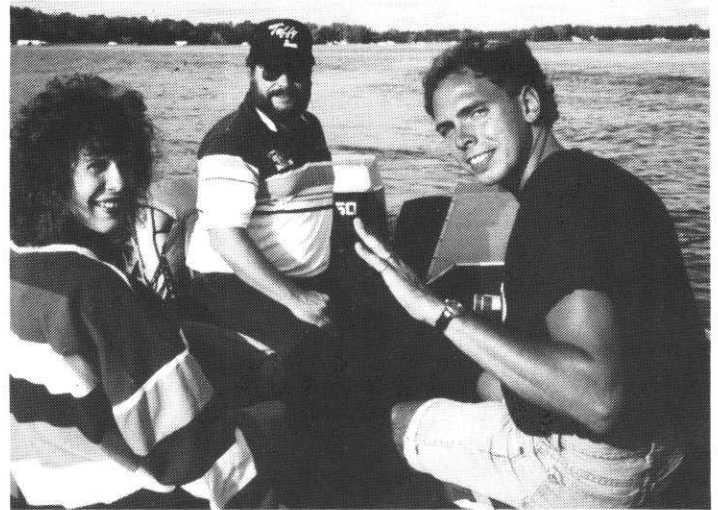
Moreover, his outdoor pursuits also have the blessing of the Board of Directors of Alexandria Golf Club and, it is said, appreciate what he has done and is doing for the community "as long as every blade of grass is where it should be on the golf course."

"This type of situation would not work out for all golf course superintendents, but in my case it does," said Hamelau. "My primary responsibility, of course, is Alexandria Golf Club, and I have an excellent assistant superintendent in Greg Olson and an excellent crew that takes pride in what each one is responsible for. My other activities result in working some weird hours."

Born in Winnebago, Minn., Steve moved with his family when he was less than a year old to Nevada, Iowa, where he was graduated from high school in 1967. His appreciation of the outdoors led him to Iowa State University in Ames, where he started to major in fisheries and wild life but later switched to earn a degree in natural resource development for outdoor recreation. At the time he thought he might get involved with a state or federal park system.

**During his college days** he managed a county park on the edge of Lake Miami in Albia, Iowa in 1969. During the summer of 1971 he assisted the superintendent at a 9-hole course the city of Ames had acquired. The following year he became superintendent at a Nevada course, then was hired for the same position at an 18-hole municipal course in Waverly, Iowa in 1976. That lasted only two months since he was asked to become superintendent of public grounds for Waverly's Parks and Recreation Department, a position that involved overseeing 20 parks; a huge, year-around cemetery and all the public areas—plus the 18-hole golf course.

While working in Iowa, he became a member of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association and,



STEVE HAMELAU (center) and friends out on the lake in Alexandria.

among other benefits, received the periodic announcements of job openings. When he noticed the Alexandria Golf Club position was available, he remembered his boyhood activities in this area, applied for the job and was hired in 1980. For Steve, it was a dream that had become a reality.

Alexandria Golf Club is a prestigious Minnesota course, well-known for its annual Resorters' tournament and as a major tourist attraction. In June it attracted considerable media attention when Tom Lehman PGA Day was held here. (See July 1993 issue of *Hole Notes*.)

"We usually work our course to peak for the Resorters," said Club President Jon Haaven. "This year we peaked for our Tom Lehman Day, then aimed at maintaining it well for the Resorters in August."

**Hamelau began guiding in the Spring of 1982**, acknowledging that "it's a lot of fun but must be accomplished without interfering with our golf course work."

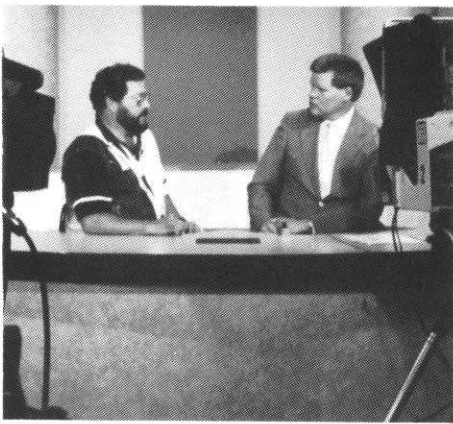
"A true guide," he said, "understands what his clients desire. Getting a limit is not the main thing. Companionship and teaching things of value, in and out of the boat, are particularly important."

Said Club President Haaven: "Steve does a fabulous job on the golf course and his weekly television show."

On KSAX-TV Steve does a 30-second shot on the 10 o'clock news for 26 weeks. Most of the time he films about four shows in three hours during off-duty time.

**The television filming led to related video productions** for chambers of commerce and resorts. Sons Mitch, 19, a sophomore at St. John's University in Collegeville, and Jonathan, 16, a junior at Alexandria High School, handle most of the film production in the Hamelau home, where a full video studio has been set up. They also work part-time on the golf course. Steve's wife, Darlene, handles

(Continued on Page 25)



TV Tipster STEVE HAMELAU on the air in Alexandria.

## Hamelau—

*(Continued from Page 8)*

the books, pays bills, orders supplies and serves as an “unbiased critic” of the films.

“We now have some promotional videos in some of the larger Super America stores in the Twin Cities area,” Hamelau said. “They feature Lake Osakis and some of its area resorts. Now we’re working on a major video on Leech Lake, and that is headed for some Super America stores, too. These films also include information about the specific community itself, not just fishing.”

Hamelau also found himself “very busy” when the Minnesota Governor’s Fishing Opener was held in Alexandria in 1992. He served on the host committee, lined up 117 guides and worked with the media. “Our Board appreciated the fact that someone from the golf club was helping the community in this fashion,” he said.

**Hamelau’s fishing experience also has helped** to develop a good working relationship with his Board. During Alexandria Golf Club’s annual Board/Management dinner a few years ago, some of the Board members joked about “using Hamelau’s talents to the fullest.”

“They suggested I should take them out as a guide, so I did, two at a time,” he recalled. “It not only provided an opportunity to talk about fishing, but also the responsibilities of a golf course superintendent. It worked out well.”

Overall, it appears that everything came together rather well for Steve in an area that he obviously loves.

When It Comes to Turf Management ...

NOBODY KNOWS  
LIKE YOUR  
WILBUR-ELLIS PRO



**PRIMO®** *says it all*

*Call for Details on Primo  
Overseeding Special and Save!!!*

Primo registered trademark of CIBA

*Your one-stop shop for all turf management needs. Ask about our  
complete line of chemicals, fertilizers and seed.*

*Wilbur-Ellis...dedicated to quality, customer service and  
environmental stewardship.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

LARRY THORNTON

800/642-2736 or 612/723-0151

®/™ registered or applied for Wilbur-Ellis Company. ©1993 WECCO



## MGCSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MINNESOTA “MINI” NATIONAL

NEW LOCATION  
**MINNEAPOLIS CONVENTION CENTER**  
NOVEMBER 17, 18 & 19, 1993