Farm and barn weddings offer unique venue
Couples can enjoy diverse accommodations

Exchanging wedding rings is an ancient tradition
Circle symbolizes undying commitment, eternal love
2nd Annual Maine Wedding Show
Augusta Civic Center, January 14

If you’re getting married in the near future, you won’t want to miss this Bridal Event at the Augusta Civic Center on Sunday, Jan. 14 from noon to 3 p.m. Visit with 40 of the area’s finest wedding professionals while enjoying catered appetizers, a cash bar, and catching up on the latest trends and advice throughout the day. Thousands of dollars of door prizes will be drawn, plus one lucky bride will win the Grand Prize given away at the show — an eight-day, seven-night condo vacation with more than 600 different locations to choose from! Don’t miss out — last year we had more than 200 brides attend this fabulous event!

Plus, Off On Vacation will be drawn as a honeymoon gift for a couple to go to Jamaica for four days and three nights.

This Bridal Show caters to all budgets and styles. We encourage you to bring your family, friends, finance and bridal party to our one-of-a-kind show! Bring a group of 10 or more and get a discount. First 100 brides will receive a FREE three-day, two-night getaway! Don’t miss it!

Take a look at all the local vendors that will be at this show!
Always Wonderful Memories
Photography Take II
Amour Daydream Studio LLC
Balloons and Things
Creative Designs
Dream Bridal Boutique
Elegant Affair Entertainment
Haven Photography
Heavenly Delight Bakery
It Works
Jennifer Lynn Photography
KMD Florist and Gift House
Le Club Calumet
Leggings Republic
LipSense
Lularoe By Casey
Magical DJ Productions
Maple Hill Farm Inn & Conference Center
Mary Kay
Mehler Productions
Molly & Victoria Photo Booth
Morgan Hill Event Center
Off On Vacation Travel
Pampered Chef
Picture Perfect Proposal
Pure Romance
Renewal by Anderson of Greater Maine
Rodan & Field
Rollie Bar and Grill
Scrummy After Candy Shop
Shelley’s Flowers
Sia Spade Psychic
Somebody Loves Me Bridal Salon
Sterling Elite Limousine
Sunset Golf Course
The Wedding Venue King’s Hill Inn & Barn
Touchstone Crystal
Trinity Catering
Village Jewelry
Waterville Elks
Wedding Glam Hair and Makeup
Wilson Photography

Bridal Bargain Day
February 11, 12-3 p.m.
Augusta Armory

Something New or Something Blue, it’s all here in one place! Everything you need for your wedding day!

If you are looking for the wedding deals of the year, look no further! Our Bridal Bargain event will have EVERYTHING you need for your wedding day at HIGHLY discounted prices! A unique concept that creates a one-stop expo for ALL your wedding needs — you can even buy your DRESS!!! Get a FREE “Because I’m the Bride” T-shirt for every bride at the show! Or WIN a FREE HONEYMOON!!!

Purchase a Bridal Bargain Package and get the second show for half off and a Free T-shirt that says “Because I’m the Bride.”
Submit Your Celebrations!

Anniversary, engagement and wedding forms are available at the Kennebec Journal office at 36 Anthony Ave., in Augusta, and the Morning Sentinel office at 31 Front St., in Waterville.

You may also download forms or submit electronically from our website: centralmaine.com.

Click on Community - Celebrations. Scroll down the page and click the link on the left-hand side. Forms may also be requested by emailing ido@centralmaine.com.

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2018 MWA Augusta Wedding Show

Augusta Armory, Jan. 21

We want to help make your wedding spectacular! Join us at the Augusta Armory on Sunday, Jan. 21, 2018, for the Maine Wedding Association Augusta Wedding Show brought to you by Day’s Jewelers. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. preview dream dresses, explore reception locations, preview music options and taste your way to a perfect menu. Get to know your options as you see, feel and listen your way through the show.

This is your chance to meet wedding professionals in one place, at one time. Looking for the perfect gown or tuxedo? You’ll find the best selection in Maine to choose from. Have you booked a venue for your wedding reception? What about your honeymoon destination? The MWA Augusta Wedding Show is the place to be with everything you’ll need for that special day. Caterers, florists, photographers, salons, make-up, DJs, musicians, jewelry and so much more! It’s one-stop shopping with everything you’ll need for a magical day!

The MWA Augusta Wedding Show is brought to you by the Maine Wedding Association, and is a Townsquare Media Live Event.

Vendors at the show

AAA Travel
Athena’s Heavenly Goddess
Classic Photographers
David’s Bridal
Day’s Jewelers
Dennis Boyd Photography
Dreams Bridal
Edward Jones
Got Cake? LLC

Hampton Inn Augusta
J. M. Arbour Wealth Management
LC Ballroom
Kennebec Valley Wellness Spa
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Men’s Wearhouse

On Your WEDDING DAY

Inspiration. Information. Style.

Weddings Start Here! Find your dream dress, explore reception locations, discover new ideas, preview DJs and other music options, taste your way to a perfect menu! Come see, feel and touch as you get to know your options.

Augusta Wedding Show
Sunday, January 21, 2018
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Augusta Armory • Western Ave. • Augusta

Receive a complimentary copy of Real Maine Weddings Magazine.
Also, while supplies last, gift cards to Symbolize.com from Royal Prestige and Dinner for Two.

Grand Prize Give-away
Dream Vacation! Door prizes throughout the day.

Visit www.maineweddingassociation.com for more details.
Exchanging wedding rings is an ancient tradition

Circle symbolizes undying commitment, eternal love

BY WANDA CURTIS
Correspondent

One of the oldest marriage traditions that has survived the passage of time is the practice of exchanging wedding rings.

The author of “The History and Symbolism of the Wedding Ring” (https://ensorings.com/blog/wedding-ring-history-and-symbolism/) reports that the first recorded evidence of the modern custom of exchanging wedding rings is found in ancient Egyptian scrolls dating back more than 3,000 years. That author reports that writings in the scrolls depict couples presenting one another with rings made from hemp or reeds.

The same author reports that, “The translation of hieroglyphics show that Egyptians believe the rings symbolized undying commitment and eternal love between the couple because the circle has no beginning or end. The center opening is a door to the future. This symbolism still applies today.”

Rings were placed on the fourth finger of the left hand because Egyptians believed that a vein ran from that finger directly to the heart. For whatever reason, that tradition still continues in many countries today.

The wedding band industry has grown to be a multibillion dollar industry. Couples have a larger selection than ever from which to choose. Local jewelers report that factors such as cost, style and durability each may influence a couple’s decision when selecting wedding rings.

The manager of Village Jewelers at 221 Water Street in Gardiner said that because wedding bands should last a lifetime, it behooves couples to select rings made from metals that are more durable, such as silver, gold, white gold, platinum or palladium. Manager Barry Bolduc said those metals not only last a long time but they also can be adjusted if ring sizes change later in life. Bolduc said that some younger couples, who aren’t as concerned about durability, are opting to buy rings made from less expensive metals or even ceramic rings.

“You want to choose a wedding band that matches the style of the engagement ring.”

KATHY COREY,
CO-OWNER OF DAY’S JEWELERS

“Those can’t be adjusted,” he said. Bolduc added that it’s becoming more popular today for couples to design their own rings. He said that some can’t find what they’re looking for in the stores and others just prefer to design their own. He said that, at Village Jewelers, they do their best to work with customers to help them get what they really want.

“That’s one advantage of being a smaller, independent store,” he said.

The vice president of merchandising and a co-owner of Day’s Jewelers, Kathy Corey, said that, when selecting wedding bands, the bride-to-be and groom-to-be should be considered as two separate entities. Corey said that, when selecting a wedding band for the bride-to-be, it’s important to consider the engagement ring.

“You want to choose a wedding band that matches the style of the engagement ring,” she said.

According to Corey, some couples are now opting for a “stackable ring look” with wedding bands and engagement rings. She said that the engagement ring may nestle in between two bands with one on top and the other below the engagement ring.

“It has a little more look to it,” she said.

While many grooms are still choosing wedding bands made of platinum or white gold, Corey said that some are opting for alternative metals that are dark gray or black.

“Those have a tougher look,” said Corey. “They have a very masculine appeal, but they don’t hold their value like gold bands... Platinum is the most precious of all. Those last longer than 14 karat gold and stay white forever.”

Because wedding rings are usually worn every day, Corey said that those must stand the test of time. She also stressed that wearability and durability are important.

Day’s offers a wide selection of rings for couples in their stores located in Waterville, Augusta, Bangor, Auburn, Topsham, South Portland and Manchester, New Hampshire.

ArtCarved engagement ring options are available at Day’s Jewelers in Waterville.
A winter white wedding on the mountain can sparkle

BY DAN CASSIDY
Ski Tracks Columnist

Who would want a winter wedding? Let’s check and see all the things that can make it a wonderful idea. Brides-to-be may find that a winter wedding can sparkle in more ways than one.

There are many places that would make a great wedding ceremony and it doesn’t have to take place in the hot summertime. Winter weddings are becoming more and more popular, especially for couples that enjoy the outdoors here in snow country. What better place in Maine than to have a White Winter wedding at a ski resort!

Some resorts are usually on the quiet side during winter months with conference rooms, lodging and restaurants that could be available for a gala event such as a winter wedding and reception. Many couples that are outdoor enthusiasts may find that a romantic winter wedding would be fantastic.

It’s a way to bring the winter doldrums into a sparkling festive occasion. Just think of a winter white bride’s dress, floral arrangements and taking a few ski runs with family and friends. Consider ice sculptures or an ice bar that can be kept outside.

A recent wedding of a friend took place a year ago in February. They held their reception at a ski lodge and had the tables set up with floral arrangements of winter white using ski boots all painted white for vases. The reception tables had snow scenes and each guest’s name of the ski trails for seat assignments.

From the invitations to apparel, wedding cake, and the attendants’ attire, it became spectacular event of the winter season.

Be aware of weather conditions. The wedding couple may want to limit the time in the outdoors. Schedule some photo shots to include the wedding party in the snow scenes around an open fire pit, a toast around a hot tub, or riding a chairlift. Make it more of a fun event. The wedding party may want to opt for snowmobile boots or sneakers instead of high heels.

Guests will find many things to do at a ski resort, both prior to and after the wedding ceremony.

From outdoor hot tubs, to cross country skiing, downhill skiing, tubing, winter biking, Cat skiing, ice skating, snowshoeing, special events for youngsters, zip line tours, Segway tours, winter bike wide track touring and many other events that may be available at the chosen wedding site.

Some details to think about:

While a winter wedding may be a great idea, there are some things to think about, such as cool or even cold temperatures. Keep in mind that daylight may be an issue for an afternoon or evening ceremony.

If the couple plans the ceremony inside a tent, they will want to think about portable heaters, possibly a snow on the horizon, making travel an issue. While thinking of the honeymoon plans, travel may be difficult if storms and after the wedding ceremony. From outdoor hot tubs, to cross country skiing, downhill skiing, tubing, winter biking, Cat skiing, ice skating, snowshoeing, special events for youngsters, zip line tours, Segway tours, winter bike wide track touring and many other events that may be available at the chosen wedding site.

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Winter wedding photo shoot at Sugarloaf Mountain.

Kevin Couture Photography

For a religious ceremony of any tradition, or a non-denominational exchange of vows, the R.H. Bell Interfaith Chapel provides a relaxing, indoor environment for you to walk down the aisle.

“Located in the Sugarloaf Mountain Hotel, the Carrabassett Ballroom provides an intimate and inviting atmosphere for smaller wedding receptions or rehearsal dinner parties. Its central location and ease of access make it convenient for every guest,” Tuttle said.

Quarry Road

Winter has come to the Quarry Road Trails in Waterville. With the recent cold snap, snowmakers have been busy and now that the recent New Year’s storm has dumped several inches to the facility.

New trails have been added and others have been extended and will be groomed this year. Parts of the North and South Koons trails are being reshaped and graded to make them a little more skier friendly for recreational skiers and safer for competitors.

“The Quarry Road facility’s Welcome Center Yurt could be a possible site to hold weddings,” according to Matt Skehan, director of Waterville Parks and Recreation.

“We do require users to complete an attached form and we will work with them on the rates, depending on their needs,” he said. Interested parties are welcome to contact Skehan at the Parks and Recreation office in Waterville at 680-4744 or email mskehan@waterville-me.gov for additional information.
Farm and barn weddings offer unique venue
Couples can enjoy diverse accommodations

BY SUSAN VARNEY
Correspondent

Where to get married has always been one of the top questions facing brides, not everyone wants a church wedding.

There have always been options, such as a small at-home weddings on the back lawn, but today there are even more venues for tying the knot — including the neighboring farm.

Many local farms are diversifying to include wedding accommodations never considered before —a winery, special events, farm stands, hay rides and more. Here are a few of central Maine’s choices.

Winterberry Farm, 200 years old, is located in the Belgrade Lakes Region at 538 Augusta Road, Belgrade. It is a small, animal-powered, diversified certified organic farm set on 40 acres of open fields, pastures and woodland, 15 minutes from Augusta and Waterville.

It has an 1870s Victorian farmhouse, a shaker-built barn, gardens and the Winterberry Farm Farm Store, selling some of Maine’s all-natural and certified organic foods and is open year round.

Winterberry Farm grows hundreds of varieties of certified organic flowers and herbs. Mary Perry has been owner and master floral designer for 20 years. The farm host no more than five weddings per year between May 20 and Sept. 30. The number guests is limited to 150 people and it offers several scenic locations for the ceremony.

The cost for the farm site is $3,000, this price does not include floral arrangements, the event tents, tables, chairs or portable toilets. A $500 deposit is required at time of booking, and the balance must be paid 90 days before the wedding date.

Customers can come to the farm and cut their own flowers or let Winterberry Farm design and deliver flowers for the wedding day. For more information go to boothbysorchard.com or call 649-3331.

Boothby’s Orchard & Winery, 366 Boothby Road, Livermore, has a 19th century barn in which to hold special events and creates a warm and authentic setting, according to owners Rob and Denise Boothby. Smoking and pets are not allowed.

As part of a multi-generational farm, the old barn has been home to all kinds of things over the years, from the 1931 Model A to the old Coke machine, countless hay bales and the occasional critter, for sure, the Boothbys say on their website. But it’s all been cleaned out now and it’s ready for entertainment. There is plenty of flexibility with the space, and it’s an affordable option for creating a unique and memorable day, according to the website.

“We are limiting events to just a handful annually that are just for those who want an authentic farm wedding — cows optional — rather than a fancy barn wedding,” Denise Boothby said in a recent email.

“Since we are so small, events need to remain a small part of our operation so we can keep focused on our pick-your-own apples business and other small farm enterprises like wine, unpasteurized cider, sweet corn, beef, two guesthouses and hay,” she said. “Large events, such as weddings and reunions with over 100 people start at $4,000. This includes an inviting farm stand with a 12-foot-by-10-foot walk-in cooler, the barn, exclusive use of grounds, room for tents, both of our guesthouses for four days surrounding the event.”

Boothby’s Orchard has a list of preferred vendors that include: flowers, photographer and food. It is becoming known for more than great apples and a pick-your-own afternoon. A new line of fruit wines is getting regional attention. Once a dairy and apple farm, the Boothby farm sold the last of its dairy herd in 2001, leaving the old milk room vacant—which became the perfect spot for a winery.

So out went the 1,200-gallon, stainless steel milk tank and in moved the oak barrels and other wine-making equipment. After years of testing and tasting, they say they have a wine worth sharing.

“Now you can pick up several varieties at the farm stand, and soon we hope to be distributing around the state and beyond,” she said.

For more information go to boothbysorchard.com or email Rob at rhboothby@gmail.com or Denise at boothbysorchard@gmail.com or phone 754-3500.

The Farm at Worthley Pond, 153 East Shore Road, Peru, Maine 04290 also offers a farm venue for weddings. Since 2004 The Farm has hosted an average 12 weddings per year. The sizes of the gatherings have been as small as 50 and as large as 300 guests.

However, the five-acre grounds that overlook a private beach and mountain range could accommodate even more than 300 guests as an outdoor wedding.

Owners Paul and Emily Bray offer wedding planning experience and links to local vendors. The ideal seasons for Maine outdoor weddings and barn weddings are late spring and early fall. However, the couple says it welcomes summer weddings in July and August. The Farm grounds and barn offer plenty of space for banquet, dance floors, serving tents, picnic tables and recreation, they said. The farmhouse also offers facilities for housing the wedding party, food preparation and the rehearsal dinner. The farm has banquet tables and chairs for 200 guests.

All rentals include full and exclusive use of the 1840 remodeled, 1,500-square-foot Wedding Barn, banquet tables and chairs for 200 guests, 15-room Farm House, including lofts, four large meeting rooms and a family room, overnight accommodations for up to 25 guests, linens and towels provided.

It also provides a five-acre grass lawn, private boats and a sandy beach, crystal clear Worthley Pond with pier and swimming raft, an eight-person hot tub and full kitchen facilities, including a modern double
Barn Weddings
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Country weddings are in — right down to the jeans and boots.

Contributed photos
Boothby’s Orchard & Winery, estate red grape wine, grown, fermented and barrel-aged in American Oak with French heads are served at the farm in Livermore.

Above, aerial view of Boothby’s Orchard & Winery, Livermore Maine.

Some of the garden fresh flowers available for weddings at Winterberry Farm.

Barn Weddings

Contributed photos

Boothby’s Orchard & Winery, estate red grape wine, grown, fermented and barrel-aged in American Oak with French heads are served at the farm in Livermore.

Above, aerial view of Boothby’s Orchard & Winery, Livermore Maine.

Some of the garden fresh flowers available for weddings at Winterberry Farm.
How to handle seating wedding guests

Receptions may be big or small, lavish or casual. But regardless of their size or style, receptions all share a common element: They will require couples to set up seating arrangement for guests. Even though assigned seating isn’t mandatory, selecting seats for a sit-down dinner makes things simpler and reduces confusion. Some reception venues may even require assigned seating so that catering staff can service tables accordingly.

Seating guests can be tricky, but employing a few strategies can make the process go quickly and smoothly.

Use a seating chart. A seating chart, whether it’s venue-specific or one couples make themselves, is essential. If you are using a self-made chart, inquire with the venue about the shape of tables, how many guests each table can seat, and the location of tables around the space.

Start with the wedding party table.
Couples can ease themselves into the task of seating by doing the easy tables first. The primary one is the wedding party table. This traditionally can be a dais or a sweetheart table flanked by the wedding party. According to Martha Stewart Weddings, the table should be centrally located and the wedding couple should sit in the middle. A male-female pattern follows on either side of the couple, consisting of the ushers, bridesmaids, best man, and maid of honor. If much of the wedding party is already married, couples may opt to have the wedding party sit with their spouses instead of at the dais.

Organize family tables. Tables for parents, grandparents and immediate family members of the bride and groom also are high priority. Both families can be combined at one table, or they can be separated into two tables. These tables should be the closest to the bride and groom.

Consider mobility issues. Next, seat guests who have specific needs at tables. Elderly guests may want to be away from the band, deejay or speakers. Guests in wheelchairs may need an accessible seat near the exit.

Get some help. Enlist the help of parents to seat their friends and extended family members. Parents may know best who gets along and who should be separated.

Seat dancers near the dance floor. To encourage dancing, place guests who tend to be lively close to the dance floor so others can see them getting up to dance and join in.

Couples can use apps, lists or self-made charts to plot their reception seating arrangements. Create place cards or a central chart so guests can find their seats promptly and easily.

Frosting-free cakes are the latest trend

A new trend is taking hold both in North America and on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean. Cakes are being pared down so that frosting and fondant coverings are now nearly absent from the confections. They’re called “naked cakes,” and these simplified desserts showcase the texture of the cakes and their fillings.

According to culinary experts, the idea for the naked cake came from Christina Tosi, owner of Momofuku Milk Bar. It’s an award-winning bakery with locations across the United States and Canada. Now many other pastry chefs and bakers are hopping on the naked cake bandwagon, with the trend being highlighted by the likes of Martha Stewart and the respected wedding resource, The Knot.

Just because these cakes may be short on exterior buttercream doesn’t mean they fall flat on flavor or visual appeal. Cakes can be embellished with fresh blooms, gum paste-molded flowers, edible pearls and gems, fresh berries, and much more. The Knot notes that many naked cakes are garnished with flavors that are included in the cake, such as chocolate chips, crumbs, cookie dough, or candy sprinkles.

Couples who are stripping down their weddings to include more basics and natural effects may be drawn to these naked cakes. They’re also an option for those who find frosting, buttercream and fondant too sweet for the palate. Naked cakes enable the interior flavors to really shine.

Wedding tools make planning easier

Ensuring an event goes on with minimal hiccups takes patience and thorough planning. This is especially true for weddings, when many elements must merge together for a memorable day. Today’s couples have a bevy of new resources at their disposal to facilitate wedding planning.

The internet makes vetting vendors and reading reviews that much easier, but wedding-related apps also can simplify wedding planning. The following are some top picks as culled by Wedding Shoppe, Inc., The Knot and Lifehacker.

Wedding Spot: Couples can search for their ideal wedding venue based on location, budget, styles and capacity. The website enables users to plan their ideal weddings and get cost estimates based on guest list and options. Users also can access discounts and exclusive deals.

Wedding LookBook: This app enables couples to browse through thousands of dresses, accessories, jewelry and much more. The app will help customers find products in their area.

Shutterfly: This photo, invitation and image-sharing tool can be an inexpensive place to create save-the-date stationery, invitations and photo memory books.

Appy Couple: This app and website helps couples manage their budgets, timelines, wedding parties and seating charts, while also allowing them to share photos. There is a free version and basic packages that allow access to more features.

iWedding Deluxe: In addition to managing timelines, to-do lists and vendors, this app offers inspirational ideas for gowns, manages and tracks gift, and offers first dance suggestions from iTunes. However, it is only available to iPhone users.

AllSeated: This tool can help couples figure out seating arrangements by creating 3D floor plans of the event, and couples can pull contacts from email and social networks to establish a guest list. If floor plans are unavailable in their database, they can be drawn.

The Knot’s Marketplace: With the click of a button, couples can search for wedding vendors in all different categories, read reviews and directly connect with those businesses.

HitchSwitch: Brides or grooms who may be changing their names can do so in one convenient place. Three different packages cater to various name-changing needs.

Vistaprint: These stationery specialists offer an array of services, from cards to invitations to personalized envelopes. Once a design is chosen, Vistaprint will offer add-on suggestions for coordinating items, helping to create a cohesive look for the festivities.

Wedding websites, apps and more can streamline wedding planning.
A wedding checklist is a very simple tool that is very easy to use, but it does a lot for you. The main goal of the wedding checklist is to make sure that you get everything that you need for your wedding. These wedding planning tools can give you the piece of mind that you need to really enjoy your wedding to the fullest.

Use the wedding planner checklist on the next two pages to guarantee you’ve covered all the necessary details to ensure that you have the perfect wedding. And check out the advertisers in this section for all your wedding needs.
WEDDING PLANNING CHECKLIST

12-16 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING

___ Choose Wedding Date
___ Discuss and Choose Style/Formality of Wedding
___ Select and Reserve Wedding Location
___ Select and Reserve Reception Site
___ Decide on Budget for Wedding
___ Place Engagement Announcement in newspaper
___ Hire a Wedding Consultant
___ Begin Shopping for the Dress and a seamstress

8-10 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING

___ Select Bridal Party
___ Hire Reception Caterer
___ Secure Wedding Officiant
___ Decide on Bridesmaid Dresses
___ Start Compiling Guest List
___ Contract Photographer
___ Contract Videographer
___ Hire Band or DJ
___ Sign Up for Gift Registry
___ Send out Save the Date notices

5-7 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING

___ Finalize Guest List
___ Arrange Accommodations for Guests
___ Select Wedding Cake
___ Begin Honeymoon Preparations
___ Shop for Wedding Stationery
___ Review insurance needs - Auto - Home - Life

4 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING

___ Book Florist
___ Visit Your Doctor
___ Shop for Wedding Bands
___ Fitting for Wedding Dress

3 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING

___ Select Tuxedos
___ Send Out Invitations
___ Finalize Menu Options and Costs With Caterer
___ Arrange for Rental of Items
___ Arrange Transportation/Limo Service
___ Order Wedding Favors
___ Begin Counseling Sessions With Wedding Officiant
___ Shop for Bridal Party Gifts

2 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING

___ Select Wedding Music
___ Confirm With Formal Wear Shop
___ Schedule Alterations
___ Select a Location for Rehearsal Dinner
___ Schedule Fittings for Wedding Dress, Bridesmaids and Flower Girl
___ Address Labels With Couple’s New Names and Address for Thank You Cards
___ Confirm Order With Florist Order
___ Second fitting for Wedding Dress

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WEDDING PLANNING CHECKLIST

1 MONTH BEFORE THE WEDDING

__ Apply for Marriage License
__ Design Wedding Programs
__ Have Final Gown Fitting
__ Choose All Wedding Accessories
__ Visit Hair Stylist
__ Visit Make-Up Artist
__ Get Hair and Makeup Done
__ Have Formal Bridal Portraits Taken
__ Finalize Details with Wedding Service Providers
__ Final Wedding Dress Fitting

2 WEEKS BEFORE THE WEDDING

__ Call any Non-RSVP Guests
__ Give Caterer Final Head Count
__ Give Band or DJ List of Songs
__ Confirm Rehearsal Plans
__ Pick Up Marriage License
__ Complete Floor and Seating Plan
__ Confirm All Rental and Floral Delivery Dates and Times
__ Confirm Arrival Time for All Attendants
__ Check Parking Arrangements
__ Obtain any Legal Information

1 WEEK BEFORE THE WEDDING

__ Confirm Honeymoon Reservations
__ Adjust Seating Arrangements/Adjustments
__ Organize Wedding Day Attire
__ Confirm Reservations for Out-of-Town Guests
__ Pack for Honeymoon
__ Pick Up Passports
__ Gather All Necessary Travel Documents
__ Confirm Rehearsal Plans With Attendants
__ Confirm Reservations for Rehearsal Dinner
__ Pick Up Formal Wear

1 DAY BEFORE THE WEDDING

__ Get Manicure and Pedicure
__ Pack Wedding Day Emergency Kit
__ Double Check List of Things to Do
__ Put Wedding Attire and Accessories Together
__ Pamper Yourself
__ Give Rings to Best Man
__ Go To Bed Early

WEDDING DAY

__ Get Hair and Makeup Done
__ Be Sure to Eat Breakfast/Lunch
__ Have Someone Check Reception Site
__ Dress for Wedding
__ Have Candid Photos Taken With Family

AFTER THE HONEYMOON

__ Have Your Wedding Gown Preserved
__ Write Thank-You Notes
__ Change Name
12 wedding tricks

Add ease to planning and fun

Brides and grooms understandably feel a little stress when planning their weddings. Adding to the pressure is the fact that, according to a WeddingWire.com report, the average couple in their 30s spends $32,000 on their wedding. That is a lot of money riding on one day. But planning a wedding can be even more fun than it is stressful, especially for those couples who employ a few tricks of the wedding planning trade.

1. **Fake the cake.**
Save some money by asking the bakery cake artist to decorate a foam-tiered “mock” cake for pictures and display, and serve guests from an inexpensive sheet cake in the kitchen.

2. **Use labels.**
Once the guest list is finalized, create a database of guests’ addresses. Print out two sets of labels: One for addressing the invitations and the other to address the thank-you cards.

3. **RSVP tricks.**
Number the back of RSVP cards and correspond the numbers to the guest list. If one or more responses is illegible, refer to the number to figure it out.

4. **Embrace inexpensive decor.**
Dollar stores and craft stores are great places to find inexpensive decorative items. Empty wine bottles can be painted or glazed to serve as vases. Candle lanterns can be picked up at low cost at many retailers.

5. **Create an email address.**
To have all of the wedding-related details in one place, create a separate email address exclusively for wedding correspondence.

6. **Use veil weights.**
These weights can be sewn into veils to prevent fly-aways during outdoor ceremonies or photoshoots.

7. **Keep bugs at bay.**
Spray chair and reception table legs with insect repellent. Dryer sheets also can be tucked into inconspicuous spots to keep bugs away.

8. **Save money on favors.**
Unless the favor is something to eat or something especially practical, you may consider skipping the favors altogether, as many guests tend to forget to take them home anyway.

9. **Use page markers for seating.**
Use multicolored, self-sticking page markers to create easy seating arrangements. Each color can represent a category: His, Hers, Friends, Work.

10. **Make a photo clothesline.**
A clever and inexpensive idea is to pin photos of the couple to a string, cataloguing how they met and their time together leading up to the wedding.

11. **Use loose flower centerpieces.**
Loose flowers in a vase are easier to sort and transport home for guests who want a memento. Make precut butcher’s paper or cellophane available to make bouquets.

12. **Stock up on string lights.**
Lights can be wrapped around trees outdoors, strung indoors around windows or draped along buffet tables to create a romantic ambiance.

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**Did you know?**

Since Ancient Roman times, June has been a popular month for couples to tie the knot. The month’s namesake, the goddess Juno, was said to be the protector of women in every aspect, but most notably in regard to marriage and childbearing. Therefore, it made sense to get married and take the first step toward creating a family in June.

For practical reasons, June also has been a prime month for marriage because the month is neither especially hot nor especially cold in many areas of the world. While dressed in formalwear — whether having an outdoor wedding or an indoor one — no one wants to be overheated or uncomfortably cold.

While June is still a popular month to get married, the wedding resource, The Knot, indicates that autumn, in particular the months of September and October, has overtaken summer as the most popular wedding season. Warmer-than-average temperatures in autumn over the last few years, as well as a dazzling display of natural color, help make the fall a popular time for nuptials.
Choosing wedding color palettes

Some brides may feel beholden to the color white on their wedding days, at least in regards to their gowns. Those who do often embrace the opportunity to showcase their personal styles and set the mood for their nuptials by embracing various colors throughout their ceremonies and receptions. Color can be a critical component when establishing the ambiance for a wedding. Color can evoke certain moods and set the tone for the day. Some colors work better together than others, so while choosing a color scheme may seem like an easy undertaking, some couples may find it requires more careful consideration than they first imagined.

According to the bridal guide A Practical Wedding, wedding colors can give couples a starting-off point for all the other details of their weddings. This ensures the wedding ultimately has a cohesive look. Colors need not necessarily match, but borrowing on similar hues can make it easier to plan wedding party wardrobes, flowers, table linens, and much more. Colors can come from anywhere, but many couples try to coordinate their color schemes with the season in which the wedding takes place. In fact, couples who are finding it difficult to decide on a palette can look to seasonal colors for inspiration. For example, pastels and blooming flowers can set the scene for spring weddings, while jewel tones and rich reds and greens may be fitting for winter ceremonies.

Some couples opt for more loosely defined color palettes, such as neutral and natural colors. Country and garden weddings can borrow ideas from the landscape, with natural linens paired with wildflowers. Using whites, grays and beiges enables couples to add a pop of color without overwhelming the setting.

Bride’s magazine suggests that couples avoid choosing too many colors. A maximum of three with one metallic can ensure that things look cohesive without being over-the-top. Also, brides and grooms needn’t feel pressured by the “hot” colors of the moment. As with clothing and hairstyles, trends change. It is better to select colors that will stand the test of time and look good for years to come. Couples may have to incorporate colors already at their wedding venues into their style. Fortunately, many reception sites are outfitted in neutral tones to enable customization.

The wedding resource The Knot also says having a basic knowledge of the color wheel can help. Typically, colors that pair well together are those that are opposites on the color wheel. Also, colors that share proximity on the color wheel will have similar tones and play well together. Examples of opposite colors include purples and yellows, reds and greens, and oranges and blues.

Couples should not be afraid to take some chances with their color palettes, especially if they want to make a bold and modern statement.

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Wedding invitations carry the imprint of a new generation

BY VALERIE TUCKER
Correspondent

Magazines and websites offer advice about trends, gowns, flowers, honeymoons and destination weddings. Equal care and attention must be given to a less glamorous and romantic task: the selection of invitations and related printed materials.

“Wedding invitations should include the following elements: who’s hosting, the request to come to the wedding, the couple’s names, the date, time and location, reception information, dress code and an RSVP request,” advises one helpful article.

Couples should review the wording options, including sensitive topics. Not every couple wants children at the big event, and others may need advice when deciding how to list parents of step-families or parents who are deceased. Ask a savvy proofreader to spot any spelling or typographical errors every step of the way.

Whether the theme is vintage, classic, modern, floral or woody, couples can customize nearly every detail. Paper edges can be scalloped, plain, lacy, with or without customized borders. Inexpensive printing options, such as pre-addressed envelopes, ensure that guests send RSVPs to the correct address. Although online ordering is popular, several area printing companies offer decades of experience and advice that won’t cost extra.

“We give couples some samples of designs, and then we draw something up,” said Copy Center Plus owner Peter McCarthy. From the Winthrop and Augusta locations, his experienced staff will help proofread the final product to be sure the final product is flawless. Robert Stevenson, owner of SBS Carbon Copy in Waterville, said the sky’s the limit for design ideas, and his staff can work with any size budget. Many weddings today are casual, he said, with outdoor receptions at a family member’s home or camp. Receptions might even include a potluck and BYOB. Those more casual-themed invitations will be different from those for a formal church weddings and sit-down dinners. Whether formal or casual, customers’ ideas sometimes come from online sites, including Pinterest and Etsy. They also can purchase a digital design that can be personalized.

“I get an idea of their theme and plans, and then I do a proof that we can customize before we print it,” McCarthy said.

Stephen Albison Jr., owner of Albison’s Printing in Augusta, said the 75-year-old family business offers plenty of expert advice. Choosing the card stock, envelopes, and even the font style and colors, can be tricky, but we have a great design staff who will work with you every step of the way,” he said.

Somerview Farm Designs in Skowhegan offers customized art work as well as wedding-related print packages, according to owner Amanda Hight. She advises customers to allow ample time to decide on their printed materials. All sorts of carefully planned schedules can have unexpected interruptions, so allow at least a two-month schedule to send invitations and receive RSVP confirmations. Hight can tweak standard designs to make them perfect for your needs.

“Customers usually have a good idea of their theme and design, but I also offer the option of original artwork,” she said. “If it’s not convenient to meet, we can do everything by email and phone.”

Colorgraphics, based in Sidney, has been helping couples get married for many years with creative solutions for their special day.

“First of all, it’s just not a day, it’s called an event now, which can go several days. It has to be planned right, be set to their style, have their tempo if you will,” said Colorgraphics owner Peter Schutte. “It’s not just for the family but mostly geared for their friends.

“Let’s face it, the majority of people getting married are younger folks,” he said. “These Millennials know what they want. They are creative, they know how to interact with their peers, and they socialize differently than past generations.”

They are comfortable with including a mixture of styles for the same event, with a combination of pictures, eye-catching designs, fonts and backgrounds that convey their message, according to Schutte, who said he noticed this trend starting as mobile phone cameras became popular.

“Sure, their subjects don’t look at the camera and say cheese,” he said. “Their pics have energy and speak creatively.”

Schutte suggests the take-away message for companies that offer wedding print packages be prepared to try new design techniques and non-traditional formats that break many of the traditional rules.

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Colorgraphics in Sidney finds that Millennial couples planning their weddings embrace a more eclectic, creative and non-traditional style of invitations and related print materials. They don't always choose a single theme and, instead, incorporate personalized images and designs to express their personal styles.

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“These Millennials know what they want. They are creative, they know how to interact with their peers, and they socialize differently than past generations.”

COLORGRAPHICS OWNER
PETER SCHUTTE, SIDNEY
Couples are increasingly bucking long-established trends to make weddings uniquely their own. One of today’s more popular tradition-busting trends is not adhering to gender lines when couples select friends and family members for their wedding parties. Until recently, the vast majority of wedding couples selected members of the same sex to fill the roles needed for the ceremony and reception. For example, grooms would choose fellow males to serve as their groomsmen while brides choose other females for their bridal parties. The wedding resource The Knot says the days of having men on one side and women on the other are gone. Coed wedding parties enable brides and grooms to have their favorite people by their side, regardless of gender.

According to The Daily Mail, over the past year, weddings across Australia and other areas of the world have seen a rise in “groomswomen” and “bridesmen,” blurring the lines of wedding traditions. Couples have often said that choosing whom- ever they desire to stand beside them during the wedding is more authentic than separating people simply because of gender. Take, for example, a groom-to-be who is especially close to his sister. Such siblings may serve as bridesmaids, but grooms may want to have their sisters by their sides on their big day.

Foregoing gender roles may make for a unique, customized wedding. However, it does create the question of what wedding party members will wear. Again, there are no firm rules, but coordination can make for better photos. A woman standing on the groom’s side can coordinate with the color of the bridesmaids’ dresses, but wear a different style. Or she can wear a dress that matches the color of the groomsmen’s suits. A man standing with the bride can have accessories, such as tie, vest and pocket square, that match bridesmaid dresses.

One of the areas where mixing and matching genders may get a tad sticky is with older, more traditional guests. They may not understand the freedom of choice in the wedding. However, couples can discuss their bridal parties to select people who they think might prefer that couples adhere to tradition.

Another possible snag is with bachelorette parties and bachelor parties. A solution to this dilemma may be to simply organize a getaway weekend for the entire bridal party, and not separate parties for each side.

Couples are increasingly deviating from tradition for their weddings by looking beyond gender when picking wedding party members.
Affordable party ideas: Bachelor and bachelorette

Weddings can be expensive. Various sources estimate the average cost of weddings is anywhere from $26,000 to $31,000. Couples and their parents may bear the brunt of wedding expenses, but those who have accepted a role in the wedding party also can expect their share of expenses. Taking into account gifts, wardrobes, makeup, bridal showers and travel, including getting to and from the bachelor/bachelorette party, bridal party members are on the hook for a lot of money when their friends or family members tie the knot.

Many men and women like to travel for their bachelor/bachelorette parties, and cost-conscious bridal party members may be concerned about how expensive such parties can be. Pulling out all the stops can be exciting, but there’s no guarantee these types of parties will be more enjoyable than simpler soirées. Taking steps to control costs can help cost-conscious couples and their friends. The following are some affordable ideas that can be fun for all involved.

Bar or winery crawl: Partygoers typically want to enjoy a night out on the town, and traveling from one establishment to another can be a fun way to do just that. Everyone invited can set themselves apart with a signature item (hat, T-shirt, or colored clothing), and make the rounds.

Attend a group event: Group events include sporting events, concerts, theater shows, or a night at a comedy club. Investgate discounted tickets for large groups.

Camp out: Get in touch with nature by enjoying a camping trip, complete with a campfire and a few brews. Spending time in the wilderness can restore focus and let stress melt away.

Poker or game night: Groups can gather around the poker table to test their skills in poker and other card games. With some free-flowing beverages and snacks galore, games can get pretty animated.

Dinner party: Hire a chef to visit your house and prepare a meal for guests. Serve a signature cocktail and let the conversation flow.

Bachelor and bachelorette parties can be affordable without sacrificing fun.
How couples can benefit from hiring local wedding vendors

Local vendors are often a go-to choice when couples are planning their wedding ceremonies and receptions. As the “shop local” movement grows in popularity, weddings present a prime opportunity to embrace this movement. Couples may have different ideas regarding where to tie the knot, but local vendors can be hired regardless of geography. Brides magazine says the biggest factor influencing wedding location is the size of the guest list and the number of people who wouldn’t be able to attend if the wedding was in a particular locale. Hometowns might be the traditional choice regarding wedding location, but according to a source, one in four couples now host destination weddings.

Once couples choose a town or city to host their weddings, they can begin exploring the benefits of working with locally-based vendors.

Familiarity
Local vendors will be familiar with the area and possibly even the location where the wedding will be held. That can help couples avoid having to give directions, discuss venue protocols and handle other tasks that must be worked out with non-local vendors. For example, local photographers familiar with a particular venue will know all of the best places to get shots, and some vendors may have preexisting relationships with venue representatives that could ensure wedding day operations go smoothly.

Proximity
Local vendors can meet with brides and grooms more readily throughout the planning process, making things less stressful on the happy couple. This also makes it easier to drop off deposits, attend meetings, make fitting appointments or attend styling sessions.

Savings
Couples who travel for their weddings and employ local vendors will not have to pack as much. Using local vendors eliminates the need to bring along bulky dresses, decorative items, flowers and much more. Plus, couples needn’t pay to transport and house vendors brought along from back home.

Environment
Individuals who take great strides to conserve resources by reducing their energy consumption and protecting the environment often find that shopping local is beneficial. Local vendors are more likely to source their materials from other local businesses, reducing their carbon footprints along the way. For example, local caterers may rely on local farmers for their foods, affording couples the chance to host eco-friendly or even farm-to-table weddings.

Customization
Working with local vendors often translates into getting more personalized service and attention than mass retailers or merchants can provide.

Going local when choosing wedding vendors is an increasingly popular choice among couples about to tie the knot.

Local vendors have intimate knowledge of the areas they serve, and that can make for a more personalized, eco-friendly wedding.

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Wedding styles for brides with short hair

Color, embellishments, retro styles, and clever up-dos can set short bridal hairstyles apart. On a day when all eyes and cameras will be trained on them, it’s natural for brides and grooms tying the knot to want to look their best. As a result, many couples invest a portion of their budgets into spa and beauty treatments, with many even hiring salon stylists to ensure their wedding-day looks are flawless.

Women with short hair may lament that they do not have many options when styling their hair for their wedding days. Some may even consider growing out their locks. However, plenty of creative styles exist for ladies without long locks.

Braid and plaits
Braids can add whimsy to shoulder-length or shorter hair. In addition, braids can anchor short locks when an up-do is desired. Braids can be placed into the front or rear crown of the head to look like a hair halo or crown.

Retro glamour
Brides may want to harken back to an era when glamour reigned supreme. Replicate one of the short styles of the 1940s or 1950s, paying homage to Audrey Hepburn, Marilyn Monroe, Lauren Bacall or Judy Garland.

Half-up style
Many women with short hair find that using bobby pins to pin up select areas of their hair can help achieve a partial up-do look without the need for longer locks. Experienced stylists will know how to manipulate hair effectively to create this look. Small tendrils of hair can be left free and curled for a less structured, more natural effect.

Brides-to-be with short hair do not need to fret nor make drastic changes to their hairstyles to look beautiful on their wedding days. Short hair can be manipulated into many camera-ready creations.

For more ideas contact Agora Hair Gallery & Day Spa at 72 Silver Street in Waterville or call 877-7017.
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