

Yes, Dreams Really Do Come True...

2003 Dream Wedding Winners "Have a Magical Day"



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Jaime Cramer and Jamey Shelton have had a love affair with each other and with the Outer Banks for years. On November 1, 2003, they celebrated that love with their Dream Wedding, awarded as the Grand Prize at the Outer Banks Wedding Expo in January 2003.

As winners of "A Formal Affair" Dream Beach Wedding package, Jaime (the bride) and Jamey (the groom) received many complimentary wedding services and gifts from Outer Banks Wedding Association vendors.

"We were so excited to win this package because we love the Outer Banks," said the Bride, Jaime, who is a schoolteacher in Wilmington, NC. "What was most impressive was the level of detail, quality and attention given to us by the vendors. Our wedding was outstanding because of them."

The couple met several years ago while in school at East Carolina University in Greenville, NC. Her parents relocated to the Outer Banks several years ago, and the couple had vacationed here extensively since they met.

"It seemed a natural choice for us to have our wedding on the Outer Banks," said Jaime. "Since my family lives there, it made it an easier choice to make. But I think even if that had not been the case, we would have had our wedding there just because we love it so much."

Jaime began planning her wedding after being selected as the winner of the 2003 Outer Banks Dream Wedding, awarded by the Outer Banks Wedding Association at the 2003 Outer Banks Wedding Expo. Early in the autumn, she paid a visit to Mary Basnight, Photographer, to have her wedding portrait made. She also enlisted the wedding planning services of Emma Wilson. Both of those services were part of the prize package donated by OBWA vendors.

The couple and the wedding party rented two vacation homes in Corolla for the wedding week, and on Halloween night, the parents of the groom hosted a lavish rehearsal dinner at the Hampton Inn and Suites in Corolla.

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The next day, the wedding party made the trip to Roanoke Island to begin setting up for the wedding ceremony, which was held in the spectacular Elizabethan Gardens. The weather for their November day was flawless, with bright sunny blue Outer Banks skies and comfortable temperatures. Metro Rental provided chairs, and the seven groomsmen and ushers met early that morning to set up the ceremony site in the Gardens' Overlook Terrace, which borders the Roanoke Sound.

Holiday House Flowers generously provided the flowers, including the bridal bouquet, Maid of Honor bouquet, groom's and groomsmen boutonnieres, ceremony florals and columns, and table decorations. The bridal bouquet was a hand-tied arrangement of warm, colorful tones of purple hydrangea, mango mini callas, pepper berries, hypericum berries, green callas, dark blue scabiosa (pincushion flower), and fall leaves.

The bride arrived at 2:00pm in a limousine provided by Sandy Beach Tours, while the 125 guests and the rest of the wedding party arrived shortly after. Roy Murray performed the ceremony

music. At 3:00pm, the Reverend Eugene McLawhorn performed a short ceremony. The Maid of Honor was the bride's best friend, Erin Eiben, and the groom's brother, John Shelton IV served as Best Man. The groom's gold wedding band was provided by Riddick Jewelers. All of these items were donated as part of the Dream Wedding Package.

After a round of post-ceremony photos by Shelley Chamberlin Photography, the wedding party and guests drove back up the beach to the reception at Swan Cove Restaurant in Duck. They entered the upstairs private dining room with their guests awaiting them. It was all smiles and hugs as the couple greeted their guests and enjoyed the music and wonderful food. The acoustic duo "Coyote" provided cocktail hour and dinner music at the reception and later, disc jockey Doug Leal of KDH Sound and Lights provided the tunes. Sonny's Catering, Katering by Kim, Kelly's, and Swan Cove provided catering, in a coordinated team effort that was seamlessly executed.

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"The food was spectacular! We were so amazed and grateful that the caterers worked out this joint effort just for us," said the Groom. "Our guests were very impressed."

In a very special moment, the Bride and her father danced to "Butterfly Kisses." Jaime and her father have a very close relationship and it was so special for them to have that moment. Then the Bride and Groom had their traditional first dance to "By Your Side" as all their guests looked on.

"I think we got to visit with, and hugged and kissed just about everybody in the room! Swan Cove was such a perfect setting and it really made personal contact with all our guests easy and comfortable," said the Bride. "Then we got to cutting the cake, and it was wonderful! Melinda made a combination of layers for us and it was really outstanding in appearance and taste - really wonderful". The wedding cake was Just Desserts' famous "Shells of Elegance" cake. Cake server, guest book, toasting glasses, and garter were provided compliments of Halloran and Co. Jewelers.

Their special day concluded later that evening with the ceremonial toast, tossing of the garter and bouquet, and good byes. The couple then retired to a Corolla beach house they rented for a short vacation honeymoon.

"My wedding day was absolutely perfect," said Jaime, "and I didn't really think we could have had a wedding this lavish on our own." Jaime went on to say, "...Last January, when our names were called out as the winning couple for this dream wedding, I was so stunned that it had really happened - that we were going to receive this wonderful gift. I never imagined it would all turn out to be as special as it was. I've always loved the Outer Banks for the beach and weather, but now I know what really makes the place special is the people who call it home. They turned out to be the most special part of it all. The kindness and generosity we received will never be forgotten. Thank you all so much!" ❀

Jaime & Jamey Shelton live in Wilmington, NC, but return often to the Outer Banks to visit with family and friends.



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