

The

TO THE
OUTER
BANKS

WEDDING GUIDE™



PRICELESS



My OUTER BANKS Wedding

CATHY BALDWIN

The Couple: Cathy Barch and Adam Baldwin (*The Wedding Guide's* cover couple!)

The Programs: Designed as fans to keep guests cool

Popping the Question:

Neither Adam nor I can remember the first time we met. We had attended the same college, had friends in common and both worked in restaurants on the Outer Banks during the summers but had never actually spoken. For years we had been on the periphery of each other's lives until one night at a beach bonfire long after we'd graduated. We started talking that night and have never been able to stop. Adam and I had been dating for almost three years when he proposed on Valentine's Day in 2004. The proposal was a simple but meaningful one – right there in our kitchen he dropped down on bended knee and asked me to marry him. After a private celebration, we joined friends anxiously awaiting our arrival, who knew how special this Valentine's would be for me.

A Wedding in the Making: Both Adam and I love the Outer Banks and knew we wanted a beach wedding. Living here for ten years and having attended many beach weddings, we knew the risks involved – bad weather, biting flies, waves too loud to hear the sermon and gale-force winds. We understood those risks, and we

decided to do it anyway. Neither of our families lives here, although mine are close by in Virginia Beach and his have a summer house here, so the Outer Banks seemed like the perfect spot to marry.

The Big Day: I could not have dreamed up a more gorgeous beach day. Just a few billowy clouds dotted the sky, and the weather was a balmy eighty degrees. Perfection! With bouquet in hand and my dad on my arm, I made my way over the sand dune through the aisle made of seashells carefully laid by friends. Roy Murray's trumpet filled the air with the



The Date:
June 4, 2005

The Time:
6:30 in the evening

The Place:
Coquina Beach
near Nags Head,
North Carolina

clear notes of Trumpet Voluntary. Seeing everyone's faces as I walked down the aisle, I knew it was finally real and was so filled with emotion that I wasn't sure if I was going to laugh or cry. Reverend Bradshaw could see how nervous we both were and put us at ease by telling us to kiss before we even exchanged vows! Everyone laughed, and the ceremony began.



BOTH PHOTOS: DEBORAHSAWYERPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Our Big Exit: After the ceremony, Adam scooped me up and carried me to our red '76 Triumph Spitfire. I felt like we were in a storybook wedding, with my hair and veil flying behind me as we drove off in the sunset in our convertible. I couldn't imagine a more perfect moment.



Dancing the Night Away: Adam and I had asked our friends from the local band Biscuits and Grease to play at the wedding. Making sure everyone danced the night away was one of our top priorities! While greeting our guests was important, most knew us well enough to come find us on the dance floor. From grandmothers to young nieces and nephews, our guests were not shy about strutting their stuff. Adam and I kicked off our flip-flops and, champagne glasses in hand, danced until the wee hours.

ALL THE GOOD DETAILS...

Ceremony Site: Coquina Beach, part of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore

Pastor: Reverend Brad Bradshaw

Ceremony Music: Roy Murray on flute and trumpet and Stacy Walters on violin.

Photography: Deborah Sawyer Photography. The timing, about an hour before sunset, was perfect for the lighting. Debbie captured several amazing shots of us by the Bodie Island Lighthouse and beside the sound with the sun setting.

The Special Touches

The National Park Service, which oversees the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and Coquina Beach, has very strict rules about not leaving anything behind after a wedding. So rather than give my guests wedding programs that they might toss or accidentally leave behind, Adam and I designed programs in the shape of fans. That way our guests could actually use the programs to keep cool during the ceremony.

For my gift to my bridesmaids, I bought each one a white pashmina shawl and had them monogrammed. My bridesmaids appreciated the personal touch of the monogramming and the usefulness of the wrap.

Instead of having a guestbook, we framed a picture of ourselves and left a wide matting around the picture for guests to sign. Now instead of a guestbook collecting dust in our closet, we have a wonderful picture hanging on the wall that all of our guests wrote their thoughts on!

Adam and I wanted to give our guests favors they'd enjoy without breaking the budget. We burned CDs for everyone with ten of our favorite songs. Our guests are still commenting on how much they loved our CD!

Reception Site: Mallards Marsh, between Manteo and Wanchese. I chose Mallards Marsh for its beautiful view of the marsh and water, proximity to Coquina Beach, and its beautiful wood-floored, chandeliered ballroom.

Caterers: Mike Dianna's Grill Room for the main fare, and Robert Miloshevsky for the sushi bar. Even though Adam and I knew there wouldn't be much time for us to eat at our own wedding, we wanted the menu to be a reflection of all of the things we love. Besides the extensive sushi bar full

The reception site was adorned with countless clusters of pink peonies, accented by dozens of white candles.

Transportation: Sandy Beach Tours to transport the guests, and Eddie and Sue Goodrich's private limousine driven by Robert Via for our transportation from the reception site to our honeymoon suite at The First Colony Inn.

Reception Music: Biscuits and Grease, a favorite local band and our good friends. If you can dance to it, they can play it! With music spanning three decades, the

band comes complete with horns, fantastic vocals and a great beat.

Event Coordinator: Nannette Jerigan of The Proper Setting. What a lifesaver! Having Nannette there to handle the details and any last-minute problems was key to having a stress-free wedding.

BOTH PHOTOS: DEBORAHSAWYERPHOTOGRAPHY.COM



of tuna, salmon and California rolls, our guests feasted on baked oysters Rockefeller, bacon-wrapped shrimp, a mashed potato bar, mesquite-grilled oysters, steamed Maine mussels, baked brie, mini crabcakes and ribs. A helpful hint for the bride and groom: Ask your caterer to fix a plate for you. Mike made one for us, and I'm certain we wouldn't have gotten to eat if he hadn't done that.

Cake: After seeing a cupcake tower in wedding magazine a few years ago, I knew right away that that's what I wanted for our wedding cake. My dad, forever the engineer, designed and built a cupcake tower tall enough for seven tiers of cupcakes. Linda Bradley of Wanchese baked hundreds of chocolate cupcakes in silver wrappers with vanilla icing and the initial "B" in white chocolate placed on top. The cupcake tower was truly spectacular.

Flowers: Seamark Florists. My bouquet was all roses – dark pink roses in the center, surrounded by a layer of lighter pink roses.

Beauty: Diva's Day Spa in Southern Shores. Diva's did my hair, nails and make-up, as well as the hair and nails for my entire wedding party and both mothers. Complimentary mimosas, coffee and muffins were a special treat that helped loosen everyone up and energize us for the big day ahead. We left there feeling and looking gorgeous. ♥

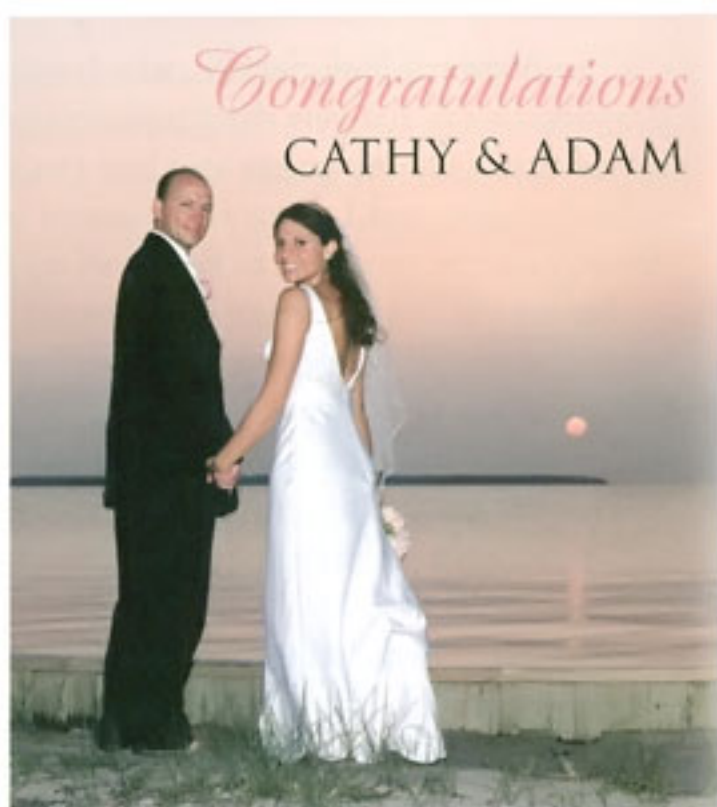


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