

2017 Bride & Groom Guide



Mother, daughter bring unique wedding venue to the area

By Karin Ramige
Publisher

After looking at many venues before her 2014 wedding, Bailey Hanson and her mom, Kim Serbus, fell in love with the barn wedding idea.

They decided to combine their love for antiquing and flea markets and past career experiences into a family business.

Serbus, who lives in Plymouth, was a pastor leading many ministries and events. She also has worked in interior design. Hanson, of Minneapolis, works for an advertising agency.

They hired a realtor, giving her a pretty specific list of things they were looking for. They wanted the farm to be on a main road, enough acreage for parking and outdoor activities, a couple of buildings and a white barn. After looking for a couple of years, they found what they were looking for north of Glencoe.

The Cottage Farmhouse is located at 16545 County Road 2, about four miles north of Glencoe.

After purchasing the farm last spring, which had most recently been a sheep farm, they spent countless hours, with the help of friends and family, turning it into their dream venue.

After completing the majority of the renovations, dates started to fill up. They had a couple of events last fall, and still have a few spots open in 2017, and are booking for 2018.

Serbus' second daughter will be married at The Cottage Farmhouse in July.

The farmhouse has been turned into a bridal cottage. The granary was transformed into the groom's granary, which has a pool table and space for the groom and his groomsmen to get ready and hang out.

The two barns have been completely redone. A ramp was added to the main barn and three large chandeliers were added.

The reception barn can accommodate 250-300 guests. The property also has a wedding pasture for outdoor ceremonies and a large patio area with a fire pit for an



outdoor reception or space for outdoor games.

The property sits on about 15 acres and has ample space for parking with all buildings and locations easily accessible.

Luxury restroom trailers are brought in for events.

They have beautiful solid-wood tables and antique-looking chairs for a quaint feeling reception.

The Cottage Farmhouse has furniture packages available as well, if a bride would want a sofa in the pasture for pictures or as part of the head table.

Serbus says it has been a lot of work, but a lot of fun transforming the property into a beautiful location for weddings.

"It's an honor to be a part of a couple's once in a lifetime day," Serbus says. "We're romantics at heart," adding they love to get to know the brides, hear their stories and be a part of the celebrations.

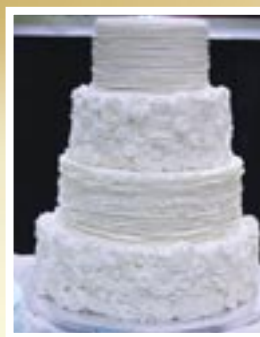
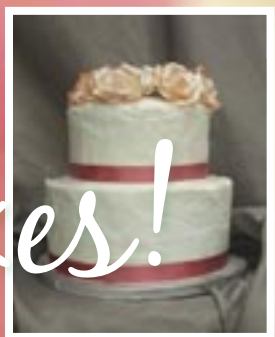
They also have enjoyed getting to know the community and other local business owners. Serbus added that they have felt welcomed with open arms.

For more information about The Cottage Farmhouse, check out its website at <http://thecottagefarmhousemn.com>.



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The Glencoe City Center

Originally the Glencoe Grade and High School building and later known as the Glencoe Middle School, the Glencoe City Center began its transformation in 2009 after numerous years of planning to save the historic school building and repurpose it for future generations. Now on the National Register of Historic Places, the Glencoe City Center continues to be a gathering space for the community.

On any given week, the facility is filled with a variety of activities. Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, local youth dance clubs, and senior citizen groups are just a few of the groups that are meeting at the facility on a regular basis. There's also a church service that takes place most Sunday mornings.

The building includes a state of the art event and meeting facility. Events held at the Glencoe City Center include concerts, graduations, reunions, confirmations, anniversaries, bridal and baby showers, birthday parties, business meetings, and other community happenings.

Whether planning a small or large wedding reception, the Glencoe City Center offers an elegant space for celebrating your wedding. The Grand Ballroom is a one of kind venue offering historic charm and sophisticated style. Some of its focal points include its expansive dance floor, towering exterior windows, and high ceilings.

Grand Ballroom

The Grand Ballroom is the ideal venue to hold wedding ceremonies and receptions along with banquets, fundraisers, concerts, and other large scale parties. With two walls of large windows, gorgeous hardwood floors, and restored Art Deco Chandeliers, the Grand Ballroom requires minimal decorating to make your dream event a reality. The Grand Ballroom can be split into two separate spaces creating the North and South Grand Ballrooms. Linens are also available for rental, along with dishware.

Henry Hill East Conference Room

The Henry Hill East Conference Room is adjacent to the Grand Ballroom and can hold up to 45 people, depending on the seating. This room has been used for things such as meetings, trainings, confirmation parties, graduation parties, birthday parties, and more! With towering windows along one wall, the natural lighting creates a bright and welcoming room. The adjoining kitchenette is included in this room rental and includes an oven, microwave, refrigerator, and sink.

West Conference Room

The West Conference Room is used most often for meetings and trainings. With a seating capacity of up to 45, number is dependent on the layout of the room, the West Conference Room is ideal for your meeting needs. The room offers an optional technology package (screen, projector, microphone, audio, conference calling, document reader, television).

Martin McLeod Room

The Martin McLeod Room, also known as the Senior Community Room, is adjacent to the Grand Ballroom and can hold up to 80 people, depending on the seating. The Martin McLeod Room has played host to bridal showers, baby showers, birthday parties, gift openings, and more. The room includes an adjoining kitchenette and is included in the room rental. It includes a small oven, refrigerator, microwave and sink.

Basement Meeting Room

The basement meeting room, formerly the cafeteria space for the school, is available for rental. The room is used throughout the year for 4-H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and other community meetings. The space is ideal for birthday parties, family reunions, and other similar functions.

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Weddings and nontraditional families

Metro Creative Connection

Families come in all shapes and sizes. During special events — particularly those steeped in tradition, such as weddings — blended families may have to employ certain tactics to ensure the events go off without a hitch.

When planning their weddings, couples must give consideration to the needs of their families. Even though a wedding is about the union of two people, oftentimes couples engaged to be married must contend with the politics of divorce or other familial issues. This includes if and how to incorporate stepparents and stepsiblings into the ceremony and celebration.

There are no traditional rules regarding how to handle blended families, so brides- and grooms-to-be can customize their decisions based on their own unique situations. Even when families have been happy through the years, the unique circumstances and traditions surrounding the nuptials can dredge up former insecurities, and certain aspects may require extra patience and tact. Here's how to navigate the process.

- Consider stepparents and stepsiblings VIPs. Brides and grooms who are not particularly close to their stepfamilies still have to recognize the role they play in the family dynamics. These people are still family, so respect and courtesy should be offered. If there is any lingering animosity, extend the olive branch on this day and try not to let anyone be made to feel as if they are unimportant. A simple announcement of who stepparents are at the wedding reception or inclusion of their names on wedding itineraries can help smooth over any potential bumps.

- Put others' needs before your own. While the wedding may be about you and your future spouse, you must consider the feelings of others. Biological parents and stepparents may act defensively if they feel uncomfortable or hurt, and that can create an air of negativity to the day. Try to avoid this by considering potential areas of conflict. For example, mothers might be hurt if their ex-husbands' new girlfriends are asked to be in a group family photo. Instead,



stead, select separate times to have everyone included. Remember to give parents and stepparents priority seating as well, and they each should be seated next to someone they love and someone with whom they can converse comfortably. You may think everyone can play nice, but it's best not to push the issue just to make a point at the wedding.

- Recognize that some families break the mold. Recently, a father made waves on the Internet when a video of him pulling the bride's stepfather up to assist in walking her down the aisle went viral. This was a wonderful image of families making it work despite their differences or the awkwardness that can result when brides or grooms have

parents and stepparents in attendance. Although this scenario might not play out for all, find ways to impart a special touch, especially if you're close to both your biological parents and your stepparents. For example, your biological father may walk you down the aisle, while your stepfather may enjoy the first dance.

- Order flowers and gifts for all. Purchase flowers and wedding party gifts for all of the special people in your lives, including your stepfamily. Weddings can be complicated affairs when factoring in blended families. With patience and compassion, such families can enjoy a beautiful and happy day.

Tips for a special mother/son dance

Metro Creative Connection

Weddings celebrate the unions of happy couples ready to pledge their lives to each other. In theory, the wedding day spotlight should be shared equally by brides and grooms. But brides often eclipse their grooms, as guests are drawn to stunning bridal gowns.

Though grooms might play second fiddle for much of their wedding days, there is one moment when all eyes are on the groom and a special lady in his life. The mother/son dance is a wedding tradition that many grooms embrace as their opportunity to show their mothers how much they love and appreciate them. The mother/son dance is an ideal time to create a special moment, and the following are some tips to personalize the dance.

- Precede the bride and her father. Make your own tradition and switch up the timing of the dances. Be the first to take a spin on the dance floor and set the tone for the other traditional songs to come.

- Create a photo montage. Work with an entertainment company or photographer to create a slideshow of images showing you and your mother together and separately. If possible, include some photos that were shot during the wedding ceremony, asking the photographer to capture the look on your mother's face during pivotal moments of the ceremony.

- Show off your dance skills. One increasingly popular wedding trend is for fathers and brides to choreograph the father/daughter dances. Grooms and their mothers can follow suit, particularly if you both have some stellar dance moves.

- Let Mom choose the song. Give your mother the opportunity to express her sentiments to you, as mothers of the groom do not typically toast their sons during weddings or even rehearsal dinners.

- Invite other son/mother duos up. If the idea of dancing alone with your mother is a bit intimidat-



Grooms are the unsung heroes of weddings. They often put others first, including letting their own mothers shine on the dance floor.

ing, give other mothers in attendance an opportunity to share the spotlight. Celebrate all mothers in attendance, encouraging any mothers and sons who are present to dance together.

Grooms may not garner the bulk of guests' attention on their wedding days. But they can take steps to make their special dances with their mothers more memorable and unique.

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7 ways to recycle a wedding gown

Metro Creative Connection

When planning their weddings, many brides-to-be devote a large portion of their wedding budgets to their wardrobes. Statistics released by The Knot in 2014 indicated the amount the average woman was willing to spend her gown was \$1,281. Wedding gowns are among the most costly wedding expenditures. Because wedding gowns can be so expensive, many brides elect to have their gowns cleaned and preserved. Reusing a wedding gown is a cost-effective and earth-friendly idea. Women have many options when it comes time to putting their wedding gowns to use after they have tied the knot. The following are just some of the great ideas couples can explore.

1. Save it for younger generations. One of the primary reasons to preserve a wedding gown is to save the dress for a daughter, granddaughter or another relative to wear at her own wedding.
2. Transform it into other attire. There are a number of different occasions when wearing white is acceptable. Religious ceremonies such as baptisms and communions qualify, and a wedding gown in the hands of an experienced seamstress or tailor can be transformed into a baby's Christening ensemble or a beautiful dress for a youngster about to receive First Holy Communion.



Wedding gowns can be donated or transformed into other uses.

3. Donate the gown. Brides in need may not have the funds to purchase their own beautiful gowns. Work with an organization that will provide dresses to the less fortunate. Or donate it to an organization that can sell the gown to fund projects for others in need. Another option is the Mary Madeline Project, which uses wedding dress fabrics to create burial outfits for stillborn infants.
4. Cut it up into usable fabric. Wedding gown fabrics can be used in various applications. Dresses can be transformed into decorative pillows or other wedding mementos. Stretch the fabric across a frame and use it as a blank canvas for a photo keepsake. The fabric also can work for baby cribs and infant basket skirting.
5. Use it as a Halloween costume. Dress as a bride for Halloween. Otherwise, tailor the dress to fit a child and she can use it for any number of dress-up opportunities.
6. Donate it to a costume archive. Theatrical companies may be able to use the fabric to create costumes for their productions.
7. Create a keepsake. Cut a small piece of the fabric and put it into a pendant or locket. A piece of tulle or lace also can be placed inside a clear Christmas ornament and hung on the tree for years to come. Wedding gowns can be upcycled into many new and innovative items. Doing so eliminates long storage times and can benefit others.

Marriage License information



To obtain a Certified Copy of a Marriage Certificate: Effective 8/1/2007 (You may make your request in person or by mail)

1. Send us the full name of the groom, the full maiden name of the bride and the date of the marriage. You must have purchased your Marriage License from McLeod County for us to be able to provide you with the Certified Copy.
2. Send \$9.00 for the first copy and \$2.00 for each additional copy requested for the same record. Make your check payable to McLeod County Auditor-Treasurer.
3. Send the request and the correct dollar amount to:
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3. The fee is \$115.00 if no pre-marital counseling has been completed. The fee is \$40.00 if 12 hours of pre-marital counseling has been completed AND we have a signed & notarized form from the person who provided the counseling. **As of August 1, 2009, the form will need to have a notarized signature to be accepted.**

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Make proposals special and successful

Metro Creative Connection

A marriage proposals is a couple’s first official step toward the altar. Tradition dictates that men pop the question, with their surprised — and hopefully soon-to-be-fiancées — ultimately deciding if wedding bells will be on the horizon. Proposing marriage can be nervewracking. However, if the time seems right and love is in the air, popping the question can be exciting. Regardless of who is proposing marriage, the following strategies can help make proposals memorable and successful.

Turn the tides

An old Irish tradition known as “The Lady’s Privilege” was established in the fifth century by a nun named St. Brigid. She decided to create an opportunity for women to propose marriage. This day fell on every leap year, February 29. Centuries later, women can still use this tradition as the impetus to take the marriage reigns into their own hands. But women need not wait for the next leap year to propose. Many women view proposing as an empowering action that is tied to the evolving view of independent women.



A wedding proposal is a special moment in couples’ lives together. It can be made even more special by following some guidelines.

Couples are negotiating more in the marriage process, and the dissolution of commonly held practices is occurring more often.

Choose a sentimental location

Couples will remember the proposal for the rest of their lives. So choose a proposal location that has sentimental connections. Think about where the first “I love you” was uttered or where a first date occurred. These can be prime locations to pop the question.

Note her style

Engagement rings play a big role in many couples’ proposals. One person’s style is not necessarily what his partner will like. Bigger isn’t always better. Rather, choose a ring that reflects your partner’s preferences and personality. Take your partner jewelry shopping and see which types of jewelry he or she is most

drawn to. Certain preferences can serve as a jumping off point for ring designs.

Ask for the family’s blessing

Men no longer need to ask their girlfriends’ fathers for “permission” to wed their daughters. However, asking your partner’s family for their blessing is a sign of respect and can add a romantic and heartfelt touch to the proposal.

Capture the moment

Though we live in an age when every moment of people’s lives is documented with videos and photographs posted to social media, proposals still stand out as extra special moments. Hire a professional photographer to discreetly capture the proposal and your partner’s reaction so it can be cherished for years to come.



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