



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF PENNELL PHOTOGRAPHY

SARAH CARY & JUSTIN HARRIS

May 29, 2010 • Emerald Isle

Talk about a destination wedding! Sarah and Justin took the concept to the extreme when they planned their Emerald Isle wedding for their families and 140 of their closest friends from across the country.

Originally from central Virginia, Sarah grew up spending vacations at her family's Emerald Isle beach house. After college, she moved to Pompano Beach, FL, where she met Justin at a neighborhood barbecue.

As a corporate pilot, Justin's work kept him busy during their courtship, but they occasionally visited Emerald Isle. Raised in a small New York town, Justin fell in love with the beach, and it became a pivotal place in their relationship.

In May, 2009, during one such visit, Justin took Sarah for a walk on the beach. As they were returning to the beach house, they came upon a giant heart drawn in the sand with the words, "Will you marry me?" written in the center. Before Sarah could ask who the lucky couple was, Justin was on his knee with the ring, much to the joy of Sarah's family who were watching from the nearby dunes.

There was never any doubt that their wedding would take place in Emerald Isle. With a year before the big day, they got to work planning a beach vacation for their relatives and extended families.

"We wanted to get everyone in town for the whole week, and we had to figure out how to get 140 people to the island and in rented beach houses," recalls Sarah. "I'm a planner and very detail-oriented, and it was stressful

managing the details. But when wedding week arrived, and everyone was there, it was so worth it.”

Sarah and Justin planned several low-key events during the week, allowing plenty of free time for the guests to explore the Crystal Coast.

Sarah’s aunt offered her gorgeous Historic Beaufort home for a tented rehearsal dinner beneath the trees and surrounded by blooming hydrangeas. Sarah’s future brother-in-law and chef catered a delicious mixed grill of Down East favorites: barbecue, shrimp, scallops, and chicken.

“It was a great opportunity for us all to let our hair down before the wedding and get to know each other,” said Sarah, “and it made the wedding day much more relaxed because we had some social time together.”

Emerald Isle Realty’s spectacular sound front rental home, The Boathouse, was the venue for the wedding. With planner Heidi Barlow’s detailed assistance, the house and grounds were transformed into a semi-formal wedding venue. The couple chose their favorite colors, magenta and teal, as their accents.

“I wanted to do something a little different,” said Sarah. “I grew up going to Emerald Isle, and I love the beach, but I wanted a more elegant wedding in a beach setting.”

After the 5:00 PM ceremony, the lights went up on a magnificent outdoor reception that lasted well into the night. The next day, Sarah and Justin bid farewell to their guests, content that they had shared their special corner of the world with each and every one of them.



WHO DID WHAT

Event Site: The Boathouse (Emerald Isle Realty)

Planner: Heidi Barlow

Photography: Jeff Pennell

Catering: Carlton's at The Ocean Club

Event Rentals: Island Essentials Tent & Event Rentals

Cake: Douglas Swanson

Flowers: Coastal Petals

Ceremony Music: Concordia Strings

Transportation: Diamond Limousine

