



COUNTRY MEETS CAMELOT

A wildflower patch, a white horse and a first dance at moonrise: a Georgia farmgirl dreams up a magical outdoor wedding. By Judy Bean | Photography by Mark Williams, Marielle Williams Singletary and Erin Rollins

LIKE MANY LITTLE GIRLS, Julianne Williams used to envision her wedding as a scene from a fairy tale. But unlike most, she had a specific, real-life setting in mind: a meadow beside a pecan grove on her family's Swainsboro farm.

So as a grown-up wedding photographer and bride-to-be, Julianne already had two things many brides strive for: a spectacular venue and a clear vision.

The bride, once a child equestrienne, saw herself riding a white horse through the field to meet her groom, registered nurse Brandon Blount, and marrying him in a field of wildflowers.

To make that dream a reality, she and Brandon turned to their close-knit families for help—and to wedding planner Tara Skinner of Posh Petals and Pearls for her expert leadership.

A Labor of Love

Months before the wedding, the groom's father, who doubled as his best man, planted the wildflower garden beneath a trio of trees to define the altar area. The groom's mother provided her wedding gown to be restyled for the bride, and his brother composed an original wedding song.

Meanwhile, the bride's twin sister and matron of honor, Marielle Singletary, designed the bridal bouquet and altar arrangements and made candy flowers for the top tier of the wedding cake, baked by family friend Nancy Duckworth.



Julianne and Brandon

Season: Summer

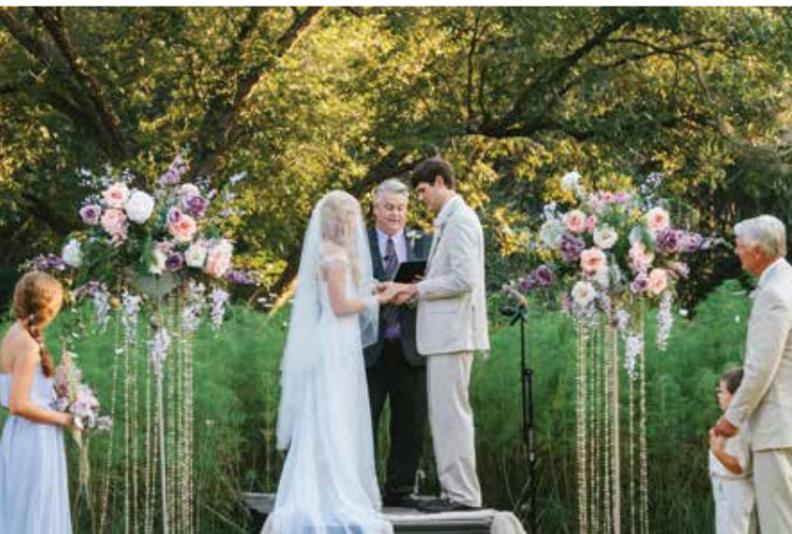
Palette: Purples and pinks

Guests: 200

Planning time: 8 months

Rehearsal dinner: East Georgia State College, catered by Bevricks of Metter

Ceremony and reception: Blount Family Orchard, Swainsboro





The bride wore her groom's mother's silk chiffon with Chantilly, Venice and Brussels lace, remade into an off-the-shoulder, princess-style gown. Flower girl Lyla Grace Martin, the groom's niece, wore a dress made from the remnants of the restyled gown.



Another family friend, Joanne Lane, made the groom's cake and a third, Sue Tanner, catered the reception. Still another friend, Mona Lisa Johnson, loaned her white stallion, Darrah's Silver Arrow, for Julianne to ride into view.

As a result, Tara says, the entire celebration was "beautiful, fun, Bohemian and incredibly personal—definitely not a cookie-cutter wedding."

A Vision in White

On a warm September afternoon, groom Brandon and his attendants stood before a hip-high backdrop of purple and pink wildflowers.

Her long, loose hair crowned in flowers, Julianne approached astride the white horse. Her father, photographer Mark Williams, helped her dismount and escorted her up the grass aisle to the plaintive strains of Hans Zimmer's "Tennessee." Uninvited butterflies flitted by in apparent approval as Julianne and Brandon exchanged vows.

The bride wore her groom's mother's silk chiffon with Chantilly, Venice and Brussels lace, remade into an off-the-shoulder, princess-style gown. Flower girl Lyla Grace Martin, the groom's niece, wore a dress made from the remnants of the restyled gown, and ring bearer John Nathan Martin, the groom's nephew, carried the jewelry on the bride's childhood tooth fairy pillow.

Twelve bridesmaids in full-length lavender gowns and nine groomsmen in oyster-colored, summer-weight suits flanked the flowery altar. Fiddler Glenn Watkins, another family friend, performed processional music, accompanied by a pianist and cellist. The groom's brother, Rhett, played the guitar and sang the song he had written as their sister, Allison Martin, harmonized.

Picture Perfect

After the vows, a short stroll brought guests to the nearby pecan grove, which was crisscrossed at ceiling height with hundreds of white lights. Portraits of the couple by Julianne's father and sister (both of whom are her colleagues in the family photography business) hung from the light strands and tree branches, along with suspended floral arrangements. These airy bouquets and those on the tables were all handmade by the bridesmaids, the bride

and her grandmother. Behind the bridal table, a beaded backdrop framed the seated bride and groom, catching the last rays of the setting sun.

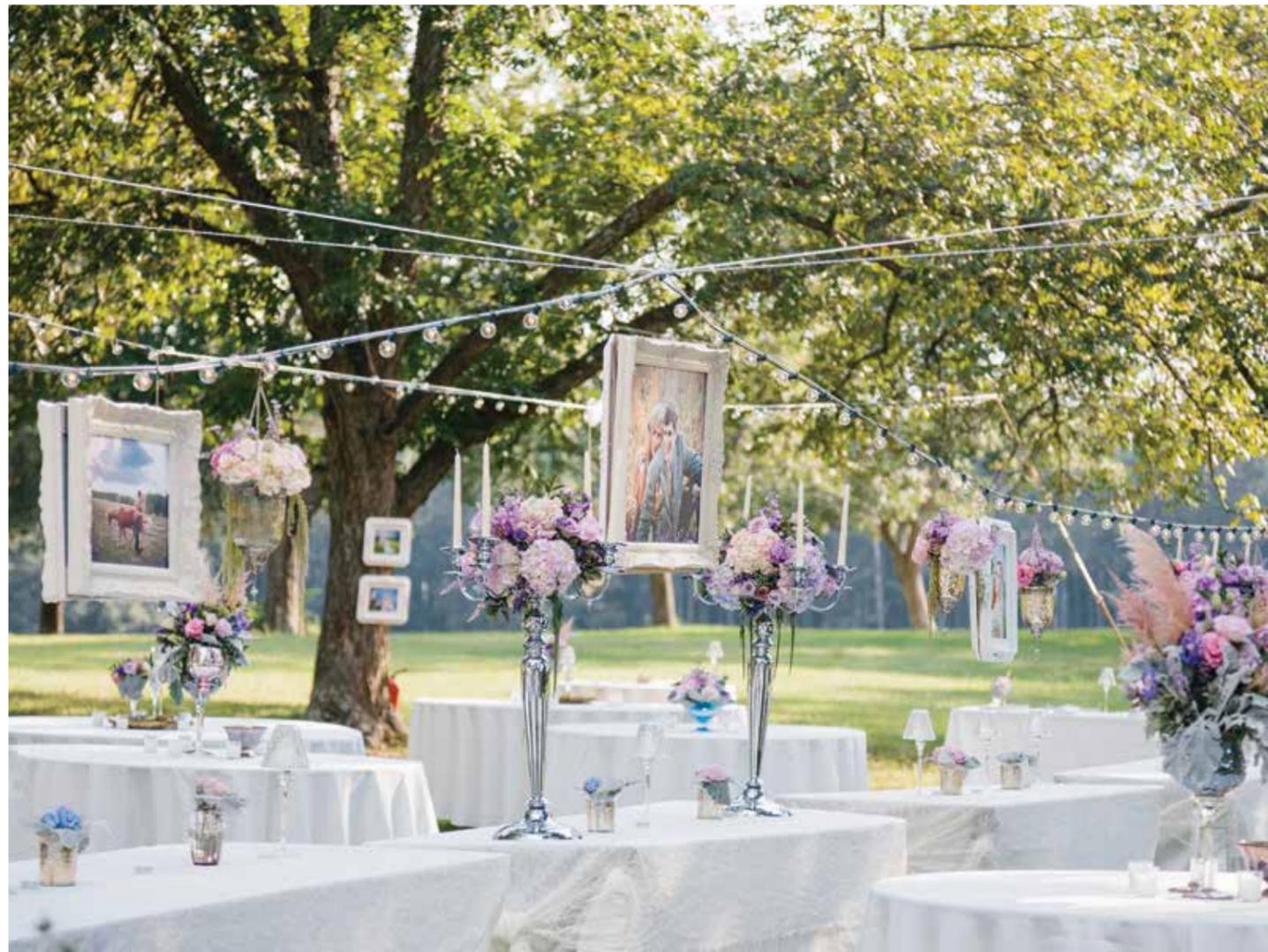
After toasts and a Southern feast, the couple shared their first dance as the Tifton-based band Doctor, Doctor played “Never Let Me Go” and the full moon rose above the horizon.

Under a canopy of stars, guests danced until the couple was swept off in an antique buggy driven by their groomsmen.

For Julianne, the day was more than magical—it was spiritual.

“I recall feeling more in touch with God than ever before,” she says, encouraging other brides to savor, not stress over, every moment. “Your wedding day is truly a gift from God.”

And so, it seems, is your family. S



Behind the Veil

- The big day:** September 1, 2012
- Season:** Summer
- Guests:** 200
- Planning time:** 8 months
- Palette:** Purples and pinks
- Rehearsal dinner:** East Georgia State College; catered by Bevrick's of Metter
- Wedding planner/designer:** Tara Skinner, Posh Petals and Pearls
- Ceremony/reception:** Blount Family Orchard, Swainsboro
- Officiants:** The Revs. Mark Wiggins and Mark White
- Ceremony music:** Guitarist/vocalist Rhett Blount, vocalist Allison Martin, pianist Jay Beverly, cellist David Van Wyck and fiddler Glenn Watkins
- Gown:** From the groom's mother, restyled by Scott Marchbanks, Frills and Fancies, Statesboro
- Accessories:** Headpiece, Scott Marchbanks, Frills and Fancies; veil, Vera Wang; shoes, Aldo; jewelry, handmade by bride and matron of honor
- Hair and makeup:** Missy Douglas and Michael Womack, Main Street Styles, Swainsboro
- Bridesmaids' dresses:** LightInTheBox.com, customized with lace waistbands handmade by bride and matron of honor
- Groom's/groomsmen's attire:** R.J. Pope, Statesboro
- Catering:** Sue's Catering, Wrightsville
- Reception music:** Doctor, Doctor
- Florists:** Mark Williams Studio, bridesmaids
- Cake:** Nancy Duckworth, Macy Lawson, Lisa Gonzalez and Marielle Singletary
- Rentals:** Don's Tent rentals
- Videographer:** Green Peace Videography
- Transportation:** White stallion from breeder/trainer Mona Lisa Johnson, buggy refurbished by groom's grandfather
- Photographers:** Mark Williams Studio, markwilliamsstudio.com, and Erin Rene Photography, erinrenehphotography.com

For Julianne, the day was more than magical—it was spiritual. “I recall feeling more in touch with God than ever before,” she says.