

Shanty Creek Resorts

STORY BY RENEE RUDZEWICZ • PHOTOGRAPHY BY PARKER PHOTOGRAPHIC





Anna Zimmerman Ben Kahut August 7, 2009

SHANTY CREEK RESORTS
BELLAIRE

Lake Bellaire has been a longtime vacation spot for the Zimmerman family, so no one was surprised when Anna and Ben chose Shanty Creek Resort for their destination wedding. The Ohio couple had already begun to make their own Up North memories the previous summer when Ben proposed to Anna on the sweet little bridge that spans Elk River in the nearby town of Elk Rapids.

Melissa Fischer, wedding sales manager at Shanty Creek, worked with Anna and Ben and their families to plan the special day. Only four of the 96 guests who attended the wedding were local, so guests rented cottages on Lake Bellaire and rooms at Shanty Creek—some of the guests stayed as long as a full week before the wedding day. Pre-wedding festivities included a floating bachelorette party on Lake Bellaire.

A few days before the wedding, Anna, along with her mother, Barb Zimmerman, and family friend, Barb Heuerman, picked six five-gallon buckets of fresh wildflowers at a private farm near Traverse City for the bouquets and centerpieces.

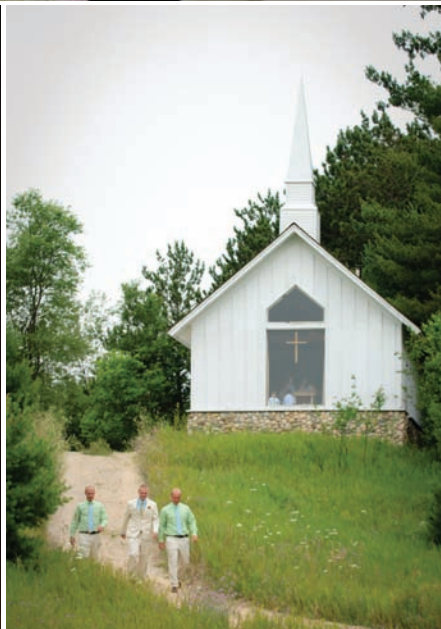
The outdoor ceremony took place at Cedar Bend Farm, a scenic 112-acre retreat near Shanty Creek equipped with a rustic white chapel that the bridal party used for staging. From the chapel's hilltop perch, Anna and her bridesmaids watched as the guests arrived to the ceremony. The bridesmaids wore non-traditional light blue dresses by Maggie London, while the groomsmen wore green shirts and khaki pants—an ensemble that the groom gifted to them.

After the ceremony, a Shanty Creek Resort shuttle transported guests to the reception at the resort's Cedar River Village—a simple but elegant venue set on the rolling greens of the Cedar River Golf Course. A lovely, plated dinner was followed by dancing to music by DJ Josh Poley on the porch under the stars.



Opposite page: Anna chose a classic dress made by Allure and veil by Sympathy that she found at Lillian's Bridal Boutique in Dayton, Ohio. She kept her accessories simple, wearing pearl earrings and a natural pearl bracelet. Ben and Anna call themselves "Benanna." The chapel at Cedar Bend Farm, outside and inside.

This page: Anna's sisters helped make the table numbers—each with a different New York City theme since the couple had planned to honeymoon there. The bride's father, who cans everything from mustard to peppers, contributed some of his beloved Mason jars for the wildflower centerpieces. Anna's godfather and a close family friend strummed on their guitars as a warm-up for the violinist and cellist who played during the ceremony. Made from fresh-picked wildflowers, no two bridal party bouquets were exactly the same.





Dancing under the stars on the porch at Shanty Creek's Cedar River Valley. The view of the lush greens and forests out the window at Cedar River Valley harmonized with the wedding's casual ambiance. Homemade place cards, like this one for Ben, were simple and personal. The groom relaxes on the deck at Cedar River Valley. Shanty Creek Executive Chef Andrew Reh made the heavenly raspberry-filled vanilla cake with butter cream frosting. Anna found the cake topper at a dollar store in Ohio even before she was engaged.



The couple's playful, lively spirit set the tone for the day—from the bridal party photographs to the ring bearer's funny face. Wildflowers tied to the chairs at the wedding ceremony made a simply elegant statement.

PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRIS PARKER, PARKER PHOTOGRAPHIC, 248-232-2932, PARKERPHOTOGRAPHIC.COM
VENUE: SHANTY CREEK RESORTS, BELLAIRE, 231-533-8621, SHANTYCREEK.COM



Wedding Notebook

SHANTY CREEK RESORTS



No two weddings at Shanty Creek Resorts are exactly alike—

but they all have certain things in common. Spectacular settings. Exquisite cuisine. Attention to detail. And most importantly, the focus to make any wedding the unique event it deserves to be. The perfect place to say “I do,” Shanty Creek Resorts is an Up North destination that will inspire guests, create memories and surpass every expectation.

The perfect location for the perfect day. Shanty Creek Resorts is home to a variety of ceremony, reception, shower and rehearsal dinner venues — from intimate gatherings to full-blown, formal gala events. A Shanty Creek wedding will leave long-lasting impressions for everyone in the wedding party. With lavish accommodations, majestic lake views, award-winning cuisine, championship golf courses and two downhill skiing mountains, it's no wonder Shanty Creek is Michigan's Favorite Resort. Again.

accommodations

Set in the heart of Northern Michigan and surrounded by stunning views of lakes, forests and ski mountains, Shanty Creek Resorts offers spacious and lavish accommodations amongst its 500 guest rooms. Located on 4,500 acres, Shanty Creek's three distinct resort villages offer a wide variety of lodging selections ranging from guest rooms to fully-furnished homes. Luxuriously appointed lodging include fireplaces, whirlpool tubs and picturesque views from every room, setting the scene for a memorable stay for everyone in the wedding party.



catering

With individually tailored packages to suit celebrations of any size, Shanty Creek Resorts offers a level of personalized service that ensures every guest feels like the guest of honor. Exquisite cuisine is meticulously prepared and magnificently presented for each reception, whether served buffet-style or plated. Add flair to your reception with creative ice sculptures or custom-made wedding cakes. Whatever the budget, Shanty Creek Resorts is sure to create a meal your guests will remember long after your celebration has ended.



event facilities



Shanty Creek Resorts' spectacular scenery and lavishly-appointed ballrooms create a perfect venue for any wedding ceremony or reception, indoors or out. The resorts' team of seasoned wedding professionals are practiced at transforming any location into an unforgettable setting for any wedding ceremony or reception for your special day. Whether your affair is large or small, Shanty Creek Resorts' staff will work with you to customize your wedding reception with a variety of venues, services and wedding packages.

guest services



Shanty Creek Resorts offers a variety of services sure to please your guests and wedding party. The resorts' complimentary shuttle service allows your guests and wedding party to explore all the resorts have to offer as well as the surrounding area. Spa treatments before or after the main event will send everyone home with memories to cherish forever.

recreation

Your wedding guests will enjoy golfing on Shanty Creek Resorts' four championship golf courses, hiking or biking on seven miles of nature trails or massages and facials at the spa. Only minutes away from beautiful Torch Lake, your guests will find convenient access to the waterfront.



Winter wedding? No worries! At Shanty Creek Resorts, guests will find 49 downhill ski runs on two mountains, 31 km of Nordic cross-country trails, sleigh rides, dogsled rides and family programs to keep everyone in your wedding party happy.

SHANTY CREEK RESORTS

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Wedding Sales Manager
Melissa Fischer

Reception Capacity
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Event Rooms
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