

GULF COAST WEDDINGS™

FALL 2012

Work of Art

Gowns that stand
the test of time

TOP TRENDS

Fall weddings are
in & more

4 ideas for
farewell
stations

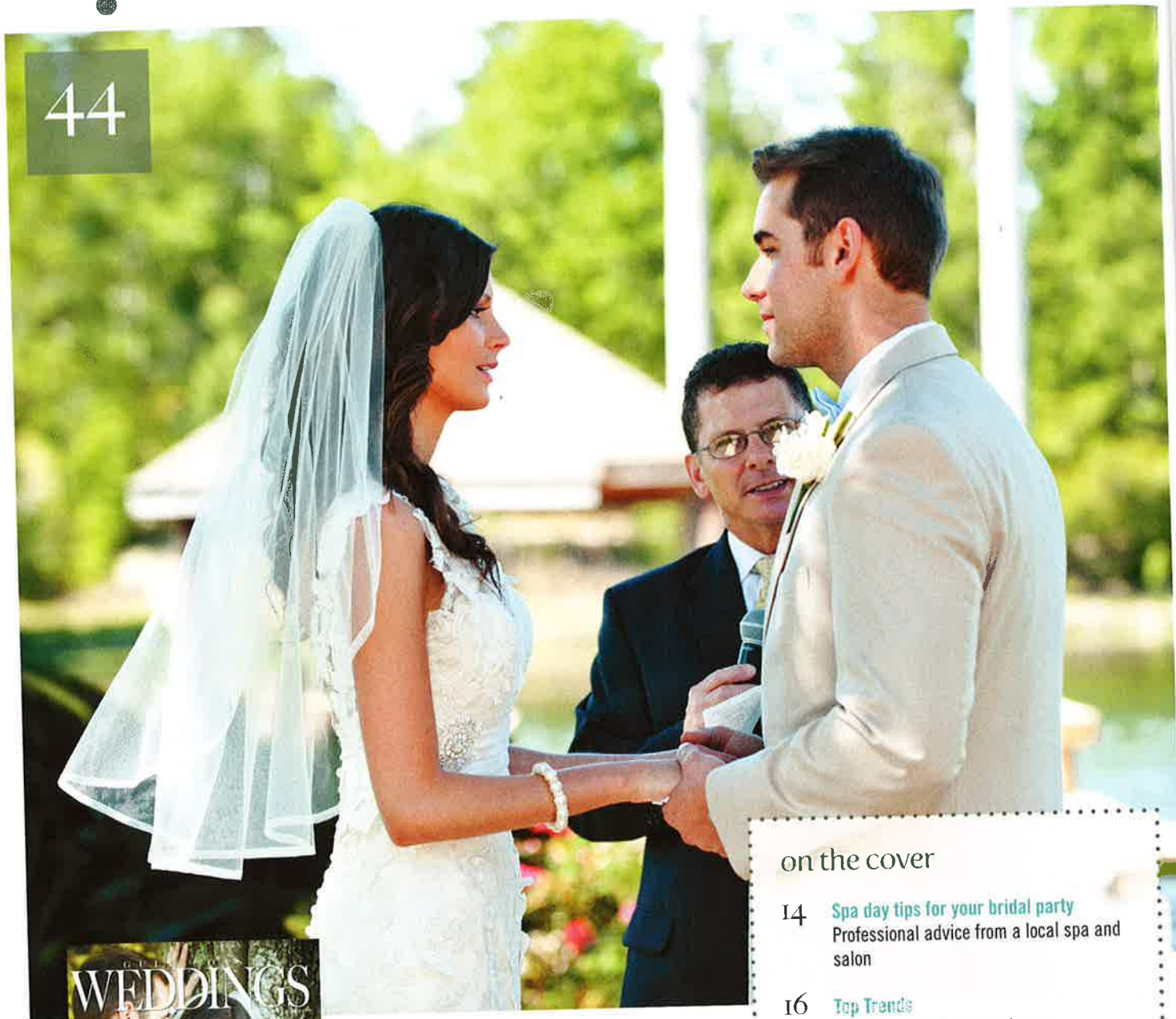
ALWAYS A
BRIDESMAID
GREAT DRESSES FOR
EVERY OCCASION

Spa day
tips
for your
bridal party

Morgan & Zach Saux

FALL 2012 contents

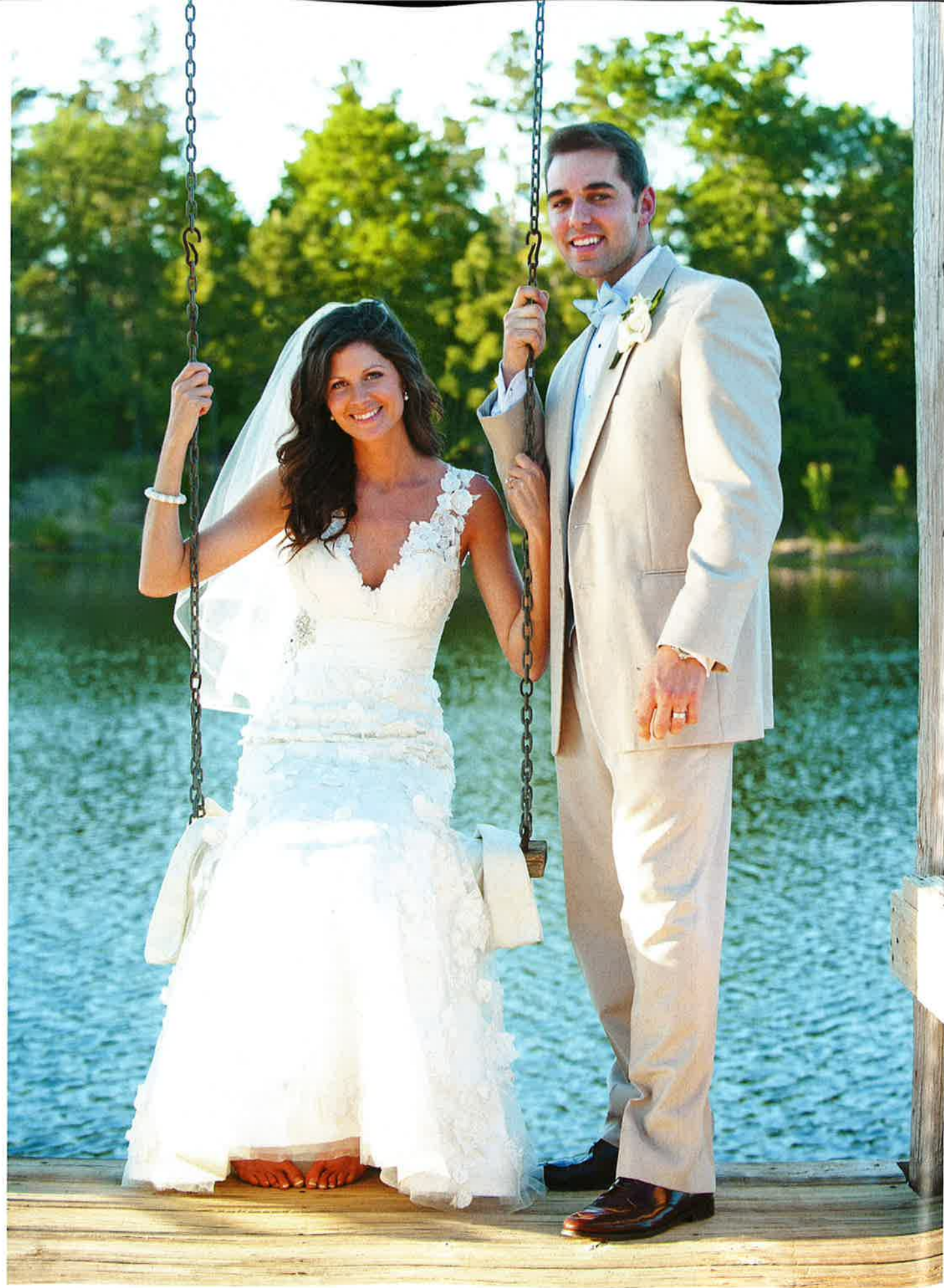
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Enduring Love...
Local couple
Morgan and Zach
Saux. Cover photo
by Posh Images.

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Zach & Morgan

An enduring kind of love

by Heather Goff

images by Posh Images

Since she was a little girl, Morgan Griffin imagined how her wedding story would go – the guy, the proposal, the big day. Reality, however, proved a little different. But according to Morgan, it was no less perfect.

Morgan and Zach Saux officially met at a wedding on Dauphin Island in 2007 but Zach admits that he noticed Morgan well before they were introduced.

"I had seen Morgan out before but she always had a boyfriend," he says. "She always kind of caught my eye but I had never really approached her."

Morgan, on the other hand, needed a little coaxing. At 19, she had just gotten out of a relationship a few months before and was not interested in dating. Still, they

exchanged numbers that night and Zach, who was 21 at the time, began his pursuit.

"I would text her and she would kind of give me the run around for a little while, but persistence pays," Zach says.

The two had a mutual friend that they were both close to, so Morgan and Zach began spending time together in group settings. A friendship grew from there.

"He was always making me laugh and I really like people who can make me laugh, so that caught my attention," Morgan says. "We became friends and hung out all the time. He was persistent, so I finally said yes to go on a date with him."

For their first date, Morgan and Zach went with another couple to Felix's Fish Camp. The evening was nice, but not without incident, Morgan says. As she was getting into the



truck to leave, the strap of her dress broke, making for one awkward moment.

"I slid to the back of the seat and my dress just fell right down," Morgan says. "Thankfully, nobody saw anything but it was so embarrassing."

It just so happened that Zach had a safety pin in his pocket and stepped in to "save the day," he says. After that night, the two continued seeing each other on platonic terms.

"Even before we were actually boyfriend and girlfriend, we hung out just about everyday," Zach says. "I would bring her lunch at work or something like that. I was just trying to get out of the friend zone."

It took about six more months before he succeeded and Morgan and Zach officially became a couple.

"He met my family, and after I saw how well he was with (them), I just stopped fighting it and realized that I really did like him and I could stop playing so tough," Morgan says. "I finally decided I would be with him and stop telling everybody he was just my friend."

After that, the two didn't go a day without seeing each other for three and a half years.

Then in 2010, Morgan and Zach's love story took an unexpected turn. That December, Morgan found out she had a cancerous tumor on her brain, stage two astrocytoma. Surgery immediately followed and the long, tough road to recovery began.

"When I came home and was finally off so much medicine and knew what was

going on, I would wake up and think, 'Is this really happening? Is this really my life now?'" Morgan says. "It's sad but yeah it is. I went through a rough time – I was really depressed."

Christmastime soon arrived and Zach, who had remained by Morgan's side through it all, was determined to cheer her up. On Christmas Eve, Zach proposed.

"I figured that would be the perfect time to show my commitment to her and just how much I love her and that I would be there for her, through sickness and health," Zach says. "It just felt right and her family was all there."

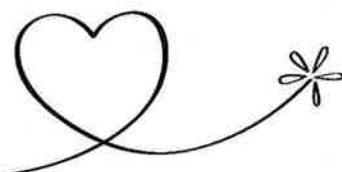
The circumstances leading up to the moment were far from ideal, but Morgan was thrilled and naturally accepted.

"I always imagined that I would be in this pretty dress and my hair and makeup all done up. (Instead) I was drugged up and looked awful," Morgan says. "But I wouldn't change it. It was so sweet. It was perfect."

The following months were filled with wedding plans. A date was set – April 7, 2012. As Morgan recuperated from brain surgery, she still struggled with headaches and splotchy vision. But she filled the time preparing for her big day.

"Most of the decorations I had done while I was so sick and couldn't leave the house or anything," Morgan says.

Sticking with a casual Southern theme, she chose to have the wedding outdoors by the lake on her family's property in Wilmer. She made blue and white kissing balls to hang overhead from a large



"Everybody gave me a bunch of mess about how big our wedding party was but it was really important to me. They've been there for us through all this sickness and so much bad that I wanted to have them there on a good day to celebrate." – *Morgan*



"Saying our vows meant a lot to me – through sickness and health – they're everything. I know a lot of people just think of the vows as something you say at a wedding ceremony but I feel those words because I've been through it." – Morgan

Labor of Love

Vendors that volunteered their services

Photography:

.....Posh Images

Hair and makeup:

.....Ignacia Johnston

Wedding planner:

.....Cindy Squires

Honeymoon:

.....Springdale Travel

oak tree. Morgan also tied white lace and blue ribbon around Mason jars to hold candles. She additionally made all of the wedding invitations, using prints of their engagement photos and supplies bought at Hobby Lobby.

"I always dreamed planning my wedding I would have my career and money to spend on a wedding," Morgan says. "But what money I did have is now gone thanks to brain surgery. So that was hard and not being able to drive to go pick up stuff or go look at things. But a lot of people stepped up to help me."

Instead of hiring a caterer, both families agreed to cook for the wedding. Posh Images offered to do their wedding photography for free. Also inspired by Morgan and Zach's story, Cindy Squires volunteered her services as wedding planner. Morgan's wedding dress was additionally given to her as a gift, and Springdale Travel presented the couple with a seven-day honeymoon cruise.

"I can't even say enough (to convey) how thankful we are for what everyone has done," Morgan says. "It's incredible what so many nice people did for us and they did it out of love. That just means

so much, and it was more than what we could ask for."

Above the wedding's details, what mattered most to Morgan and Zach were the family and friends, who were a part of their special day. Morgan's uncle officiated the ceremony and her mom walked her down the aisle. Morgan and Zach each chose 13 attendants, and about 300 guests joined in the celebration.

"Everybody gave me a bunch of mess about how big our wedding party was but it was really important to me," Morgan says. "They've been there for us through all this sickness and so much bad that I wanted to have them there on a good day to celebrate."

Morgan also wanted the day to be special for her younger sister, Hannah, who has Down's syndrome. Dressed in white, Hannah walked down the aisle before Morgan during the wedding.

"(Hannah) will probably never get married, so I wanted her to have her moment to walk down the aisle," Morgan says. "It was really important for me to share that with her, and I know that was special to my whole family."

The day was full of significance and



emotion, the couple says. Zach, who is self-described as easy going and calm, was even affected.

"Once Morgan walked out, my heart, I felt like everyone could see it – it was just breathtaking," he says. "She looked so gorgeous and it was just crazy that a year and a half ago we didn't know whether we would be here and just seeing how far (Morgan has) come and how strong she is, that was probably the most special part for me."

Likewise, Morgan says their vows hold even more meaning, considering the path their lives have taken.

"Saying our vows meant a lot to me – through sickness and health – they're everything," she explains. "I know a lot of people just think of the vows as something you say at a wedding ceremony but I feel those words because I've been through it."

More than joining two people in marriage, Morgan and Zach's wedding celebrated family, friendships and a new beginning. After living a nightmare for the last year and a half, the couple's wedding was a fairytale, Morgan says.

"Whenever I first got diagnosed, I wasn't afraid of dying but I was afraid I wouldn't get to do the things that I've most wanted to do, which were get married and have kids with Zach," she says. "So the day of the wedding, walking down the aisle was one of the most special parts to me because I've felt afraid of losing that before. So it was a really good day, a really blessed day and I wouldn't have had it any other way." ❄️

