

the knot
WEDDINGS

NORTH CAROLINA

THEKNOT.COM/NORTHCAROLINA

16 MEMORABLE
NORTH CAROLINA
REAL WEDDINGS

plus... The top photographers,
reception sites, florists, and
more from Charlotte, the Triangle,
the Triad, and other NC areas!

INSIDE
101+
IDEAS
FOR YOUR
WEDDING

\$4.99 Display Until April 4, 2005



SPRING/SUMMER 2005

REAL WEDDINGS



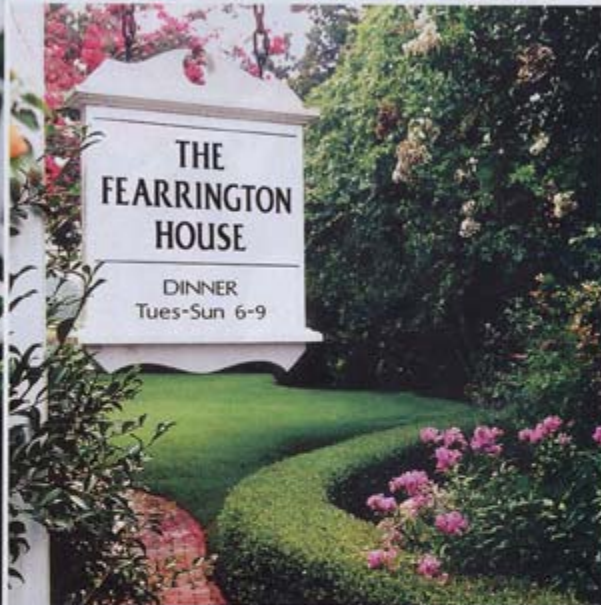
amanda & james

AUGUST 2, 2003, PITTSBORO

photography by Brian Woodward and Gry Karen Rick

Not even an ice storm could deter James Johnson, 29, from his plan to spend the weekend at his parent's mountain house with Amanda Harmon, 27. Only his mother—who had gone up earlier to set up aromatic candlelight, streams of ribbons, silver heart garlands, roses, wine, and a fire burning in the gigantic stone fireplace—could understand his persistence. “I was in complete shock,” remembers Amanda, an interior decorator, upon entering the North Carolina cabin. “Because if there is one thing James is not, it’s romantic—but he’s working on it!” James got down on one knee and, taking her (right!) hand, proposed.

Amanda took inspiration from the garden and her favorite flower, blue hydrangea, as she planned the outdoor celebration on the grounds of The Fearington House, an 18th-century dairy farm with acres of gardens. When it rained on the wedding day, everyone worried—except the bride. “I had already seen the nice white tent set up in case the rain didn’t stop. In fact, as much as I love ‘French country’ and ‘cottage farm’ styles and scenes, I really liked the idea of having green pastures and black-and-white cows as our ceremony backdrop. I was excited not knowing until right before the ceremony which location was ‘meant to be!’”



The Knot 39



AMANDA & JAMES CONT.

The sun triumphed. Amanda, dressed in a colorfully chic Lazaro gown, was escorted by her father to the white ceremony arbor nestled under a canopy of pecan trees and surrounded by bundles of lavender and blue hydrangeas. Fabulous floral bouquets were placed on chairs, denoting seating areas for immediate family. Amanda carried a two-tone bouquet with sherbet and white roses blended with magenta and dark chartreuse flowers. Leftover tulle from her dress alterations provided the bouquet wrap.

Amanda and James opted for a short and sweet Methodist ceremony, exchanging traditional vows. Then the celebration moved to an old barn at Ferrington, where mini white lights provided a "secret garden" atmosphere throughout the reception area. Amanda had a DVD set up near the entrance as a surprise for James—it featured old photos of their parents when they married, followed by photos of the two of them growing up.

Floral arrangements resting in grapevine baskets made by Amanda's grandfather accented the round tables at which guests enjoyed delectable dinner selections including roast beef tenderloin and pan-seared Carolina lump crab cakes. The three-tier wedding cake was a rich chocolate with traditional white buttercream icing and a mocha espresso mousse filling: "Delicious!" Amanda says.

The 10-piece band, Johnny White and the Elite Band, kept the party energized throughout the evening with fun dance routines. After the celebration, Amanda had another surprise for James: Guests saw the couple off for their grand exit by holding white sparklers aloft. "James had never seen that before and really enjoyed it," Amanda says. —V.H. >>

