



Affinity for nature

THE BRENNA AND PHIL RICCI WEDDING

STORY BY KATHERINE LACAZE ■ PHOTOS BY JULIE ADAMS

Throughout their 10-year relationship, Brenna and Phil Ricci have shared an affinity for nature, so it was only fitting they pictured their wedding outdoors beside a waterfall. After considering roughly 20 different waterfalls throughout Oregon, the couple from La Pine settled on Blumenthal Falls at the northern end of Short Sand Beach as their ideal wedding venue.

“It was like getting a two-for-one,” Phil said. “You get [the waterfall] and the beach.”

Brenna agreed the location was “magical,” situated comfortably in the mountains and boasting of old-growth forest and a variety of rock features.

“All our guests were blown away by the natural beauty we showed them to,” she said.

By nature, the location lent itself to a laid-back and intimate atmosphere—exactly what the couple was hoping for. Between the couple, their six-member wedding party, and guests, there were less than 25 people in attendance when the Riccis were married Sept. 9, 2018.

The couple and many of their guests rented houses in Rockaway Beach from Labor Day weekend through the wedding, giving them ample time to hang out, eat good food, listen to music, visit a spa, whale-watch, hike Neahkahnie Mountain, and share bonfires on the beach.

“That was a really nice spot for us to all get together,” Brenna said, adding the whole 10-day affair was “really close to being one of my favorite family reunions.”

For the wedding ceremony, Brenna was drawn toward an India-influenced aesthetic

that merged organically with the outdoor setting. Her bare feet were decorated with henna tattoos and her lace-covered, creamy white dress came from India, while Phil was dressed in a linen Havana suit to match. Brenna’s bridesmaids wore silk Indian sari skirts and simple cream-colored tops. Guests were also encouraged to dress for comfort.

“We didn’t want to hold people down,” Brenna said. “We wanted to keep it casual.”

Meanwhile, exquisite flower displays offered a riot of colors: Marigolds, lime green chrysanthemums and white roses complemented a bounty of dahlias in deep reds, magentas and hot pinks, provided by Tillamook-based nursery Old House Dahlias. Wanting each guest to feel special, the bride put together boutonnieres and small bouquets so “everyone had some flowers,” Brenna said.

The wedding ceremony took place about 3:30 in the afternoon and was officiated by Rev. Christina Irvine, a Christian non-denominational minister from Manzanita who was acquainted with the couple’s Astoria-based wedding photographer, Julie Adams.

One particularly meaningful feature integrated into the couple’s entire wedding experience was a special sand ceremony. They received a glass vase with a corkscrew top that was engraved with their names and wedding date. The week before the wedding, they spent time combing the beach for rocks, shells and pieces of driftwood to place inside the vase. During the ceremony, Irvine talked about the concept of the couple marrying their lives together, and Brenna and Phil together filled the vase with sand. Now, the vase sits as a decoration in their home.

“It reminds us every day we are one, we are unified,” Brenna said. >>