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Say "I Do" to an Eco-Wedding

Hollywood Celebrities Carter Oosterhouse and Amy Smart Tie the Knot in Classic Rustic Fashion on Northern Michigan's Old Mission Peninsula

You couldn't have scripted a better Northern Michigan love story. Some would call it destiny...a match made in heaven – not Hollywood!

The stars were certainly aligned when Traverse City native and HGTV handyman Carter Oosterhouse and actress Amy Smart met in late 2009. They were working together to build a school garden – a project of the Environmental Media Association – an organization which mobilizes the entertainment industry to educate, inspire and motivate the public about environmental issues. While Amy was born and raised in LA, she is no stranger to TC, as her parents now live there.

Friendship blossomed over time, and it wasn't long before the two were planning their dream wedding – both with the same vision: keep it local and keep it green!

The setting for the September 2011 nuptials was simple – a 12-acre parcel land, in the heart of the Old Mission Peninsula. The backdrop – Carter's 100-year-old Victorian farmhouse and surrounding rustic outbuildings, tucked away just a few miles from where he grew up and where his mother still lives.

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With their busy schedules, the happy couple knew they needed to enlist the help of someone who could pull off an elegant, yet unassuming affair for 220 – with the eco-conscience attention detail that was so important to each of them. Enter, wedding consultant Chandra Demers-Wheeler of Orchestrated Grace (orchestratedgrace.com), who was charged with creating a locally-centric event, using as many natural and recycled items as possible, from the menu

to the decorations to the lighting. bridal party's bouquets and boutonnieres popped with colorful, locally-harvested wildflowers. Vintage bottles, pots and jars were found at antique and consignment shops to hold area blossoms and blooms that decorated the tables.

De Tree Design (detreedesign.com) incorporated reclaimed window frames, benches, doors and ladders into the shabby-chic design mix. Chalkboards, trellises and recycled pieces of wood were transformed into signs. Birch branches, harvested off Carter's own land, were cut and used to display menu tags on the food tables. Each guest table was named for fresh herbs – with tags made from recycled wood and featuring a hand-twisted wire embellishment.

Behind the scenes, Bay Area Recycling for Charities (bayarearecycling.net) was brought in to assist with making the wedding a "zero waste" event – with all food scraps composted, all disposables and trash sorted and ultimately recycled.

"At the end of the day, we had less than one bag of actual trash," Carter boasted.

Going green was more than just a wedding theme – it's a lifestyle for Carter and Amy. Both are dedicated to making the world a better place by protecting its natural resources, being vigilant about excessive use and waste, and preserving history for future generations – whether that's in Hollywood or right here in Michigan!

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"Amy and Carter chose to extend their personal eco-stewardship into all elements of their wedding," Demers-Wheeler said. "The caterer created a menu based around fresh ingredients that could be found locally. We sourced local wine, local apples for place cards, had menus made out of old window frames and biodegradable dishware."

Serving up local flavor was also important to Carter and Amy – and in "Michigan's Culinary Capital" – that was an easy task. The early fall date meant access to countless agricultural treasurers, artisanal cheeses, hand-crafted beers and wine and other regional fare to satisfy guests.

When it came to the flowers and table decorations, Amy Kate Designs (amykatedesigns.com) pulled together a one-of-a-kind design concept – keeping it as natural, organic and fresh as possible. The





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