

"Only by sharing our deeper thoughts and feelings do we communicate to, and inspire in others, a love and respect for the earth." - Joseph Bharat Cornell

GREEN GATHERINGS

A focus now and in the future for wedding organizers and facilitators is to give consideration to creating a better environment. Indeed, "green weddings" is a very significant wedding trend.

Log Haven Restaurant, a historical mansion in the heart of the Wasatch National Forest is dedicated to providing our wedding guests with an eco-friendly environment and natural resources:

We create ceremonies and receptions within a natural environment. Wildflowers are planted that will return to garden beds, creeks and walkways, year after year. Log Haven's gardens are planned and cultivated to create a backdrop that compliments and blends with the natural beauty of the forest hillsides which surround us.

Guests enjoy water purified right here on Log Haven's property from the natural patio spring.

We offer convenient locations for both ceremonies and receptions to help decrease the need for guests to shuttle between two separate locations. And we have partnered with hotels to provide transportation services which help decrease carbon omissions as guests travel from their hotels to the wedding.

As an eco-friendly alternative of plastic serving pieces, Log Haven recycles glasses, dishware, and silverware. Tables are covered with reusable linen cloths and napkins.

We support local companies like Uinta Brewing Co., Muir Copper Canyon Farms, Aquarius Fish Market, and Jane Jensen - a fruit and vegetable grower in Farmington. Log Haven also allows wedding cakes to be provided by local bakeries and pastry chefs and do not charge the bride and groom a fee to cut and serve their wedding cake.

We do not hold our wedding groups to high food and beverage minimums in order to only offer weddings to groups with large numbers of guests. Instead we allow the flexibility for wedding functions to be any number of attendees.

Our wine list includes organic and bio-dynamic wine. Chef Dave Jones' menus include organic and all natural (free from hormones and antibiotics) meat and can create vegetarian and vegan menus specific to the wedding couple's needs.

Log Haven also suggests eco-friendly resources and companies for the bride and grooms to use when planning their wedding:

Photography: Bruce Gardner (bgardnerimages.com) from Heber, provides digital photography – no wasted chemicals, film or paper. He gives the bride and groom thousands of photos to choose from in digital form after their event.

Invitations: Xpedx Paper Store (49 East 3300 South) can provide recycled paper for hand-crafted invitations. TheKnot.com recommends an on-line resource called greenfieldpapercompany.com. They provide "handmade plantable seed paper" that will grow flowers when planted in thin soil after the wedding.

Jewelry: "Blood diamonds" are gems that have been mined and sold with the use of exploitative human labor practices. It is possible that 5% of all diamonds sold are blood diamonds. According to nodirtygold.org, "gold mining is one of the dirtiest industries in the world – contaminating drinking water, destroying traditional livelihood and displacing indigenous communities. More than 80 percent of all newly mined gold goes to making jewelry". My husband bought our wedding rings from John O'Connor's Industrialized Nation (indnation.com), a Utah-based wedding ring manufacturer that provides titanium wedding rings and bands.

Registry: Idofoundation.org provides a list of retailers that wedding couples can partner with and raise charitable contributions. For example, Target stores will provide a donation of 5% for purchases made to a charity of the bride and groom's choice.

Favors: Seeds make a wonderful gift for your guests. Seed Savers Exchange is a non-profit organization (www.seedsavers.org) that "saves and shares the heirloom seeds of our garden heritage, forming a living legacy that can be passed down through generations". A packet of 100 African daisy seeds sells for \$2.75 and can be placed in white organza pouches or small personalized envelopes. Favorideas.com sells "bloemBox flower seed favors" that include a flower on top of the box (pansy, poppy, sunflower) with the matching seed inside the gift box. Retail is \$15.00 each.

A wedding – a merging of lives and loves – is also a statement about beliefs, dreams, wishes, and possible realities. Imagining a better, more flourishing natural environment can be a part of those dreams and realities. Simple, eco-friendly choices on your wedding day – regardless of how grand or how minor – can have a positive impact on our planet.