



Michelle & Jeff Schmitz on May 20, 2006

... and today!



WEDDING TIPS

Try breaking the mold of the traditional reception with these unique spins on the festivities.

- Make that first dance something snappy and upbeat to get the party started. Guests won't expect that, and it'll liven up the party from the start.
- If you don't feel like making a big entrance at the reception head to the reception when everyone else does to get in extra social time.
- Choose a dessert besides cake or offer a selection.
 Cookies, brownies, pie, cream puffs and other non-traditional desserts can be used.
- Re-use the bouquets from the bridal party for the centerpieces.

How did you meet?

Met in May 2002. Michelle, who was living in the Twin Cities at the time, was visiting her parents in Elrosa. Michelle and some friends decided to check out the Elrosa and Lake Henry baseball game in Lake Henry. Jeff played amateur baseball for Lake Henry. They met after the game (at a local establishment that Jeff owned at the time).

WHO PROPOSED AND HOW?

Jeff proposed in February 2005 in the same establishment that they met three years prior.

How long were you engaged?

15 months.

DATE OF MARRIAGE:

May 20, 2006

PLACE OF MARRIAGE: CEREMONY:

Wedding: Elrosa, Minn. Reception: Sauk Centre, Minn.

How large was your wedding?

The guest list was quite large (we recall 400+). Some probably thought this was too large, but it was difficult to cut as Jeff was a business owner and Michelle and Jeff both come from large families. Our wedding party was a little large as well. We had seven attendants, two usherettes, four flower girls, one ring bearer, and two personal attendants.

WHAT FOOD WAS SERVED?

It was served buffet style to accommodate the number of guests: chicken and dressing, ham, potatoes, corn...which seems to be a Stearns County staple.

What was the most memorable moment at your wedding?

There were quite a few, but some of our favorites...

We had lots of white rose petals sprinkled down the aisle at the church. The officiant, Father Jeff Ethen, told the guests at the end of the ceremony that if they all picked up petals before they left they could trade them in for drinks at the reception and that Michelle's dad, Rueben would pay for it. :-)

During the meal, the guests' cake ended up getting locked inside a room, so instead of having it out for everyone to dine on right after the meal, Jeff, Michelle and their wedding attendants handed the cake out to the tables to make sure it was distributed.

WHOSE RELATIVES, OR FRIENDS, HAD THE MOST FUN AT THE RECEPTION?

(TO PROTECT THE GUILTY, NO NAMES, PLEASE.)

We hung a backdrop by the guest book table so that each guest/couple could have their photo taken and that way we could always remember who was there. We then printed off the photos and sent them to each of our guests as a thank you. Looking at these photos, we would probably say that Jeff's broomball team "probably" had the

most fun at the reception. They brought two HUGE broomball trophies to the reception to be showcased near the guest book. Needless to say, those trophies made it in to quite a few pictures. We think, overall, everyone seemed to have a great time when looking back at the photos. The reception bill also proved this to be the case. :-)

WHERE DID YOU GO FOR A HONEYMOON?

Rivera Maya, Mexico

WHAT DO YOU DO TO KEEP ROMANCE ALIVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE?

With two young children, commuting to work each day, and the regular hustle and bustle of life, we often forget that we chose to be with each other for a reason, so we try to spend not only time together but apart enjoying hobbies. We compromise to appreciate each other's hobbies as well – Jeff goes to social gatherings with Michelle; Michelle learns to hunt and fish with Jeff.

IF YOU COULD TRAVEL BACK IN TIME TO YOUR WEDDING DAY, WHAT ADVICE FOR MAINTAINING A HAPPY MARRIAGE WOULD YOU GIVE YOURSELVES?

Learn what each others' needs and wants are and their order of importance. Remember the things we learned from the book "The 5 Love Languages." Communicate, be patient, and remember that our personality styles really do balance each other out positively (Jeff is more laid back, Michelle more high strung).



