



STORY BY JOHN BOND GILLAM, III
PHOTOS BY CHRIS BICKFORD

BRIMAGE SPRUILL & BEAU SILVER

May 27, 2006 • Nags Head, NC

It would be easier to wear slippers than carpet the earth, but then, that wouldn't be the case with this particular Outer Banks wedding.

The marriage of Brimage Spruill and Beau Silver wasn't just a union of two hearts. It joined generations of two families into one. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hunter Wayland Spruill of Windsor and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Winston Sprague Silver of Wanchese.

The blessed event that unfolded on this May day was no ordinary occasion. First was the location: a historic beach cottage on Nags Head's Cottage Row. Built circa 1885, the traditional Outer Banks beach cottage was built by the bride's great-great grandparents, Captain & Mrs. Edward Ralph Outlaw, Sr., and is still in Brimage's family.

But the coincidences didn't end there. Brimage's grandfather and Beau's grandmother were once sweethearts. As children, the couple played together on the beaches of Nags Head. Years later, they were reunited by the water in Wanchese and fell in love. Now the two were exchanging vows on Brimage's family property.



Although the day had dawned cloudy, everything was perfect with special touches everywhere. What guests did not know was that the day before, a sixty mile per hour wind had collapsed the giant reception tent, wiping out three day's worth of decorating. The tent was replaced overnight and resurrected by an army of dedicated, regrouped workers, as if nothing extraordinary had ever happened.

At the water's edge, a hand crafted driftwood cross towered over the scene. A 14-piece ensemble played as guests were escorted their seats by the groomsmen beneath a driftwood arch.

Carrying honeysuckle in her bridal bouquet and escorted on her father's arm in a Vera Wang gown, Brimage's dream of walking barefooted to the ocean's edge to be married was coming true. And as the Rev. Charles E.B. Gill of St. Andrew's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church began the ceremony, brilliant shafts of sunlight broke through the clouds and illuminated the scene.

Following the beach ceremony, the wedding party made their way to the reception where they were treated to a spectacular and enchanted evening of cuisine, cocktails, and dancing under the 14,000-square foot tent.

On each table, lime mist and jade orchids with chartreuse phalemopsis cascaded from driftwood pedestals. Columns surrounded the dance floor, decorated with grapevine and stems of jade midst orchids. Four mammoth chandeliers with willow

and lime mist orchids hung from the ceiling, and a fifteen foot urn of pink star gazer lilies and birds of paradise greeted guests in the center of the tent. A koi pond was placed in the northeast corner of the tent, symbolizing courtship memories of the bride and groom.

But as beautiful as these surroundings were, it was Brimage and Beau who lit up the room with their light. All in all, a silver lining to a cloudy but romantic day.



VENDORS

Wedding Coordinator: The John Gillam Company, Ltd.

Wedding Ceremony & Reception Site:

4717 South Virginia Dare Trail, Nags Head

Reception Catering:

Kelly's Outer Banks Restaurant and Tavern

Photographer: Chris Bickford Photography

Ceremony Music: The Roy Murray Music Studio

Cakes: Just Desserts

Videographer: Tight Productions

Transportation: Sandy Beach Tours

Spa and Salon: Waterfront Salon and Spa

After Rehearsal Dinner Catering:

The Waterfront Trellis

After Rehearsal Dance Music: The Crowd

Rehearsal Dinner Site: Mallards Marsh

