

March Meeting in Review: Hyatt Lost Pines Resort ~ Bastrop, Texas

A big thanks to the Hyatt team who took excellent care of us!

Weddings & Events at Lost Pines

Lost Pines offers an extraordinary combination of luxury & wilderness making the resort a perfect setting for the ultimate Texas wedding. Your clients can gather with family & friends in the days ahead of the celebration to relax at the spa, enjoy rounds of championship golf, and horseback ride along the Colorado River.

Whether it's a celebration with hundreds of guests or a quiet affair with just close family & friends, this wedding site provides all you need to create a fantasy wedding.

- **A professional wedding specialist** assists in planning.
- **A tempting array of food and beverage.**
- **Lovely venues**, including banquet rooms & outdoor spaces for ceremonies and receptions.
- **Extensive onsite activities** for guests, including spa, golf, water park, horseback riding & more.
- **Delicious dining choices**, includes fine dining, casual restaurants & great lounges.
- **Beautiful backdrops for photos**, including the river & grounds.
- **Special rates on guest-rooms** for out-of-town guests.
- **They understand today's economy** & its effect on our clients, therefore, they are looking to keep prices from increasing & will work within budgets.



Hyatt Lost Pines Resort
575 Hyatt Lost Pines Road
Lost Pines, Texas 78612
512.308.1234

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March Meeting in Review: Organization by Wendy Neuman of Life Simplified

Our fabulous speaker was Wendy Neuman, the most organized person ever! Give her a call to help you spring clean. It was a fun time with great tips for getting, & staying, organized... Life Simplified is the art of maintaining balance in life.

7 Rules to Get You Organized...

1. Reduce ~ Eliminate unnecessary items and paper, sort through large piles
2. Simplify ~ keep your organization style simple and in the way that you think. File alphabetically or numerically
3. File Immediately ~ DO NOT create a "miscellaneous" or "to file" folder

4. Filer or Piler? Piles are not an efficient way to file. Piles are just vertical piles
5. Materials ~ Keep inventory of your organizing goods stocked.
6. The Online Option ~ Go paperless when possible. Organize computer files the same way as paper files. Back up your files-mozy.com, carbonite.com, or external hard drives
7. Evaluate ~ Review your organization system every 2-4 weeks at the beginning, then monthly. If it's not working, change it!

Some Good Practices...

- Start day by taking first 15 minutes to prioritize/strategize your day.
- Finish day with putting things away and making a to-do list for the next day.
- Learn to say "no".
- Create and stick to your office hours, which includes sending emails.
- Multi-task, but to two things that do not require the same amount of concentration.
- Build in a "cushion" between each appointment.



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Hyatt Lost Pines
- ◆ Organization Tips
- ◆ Convention Information
- ◆ Honeymoon Planners
- ◆ Destination Weddings
- ◆ Blog / Facebook / Twitter
- ◆ Current Trends

MARK YOUR CALENDERS!

NEAWP Annual Convention 2009

October 25 - 27 / The Driskill Hotel

With Special Guest Speaker ~ COLIN COWIE!

www.colincowie.com

Local Vendors in Attendance ~

The Driskill Hotel / Nancy Owen , Alegra's Invitations
Suzi Varin, Q Weddings / Josh Wilkinson , Penguin Entertainment
Luann Dickson - Verbena Floral Design / Delores Crum, Austin Party Central

*~Vendor Tips & Shout Outs!***Honeymoon Planners****All About Honeymoons**

Contact: Skip Neal (Owner)
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Vacations in Paradise

Contact: Michelle Bouzek
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www.explorevip.com

Creative Travel

Contact: Larry Harley
PO Box 204
Austin TX 78767
888.815.9436
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www.creativetravel.com

**Vendor Tips (honeymoon planner's)
Thanks to...**

Cortney Zieky, PWC
Something To Celebrate
Wedding and Event Coordinating
(512) 779-5396
cortney@somethingtocelebrate.biz
<http://SomethingToCelebrate.biz>

****Don't forget to have your
Vendor Shout-outs ready
for each meeting!****

Is a Destination Wedding right for clients??

While it is certainly true that in many ways, your clients wedding will be just as special and just as meaningful no matter where it is done. It's also true that a destination wedding can make it even more special and unforgettable. There may, however, be some compromises involved that you'll need to help them consider carefully.

In a highly mobile society, it might not make a great deal of difference to some couples for their guests if the wedding is in their hometown, Jamaica or Hawaii. But, for others it could make attendance difficult or impossible, especially in today's economic times. Some might be unable to afford the expense or the time involved. You'll need to think carefully with the couple about how their choice may affect their potential guests and how they may feel if some who are important to them can't attend. One possible means of dealing with this is to suggest having a reception at home after their wedding and honeymoon for the guests who were unable to attend. If those who are most important to them can attend a destination wedding, then this may be sufficient.

Sitting down with the couple and talking over the possible locations, looking at locations, resorts and wedding packages, cost and legality issues are all important points to cover with the couples. If all of these issues are suitable to them, then it is probably a safe bet to continue with the destination wedding planning. You want to help them pick a location which appeals to both of them and probably one where they can combine the wedding and honeymoon. If their guests decide to also combine the wedding with a vacation, they may want to have their guests stay at a hotel or resort other than the one they will use for their wedding and honeymoon or they can set up a date range of when friends & family will arrive and depart.

Many resorts will offer full packages where all your clients need to do is show up with their guests. Try to help your clients keep in mind however that they would be working long distance with no one they know at the resort, so continual verification

and double-checking that everything is getting done on time is important. There is more time and details involved than what they realize. It is much more than just showing up, walking on the beach and saying "I-Do".

Due to all of this work, long distance communication, attention to details, etc, this is the point that your clients should see the value and ease of planning by having a local, professional wedding coordinator help plan a great wedding for them. (I think they should have one of you from NEAWP, maybe I am biased!!) There are a lot of details that go into a successful destination wedding and you don't want to miss any of them for your clients.

Giving each guest plenty of time to make their plans is vital for a destination wedding. You will need to provide a schedule for the wedding itself, airline schedules, one or more hotels or resorts for them to reserve accommodations, a description of the location and the what the weather will be like, what type of clothing would be suitable for the wedding itself and the reception, and information on any documents the guests may require if the location is outside your country.

As you can see, all of the details for dealing with a destination wedding can be somewhat more complicated in some ways, but its unusual nature and the beauty of the surroundings can be well worth the added effort. Just to start you off, some of the most popular destinations to suggest to them are the beautiful islands of Hawaii, St Lucia, Costa Rica, Jamaica, USVI, Europe and Mexico. Certainly there will be some challenges and some minor hang-ups and problems, but that tends to be the case with any destination wedding, so careful planning and attention to detail will overcome the problems and provide a wonderful destination wedding that will always be special for your clients.

Article provided by
[Skip Neal, All About Honeymoons.](#)

Consultants Corner - Meet Sarah Miller of Caplan Miller Events!



When it comes to social and corporate functions, Sarah Miller is an expert. The award-winning event producer brings more than eight years of industry experience to the Caplan Miller Events team, and her personal attention to each client raises the bar for special occasions of any kind. Sarah is a native of Giddings, Texas. She came to Austin to pursue a life-long passion for the culinary arts, and graduated from Texas Culinary Academy with a particular interest in event planning. After starting out on the sales team at the Radisson Austin Hotel & Suites, Sarah joined the catering staff at The Driskill Hotel, led by Courtney Caplan. There, Sarah booked and serviced elite weddings and large scale events, including The Driskill Bridal Show, Austin's premier exhibition for upscale weddings. Sarah rounded out her eye for style as the event planner in charge of the Neiman-Marcus opening gala before rejoining Courtney as an event producer at Caplan Miller Events in April 2007. Since then, Sarah has planned some of Austin's finest and most elaborate weddings and events, including

Scott & White's annual benefit gala. Her clients applaud her unparalleled customer service, from first meeting to follow-up, as well as her ability to efficiently bring together the elements of a flawless event. Sarah is the recipient of multiple awards from Austin Wedding and Event Coordinators, including Most Valuable Vendor and the Award for Excellence in Customer Service. She sits on the advisory boards of the Nuptial Essentials Association of Wedding Professionals and Austin Wedding & Events Coordinators. She is a certified Nuptial Essentials Curriculum Instruction professional wedding consultant.

Why did you become a wedding consultant? I became a wedding consultant because I love any opportunity to be creative. It is also such a rewarding experience. There is no better feeling than walking into a beautiful event that you have worked on for so long and then watching all your hard work come together seamlessly. I also truly enjoy being a part of such a significant occasion in two people's lives. It is such an honor!

What do you love about your job? I love my job because it includes my most favorite things in life: food,

fashion and of course parties. I also love the relationship I get to build with my clients in working with them on such a very special day.

What is the funniest/weirdest/worst thing to ever happen at one of your weddings?

I once had a groom with some VERY interesting requests. Seriously, in every meeting with him I was looking for the candid camera people. My favorite request was to have baby sharks swimming in the centerpieces. I mean hello PETA! In the end everyone was happy with the substitution of betas. Win/Win!

Previous Experience

2000-2002 Express Sales & Catering Manager, Radisson Hotel & Suites. 2002-2007 Senior Catering Manager, The Driskill Hotel

Caplan Miller Events

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Sarah is a 2000 graduate of the Texas Culinary Academy - Culinary Arts and a 1997 graduate of Giddings High School in Giddings, TX.

Blog Spot!

Check out the
Nuptial Essentials Blog!

"Who Is Your Wedding Planner?"
<http://nuptialesentials.blogspot.com>

NECI Online Class

Our next class begins on
May 4, 2009
Enrollment open now!

Referral & scholarship discounts available.
Contact John John for more info!
johnjohn@nuptialesentials.com

NEAWP Facebook Page

is up and running!
Become a fan!

Also ~ Find us on Twitter!
<http://twitter.com/NEAWP>

NEAWP Membership Special... For a limited time only, NEAWP is offering a 1-year membership for \$175.00. That's \$75 off the regular rate - but this offer is only good for a limited time!

Nuptial Essentials

ASSOCIATION of WEDDING PROFESSIONALS

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The Nuptial Essentials Association of Wedding Professionals (NEAWP) provides networking, resources and support for Professional Wedding Consultants. We also offer continuing education for experienced consultants through Nuptial Essentials Curriculum & Education (NECI).

Student Corner...

Congratulations
to our most recent graduates!

Paige Smith - Dripping Springs, TX
Corin Silva - Austin, TX

Welcome
to our newly enrolled students!

Britt Roth - Austin, TX
Soiree Events

NEAWP News

March 2009

Important Dates: Mark your calendars!

Apr 01, 2009 The Four Seasons - Austin *special guest, Beth Krauss of [ACVB](#)
 April 14, 2009 Post Oak Midtown - **Houston** (6:30 pm)
 May 06, 2009 Maiko Sushi Lounge - Austin
 Jun 03, 2009 Sago - Austin
 Jul 01, 2009 Palm Door - Austin
 Aug 05, 2009 East Side Café - Austin
 Sep 02, 2009 Louie's 106 - Austin
 Oct 07, 2009 ATT Conference Center - Austin
 Oct 25-27, 2009 NEAWP Annual National Convention ~ The Driskill Hotel - Austin
 Nov 04, 2009 Renaissance Hotel - Austin
 Dec 02, 2009 The Mansion at Judges Hill - Austin

WELCOME

To our newest associate members!

David Kurio - **David Kurio Designs**
 Judy Lee - **Simon Lee Bakery**
 Kk Bloom - **Kk Bloom Stationery**
 Luann Dickson - **Verbena Floral Design**
 Shannon Cunningham - **Shannon Cunningham Photography**
 Stacey Hogge - **Petal Pushers**
 Dondra Wilson
 Leanne Sobol

A big welcome to all our new NEAWP vendor members! It's great to have you as part of this strong and growing organization. Yay!

Chapter Contact Info

Restaurant & venue suggestions for meetings: **Sarah**
sarah@caplanmiller.com
 Speaker suggestions & Facebook Page: **Courtney**
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 Newsletter submissions: **Shelley**
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 Continuing education class suggestions & membership:
Amy - amy@nuptialesentials.com
 Houston Chapter: **John John**
johnjohn@nuptialesentials.com
 *If you feel you would be an asset to our Austin or Houston chapter members or if you want to add some titles to your resume, email Amy for more information.

John John's News & Current Trends...

My dear friend **Colin Cowie** sent me these Spring 2009 Trends because he knew I had to have them for our famous newsletter.

Extract electric colors from nature: Lift colors straight from spring leaves, flowers and shoots of grass, and bring them to the reception tables and the bridal dresses. Grass green, canary yellow and chaparelli pinks, accented with gold or pewter, are exciting and fresh.

Fuse youthful flavors in a sophisticated spirit: Capture the popping colors of spring by serving lollipops at a candy station, popcorn at valet, or other tasty treats to satisfy your palette.

Combine deep colors with lighter papers: Keep wedding invitations, table cards and programs fresh with light papers like tissue and vellum. Incorporate spring colors like white ink on rich green paper or shocking pink ink on lime green paper. Reverse the formula with green inks on white paper.

Shorten the hemlines and heighten the style: Stand out from the crowd but blend with the event intention by wearing a shorter dress with an eye-catching pair of heels. Create a chic retro look with a short birdcage wedding veil and a set of short gloves.

Create an at-home atmosphere with backyard elegance:

Create a quality backyard wedding that is intimate and organic with your garden being the aesthetic to inspire your decor. Spring weather is unpredictable so have heaters and a back-up plan of moving inside or under a gorgeous canopy.

On the spring fashion seen I am seeing more black compliments and accessories.

From John John The Wedding Butler



Photography Highlight ~
Bonnie Berry Photography

Final thought...

Energy and persistence
conquer all things.
~ Benjamin Franklin

And go plan beautiful
weddings & events!