



DOWN *To Earth*

Kim and Adam's relationship evolved like summer into fall, a friendship that became a lifelong commitment beginning beneath a canopy of October sky.

BY LISA M. JENSEN
WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY BY MITCH RANGER

KIM AND ADAM SCHILLER

Married:
October 10, 2009

Ceremony:
Duncan Memorial Park,
Grand Haven

Reception:
Dockers Fish House
& Lounge, Muskegon

Florist:
Eastern Floral in Grand Haven

GRADUATES OF different Muskegon area high schools, Kim Pridnia and Adam Schiller didn't meet until they both moved to Fort Myers, Fla. in August 2006. He had headed south to become a grade school gym teacher. She had been hired to sell commercial furniture for Steelcase out of college.

"I was friends with her sister's now-husband," said Adam, who is a couple years older than Kim. "He said, 'My girlfriend's sister is moving down there too; you guys should hang out.' But when we first met up in Florida, with her sister along, it was kind of awkward."

Both home for the holidays that

December, a chance meeting between the two was much different at Pints & Quarts Pub and Grill in Muskegon, packed with reunited friends from high school. "Then we both just said, 'Hey, we need to hang out when we get back to Fort Myers!' And we did."

Attracted to one another's go-with-the-flow nature, Adam and Kim's friendship grew, attending semi-pro baseball games and beach bonfires, shooting pool and taking weekend Jeep trips. When they decided to get married, there was never a question: Kim had her heart set on an outdoor autumn wedding in Michigan.

"Fall has always been my favorite time of year, watching the leaves turn," she said. "Rain or shine, as a bride, I just wanted to be immersed in it."

THE CEREMONY

Rain and temperatures fell the week before the couple's October 10 wedding,

held in Grand Haven's Duncan Memorial Park, a 40-plus-acre nature preserve. "Kim's mom and I worried more about it than Kim — it was nerve-wracking," Adam reflected. "But that Saturday, it was almost 50 degrees."

"We wanted our ceremony to feel formal, but still have a relaxed air," Kim said. "So instead of black tuxes, the guys wore chocolate brown, and so did my bridesmaids. Our bouquets were low-key, too. We wanted to showcase autumn's color."

While the girls prepared for the 11:30 a.m. ceremony at Kim's parents' house, Adam and his groomsmen dressed at the

Above: "I'll never forget how Mitch (Ranger, photographer in Grand Rapids) worked with us as far as his ideas and images," Adam said. "We hiked up a hill for this shot above where our ceremony was held, surrounded by all these trees — it was just this unforgettable moment." **Below:** Members from the Muskegon Youth Symphony played during the outdoor ceremony.



Above: “We wanted our ceremony to feel formal, but still have a relaxed air,” Kim said. “So instead of black tuxes, the guys wore chocolate brown, and so did my bridesmaids. Our bouquets were low-key, too. We wanted to showcase autumn’s color.” **Center:** Harris Catering tapped into its three family-owned restaurants to fashion a menu for the couple. **Below:** Custom caramel apples created by Rykes Bakery were presented at the reception.

home of one of his ushers, who by chance lived near Duncan Park’s entrance. With 175 guests seated in rented white chairs, the groom waited under open sky and a simple arbor while four Muskegon Youth Symphony members – one the daughter of Kim’s dad’s fishing buddy – played

“There was no place where doors could be opened and Kim could emerge,” Adam said.

“So it was more, here comes the car. The attendants all lined up and came through, then Kim came off from the side. She was shivering, we were all shivering, but she just had this great smile.”

Elegant in a champagne-hued Maggie Sottero gown, Kim joined her husband-to-

be before her family’s pastor. “She looked like she was about to cry,” Adam recalled. He paused, then shared good-naturedly, “We knew at the rehearsal dinner someone had started up a \$5-per-square pool; they’d all written down times they thought one of us would cry. Whoever was right would get half, and we’d get the other half.

“But if neither of us cried, we’d get it all – and it was about \$500! So for fun, when I saw Kim getting teary, I whispered, ‘Lock it up!’ She laughed then – although she did end up crying during the father-daughter dance.”

THE RECEPTION

Set in Harbor Town Marina overlooking Muskegon Lake, Dockers Fish House & Lounge was closed for the season, but family-owned Harris Hospitality opened the venue for the Schillers’ reception. Offering floor-



“We wanted to do something simple for our giveaway, and caramel apples came to mind. These were made by Ryke’s Bakery, coated in different candies, specially packaged and labeled with our names. Adam’s father made this four-tiered ‘tree’ we displayed them on.”

- Kim



Kim and Adam posed close at Harbor Town Marina overlooking Muskegon Lake, where their reception was held at Dockers Fish House & Lounge.

to-ceiling windows and expanded by heated patio areas and tents, Dockers more than suited the couple’s casual celebration.

“We didn’t want a traditional sit-down dinner,” Kim said. “Two hours are gone by the time everyone’s done eating, and people really don’t get to interact.”

So while friends and family mingled, servers circulated numerous rounds of appetizers – from Michigan morel and fresh thyme-infused Chevre grilled cheese bites to assorted sushi rolls – and guests helped themselves at prime rib and antipasto stations. “Because Harris Catering owns three restaurants, including Pints & Quarts and C.F. Prime Chophouse & Wine Bar,” Kim noted, “we really had a nice mix of food.”

“And entertainment,” Adam added. “Groove Solution out of Muskegon – which is a full-on band with sax, horns, the works – had everybody on the dance floor. We also hired in ShutterBooth, which could fit in up to eight people behind a closed curtain for four photos at a time, included all these different props to wear, and was packed all night. That totally made our wedding – guests loved it.”

To see more of wedding photographer Mitch Ranger’s work, go to www.mitchrangerphotography.com.

