

SOUTHERN DISTINCTION

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The Farmhouse at 30542

The Forever Collection

Stepping into the Farmhouse at 30542 and then walking its grounds is like walking into tableaux after tableaux of curated beauty. Cathy Little, who owns the property with her husband, Roger, has a background in art and she sprinkled creative touches throughout the entire venue. The couple began renovating its 1964 farmhouse in 2014 and hosted its first wedding in June 2016. The hilltop location has a beautiful and expansive 180-degree farm view. From this elevated vantage guest can see rolling hills, grazing cattle and beautiful sunset skies. The Farmhouse at 30542 is ideal for rustic, vintage, charming, simple or elaborate events. Brides are delighted with this venue. "I held my wedding this past September at the Farmhouse at 30542," one bride said. "What a beautiful venue!! The scenery is absolutely gorgeous and the views are breathtaking. It truly gives you a feel of stepping out of the city and into a beautiful countryside. If you are thinking about this venue for your party or wedding it is a must see at sunset and dusk with the lights on, fairytale scene! I highly recommend the farmhouse for your special occasion too!"

Driving down a forgotten country road in Flowery Branch, Georgia, the understated sign for The Farmhouse at 30542 causes you to slow down and look. But once you enter its driveway, past the rolling fields of fescue, cows grazing on hillsides, the farmhouse itself is easy to spot: a welcoming lodge-style ranch house with stadium steps made of pine, and cedar posts that greet brides and grooms and their guests.

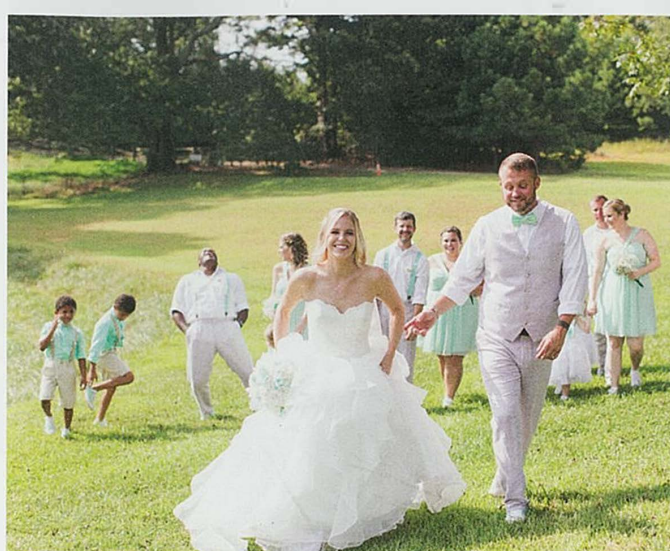
The land, hills and house were all enjoyed by the Little family long before it became what is now called The Farmhouse at 30542. A few years ago, Roger Little and his wife Cathy dreamed of turning his former childhood home near Lake Lanier into a wedding venue, and the labor of love that followed is both charming and stunning. The family still works the 70 acres of farmland that surround the abode; 30 grass-fed cattle graze its acres, providing a pastoral backdrop to the beautiful outdoor wedding venue.

The transformation from home to outdoor wedding venue is breathtaking. Cathy, who studied art at Auburn and is a professional artist, has scattered her artistic vision throughout the home and the outdoor wedding ceremony space as well in

wedding reception area, which is an open pole barn built to bring nature inside with a ceiling festooned with strings of white ceiling lights.

Because this is an outdoor wedding venue, the Littles open their doors mostly from early spring to late fall. Still, one bride wanted a winter wedding and the Littles accommodated. The venue has become popular among Georgia brides, hosting 42 weddings in 2017. Cathy Little begins her tour to a visitor on a chilly February day in the spacious entry foyer of the farmhouse, with its electric fireplace, comfy chairs and open floor plan. "We kept it residential, warm and inviting," she says, "like you're having your party in your own home. I had a great time putting the farmhouse chic style together."

Next, it's off to the bridal suite, where even in the hallway it becomes clear that the artist's touch is everywhere: original farmhouse trim, handmade pottery and plates, and so on. "The vintage window treatment and vanity in there was from my Nana's home," Cathy says as she shows off the bridal suite bathroom. The family opened two bedrooms to make the bridal suite. The beauty station has a beautician's chair for the



brides and her entourage with great lighting. “We want to make you feel like a queen for a day; you can have a spa-like experience,” she said. There is a beauty bar with velvet-covered stools and a ladies room sign from the former bus depot in Flowery Branch.

Then Cathy guides the visitor to the “groomsman cave” down a flight of stairs. The rooms are both open and whimsical; vintage automobile paraphernalia is on the walls: a variety of car mirrors, hubcaps and headlights found on the farm. Each one has a story. The bathroom’s feature window is made of assorted hand cut bottle medallions in various colors, handcrafted by Cathy and her artist friends, and the shower stall is of galvanized industrial metal.

She says they built this groomsman cave for the men so “they have their own day; they are not forgotten.” The groomsman cave has its own entrance, where men have a space for playing darts, smoking cigars and just hanging out.

And now, it’s on to the place where everything happens; the ceremony and reception sites. After guests arrive, they park in one of the grass fields, right behind the vintage farm equipment where wildflowers, sunflowers and corn stalks grow during summer season. They walk over to the ceremony site, passing an eclectic artistic bottle curtain collection. It’s just beautiful in the sunset. The Littles widened out the pasture terraces to accommodate guest seating. A handcrafted sign says: “Pick a seat, not a side, we are all family, groom and bride.”

First, one must pass through the “front door” of this intimate outdoor sanctuary. The entrance is two white wooden screen doors, with heart-shaped holes carved into the wood. “Everyone tells me how they feel the love vibe here,” Cathy says with a laugh. Once guests are seated, the bridal party gathers behind the door. “It is a special moment when the doors open to reveal the bride.” Lining the sanctuary are log planters, which are bedecked with

flowers welcoming guests. Mother nature really performs here. A simple wooden musicians’ balcony sits on a slope above the sanctuary. The altar was crafted from the old front door to Roger’s childhood home, the farmhouse.

The reception site is an open pole barn just above the ceremony area about 20 yards away. The view of the farmland and beyond is stunning: cattle and miniature donkeys and open space as far as the eye can see. She says, “What could be better than dancing the night away under the stars with the bistro lighting?” The dance floor size is 24 x 32 feet. All throughout the venue there are little nooks where guests can gather or the wedding party can have photo opportunities. Cathy explains, “different angles of the barn give different looks. We detailed the barn keeping the photographers in mind - an antique buggy, an old red barn wall, a recycled green tin recliner repurposed into a swing.”

“I had not dreamed of opening a wedding venue,” Cathy says. “But one day I was on the farm and I felt God whisper it to me - this could be a wedding venue. My family was really not on board with me. My husband and children said it would never work....but I said ‘this is exactly what people want. Not everyone wants the country club reception. They like the photographs with the old fence....Maybe, as an artist I just created a beautiful space where people could start their life together and that is really what is happening here, a new family is being born with each wedding.”

Yes she did. And it’s easy to imagine the fun and memories that are being created at The Farmhouse at 30542.

SELECTED TESTIMONIALS

“Cathy is WONDERFUL to work with. The venue is beautiful; it’s super open and you can do many different things with the space to make it feel unique or different, but it’s also close enough to be convenient for guests and everything you need. I would highly recommend choosing this venue. Cathy and her husband



are constantly making upgrades and enhancements to the space and are very flexible on what you may or may not want for your wedding!"

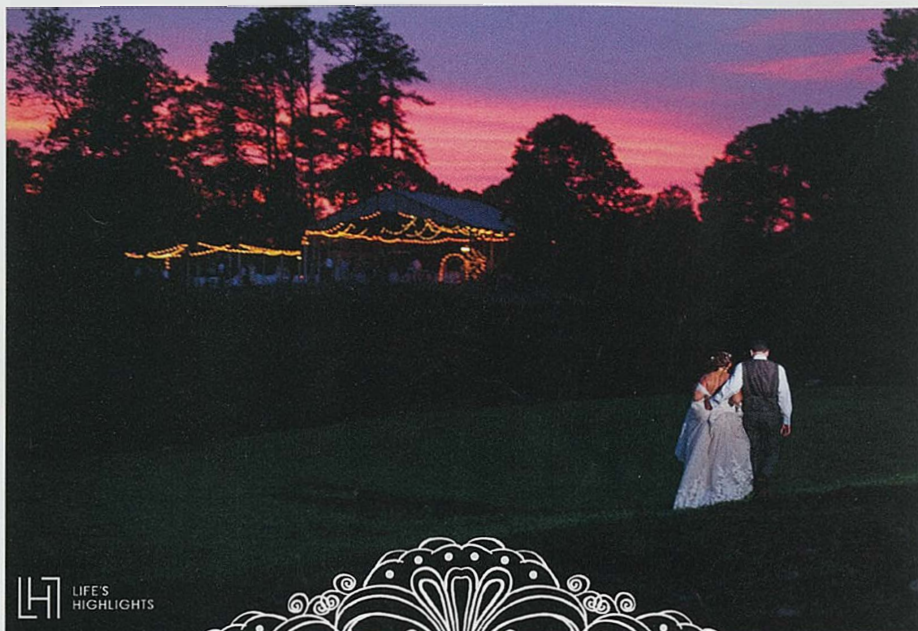
- Emily

"I have had two events at The Farmhouse. It is absolutely beautiful! The venue is both rustic and charming. It is obvious that much time and care have been given to make this venue perfect for special occasions. The Littles are extremely kind and will go above and beyond to make the events perfect. It is truly a wonderful place for special events, showers, weddings, and more."

- Lorri

"We were blessed to find The Farmhouse at 30542 for our daughter's wedding! Not only is the venue gorgeous, but Cathy Little was amazing to work with! The artistic touches that Cathy has done to make every inch of the space elegant yet cozy, made for a day of "ooh's" and "ahh's" from friends and family! I couldn't recommend this spot to you more, for a smaller party (my 50th birthday party was here as well) or a 150 guest wedding, it is just the most wonderful haven. I am so excited to see what the future holds for the Littles and their spectacular property!"

- Carol



LH LIFE'S HIGHLIGHTS

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GEORGIA FARM WEDDING VENUE

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