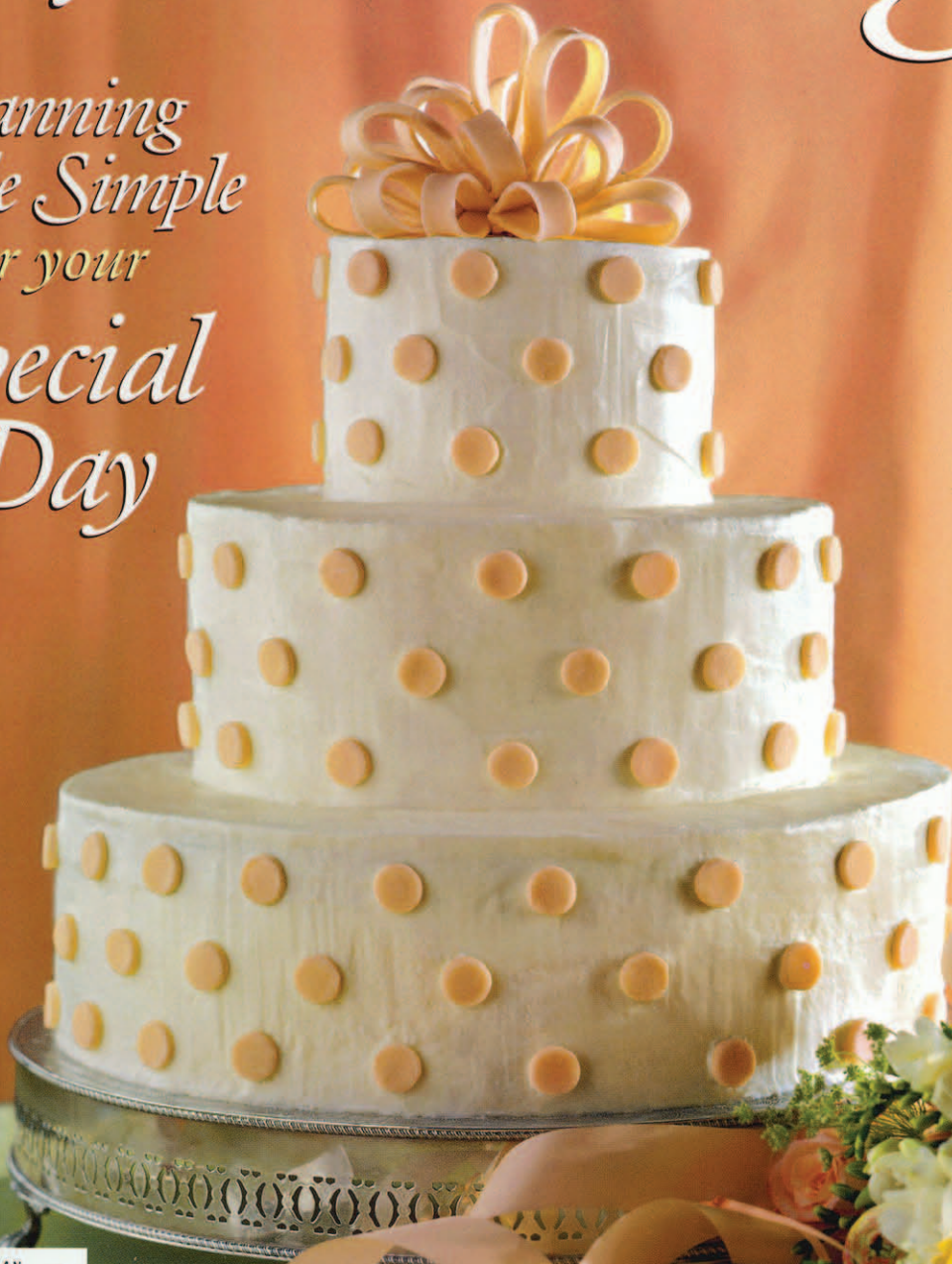


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# Tip Your Hat to the Bride

THIS BRIDE-TO-BE HOSTED A HAT-INSPIRED BRIDAL LUNCHEON TO HONOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS DURING HER DAUFUSKIE ISLAND WEDDING WEEKEND.



Kenan Smith, Kim's future niece, received a pink handbag as a special gift.

## MAKE YOUR OWN HAT

Have fun embellishing an inexpensive straw hat—available at any discount store—by adding your own style with flowers, beads, feathers, buttons, ribbons, fabric, and even paint. You can find these items at your local crafts store. Look for specialty paints with glitter and other textures to make decorative designs. Personalize your hat with a favorite charm or brooch. Include a photograph to make it even more special. For more inspiration, check out various discount supplies at [www.craftsetc.com](http://www.craftsetc.com).

When Kim Groover began dreaming of her wedding weekend on Daufuskie Island in South Carolina, she recalled a fond memory of a hat party her mother once hosted. “When I was growing up, my mom and her fun-loving friends would always come up with silly party themes,” she says. “They invited me to a hat party, and I had so much fun dressing up.” Instantly, Kim decided to re-create this childhood memory for her bridal luncheon.

## CROWNED WITH GLITTER

Betty Groover, mother of the bride, and family friend Rosemary Johnson got to work planning the fun. While they were busy gathering miniature straw hats for table decorations, Kim searched for the perfect hat. As luck would have it, Kim's good friend and neighbor, Ashley Carter of Goldbug Studio in Raleigh, offered to custom design a Victorian “faery crown” for the event. Kim's ornate headpiece showcased a card with her wedding theme, “O Happy Day.”

## ISLAND GETAWAY

Daufuskie Island—a favorite family vacation spot off the coast of Hilton Head Island—served as the venue for the wedding weekend. Guests stayed at Daufuskie Island Club & Resort, where all of the festivities took place. While the groom,

Gregory Filardi, and his groomsmen explored one of the resort's golf courses, Kim and her friends enjoyed a bridal luncheon at Sea Oak Manor, a beautiful Southern-style home located at the south end of the resort. Resort wedding coordinator Nancy Ludtke organized Kim's wedding weekend and scheduled shuttle buses for each event, making transportation a breeze.

## CELEBRATING WITH FRIENDS

As the women arrived at Sea Oak Manor, Kim's gathering quickly became a hat extravaganza. Guests came decked in colorful hats of all shapes and designs. While marveling at the hat-inspired decorations, friends and family enjoyed a casual buffet-style brunch, catered by restaurant owner Beth Shipman of Marshside Mama's on the island.

Kim, also an artist and owner of Groover Art in Raleigh, took the opportunity to thank her friends by presenting each of them with a painting of a banana leaf, symbolic of the shape of the island. Wendy Groover DiVenere, sister of the bride and maid of honor, received a collage depicting her dog, Nilla, as a special thank-you. Favors included fresh pralines from River Street Sweets in Savannah, but the most coveted prizes were three scented drawer sachets—the Best Hat awards. ✨

by Shannon Sliter Satterwhite  
photography Keith Harrelson



## Girls Just Want To Have Fun



**top:** Kim and her mother were proud to model their whimsical hat designs. **above, left:** Friends of the bride received hand-painted canvases of banana leaves, representing the shape of Daufuskie Island. **above, right:** Kim gave her sister, Wendy, a collage depicting her beloved dog, Nilla. **left:** Miniature straw hats inspired centerpieces and other decorations. The Best Hat awards went to three lucky winners, who received scented drawer sachets in decorative boxes.

A bridal luncheon is the perfect time to gather with your bridesmaids and express your appreciation for them. Consider some of these ideas.

- Create a theme luncheon. Whether it's a hat party or a tropical luau, it's always fun to dress up. Don't forget to include the theme on your invitation so your friends will know what to wear.
- Take your bridesmaids to a venue where they can create their own pottery or mix their own perfume.
- Go on a picnic, and take your friends horseback riding. Check Web sites and the Yellow Pages for stables that offer picnic areas and riding packages.
- Treat your bridesmaids to a relaxing day at a spa. You'll have a chance to catch up with the girls and get some last-minute beauty touchups.
- Take a water cruise with your bridesmaids for your luncheon. Check with your wedding coordinator about boat charters and lunch cruises.
- Go shopping. Show your friends the hot retail spots of your hometown or wedding location. Grab a bite to eat at a nearby restaurant, and then visit favorite antiques stores and gift shops.