



## REAL WEDDINGS

Perfect for the Grand Lake celebration, guests received "Colorado Survival Kits" that included Boulder Potato Chips and homemade trail mix.

## alison & nate

AUGUST 7, 2004, GRAND LAKE

photography by Paige Eden

While dating long-distance, Alison Hemp, a 26-year-old supply chain manager, and Nate Meadows, a 33-year-old financial analyst, kept a journal that they sent back and forth. Later, when both had moved to Colorado, Nate mentioned to Alison that he had added some entries. "I looked through the new entries, which detailed our move," Alison remembers, "and on the last page, he had written 'Will you marry me?' Of course I said yes!"

Alison and Nate's wedding-style inspiration sprang from their beautiful, natural outdoor setting—and from the brightly colored tea-length bridesmaid dresses the bride had chosen. The vivid pink organza gowns from Thread perfectly suited their laid-back summertime affair.

"Then our fabulous florist recommended accenting the pink with orange and pops of bright green in the bridesmaid bouquets," the bride recalls. "From that point on, our color scheme was set." The bride's all-pink bouquet boasted a combination of her favorite flowers—roses, calla lilies, dahlias, and ranunculus—while her pair of maids carried some of these flowers »





ALISON & NATE cont.

in pink and orange, with green mums mixed in to add still more brilliant color.

Alison says if she could do it all over again she would have saved herself the stress and had a pro design her invitations, but her creations helped set the tone for the celebration. She chose to adorn them with an image of a pinecone and branch, an image that also appeared on the programs. A bright-pink bow tied a vellum overlay to the tall, rectangular invite, and the couple picked out round artistic paper clips to attach reply cards and the wedding info.

The outdoor ceremony took place at a break in the woods beside the Grand Lake Lodge, known as Nuptial Knoll. Flowers adorned a pine arch, and from their seats guests had a majestic view of the lake and the surrounding mountains. Alison and Nate put the ceremony together themselves, including writing their own vows. Alison themed hers around Nate's love of bicycling, and ended by promising, "I love you with all my heart, and I am ready to ride tandem with you until we are old and gray." Though the groom had dallied in writing his vows, Alison says they had everyone in tears. The couple also included two readings: one, the lyrics from the song "My Best to You," and the other an Apache blessing the couple chose to honor their outdoor setting.

The reception, which was also held outside, blended Alison and Nate's outdoorsy sensibility with their colorful style. They had covered much of the deck for fear of rain, but the weather held off. Nevertheless, the couple brought plenty of color under the rooftop. Orange and pink gerbera daisies "grew" from centerpieces of wheatgrass in tin planters, and orange and pink paper lanterns added color to the lighting. Tulle, >>



