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Slow Flowers
JOURNAL

By Debra Prinzing



SUMMER on the BEACH

For a styled shoot designed to reflect her Cape Cod-based studio, a farmer-florist conjures an ethereal coastal wedding.

Photography by **Shannon Grant**

Farmer-florist **Debbie Bosworth** grows as many flowers as possible in thirteen 4-by-12-foot raised beds at **Dandelion House Floral Design** in Plymouth, Mass., a boutique, backyard farm and floral studio. Come summer, that means Bosworth can harvest hundreds of dahlias and companion blooms – zinnias, sweet peas, celosia, snapdragons and more – to use in her romantic, garden-inspired florals for South Shore and Cape Cod weddings.

Bosworth is also the founder of the New England Farmer-Florist Connection, a Facebook community that has more than 500 members. She is part of an expanding hub for florists and growers who want to increase the popularity and availability of local and seasonal flowers in their region.

Hearing from other designers about the importance of good photography prompted Bosworth to produce her first styled shoot last summer.

“I wanted to capture the seasonality of local flowers in my designs, using mostly my backyard flower farm, as a selling point for local flowers with my clients,” she explains. By partnering with photographer **Shannon Grant**, Bosworth planned and organized two days on the beach, documenting an editorial-style fashion shoot, as well as images of boudoir and bridal florals. To complete the narrative, they showcased paper goods, tabletop displays and appetizers provided by local purveyors.

“Not only did I want to create new content for my website and social media use, this project also helped me build community with local wedding industry peers, and stretched my creativity to make something that represents my signature style,” Bosworth explains.

Her floral brand is associated with Cape Cod coastal weddings, destinations and venues in the area. But Bosworth chose a private shoreline area with personal meaning for the setting of her “Ethereal Beach Wedding” photo shoot. “This beach is part of our family’s history because my husband grew up there, in a little community called Saquish. There are 250 residents and we’ve been going there for 30 years.”

The beach is home to picturesque symbols of the New England coastline, including the historic Plymouth (Gurnet) Lighthouse, built in 1803, and a Coast Guard station – both of which served as ideal backdrops to the flowers. Bosworth designed two different bridal bouquets for the photography, drawing from her cutting garden’s best blooms. Rather than the predictable blue-and-white coastal palette, she opted for warm, Mediterranean tones of dusty pink, hot pink, pale peach and dark coral, with touches of sage green from the olive and eucalyptus foliage. Bosworth supplemented her own crops with American-grown varieties sourced from her local wholesale florist, including olive branches, pampas grass, astilbe, wax flower, sea lavender and eucalyptus.

With her daughter Nicolette Bosworth as her model, and with several wardrobe and accessory options, they arrived at the windswept beach for two days of photography. “It’s a remote beach and we needed a four-wheel drive to reach it,” the designer laughs.

Bosworth is now able to share the dreamy images with prospective wedding clients to guide their floral choices. She also hopes to inspire other designers to consider growing a portion of their own blooms. “If you can incorporate something from your own garden plot, it’s a nice selling point for clients,” she says. “It’s also a great feeling to use flowers that perhaps other designers aren’t choosing. There is so much demand for the ‘Café au Lait’ dahlia, which of course, I also grow and design with. But this photo shoot gave me the opportunity to feature lesser-used dahlia varieties, including ‘Emory Paul’ and ‘American Dawn,’ as well as apricot lisianthus, hydrangeas, various zinnias and Sedum ‘Autumn Joy’ – all from my backyard flower farm.”

DETAILS:

Floral Design: Dandelion House Floral Design, dandelionhousefloral.com, @dandelion_house

Photography: Shannon Grant Weddings, shannongrantweddings.com, @theshannongrant

Location: Gurnet Point, Plymouth, Mass.

Model: Nicolette Bosworth, @nicolette.bosworth

Hair and Makeup: Manda Monium, mandamonium.net, @mandamoniumua

Dress and veil: Flair Boston, flairbridesmaid.com, @flairboston

Lingerie: Shop Gossamer, shopgossamer.com, @shopgossamer

Silk Ribbon: Hey It’s So Pretty, @heyitsohsopretty

Paper Suite: Alison Kathleen, allisonkathleen.com, @allisonkthln

Wedding Cake and Desserts: Katelin Gellar, @katelingellar
Charcuterie Board: Jillian Rivers, @jillianrivers

