

THE WEDDING PLANNER

By Jordan Gass-Poore
Photos Ashley Haguewood

Unofficially, Johnell Huebner became a wedding planner the day she found out weddings existed. Officially, Huebner started San Marcos-based Clearly Classy Events eight years ago when she decided that she didn't want to work for someone else and the only way to do that was to start her own business.

HOW CAN A COUPLE ON A BUDGET NARROW DOWN THEIR WEDDING GUEST LIST WITHOUT FEELING GUILTY?

I always say that the best way to pare down your list is to cut out the expendables; if you haven't seen them in years and you don't plan on [...] seeing them for years, cut them. Just because you're friends with them on Facebook doesn't mean they have to be invited.

WHAT SEEMINGLY SMALL DETAIL CAN MAKE A BIG IMPACT ON A WEDDING RECEPTION?

Cups. So many times people either forget to bring bar cups or they don't bring enough. This can be avoided by using professional catering or bartending services so you don't have to worry about it. Obviously, no one will be drinking without the cups. Also, the DJ or band can have a huge impact on whether or not your party is successful. If you have a really crummy DJ that cannot feel out the crowd then your event never really hits [its] stride with folks dancing and having a great time.

WHAT DO COUPLES SPEND THE MOST MONEY ON FOR THEIR WEDDING?

Food and beverages hands down. It is expensive to feed people in large quantities and to offer an abundance of alcohol. I always tell people that if they are really trying to keep the budget under wraps to choose a venue that allows them to pick their caterer and bring in their own booze.

WHY DO YOU THINK THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY IS A POPULAR WEDDING DESTINATION?

People love to visit here, and many times there is some tie to Texas in some way: they went to school here, their parents are from here, but in some cases the Austin/Hill Country Area is just the mid-point in the country for families located all over to come together!

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE AT A WEDDING?

150-200 is a comfortable normal count. When you start going over those numbers you really limit your venue possibilities, not to mention [you] make your budget soar.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST MISTAKE A BRIDE OR WEDDING PARTY MAKES ON THE BIG DAY?

Getting ready ALL day. When they start so early in the day it really wears them out by the time we get

"WE SAVE COUPLES MONEY AND WE HELP THEM TO NOT MAKE COSTLY MISTAKES"



to the actual wedding, and then they can't enjoy the party. I always say start hair and make-up closer to the ceremony time and allow for an allotment of pictures, but don't start as soon as you wake up.

HOW LONG DOES IT TYPICALLY TAKE YOU TO PLAN A WEDDING FROM BEGINNING TO END?

Wedding planning is typically on a year cycle in order to get your top choice in dates and venues, but I can easily plan a wedding in two months or less with a motivated bride on my side.

WHEN DO MOST WEDDINGS YOU PLAN OCCUR? WHAT SEASON?

It is split between spring and fall. Our busiest month in the spring is March, and in the fall October, but often overlooked are November and June. These are still two great months for your wedding.

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