

REAL WEDDING *love story*



Laura Saenger *and* Patrick O'Leary

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BASIN HARBOR CLUB | VERGENNES, VERMONT

PHOTOS BY CAT CUTILLO PHOTOGRAPHY

After Laura graduated from Vanderbilt University she moved to Washington, DC and decided to join co-ed soccer league to meet people in her new home city. Fate would have it that Patrick had also joined the same league for the same reason, since he recently moved to DC after graduating from college as well. When it came time to propose, Patrick knew that Vermont was the perfect place to do it—specifically on the farm that Laura had grown up on. He suggested they ride a 4-wheeler out to a special spot where Laura spent a lot of time as a child. Long since overgrown, the couple decided to gaze out over the fence at the spot rather than risk running in to any snakes. As Laura reminisced, Patrick got down on one knee in the mud and asked her to marry him.

Laura lived in Vermont her entire life, before moving to Nashville for college, and had brought Patrick there for many trips to visit her family. They both love Vermont in the fall and after Laura saw the wedding arch at Basin Harbor Club, she knew it was the place they should get married. Their families were deeply involved with the wedding planning—Laura's sister was Maid of Honor, Patrick's brother was Best Man, Laura's brothers walked her down the aisle and read passages at the wedding, and her father officiated the ceremony. Right before she put on her wedding gown, Laura's Aunt brought her a gift from her great-grandmother. It was a bracelet that her great-grandfather had made for her great-grandmother many years ago. Laura also used the ring pillow both her mother and grandmother had used in their weddings.

One of their favorite details from their wedding also was crafted by a family member. Laura's sister created custom table numbers which featured a photo of Laura and Patrick from that age. The photos of them as babies were adorable and the ones from awkward middle school years provided lots of laughter and entertainment! Laura and Patrick also created special moments for their families to be involved in their ceremony—a passage from *The Alchemist* which was read by her oldest brother, an explanation of the importance of the rings read by her other brother, and an old Irish Blessing read by Patrick's brother. They also surprised Laura's parents by selecting the same song for their first dance as they had danced to at their wedding.



Laura and Patrick's advice for other couples: "First, take some time after your engagement to simply enjoy being engaged. We didn't begin making wedding plans for over two weeks after their engagement so we could just enjoy the new step in our relationship."



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FLORIST: BLOOMERS GARDEN FLOWERS | ALTERATIONS: 4EVERLY AFTER | TIE & BOWTIES: DEVINE DOMESTICATION | HAIR & MAKEUP: SHEAR CUTS | FAVORS: PHENOMENAL FUDGE, DOUGLASS ORCHARD APPLES, LEDGE HAVEN MAPLE SYRUP | TRANSPORTATION: FIRST STUDENT CHARTER BUS | REHEARSAL DINNER: STARRY NIGHT CAFE | OFFICIANT: PAUL SAENGER, FATHER OF THE BRIDE



To see more photos from Laura and Patrick's wedding,
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