



Jimmy Ho Photography



Sweetwater Branch

CIRCA **Inn** 1885

DISTINCTLY GAINESVILLE

The Historic Sweetwater Branch Inn

Sweetwater Branch Inn has provided an exceptional destination for guests since 1993. Our beautifully appointed rooms and cottages, local hospitality and modern amenities. Indulge each guest with a distinctly Gainesville experience. A chef-driven breakfast, complimentary bike rental, and a heated saltwater pool and jacuzzi are available for every stay.

Our authentic, historic, and lovingly restored Florida homes and cottages help bring your family and friends together to create your special story. We are honored to be a part of your precious memories.

Discover Sweetwater's near 2 acres of stunning gardens located only 2 blocks from Gainesville's historic downtown.

From flower gardens and butterflies, romantic gazebo and colonnade, twinkling lights, to a lily pond and over 7 unique water fountains, Sweetwater Branch Inn welcomes you and your loved ones to experience all we provide. We invite you to lose yourself in our hidden paradise.

Sweetwater Branch Inn is proud to offer catered wedding receptions, corporate events, celebration of life events, birthdays, sweet sixteen events and retreats. Our chefs here at Sweetwater Branch Inn pride themselves on providing the freshest food and original recipes. From our kitchen to your table, we handle all the details so you can sit back and enjoy your event. Our goal is to create an exceptional experience by showcasing what we do best!

*We invite you to create lasting memories and celebrate
at Sweetwater Branch Inn!*





Photography by Chelsea Renay

Our Past

The historic McKenzie House, built in 1895, is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. This magnificent, three-story, 1895 Victorian home is one of Gainesville's most celebrated historic homes. This is the location of beautifully appointed Sweetwater Branch Inn guest rooms and a private downstairs banquet area for intimate gatherings.

Next door is our main Inn building, the Cushman-Colson House. Circa 1885, it was one of the original Gainesville homes that lined old Alachua Avenue which is now University Avenue. The Cushman-Colson House hosts more beautiful and unique Sweetwater Branch Inn guest rooms.

In 1976 Giovanna and Juan Holbrook (my parents) purchased the Historic McKenzie House and began its much needed restoration. After nearly two years of restoration and improvements, the house was completed and brought to its former glory. In 1992 Cornelia Holbrook (me) bought the Cushman-Colson House (next door) and restored it. In 1993, Sweetwater Branch Inn open its doors.

The Sweetwater Branch Inn offers 28 guest rooms, suites and cottages, 2 acres of gardens, the McKenzie Banquet Hall and the Historic McKenzie House for receptions.

Come enjoy a labor of my love.

Sincerely,

Cornelia Holbrook



Property Map





CWP Photography



Kati Rosado Photography



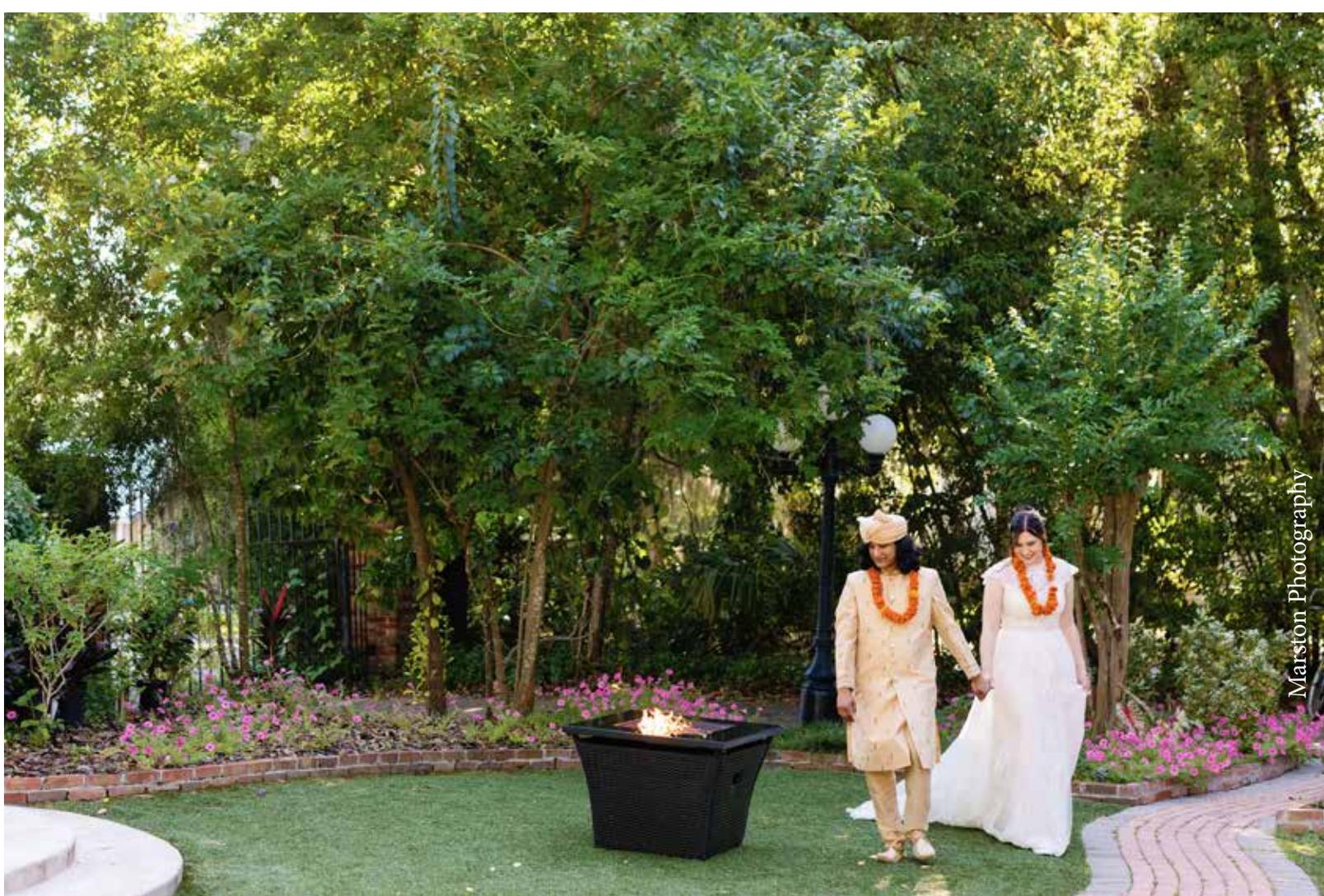
Russell Martin Photography



Shady Grove Photography



CWP Photography



McKenzie Hall



The McKenzie Hall's spacious central room, with its many glass doors, opens to a large covered patio surrounded by gardens. The room is elegantly designed with a high exposed truss ceiling and stylish light fixtures. The Hall and patio are perfect for receptions of over 200 guests for a heavy hors d'oeuvre

style dinner or 150 guests for a sit-down dinner. This 3,300 square foot central area is supported by complete on-site catering facilities. Day or night, the ivy laced bridge and arbor, seven fountains, lush grounds, sparkling lights and reflecting pond provide ambiance galore.





Chic Shot Photography



Verve Studio



Jimmy Ho Photography



Ashley Izquierado



Molliner Photography



Chelsea Renay Photography





Jimmy Ho Photography



Jimmy Ho Photography



Jimmy Ho Photography



CWP Photography

McKenzie House

The Historic McKenzie House is perfect for intimate receptions, rehearsal dinners, and bridal showers. Wedding ceremonies are held in our Courtyard area with the beautiful fountain as the backdrop. Receptions are held in the private space on the first floor of the house. The dining room and banquet areas open onto a large wrap-around porch that is perfect for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres before dinner.

The McKenzie House can accommodate up to 40 guests for a seated dinner or up to 65 guests with a heavy hors d'oeuvre buffet style menu. Special rental of both the McKenzie House and McKenzie Hall is available for larger parties.



A Stewart Graphics Photo & Video



Water Bear Photography



Water Bear Photography



CWP Photography



Jimmy Ho Photography



A Stewart Graphics Photo & Video



Deremer Studios



Charles Ely Photography



Footstone Photography



Meagan Puett Photography



Jimmy Ho Photography



Charles Ely Photography



Jimmy Ho Photography

Amenities

- Receptions up to 250 Guests
- Free parking for over 250 people
- Banquet Manager on site
- Full catering with gourmet chef on site
- Tables, chairs, tableware & linens provided
- Gazebo, Colonnade & Courtyard ceremonies
- Reception Hall with dance floor
- Free wireless high-speed internet
- Fully air-conditioned & heated
- Handicap accessible
- Honeymoon suites
- Overnight accommodations



Kaylee Labor

Event Management Services

The Sweetwater Branch Inn Events Team is dedicated to making your wedding dreams a reality. We truly care about each and every client's individual needs and take pride in accommodating your requests.

Our Events Team works with you from the beginning of your first tour of the grounds, all the way through the special day. It is our specialty to listen to your wedding dreams and customize floor plans, linens and menus to suit. We will plan to meet with you a few weeks before the wedding to finalize all your details and create a timeline. An Event Director and Banquet Manager are both present 2-3 hours prior to guest arrival to oversee your reception set-up details, with the Banquet Manager staying through to the end of the event. The day of the wedding, you will be able to relax knowing we are in full knowledge of your wishes.

We can help you create any event, from Bridal Showers and Engagement Parties to Rehearsal Dinners and Farewell Brunches. Thinking about Going Green? Ask about our options for making your wedding or event environmentally friendly.

Please Note: We ask that you arrange to have your Wedding Officiant or coordinator present for your rehearsal and for coordination of your ceremony details. Our focus during the ceremony is to ensure your food and other reception details are perfect!



Sweetwater Branch Inn's coordination duties include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Customized floor plan layouts
- Recommendations of vendors
- Menu development and customization
- Timeline development for events
- Seating guidelines and tips
- Coordination of on site staff and bartenders
- Set up of tables and any other Sweetwater rental items
- Styling of food buffets with linens, white platters, etc.
- Suggestions for meeting budget restraints





Jimmy Ho Photography



Water Bear Photography



Megan Puett Photography



Jimmy Ho Photography



Chelsea Renay Photography

Wedding Preparations & Accommodations



Jimmy Ho Photography



More than an overnight stay;
Give your guests a weekend to remember!

- 28 rooms, suites, and cottages
- 3 day wedding packages including rehearsal & brunch available
- Chef-driven breakfast served every day
- Free WiFi throughout the property
- Private bath in each accommodation
- Complimentary bicycle rental for a downtown or park adventure
- Select cottages feature full kitchens, living rooms, jacuzzis and more
- Rooms are located just steps away from the ceremony and reception areas; no transportation needed
- Families and friends have the chance to spend extra time together

Please inquire about our rooms at
sweetwaterinn.com
352-373-6760

Chelsea Brown Photography



Sweetwater Menu Favorites

Double Cream Brie

With Caramel Pecan Topping
Wrapped and Baked in a Puff Pastry
Served with Fresh French Bread

Mini Beef Wellingtons

Bite-Sized Cuts of Fillet Mignon with
Gorgonzola Cheese and Mushrooms
Wrapped in a Flaky Puff Pastry and Baked

BLT Skewers

Crispy Bacon, Fresh Lettuce and Ripe Tomato
With a Dollop of Curry Mayonnaise

BBQ Chicken Flatbread Pizza

With Cheddar Cheese and Caramelized Onions

Mac & Cheese Bites

Char-Grilled Chuck Roast Tenders

With Orange Ginger Glaze

Mini Phyllo Cups

With Ropa Vieja, Black Beans, Tomatoes,
Fresh Cilantro and Avocado Creme Fraiche

Spanakopitas

Spinach and Cheese Wrapped in Phyllo Dough

Alligator Bites

Fresh, Local Alligator Meat Fritters Served with Tequila Tiger
Sauce

Caprese Skewers

Homemade Mozzarella Cheese,
Grape Tomatoes, and Fresh Basil

The Cushman Salad

Spring Mix with Mandarin Oranges, Craisins, and
Sunflower Seeds, Tossed in a Raspberry-Orange Vinaigrette

The McKenzie Salad

Spring Mix with Roasted Red Peppers,
Feta Cheese, and Walnuts Tossed in
Homemade Light Vinaigrette

Wild Mushroom Ravioli

With a Sherry Cream Sauce,
Topped with Toasted Pine Nuts

Sweetwater's Italian Chicken

With Creamy Pesto, Artichoke Hearts,
and Kalamata Olives

Honey Pecan Encrusted Chicken

Honey Mustard Marinated and Rolled in Sweet Flakes
Topped with Roasted Pecans and Orange Blossom Honey

Sweetwater's Tuscan Chicken

Pan-Seared Chicken Breast Topped With
A Tomato and Spinach Cream Sauce

Parchment Paper Baked Salmon

Baked with White Wine,
Fresh Lemon Slices and Capers

Pasta Bar

Your Choice of Pasta, Sauce, Protein,
Vegetable and Fresh Herbs

Roasted Red and Sweet Potatoes

Finely Encrusted with Herbs and Spice

Austen's Stuffed Tomatoes

Stuffed Tomatoes with Sautéed Spinach,
Cream Cheese and Bread Crumbs,
Topped with Sharp Cheddar Cheese

Vegan Eggplant Lasagna Rollatini

With Tofu/Cashew Cheese Ricotta, and Vegan Pesto



Jimmy Ho Photography



Verve Studio



Pure: Photography by Lindsey Trof



Russell-Martin Photography



Jimmy Ho Photography



Jimmy Ho Photography



Pure: by Lindsey Trof



Footstone Photography



Pure: Photography by Lindsey Trof

Frequently Asked Questions

At Sweetwater, we strive to create a one-of-a-kind experience for each of our clients. Here are a few frequently asked questions that will be useful during your venue selection.

I picked my date! How do I book? What is the deposit?

Please fill out the inquiry form or contact us to see if your date is available. We can set up a meeting in person or over video chat to discuss your details. The deposit amount varies depending on the day of week and other details.

How far in advance should I book my venue?

If you want a popular time of the year or a Saturday wedding, we recommend booking at least 12 months in advance. For off season and flexible dates, at least 9 months is recommended.

Where do my guests park?

Event guests park for free at the Alachua County Public Schools District Office across University Avenue.

Can my guests book rooms at Sweetwater Inn?

Absolutely! One of the many benefits of a Sweetwater wedding and reception is the guest rooms, suites, and cottages available on-site. We have several cottages that make perfect getting-ready suites as well. Accommodations are first come first serve, except for the Honeymoon Cottage, which we hold to give couples priority. For more information on booking rooms please contact info@sweetwaterinn.com.

Can I bring in my own decorations?

Yes, each wedding reception we host is unique to your preferences. We recommend working with a decorator to create your vision. McKenzie Hall is surrounded by lush gardens with string lights, and boasts a high ceiling with trusses for a neutral yet intricate backdrop.

What does Sweetwater provide?

Sweetwater provides all venue and catering services, including serving staff, and a limited selection of linens, tables, and chairs. Select decorative items are available for rental including vintage furniture and garden games.

You will need to provide your own wedding coordinator, officiant, florist, designer, photographer, videographer, wedding cake, alcohol, and DJ or band.

Can we bring our own alcohol?

Yes! We require all alcoholic beverages to be brought in. Sweetwater can provide bar service, ice, basic mixers, and non-alcoholic beverages.

Can we bring our own catering?

Sweetwater is famous for great food! We provide all catering services, and require these services for events. We can also accommodate most dietary needs, including kosher and halal. You can be confident your food will be delicious and these details will be taken care of for you on your big day!

Does Sweetwater provide tables, chairs, and linens?

Sweetwater provides all of your tables, basic linens and white garden chairs for the ceremony and reception. Sweetwater owns many different table sizes including: 48" round, 60" round, 4' banquet, 6' banquet, 8' banquet, bar height and serpentine shapes. Your event director will help you create the perfect floor plan.

Will there be a Sweetwater wedding coordinator on-site the day of the wedding?

Your banquet manager will be on-site the day of the wedding to facilitate your reception details and ensure our venue and catering services are exactly the way you imagined. Sweetwater does not coordinate ceremonies and suggests hiring a wedding coordinator for this. Your banquet manager is focused on your reception food and bar details during the ceremony.

I'm on a budget. Can I still have a wedding at Sweetwater?

Absolutely! We are able to accommodate most budgets. We have many options available, including buffet stations, discounted Friday and Sunday weddings, and a smaller venue for weddings of up to 65 guests.

What happens in case of inclement weather?

Our beautiful McKenzie Hall becomes the ceremony location with the McKenzie Gardens as the backdrop. Your guests then enjoy drinks and hors d'oeuvres on our covered patio while the room is reset. For McKenzie House weddings, your ceremony will be hosted in the gazebo area of the wraparound porch.



Preferred Vendors

Cakes



Cake Crazzie
(352) 327-0649
CakeCrazzie@gmail.com
CakeCrazzie.com

Officiant



Madison Pinder
Wedding Officiant
(386)466-5433
weddingsbymadison@yahoo.
com
gainesvilleweddingofficiant.com



Catering



Sweetwater Catering Co.
(352) 373-6760
events@sweetwaterinn.com
sweetwaterinn.com

Florists



Prange's Florist
(352) 335-0100
vjprange@gmail.com
prangesflorist.com



The Plant Shoppe Florist
(352) 371-6249
theplantshoppe@aol.com
theplantshoppe.com



Garden & Grace
gardenandgraceflorals.com
(352) 642-2908
gardenandgraceflorals@gmail.com



Lavish Petals
(352) 519-7401
Petalslavish@gmail.com

Preferred

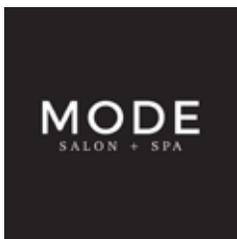
Hair



Gainesville Wedding Hair
(352) 222-2254
gainesvilleweddinghair@gmail.com
gainesvilleweddinghair.com



Moxie To Go
(833) 669-4363
Website - moxietogo.com
email - beyou@moxietogo.com
IG & FB @moxietogo



Mode Salon
GuestServices@TheModeSalon.com
352 374 3883
We offer hair, makeup, skincare and
pre-wedding hair color appointments.

DJs



GENIUSDJS.COM

Genius Entertainment
(352) 448-9310
jonathand@geniusdjs.com
geniusdjs.com



Wayne's World Entertainment
(352) 262-3820
djwayne@yahoo.com
waynesworldentertainment.com

Live Music



The Gainesville String Quartet
(352) 448-1571
thegainesvillestringquartet@gmail.com
thegainesvillestringquartet.com



Gosia and Ali
Classical, Jazz, Latin & Top 40
Duos and bands
(352) 262-7161
ali@GosiaAndAli.com
www.GosiaAndAli.com



THE NEWCOMBS
Duos & Bands
Jazz, Great American Songbook,
Latin and Top 40
Dr. Larry Newcomb
(917) 623-2095
LarryNewcombJB@gmail.com
LarryNewcomb.com

Vendors

Photography



Wedding & portrait
photographer

Christine
305-609-6147
cwpphotos.com



Jimmy Ho Photography
(352) 871-7217
info@jimmyhophotography.
com
jimmyhophotography.com



Marston Photography
(352) 727-1793
info@marstonphotography.com
marstonphotography.com



Award Winning
Wedding and Boudoir
Photography

Sweet  Serendipity
PHOTOGRAPHY



the best
best of
weddings
HALL OF FAME

RECOGNIZED
COURSE CHOICE
AWARDS
2021

352. 278. 3448

WWW.SWEETSERENDIPITYPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Videography



Sky Palm Studios
(352) 359-0555
info@skypalmstudios.com
skypalmstudio.com

Photobooth



Sharp Lenz Photobooth
(352) 612-1882
info@sharplenzphoto.com
sharplenzphoto.com

Preferred Vendors

Wedding Coordination

Always Eventful

WEDDING & EVENT PLANNING



Always Eventful
Kristin Zupancic
(407) 463-3554
info@alwayseventfulplanning.com
alwayseventfulplanning.com



Bearded Brothers Events
(352) 310-9040
BeardedBrothersEvents.com

Services Offered:
Wedding Officiant
Day of Coordinator
Photo Booth
Mobile Bartending



Masterpiece Weddings
Rachel Griffin
(352) 317-3222
rachel@masterpieceweddings.net
masterpieceweddings.com

Julie Herman Events



Wedding Planning and Coordination

Making Milestones Magical!

Julie Herman Events
352-359-4828
juliehermanevents@gmail.com
www.juliehermanevents.com



- Catering Available Within a 40 Minute Radius of Sweetwater Branch Inn
- Basic Drop-Offs to Full Service Catering Options
- Table, Chair, Glassware, China, & Linen Rentals Available
- Vegan, Vegetarian, & Gluten Free Options Available

Approved Off-Site Caterer for

1908 Grand • Florida Museum of Natural History • Emerson Hall • Thomas Center
Rembert Farms • Harn Museum • Santa Fe River Ranch • Women's Club
Hippodrome State Theatre • Kanapaha Botanical Gardens • Touchdown Terrace
Austin Cary Forest • & many more





Jimmy Ho Photography



Molliner Photography



Jimmy Ho Photography



CWP Photography

Jimmy Ho Photography



625 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601
352-373-6760
events@sweetwaterinn.com
sweetwaterinn.com