

Canaan Acres open house/ wedding expo this weekend

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by Cheryl Helton



-photos courtesy Canaan Acres | Facebook

On Saturday, Aug. 7, Canaan Acres will host an open house and wedding expo event to showcase their elegant barn, green pastures, and rolling hills that are perfect for any event. Admission is free for the 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. event. Along with amazing local and regional vendors who can provide all your wedding needs, there will be a bridal fashion show at 3:30 p.m. Door prizes, special discounts, and free samples will be part of the event.

While many may have previously known Canaan Acres as Ephesians Farms, you may wonder why the name changed. And while that it extremely important to owners Tyler and Alyson Mock to share, it is also important to know how it all started and how this vision came about.

Tyler, who has worked in the culinary/hospitality industry for almost 20 years, has had the privilege of training under and working alongside some of the nation's top chefs, including Iron Chef Michael Simon, Aiden Murphy CMC, Edward Leonard CMC, and Jamie Keating CEC, gold medal winner of the 2008 Culinary Olympics. He is well versed in all areas of the culinary field, has extensive experience in management, supervised up to 50 employees, as well as orchestrated both small, intimate affairs and large galas with as many as 3,000 guests. In 2016, Tyler completed the requirements for Certified Executive Chef.



After completing culinary school, Alyson moved to Columbus, Ga., to become the executive pastry chef at a renowned establishment where she worked alongside Jamie Keating, CEC. In addition to extensive pastry production for events, she assisted in marketing and sales, wedding coordination, and management.

Crossing paths for the first time at a culinary event in 2007, Tyler and Alyson dated for three years before marrying in 2011. It was a long distance relationship as Alyson had moved back to her hometown in 2010. Now she was back in Georgia with Tyler, and the duo worked side-by-side and continued dedicating themselves to exceeding client expectations and customer satisfaction.



Anyone who has been in the culinary business knows that it is a grueling industry that offers little time for anything else. It is not a family-oriented field due to the number of hours of work required per week and the time of day events are held.

When Alyson became pregnant with their first child, the decision was made for her to leave the culinary business and raise their child and any future children. Tyler continued with the grueling schedule and rarely saw his family.

Family is important to both of them; after three children they knew things had to change. Tyler and Alyson wanted to raise their children together. He had already missed out on so many milestones. They wanted to be more family-oriented and with Tyler working in his current profession that simply wasn't possible.

After many prayers and several closed doors, Tyler and Alyson remained faithful and had complete trust that God's plan would be laid out for them at the perfect time. That time came in October 2020 when they learned that Ephesians Farm was on the market. Although they had never thought about owning their own business, it was an exciting opportunity.

In May 2021, the Mock family sold their Georgia home, moved to what they count on as being their "forever home," and took over the reins at what is now known as Canaan Acres. They are now ready to utilize their time and talents to build their company and establish Canaan Acres as a premier event venue and catering company that will accommodate various market demands in the hospitality industry.

The property features a gorgeous 6,000-square-foot relocated Civil War barn that overlooks rolling farmlands, pastures, and three bodies of water. The barn, which has timeless elegance, has 12 chandeliers, antique beams from 1844, and a vintage church bell which will ring at the time of a wedding. The gardens are located behind the barn for wedding ceremonies, corporate events, and dinner parties.

Since the previous owners had requested a name change upon the sale of the 168-acre property, Tyler and Alyson began the search for a suitable name. At their wedding ceremony a song named "Canaan Bound" was played. It tells the story of Abraham and Sarah and how God called them to leave their home and move to a land which He would show them. That promised land was Canaan.

Just as God called Abraham and Sarah away from their home, stable job, family, and community, he called Tyler and Alyson to leave the city where they met, fell in love, built their family, had a wonderful church family, and an amazing company where Tyler was employed for 14 years in search of the promised land.

Their promised land is now Canaan Acres. God has answered both spoken and silent prayers. They are now in a place of complete trust in Him. They do not know what the future holds, but they know WHO holds the future. Tyler and Alyson desire to walk in obedience and His plan for them will be made perfect in their weakness, just as His word says.

Tyler and Alyson look forward to becoming active members of the Blount County community. They are excited about this new adventure where they can utilize their talents while doing something they love. Their motto says, "Canaan Acres is more than a venue. It's a place where memories are made."

Check out Canaan Acres on Facebook and Instagram. To schedule a tour or book an event, call Alyson at 205-401-0804. Canaan Acres currently has openings for 2021 and has begun booking for 2022 and 2023 events. Book early to get the exact date you want.