

Meet the Stan Hywet Staff

John Tedesco
Event Coordinator
Staff member since 2008



What is your job at Stan Hywet? I'm an event coordinator in the rentals department. I would like to think that my area of expertise is wedding ceremony and wedding reception planning. I began as a volunteer and have been making wedding magic on the estate since 2008, after retiring from a 30-year career as a special education teacher and intervention specialist. Yes, organizing a wedding is very much like a teaching plan-IEP: you evaluate the situation, create a plan and set reasonable goals.

I am the self-appointed “premiere Wedding Planner of Northeastern Ohio” and later “the premiere Wedding Planner of The Midwest”. That title was bestowed on me by Cleveland wedding planner.

What do you enjoy most about working at Stan? I love meeting the brides, the grooms, the mothers-of-the-bride, and fathers-of-the-bride. I love to hear their questions, and I love to give them an insight into my many years at “The Big House.” We usually have a 12-month interaction, and I learn a lot about their dreams and “nightmares” about planning and doing a ceremony and/or reception. It is a job filled with drama-good and bad, and I love it.

Tell us about one unusual or interesting day at work? There are so many unique and joyful moments with bridal parties, but one of my favorites was a wedding at The Tea Houses on a beautiful early summer afternoon. The bridal party and wedding guests were led to the Tea Houses by a bag piper. The estate was filled with the sound of his music. The bride carried a lace handkerchief with her bouquet. This handkerchief was created by her great grandmother for her grandmother as an infant bonnet. Her grandmother carried it during her wedding, and then her mother did the same. Now this bride was carrying on this family tradition. What made it especially awesome is the bride had her wedding program printed on dozens and dozens of vintage white handkerchiefs that she'd collect -- sweet complement to her family tradition.

What would you tell someone who's never been to Stan to entice them to visit? Bridal couples visiting for the first time comment on the beauty and the architectural features, reinforcing my feeling that Stan Hywet is a magical place. The stately Manor House is awesome, but the outdoor spaces hold such unique eye appeal. Truly magical.

Where is your favorite place on the estate? I cannot choose one favorite place because each one has a unique memory for me.

If you could go back in time and meet with one of the Seiberling family members, staff, or architect or landscape designers, who would it be and what would you talk with them about? I would like to meet with the head gardener. Was he like my beloved grandfather? A man who loved the soil, the plants, the gardens, the flowers — someone who touched the earth, not as work but as a place to display his talent? How did he interact with Mr. Seiberling and Mrs. Seiberling? How was he treated by the staff? What was his favorite garden task and least favorite garden task?