

Jessika Brooks- CEO/Owner French's Point- Maine

French's Point, Maine has long been a place of gatherings and events. In 1909, the Universalist Church of Bangor retained premier Maine architect, Wilfred E. Mansur, to design and oversee the construction of a beautiful and spacious shingle-style estate cottage for summer retreat on the shores of French's Point- Maine. During this time, French's Point became known nationally for its stunning views and as a fashionable summer gathering place. For more than 50 years, the location was a favorite for weddings, family reunions, retreats, camps and conferences.

In July 2002, the property was purchased by the Jessika Brooks and her family, who owned a family cottage on French's Point for 70 years. In 2003, the Brooks' restored The Farm at French's Point. This upscale rental property is now used for a variety of destination gatherings. The Brooks family began meticulous restoration and expansion of the second estate cottage on the Point in 2005 which commands a 220 degree waterfront presence on Penobscot Bay. In 2006, The Retreat at French's Point reopened as a venue for exceptional private gatherings, conferences, and weddings. Today, French's Point continues to be an ideal location for conferences, reunions, retreats, weddings, holidays and gatherings of all kinds where privacy, service, and a spectacular shorefront setting are of the utmost priority. The estates and businesses are family-owned and operated by Jessika who coordinates the events, staffing, and planning, as well as guest services and relations. Her husband Fred Brewer handles the book keeping as well as the landscaping and he is the Bake Master of Shoreline Lobster Bake Company. Jessika's father, Bob Brooks is her business partner and provides strategic planning advice and support and Jessika's mother, Bonnie Brooks oversees the landscaping and grounds development. Together this family has established what is sure to be an enduring family legacy that will share this stunning location with guests seeking a venue such as this for their special affairs.

Since its reopening, French's Point has become a top location for Maine "destination" wedding events hosting intimate family weddings, lavish, private high-profile VIP celebrations, and simply elegant nuptial affairs. Owner Jessika Brooks has worked diligently to secure a vast array of necessary top quality amenities and vendors to provide services for her clients. Guests do not need to bring services from the metropolitan homes to Maine. The finest quality wedding services are available right here at French's Point.

Mid-coast Maine is an excellent location for a "destination" wedding event due to the endless supply of attractions and activities, all within comfortable proximity to French's Point. Guests to French's Point can take a day trip to Camden, Belfast, Castine or Bar Harbor, and spend the afternoon visiting art galleries, craft shops, antique stores, and partaking in the culinary delights of the broad array of gourmet restaurants. They can also head out to sea for a whale watch, or a tour of Maine's famous lighthouses. Go sailing, fishing, rafting, golfing, horseback riding, or bicycling. Hike the trails in Acadia National Park or one of the countless other nearby State Parks. Kayak the peaceful Penobscot Bay. French's Point is conveniently located 35 minutes from Bangor International Airport, 2.5 hours from Portland Jetport, and 5 hours driving time from Boston. From French's Point, you can take advantage of easy access to all the amenities you require for an enjoyable excursion, while you enjoy the solitude and privacy afforded to you by this distinctive location.

In 2008, Jessika began planning to host a pro bono wedding event for one lucky couple which would provide all top quality services to show that Maine is an ideal alternative to Nantucket or Cape Cod for a

Coastal New England high-end “destination” wedding. Jessika called this organization of pro bono vendors “Real Wedding Maine” and began seeking out the right couple and opportunity to select to be the inaugural “Real Weddings Maine”. Like Jessika, many of her favorite vendors have established small, family-owned businesses slowly over time and these vendors are one hundred percent vested in their businesses and carving out a high-end wedding market in Maine. Given the opportunity to host these premier weddings, Jessika knew that the providers would shine. In February of 2009, Jessika met event planner Amber Small of Sweetest Thing Weddings and the two agreed to pursue the project for Fall of 2009. To date, Jessika and Amber have successfully gathered over \$650,000 in donated wedding services from the Real Weddings Maine vendors for a three-day wedding event to take place October 15-17, 2009 to be hosted at French’s Point- Maine.