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IN THE ROUGH
From top: Patrick Williams Photography Studio snaps a playful pair. One of Moment By Moment Photography's moving bridal portraits. Javon Longieliere Photography captures a couple of newlyweds in nature.

Afterglowing

Conventional wedding photography can feel contrived at times—resulting in posed pre- and post-ceremony portraits that often lack personality. Rather than limit themselves to only photographing their ceremony and reception, modern couples are looking to capture something more private and personal by scheduling an intimate, post-wedding photography session. “Day-after” or “trash the dress” sessions often celebrate the beauty of relaxed, free-spirited brides in a way that traditional sessions cannot, and they offer game-for-anything couples a liberating experience.

Javon Longieliere of **Javon Longieliere Photography** (770.715.4410, longieliere.com) adores working with brides who are willing to push the envelope. “You have to get somebody that’s really open-minded,” he says. “You try to find things that mean something to the bride and see how far you can go with it.” Longieliere prepares for his sessions by getting a feel for what the bride’s mood and attitude is like. “I cater everything around her lead.”

Virginia Hall from **Moment by Moment Photography** (678.378.7655, momentbymomentphotography.com) says there are generally a lot of similar qualities to be found

Emotionally evocative, post-wedding photography sessions capture the essence of newly wedded bliss | *By Dana Hazels Seith* |

from brides booking these sorts of “trash the dress” sessions. “They tend to be your more unique bride—the ones who are a little more creative,” she says. Hall loves these sorts of sessions because of the creative freedom it allows the photographer. “With weddings you are usually limited by a timeline and a venue and where you can go and what you can do,” she says. “This is a chance to get a full hour, maybe even two, to be really creative. The whole experience is exciting because the couple knows they are getting unique shots and that they are going to be special. It’s thrilling to step outside of your comfort zone and think outside of the box.”

Patrick Williams of **Patrick Williams Photography Studio** (678.457.4578, patwilphoto.com) currently focuses more on corporate event photography, but he enjoys the anything-can-happen nature of “day after” sessions. “As far as wedding photography goes, after a certain number of years in the business things become a little bit scripted,” he explains. “But with these types of sessions, all bets are off. It’s a very irreverent and fun experience from a photography point of view. The common thread is a really great sense of humor. At the end of the day it’s all about having fun.” ●