

Sunday, September 19, 2010

TORNADO CAN'T BLOW AWAY LUV

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A DETERMINED BRIDE and groom weathered a major setback yesterday — getting hitched even though one of Thursday's tornados wrecked their wedding site.

Jacqueline Wong, 32, and Kenny Lo, 34, planned to exchange vows in a stately gazebo at the Queens Botanical Garden. Until the storm hit, the picturesque and popular nuptials location had been framed by two weeping willow trees.

The 125-mph winds on Thursday sent one of the 100-foot trees crashing onto the wooden gazebo and broke branches in the other.

But the cool couple remained calmer than the eye of a storm when garden caretakers told them Friday their dream location had been ruined.

"I was fine with it," said Wong, a Jersey City schoolteacher. "You have to look at the positive side. You want to marry the person you



Storm's aftermath couldn't keep beaming bride Jacqueline Wong and Kenny Lo from getting hitched at Queens Botanical Garden yesterday.

love — no matter the circumstance."

The bride and groom decided to simply say "I do" in another part of the 39-acre botanical garden. The view was less scenic, but the couple was glad the wedding was still there.

"I would have been crushed if we were told we couldn't have it in the park at all," said Lo, of Flushing.

The couple met on a blind date three years ago at the South Street Seaport. Even then, Wong took setbacks in stride — Lo showed up an hour late because of traffic.

Lo has been determined to tie the knot at the botanical garden since he was a kid.

"I grew up here, and I always wanted to get married someplace close," he said. "The garden was my No. 1 choice."

The uprooted weeping willow was planted 27 years ago, according to garden officials. The gazebo was still intact, but a nearby fountain took the brunt of the tree's impact.

Susan Lacerte, the garden's executive director, said the storm caused \$50,000 to \$70,000 in damage.

"That garden has been a very important part of the Queens Botanical Garden for the last 27 years," Lacerte said.

But she said the garden would take a page from the newlyweds.

"Just like the bride and groom adapted, we have to adapt," she said. jfanelli@nydailynews.com

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