



# Kathy Lasnier 2010

## KATHY LASNIER

Boogie walk. Pivot. Sugar Foot. Flyback. These are just some of the unfamiliar terms I began to hear after moving to Charlotte, N.C. with my three daughters in 1988. Originally from Hartford, CT the southern culture opened my eyes to many new experiences, most importantly the Shag. Soon I began to love and appreciate this renowned dance of the Carolinas and its impressive lineage. I never could have imagined at the time that the "Shaggers" would one day take me as one of their own or the thrilling adventures and lasting relationships that lay ahead. Growing up to the sound of Motown and singing lead in a local band, music and dance were always a passion for me. Singing engagements with the band at dance halls and college campuses consumed most of my weekends, along with dance nights with friends. The first introduction to this new style of dancing was one Thursday evening; a girlfriend invited me to a dance club called Chelseys in Charlotte for Shag night. I was looking forward to the chance to reminisce and groove like I had as a teenager up North. But, as I entered the club that night, I was mesmerized by what I saw. This intriguing dance called "the Shag" and the intimate way the dancers moved to the rhythm and blues music, had me spellbound. John Hook was spinning the music for the night. It was like nothing I had ever experienced and I knew that night I wanted to learn this dance. The first time I was asked to dance that evening, I remember being petrified, but the gentleman I danced with was the first of many who would show me patience, kindness, and gentle instruction as I learned the basics. I also danced in Lake Norman at the old skating rink and Shenanigans.

Then, in the spring of 1990, I attended my very first SOS in N. Myrtle Beach. Our group started the weekend at Harold's and next, made our way to the PAD. The crowds were enormous; the music was resonating through my ears and down to my feet. I took a deep breath and decided to get in on the line dancing. I soon found myself putting northern "flair" to some of the steps. I was getting it! Ducks was an even more amazing experience for me over that SOS weekend. As I was walking up the front steps to Ducks for the first time I could hear the "boogie" beat pumping from the DJ booth, compliments of Butch Metcalf and Steve Baker. Their line up of nostalgic tunes kept the crowd "fast dancing" until it was time to turn out the lights. After seeing the caliber of dancing at Ducks, I decided to stand near the dance floor and take it all in. I was envious and awestruck at the same moment as I watched the couples dancing together with such smooth precision. I had to ask myself, where am I? What have I been missing? The first few times I was asked to dance while at Ducks, I politely declined, but finally convinced myself I could hold my own and I have not stopped dancing since. I have fond memories of dancing at many clubs throughout the Carolinas, such as Thirsty's, the Pavilion, Reds, JB Pivots, and the Sand Flea, Loafers, as well as parties in Atlanta, Virginia Beach, and Florida. Everywhere I danced I was always embraced with friendly and welcoming southern hospitality and charm, and have formed many special friendships with people who have shared my love of dancing and music.

Over the years, I have had the distinct pleasure of dancing with many talented partners, but one in particular, Kim Maynard, is greatly responsible for the progression of my dancing style. Dancing together for the better part of 10 years, Kim's versatility, encouragement, support, and dancing influence allowed me to shine on the dance floor. Having been introduced to the Shag much later than many of the seasoned dancers I have come in contact with over the last 20 years, I never dreamed I would one day have the honor of being included among the ranks of those who have been inducted into the Hall of Fame. I will forever be touched by the honor of being recognized and accepted as an individual among dancers who are much more experienced than I am. I may not have had the pleasure of dancing with "y'all" in our younger years, but I got here as fast as I could, and now, I am enjoying the thrill!