



Connie C. Wood 2012

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A decision made on a hot and humid summer evening in 1983 reshaped my future in many ways, the most important being friendships. On that memorable evening Tommy and I attended our first shag contest in Southern Pines. Upon arrival we decided to enter not knowing the impact it would have on our future!

I grew up in Zebulon, NC, a small town a few miles east of Raleigh. My childhood was "small town normal" with dancing entering the picture in the eighth grade. I participated in a ballroom dance class, an experience that equipped me with beginner skills in several dances. The dance that continues to be a part of my life is shag. I danced throughout high school enjoying our local hangout, the Dairy Queen. It was not the normal ice cream parlor as it had a grill, a dance floor, and a juke box. How fortunate we were to have such a wonderful place to go every afternoon and evenings after ballgames. It was on that dance floor that I had my first dance with the man I married forty five years ago--- Tommy Wood.

Years pass and we are back to where the journey began, the 1983 summer evening. There we met many people who continue to be our dear friends---Carol Walker, Jackie McGee, Charlie Womble, Mike Rackley, John and Pee Teal, Bob Myrick and Don Bunn to name a few! After that evening, we were destined to become a part of the shag community. The following years were a whirlwind of practices, competitions and "honky tonks", but most importantly it was a time of cultivating lifelong and valuable friendships. In December, 1985, we ended two successful years of competitive dancing. This decision was prompted by the fact that our daughter had begun to play junior golf on the national and international levels. As parents we knew our focus was to be on her.

From 1986 through 2003, Tommy and I continued to be involved in the shag community. While we no longer danced competitively, we danced socially and enjoyed the friendships we had made. The next seven years were spent living part time in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. While there, we were blessed with many opportunities to participate in Christian mission work as well as submerging ourselves in the culture. In 2011, we sold our home in Mexico and returned to North Myrtle Beach. Tommy and I continue to enjoy friendships resulting from the life changing experience on that wonderful summer evening in 1983!

It is with much pleasure that I accept this nomination into the Shaggers Hall of Fame. With dignity and respect, I will strive to honor the organization and what it represents.