

BYRON SHOW NEWSLETTER

MIDDLE GEORGIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
Fall Camellia Show Weekend
November 8—10, 2019

SHOW SET-UP

Friday, November 8th
9: a.m.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP SET UP FOR FLOWER SHOW
AT BYRON MUNICIPAL COMPLEX CONFERENCE CENTER**

JUDGES RECEPTION

Friday, November 8th
6:00 p.m.

**At the home of Sandee & William Khoury
692 Giles Road, Byron**

REMEMBER

**All members are to bring heavy hors d'oeuvres and/or desserts
Wear your name badge!**

CAMELLIA SHOW

Saturday, November 9th
7:00 a.m.

**Blooms will be received between 7:00 and 10:30 a.m.
Judging will begin at 11:00 a.m.**

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! JOBS INCLUDE:

10:30 a.m.—Converting bloom prep area to dining area

**1—5 p.m.—Greeting and promoting MGCS/ACS in the entry lobby, as
well as selling camellias (1—5 p.m.) Wear your name badge!**

SAVE THE DATES!

NOV 9TH - BYRON SHOW
DEC 5TH - CHRISTMAS PARTY
JAN 25TH - WORK SHOP
FEB 22ND - MASSEE LANE SHOW

PLEASE GO ON FACEBOOK
AND SHARE YOUR PHOTOS
AND MGCS UPCOMING
EVENTS - THIS IS AN
EXCELLENT WAY FOR OUR
MEMBERS TO SHARE OUR
LOVE OF CAMELLIAS!

CHRISTMAS PARTY & CONTESTS!

Thursday December 5, 2019 is quickly approaching! Plans are already underway to make this night a special celebration. Last year's competitions had some excellent entries. We will once again have our table decorating contest, and our dessert contest. If you are interested in decorating a table, please contact Cynthia Simpson at cynthia31078@pstel.net by November 29th. There are eight place settings per table. A white fabric tablecloth is provided, or you are welcome to change things up as you would like. We keep the theme going with our desserts. Judging will be based on decorations and desserts that embody the "Spirit of Christmas". I know our club is filled with so many talented people and I can't wait to see the results!

30th Georgia National Fair Show

**LOTS OF FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, & FUN AT THIS YEAR'S LOW COUNTRY
BOIL JUDGE'S RECEPTION!**



Tommy Martin dedicating the show in memory of Wilbur and Mary Rumph

Low Country Boil



Warren Thompson, Burt Rumph, Lewis Rump, Sam Rump, Tommy Martin





How it all began - by Cheryl Thompson

October 11, 2019 brought back a lot of memories. That was the night of the Middle Georgia Camellia Society's low country boil that is held each year to entertain the camellia judges and growers that travel here to participate in the flower show that is held at the Georgia National Fair in Perry, GA. This was the 30th year for the fair and the 29th year of the low country boil. For 28 of those years it has been held at the home of Wilbur and Mary Rumph of Marshallville, GA. This year there was a certain amount of sadness for many of us, because it was the first year it was held since both Mary and Wilbur died. Even though there were a few years that it was held there without their presence as they were traveling, it isn't the same. However, knowing them well, I'm pretty sure they were in Heaven watching everyone with big smiles on their faces.

The origin of the MGCS low country boil goes way back. For many years Warren and I, along with Dave and Elizabeth Scheibert and Wilbur and Mary spent the last weekend of every July at the Best Western in Santee, SC so we could attend the Friday night fish fry and Saturday night low country boil at the home of Buck and Tyler Mizzell on Lake Marion. For many years the Mizzells spent that week at the lake with some of their closest friends. Friday night was a fish fry for family and local friends. Because we always got there on Friday, so we could be on time for Saturday, they would invite us to the fish fry, which was almost as fun as the boil on Saturday. On the last Saturday of July, following the first fair show, the six of us were sitting happily peeling shrimp and scarfing them down and got to talking about how we thought we should have something for the judges and growers who participated in the fair show, since the plan was to continue to participate. We really liked that low country boil! One thought led to another. The Rumph's home offered the perfect venue and someone was aware that Grady Stokes had a friend who had a shrimp boat in Darien, GA. Warren took it to a MGCS board meeting and our low country boil was born. Except for the year Wilbur died and his funeral was the same date as the boil, it has always been held there. The family wanted us to have it there, but we thought it was best to use another venue. That was the year we went to the beautiful historic Malatchie Farm home of another of our members, Lucy Jarrett and Bettye Rayburn. Since then, we have returned to the beautiful antebellum Rumph family home on McCaskill St. Wilbur was always fond of saying that his family started building it in 1840 and he and Mary were still working on it.

Warren and I were fortunate to be friends with Wilbur and Mary for many years. We always felt like we were part of the family and they treated us as such. We had many good and fun times together and also went through some hard times together. Parties, weddings, new babies, illness. All who knew Mary and Wilbur know how gracious and generous they were. They always enjoyed having company, the bigger the crowd the better! They were very generous about sharing their home. All were welcome and they wanted to be sure everyone who came had a good time.

Although they had beautiful camellias plants in their yard, the Rumphs weren't into showing blooms. What they really liked were the camellia people. Over a period of many years, they opened their home to entertain camellia people for American Camellia Society meetings, board meetings, and any other type of gathering needed. We spent many happy hours and days working with them to prepare for events. We all worked hard, but as Elizabeth always said, we had the most fun. One time right before an event began, someone asked Wilbur how he was doing and I will never forget his response, "I'm doing my impression of someone who isn't tired".

As we were all getting older and beginning to have health issues, Mary and Wilbur both told us that if something happened to them and they were no longer there, they wanted the low country boil to continue to be held at their home. They had discussed this with their sons. They have four wonderful sons...Sam, Burt, Malcolm, and Lewis, and they continue to invite us to carry on the tradition of the low country boil that they loved so well. So even this year with the sadness of being without both of them, I prefer to remember them as the warm, fun loving, gracious and generous people that they were and how pleased they would be that this annual event is carried on. As Wilbur would say, "hello, come on in, have a drink, make yourself at home, and have a good time".