



Auxiliary Notes

► by **Pat Grote**, president, American Angus Auxiliary

Let's cut to the chase

We have a couple anniversary celebrations to mention.

The Michigan Angus Auxiliary will celebrate its 35th year on March 10 at the Michigan Angus Association annual meeting and banquet at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center in Lansing, Mich. The Auxiliary provides scholarships and achievement awards for the junior members, sponsors the state queen contest and supports the Michigan Angus Association. We are proud to salute its members, their hard work and their accomplishments.

Elsie Covey, president of the Western States Angus Association, has invited everyone to attend the Western States National Angus Futurity and help celebrate its 50th Anniversary on April 20-22. The reception will be Saturday evening, April 20, at the Nugget Hotel in Reno, Nev. The Western States Angus Auxiliary will host a ringside continental breakfast Sunday morning at 8. Following the breakfast, the Auxiliary will have its annual meeting.

Upcoming projects

Scholarship applications are in the hands of the state contacts. The deadline to get them to the national scholarship chairwoman, Nancy Jo Sullivan, is May 10. Please contact Nancy Jo at (740) 373-3270 for more information.

Gigi Hunter, Ways and Means chairwoman, has the new metal license plates in stock. Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) blankets and the limited-edition fine German porcelain platters are also for sale. Please contact her at (417) 267-3474 to place orders.

Historian Lois Foster is requesting help from all state auxiliary members. She is in need of pictures, articles and photos from their respective states. Please send information to Lois Foster, 11893 M-140, Niles, MI 49120.

Lois does a fantastic job keeping our history in order, and we need to help her. To quote lyrics of the Dave Matthews Band,

“Lean upon me. I’ll lean upon you. We’ll be OK.”

The groundwork for the “Excellence, No Exception” conference is under way. Plans are being made for an event filled with leadership, education, and long-range planning. We will have a full report at the midyear meeting during the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Milwaukee, Wis.

The first Black Baldie (Angus, Hereford and Polled Hereford auxiliaries) joint meeting in Denver, Colo., was a success. Plans are under way to host the meeting again next year. Twenty-five cattlemen met and discussed the future of the beef industry.

Renée Driscoll, Achievement Award chairwoman, is updating her files, and she is requesting the names of the Auxiliary Achievement Award state contacts. March is the deadline to mail out the procedures and applications to all state contacts. Please call her at (319) 668-2082, if you are the contact person for your state.

Recognizing volunteers

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about Cathy Watkins, chairwoman of the Janet Castle Crystal Award.

In 1988, when the Auxiliary decided to initiate the Crystal Award, the search began for someone to be in charge of it. Earlier that year, at the NJAS in Indianapolis, Ind., Cathy was the state representative in charge of all the educational events for that show.

The Auxiliary members noted Cathy’s enthusiasm and attention to detail. So, she was asked to become the chairwoman of the Crystal Award committee.

She took on this responsibility in the same manner she had approached her duties at the NJAS. She developed and proposed guidelines and scoring criteria. She selected the prestigious trophies that are awarded to the winners and solicited the help of the American Angus Association to develop a computer program to tally the scores. Cathy’s initiative was instrumental in making the Crystal Award successful.

Although Cathy didn’t grow up with Angus cattle, she was on the meats and livestock judging teams at Michigan State University. Team member Bob Watkins caught her eye, and she soon discovered that in order for their relationship to last she would have to love the man and his Angus cattle. They have been together for 31 years.

Cathy and Bob have no children, yet she is present at many junior Angus events. She has served as a leader for the Indiana Junior Angus Association and strongly believes in the positive life lessons young people learn from having Angus projects. These include not only the showing, but also the educational contests, the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference, and the achievement programs that are available to juniors. Cathy says that not having children of her own has allowed her to be a cheerleader, coach and supporter for all juniors.

Cathy serves as secretary of the Indiana Angus Association, a position she has held for five years.

The Auxiliary is pleased and appreciative to have Cathy as chairwoman of the Janet Castle Crystal Award. When you see her at an upcoming Angus event be sure to say “Hi” and to thank her for overseeing this important project.

2002 American Angus Auxiliary Officers

- **President** — Pat Grote, PO Box 130, Bennington, OK 74723; phone: (580) 847-2391, fax: (580) 847-2669; e-mail: groteranch@redriverok.com
- **Secretary-treasurer** — Amy Iman Bellis, 8232 Woods Rd., Orrick, MO 64077; phone: (816) 770-3386, fax: (816) 770-5540; e-mail: bellisfamilyfarm@aol.com
- **Vice President** — Nancy Jo Sullivan, RR7, Box 38F, Marietta, OH 45750; phone: (740) 373-3270, fax: (740) 373-3352; e-mail: sjscartersville@aol.com
- **Advisor** — Jane Ebert, 437 Clark Hop Rd., Sparta, NC 28675; phone: (336) 372-7451, fax: (336) 372-9150; e-mail: eberlee1@skybest.com

E-MAIL: groteranch@redriverok.com