

Auxiliary Notes

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

Let's cut to the chase

Editor's Note: The Angus family lost another of its dedicated, energetic and visionary leaders in February when Pat Grote, Bennington, Okla., died. She will be sorely missed. Our thanks to her family, who provided the tribute that accompanies this article.

Pat already had her "Auxiliary Notes" column written, and her family forwarded it on to us. We thought it appropriate to provide her words in the tense that she wrote them; this was her vision for the Auxiliary.

Notes from Pat

I wouldn't be doing my job as your president if I didn't lean on all the untapped resources out there among the state auxiliaries. I would like to hear from all state presidents as to when your membership dues are due and the amount of your yearly membership fee. I also would like for all state and American Angus Auxiliary dues to be due at the same time each year. I will be sending out a questionnaire to each state president; please take the time to fill it out and return it.

I would also like to hear from all state auxiliary presidents. We want to report the activities happening in your state. Let's toot our own horns during our 50th anniversary year. Lois Foster would love to have these reports for the history book.

Would your state organization like to participate in the Auxiliary booth this year at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS)?

2002 American Angus Auxiliary Officers

- ▶ **President** — Nancy Jo Sullivan, RR7, Box 38F, Marietta, OH 45750; phone: (740) 373-3270, fax: (740) 373-3352; e-mail: sjscartersville@aol.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
- ▶ **Advisor** — Jane Ebert, 437 Clark Hop Rd., Sparta, NC 28675; phone: (336) 372-7451, fax: (336) 372-9150; e-mail: eberlee1@skybest.com

American Angus Auxiliary Scholarship applications are due to Nancy Jo Sullivan, National Chairperson, by May 10. Contact her at (740) 373-3270 for more information.

Post-Denver ponderings

On our way home from Denver, I pondered this article and tried to put my feelings and experiences on paper.

We had a great meeting with the American Hereford Women and the National Organization of Poll-Ettes. This was inspiring. Although we had different colored cattle and slightly different strategies, we had common goals. The Black Baldie meeting included 25 concerned and dedicated cattlemen with a determined interest in the future of beef. It is always refreshing to see and talk with people who have common goals and a wide variety of programs.

Our American Angus Association president, Leroy Baldwin, summed our job up best when speaking before the bull sale in Denver. He said, "We are fortunate to live in the best country in the world, associated with the best breed in the world, but not everyone knows what agriculture does for our country." He encouraged us to educate our urban neighbors to the fact that milk doesn't just come out of the carton, and beef doesn't just appear in a ready-to-cook box in the refrigerated section of the grocery store.

Our urban neighbors don't realize that more non-source pollution comes from the

overfertilization of their yards and golf courses than from our farms and ranches. We need to let them know that farmers and ranchers are the true environmentalists.

March was Ag month. How many of you knew that, and what did you do to promote agriculture in your community? Let's get active! In Texas, Hill Country CattleWomen sell my favorite bumper sticker. It says, "God created ranchers . . . to protect and care for all creatures."

Recognizing volunteers

Each year during the first part of November, our American Angus Auxiliary undergoes an audit. Our Audit Chairperson is Jackie Witte from Saint Louis, Mo. Jackie is one talented and intelligent lady.

Jackie was born in Jefferson City, Mo., in 1948 and moved to Saint Louis when she was 4 years old. She is the oldest of five children. Jackie had a wonderful childhood filled with the important things in life: love, support and a strong Christian and ethical foundation. She and her family spent lots of time outdoors enjoying nature. She traveled to 44 states and Canada before she was 6 years old.

Jackie met her husband in her high school typing class. She claimed that her typewriter was broken just so she could sit next to Mark Witte. They've been married 32 years.

Jackie has an interesting job history that explains why she is a very good auditor. She started out working for Monsanto Chemical Co. in its corporate offices and trained in the Empire State Building.

She later worked for Ralston Purina, Saint Louis, Mo., for 16 years in the accounting department and human resources management positions.

During this time she graduated from Webster University, Saint Louis, Mo., with a bachelor's degree in management/business administration.

She started to work for United Missouri Bank (UMB) in 1987 as the director of human resources. Jackie has worked in the Private Client Group, which focuses on Wealth Management. She is currently executive vice president in general administration, and her primary responsibility has been human resource management. In 1993, she received her

certification as a senior human resources professional. In 1996, she graduated from the Graduate School of Banking, Boulder, Colo.

She is also an active member of the National Rifle Association (NRA). In 1992 the organization featured her in an article titled "Women Afield." The article was about a turkey hunt that she donated to the Safari Club Auction. To make the story short, a lady won the bid on the hunt. Jackie called in three turkey toms before the lady got her turkey.

She and Mark love to travel, hunt, fish and climb mountains in Alaska, Yukon, Manitoba, Mexico, Africa, Hawaii, Arizona, Wyoming, Colorado, Maine, Florida, Kansas, Missouri and Illinois.

Jackie has traveled to Austria, England, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland. She has met many wonderful people and learned many things about other cultures.

She and Mark own and operate the beautiful Witte Angus Farms in Bay, Mo. Together with their border collies, they raise registered Angus cattle.



E-MAIL: groteranch@redriverok.com

Milestones & memories ...

**In 1953, our name was
The National Women's
Auxiliary of the American
Aberdeen-Angus Breeders'
Association.**

Patricia Boegner Grote

Dec. 23, 1949-Feb. 19, 2002

On Feb. 19, God beckoned Patty to heaven. Fifty-two years earlier, on Dec. 23, 1949, Patricia Boegner Grote, "Patty" to her close friends and family, came kicking and screaming into this world. It didn't matter to her that there was a blizzard sweeping through Montana that day or that her parents couldn't get the car started to get to the hospital. Patty was ready to enter this world, and nothing was going to stop her.

Pat wasn't born in Texas, but she got there just as fast as she could. By late 1950, she was a proud Texan.

Throughout her life she exhibited a bit of a rebel spirit. This rebellious young lady made it through the crazy days of high school and even got accepted into Texas A&M University, an accomplishment of which she was very proud (even if she had to sneak in through summer school).

Pat majored in recreation and parks while at A&M. Her motto was "support the wild life — throw a party!"

While pursuing her degree, she met the love of her life, Glen Marvin Grote. What a catch he was! She had him hog-tied and married before he could say, "Gig 'Em, Aggies!"

Patty left A&M for a time to start a family. Her first child, Will, was followed 13 months later by her daughter, Shannon. Six hours after Shannon's birth, Pat was back at A&M to finish what she had started. It only took her eight years, and she came away with a degree that made her proud.

Pat's passion for education and children of all ages led to her involvement with the National

Junior Angus Association (NJAA). She was always Will and Shannon's biggest fan, but she had enough encouragement, support and love to pass around to every kid who needed it!

Pat's passion for life and for the beef industry became quite evident through her involvement with the American Angus Auxiliary and through her membership with the Texas CattleWomen on the state, local and national levels.

Pat was a beacon of light to those who had the pleasure of her friendship.

Because of her love for life and her genuine love for people, the family requests that, in lieu of flowers, memorials be sent to the American Angus Auxiliary Scholarship Fund or the Texas CattleWomen's Scholarship Fund.

Donations to the American Angus Auxiliary Scholarship Fund can be sent to Shane McDonald, Gold Trust Co., 4305 Frederick Ave., Saint Joseph, MO 64506. Please make checks payable to the American Angus Auxiliary Scholarship Fund.

Donations to the Texas CattleWomen's Scholarship Fund can be sent to Susie Shank, P.O. Box 545, Schulenburg, TX 78956. Please make checks payable to the Texas CattleWomen's Scholarship Fund.

The family wishes to thank all of those who sent their prayers. We know Pat heard them and is probably still checking her e-mails!

