

## Family activities



Since 1983 the Auxiliary-sponsored *Certified Angus Beef™* Cook-Off has been an NJAS activity to teach youngsters and their families about the CAB Program and to promote education and teamwork among families and fellow NJAA members.

# Supporting Role

Through education, recognition and sheer enthusiasm, the American Angus Auxiliary sets the standard in fostering Angus achievement and family involvement.

BY CHRISTY BELL PAGE

**S**ome might say the American Angus Auxiliary comprises ladies who gather to socialize while their husbands are at the barns tending to Angus business. Think again.

The Auxiliary plays an active role in the Angus breed. It now boasts a membership of 1,258 life and 104 annual members. The group includes women of all ages who have a love for Angus cattle, the industry, Angus juniors and their families.

Founded in 1952, the American Angus Auxiliary is a nonprofit organization that offers women interested in the welfare of the Angus breed the opportunity to work together to provide education, promotion, social programs and activities.

It was stated in the early 1950s that recognizing and encouraging young people in Angus activities took precedence in the organization. That is clear when reviewing the history of the Auxiliary. During its early years, the ladies

worked hard to establish its presence, organization, missions and goals. The Auxiliary immediately began planning for the future of the breed's youth, their families and their activities.

Over the past 48 years, the Auxiliary has made much progress. From scholarships to contest participation and awards, from promotion to encouragement and praise, the Auxiliary has played a role in lives across the country.



“The Auxiliary has opened up so many opportunities for our family—to work together, set common goals and learn together,” says Anne Lampe, pictured at left.

### Generations of involvement

Angus enthusiast Anne (St. Blanc) Lampe, Scott City, Kan., was raised in the Angus business. As she was growing up, she recalls, her mother, Vicki St. Blanc, was active in the Louisiana and Mississippi Angus auxiliaries and was a member of the American Angus Auxiliary.

“Together we attended the American Angus Auxiliary Annual Meeting several times during my teen years,” Anne says. “In 1983 I received an American Angus Auxiliary scholarship.”

Her father, Paul St. Blanc, was also an active supporter of the Auxiliary. For the past 16 years, he always could be found at the Auxiliary-sponsored *Certified Angus Beef*™ Cook-Off at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

“Dad watched the Cook-Off grow and was very proud of its progress. It was very common to see Dad lighting grills or watching teams’ steaks cook while they were off setting up props or putting on costumes,” Anne says. “I think Dad was so fond of the Auxiliary because it was dedicated to the things Dad loved, believed in and was dedicated to — the Angus breed and cattle, Angus youth, and the people

involved with Angus.”

Paul died suddenly two days following the 1999 NJAS. During the 1999 American Angus Auxiliary Annual Meeting and Brunch, Anne announced the establishment of the Paul St. Blanc Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB)/American Angus Auxiliary Memorial in memory of her father. The St. Blanc family worked with Anne Patton Schubert, Cook-Off chairwoman, to establish guidelines for the first awarding of the memorial at the 2000 Cook-Off in Des Moines, Iowa.

Anne Lampe encourages her own two children to participate as she did. Garrett and Clayton have taken advantage of the activities and opportunities offered to Angus youth, including those sponsored by the Auxiliary. Anne says she has encouraged her children to participate in these activities because she knows they can help juniors grow and succeed.

“The Cook-Off has always been a part of our NJAS activities. Together, our family has tried out recipes, written and practiced skits and studied CAB® information,” Anne says.

Garrett received the Auxiliary’s first Janet Castle Crystal Award in 1999. Presented at the NJAS, this award was established to

recognize the overall-high-point boy and girl in the educational contests at the show.

“When I first heard about the Crystal Award, I set a goal to go for it,” Garrett says. With the support of his mother, who Garrett notes is his biggest supporter, his hard work paid off. Garrett acknowledges the Auxiliary for making the award possible

CONTINUED ON PAGE 368



Paul St. Blanc was an avid supporter of the American Angus Auxiliary and the Auxiliary-sponsored Cook-Off, at which he could be found working behind the scenes.

and for helping him to set and to reach his goals.

“The Angus youth are very lucky to have the support of the American Angus Auxiliary,” Garrett says. He plans to one day follow in his mother’s footsteps by winning an American Angus Auxiliary Scholarship.

“The Auxiliary has opened up so many opportunities for our family to work together, set common goals and learn together,” Anne says.

**Sommers scholars**

Another familiar and active family in the Angus Auxiliary includes three American Angus Auxiliary Scholarship winners, two Miss American Angus and two National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Board members. The Sommers family, Silver Lake, Ind., respects the Auxiliary and its programs.

Sharon (Harrold) Sommers was chosen as the first National Angus Queen in 1968. At the time, the honor was presented to the first-place Auxiliary scholarship recipient. The Auxiliary changed the name of the National Angus Queen to Miss American Angus in 1973.

“I remember the day that I found out I was the first National Angus Queen,” Sharon recalls. “I was showing at the county fair, and my mom brought a telegram sent to me saying that I had won.”

Sharon attended every national and Indiana auxiliary function with her mother and now attends with her two daughters, Jill Harker and Janelle Sommers.

Jill, the oldest, was named the second-place scholarship recipient and the 1994 Miss American Angus 25 years after her mother had been chosen. The selection process for Miss American Angus had changed by the time Jill was old enough to compete. As one of the top five girl scholarship recipients, Jill competed for the



The Sommers family includes three Auxiliary Scholarship winners, two Miss American Angus and two NJAA Board members. Pictured are (from left) Sharon, Jill and Dick.

title. The contest is now based on a prepared speech, personal interview, Angus knowledge and an impromptu question.

“It is very important to remember that the junior association is the future of the Angus breed and [the] industry as a whole, and that is why the programs provided by the Auxiliary are so valuable to young people,” says Jill, who served on the NJAA Board from 1994 to 1996.

“The American Angus Auxiliary has been a great supporter of junior Angus programs and, therefore, has had a great impact on my life, as well as my family,” Janelle says. Janelle received first-place honors in the 1997 American Angus Auxiliary Scholarship contest, served as a director on the NJAA Board from 1997 to 1999 and was chairman from 1998 to 1999.

“The ladies that make up the Auxiliary are the greatest supporters of Angus activities and the biggest NJAA fans,” Janelle says.

The Sommers feel the Auxiliary is an integral part of the Angus organization. “They are adapting and making changes that will keep them a viable program in this millennium,” Sharon says.

**Sisterly competition**

The family ties of the Trosper, Hamilton, Mo., have been brought together through the Auxiliary, too. This family shares two common achievements. Whitney and Lindsey, sisters, have bonded through their roles as Miss American Angus. Lindsey was crowned in 1997, and Whitney is currently serving in the ambassador role.

“It has no doubt been a wonderful bonding project,” notes Sandy, the girls’ mother.

The Trosper sisters and their family rank Angus involvement on the top of their priority list. “We could not have picked a better way to raise our kids,” says the girls’ father, Steve, of the experiences Lindsey,

*Auxiliary Time Line*

**1952**

American Angus Auxiliary founded. More than 200 ladies chartered the organization. The first Auxiliary president was Mrs. William Volkman Jr. of California.

**1956**

Scholarship program began (presented only to girls). The first scholarship was presented to Kathleen (Moore) Perry of Missouri.

**1957**

First donation heifer was given to assist with funds for the scholarship program. This continued for more than 30 years.

**1960s**

The Certificate of Achievement awards program was created.

**1968**

Sharon Harrold of Indiana was named the first National Angus Queen (presented to first-place American Angus Auxiliary Scholarship winner).

**1969**

American Angus Auxiliary Scholarship was presented to a boy for the first time.

Whitney and Mallory have had in the Angus industry. “The bonding through family activities; the character-building blocks of responsibility, leadership and service; and the lifelong friendships made across the country are gifts we have received through our family’s involvement in the Angus breed and Auxiliary.”

Whitney says she feels the Auxiliary is important because it has many branches that involve all ages and enable families to get involved. “Any organization that recognizes the importance of all family members is bound to be a success in my book,” Whitney says, “as nothing is more important than family and the bonds built when working toward a common goal.”

### Working to serve

Testimony to the Auxiliary’s benefit to the Angus breed can be heard for thousands of miles.

- Since 1956 the Auxiliary has awarded 282 high-school seniors more than \$500,000 in scholarship money, enabling NJAA members to pursue higher education.
- Since the early 1960s, thousands of Certificate of Achievement awards have been presented to NJAA members to recognize their Angus accomplishments on local, state and national levels.
- Since 1968, 33 young women have been given the opportunity to nationally represent the Angus breed as National Angus Queen or Miss American Angus.
- Since 1972 the Auxiliary has presented 135 silver bowls to top National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest finalists.
- Since 1973 the Silver Pitcher Award has recognized a girl NJAA member



**Whitney (center) and Lindsey Trospen (right), sisters, have bonded through their roles as Miss American Angus. Lindsey was crowned in 1997; Whitney is currently serving in the ambassador role. They are pictured with their mother, Sandy, at the queen’s reception at the 1997 National Junior Angus Show in Atlanta, Ga.**

earning the highest bred-and-owned points at the NJAS. The organization began recognizing boys for the same accomplishment in 1993.

- Since 1983 the Auxiliary-sponsored *Certified Angus Beef* Cook-Off has been an NJAS activity to teach youngsters and their families about CAB and to promote education and teamwork among families and fellow NJAA members.
- Most recently, the first Janet Castle Crystal Award was presented in 1999.

### States branch out

The organization is striving to improve communication between the national level and state auxiliary members, says current American Angus Auxiliary President Yvonne Hinman. “We are confident that when more ladies understand the work we are doing,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 370

**“Any organization that recognizes the importance of all family members is bound to be a success in my book, as nothing is more important than family and the bonds built when working toward a common goal.”**

**—Whitney Trospen**

**1972**

Silver bowls were presented to the top five National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest finalists for the first time.

**1973**

The National Angus Queen became known as Miss American Angus.

Silver Pitcher Award presentation began for girls.

**1983**

Miss American Angus Contest began, with the top five girl scholarship recipients competing for the title. The contest is conducted during the North American Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Ky., in November.

The Auxiliary-sponsored *Certified Angus Beef*™ Cook-Off was started.

**1993**

The Auxiliary began to present Silver Pitcher awards to boys.

**1999**

Janet Castle Crystal awards were first presented to a boy and a girl.

they will want to support our Auxiliary and participate in these worthwhile programs.”

Currently, there are 19 state auxiliaries and one regional auxiliary. The latest state and the first of the new millennium to start a state auxiliary is North Carolina.

“Linkage is so important in the promoting and marketing of our industry, youth and self-development,” says Jane Ebert, Lexington, N.C., American Angus Auxiliary vice president. “Having this as a state organization can increase awareness of national association programs, awards, scholarships and other activities.”

To start a state or regional auxiliary, contact Annie Viator, chairwoman of the American Angus Auxiliary Extension Committee, for information and guidelines. She can be reached at 12515 E. Hwy. 90, Jeanerette, LA 70544; (337) 276-7451; or at [annlv@worldnet.att.net](mailto:annlv@worldnet.att.net). The Auxiliary will provide any information and advice needed. State auxiliaries should operate with the American Angus Auxiliary bylaws and form

committees according to the American Angus Auxiliary.

The awards and contests offered to junior Angus members are only a part of the group’s service. The ladies who constitute the Auxiliary have hearts filled with love for Angus cattle and Angus breeders. They work hard to promote the Angus industry, to educate and to provide opportunities to all individuals. Auxiliary members work year-round to initiate ways, ideas and activities for the betterment of the Angus industry and the individuals involved within it. Bringing the Angus family together is a key virtue of the organization.

Now, when you think of the American Angus Auxiliary, what comes to mind? Definitely not an organization of women who just socialize while their husbands are at the barns. Seize the opportunities and join the team of women supporting the Angus industry, education, leadership and family ties.



**“The Auxiliary is important to the NJAA, both physically and financially. Their primary focus is to support junior programs, and has been throughout the years since its inception. Everything they do focuses on our young people.”**

**— James Fisher,  
American Angus Association  
director of junior activities**

## Charter-member profiles

The first meeting of the American Angus Auxiliary was Dec. 3, 1952, at the Palmer House in Chicago, Ill. There were 216 ladies in attendance. Elected to the first officer team were Mrs. William Volkman Jr., California, president; Mrs. Forrest Lemons, Illinois, first vice president; Mrs. Arthur Mallory, Iowa, second vice president; and Mrs. E.H. Heckett, Pennsylvania, secretary-treasurer.

Among the Auxiliary’s charter members were Bette Votaw, Wellfleet, Neb., and Lucille Patton, Earl Park, Ind.

**Bette Votaw** attended the first Annual Meeting of the American Angus Auxiliary to learn more about cattle, as she had married into the cattle business. Votaw now can claim almost 50 years of Auxiliary involvement. She has passed her enthusiasm for Angus activities to her own daughters.

Votaw has been and is still active in the national organization. Not only has she served on a variety of committees, but Votaw has served as the organization’s secretary-treasurer, third vice president, second vice president and president. Votaw says she has enjoyed working with the scholarship and junior programs within the Auxiliary the most because they are a vital part of the Angus breed.

Her three daughters — Christy, Kathy and Kerri — have grown up in the Angus ranks and have been active in the Auxiliary. At birth, each daughter was given the best Angus female on the farm. They have founded their own Angus herds from those first females. Bette and her husband, Eli, are carrying on this tradition with their grandchildren.

The Votaw daughters were all named American Angus scholarship recipients. Kathy and Kerri were honored with roles as Miss

American Angus and have remained active in Auxiliary activities, both serving on committees on the state or national level. Christy passed away in 1988.

**Lucille Patton** attended the first Auxiliary Annual Meeting as a teenager with her mother. She has attended more than half of the annual meetings since that time, including the last one in November 1999 in the company of her two daughters. During her Auxiliary involvement, she has served on the Advertising Committee and the Hospitality Committee.

Patton has watched her daughter, Anne Patton Schubert, serve as president of the national organization in 1983 and play a vital role in the Auxiliary-sponsored *Certified Angus Beef*<sup>™</sup> Cook-Off contest. Patton has gained much joy in watching her daughter be a tremendous influence on the Angus breed and Auxiliary through her leadership.

Some of Patton’s fondest memories of the Auxiliary involve the first Auxiliary meeting at the Palmer House in Chicago. She was in awe of the effort and ability brought forth by fellow charter members and says the leadership at that time provided the building blocks of what the Auxiliary is all about today. Patton recalls the first Auxiliary president, “Willie” Volkman, and how she brought flowers from her native state of California to decorate tables for the 216 ladies that were in attendance.

“The Auxiliary and Angus cattle have been such a tremendous part of my family’s life,” Patton remarks, “and I can see how Anne gets so much enjoyment out of working with the Auxiliary.”