



Auxiliary Notes

by Amy Iman Bellis, president, American Angus Auxiliary

Influencing lives, creating memories

I grew up with an Angus auctioneer for a father. Once I turned 16 years old, I got to travel, driving him from sale to sale all across Missouri. Since I had also gone to auction school, I would work with him as a ringman at cattle auctions and performance-tested bull sales. It was a lot of fun. Not too many auctioneers had a blond teenage girl taking bids. I met many wonderful Angus families throughout our state and surrounding area.

Angus influence

One of my favorite memories was a trip to write up cattle for the Ryan Bros. in Foristell, Mo. As was typical for farm visits, they sat us down to a grand meal. During the feast, I was told the story of the first bull they had purchased from my dad. Apparently, way back Dad had sold the brothers an Angus bull that somehow ended up sterile. They thought they were sunk, but they got hold of Dad on the road between auctions. He listened and then directed them to our farm. He told them where the bull lot was and said to take their pick from the 13 bulls in the lot.

The brothers told me the story because that gesture started a friendship and a working relationship that lasted for years. It is a memory I will treasure, because we lost Dad to cancer 13 years ago.

My adult Angus experience has been filled with people who have also had a great influence on me and my involvement in the American Angus Auxiliary. The following is a list of just a few of them.

Making a difference

Pat Grote was a lady you were richer for knowing. She was "all for" the many Auxiliary programs that benefit our juniors, and she was tireless in her work for them. Patty invited me to join the officer team, saying, "You can do it ... I will help you." Her enthusiasm was infectious, and many people would swear her middle name was "Fun." The Auxiliary will present the first Pat Grote Memorial Award Buckle to the intermediate extemporaneous speaking winner at the National Junior Angus

Show (NJAS) this July in Kansas City, Mo.

Shannon Grote Worrell stepped up to the plate for the Auxiliary and helped me complete the financial report during my term as secretary-treasurer. Shannon is also a valuable Scholarship Committee member and a pleasure to work with.

Jackie Witte and **Darla Eggers** are two Missouri Angus Auxiliary dynamos. Without Jackie, I would have never made it through the nervousness of the audit of my Auxiliary books. She is the most supportive person, and she does a wonderful job with the Auxiliary Audit Committee.

Darla leads the Public Relations Committee and has been a friend whose advice I have appreciated for many years. As chairman of the committee, Darla has played an integral part in the redesign of the Auxiliary Web site. If you have not ventured to the Auxiliary Web site, you are really missing out. I invite you to check it out, pick out a committee and join us.

Marlene Dukehart and I got involved in the Auxiliary at about the same time. I enjoyed traveling to many shows with her and her daughter, Cortney, who was serving as Miss American Angus that year. Marlene was a great source of information for me on such subjects as scholarships, Miss American Angus and Angus Sale Barn items. She has a great get-it-done attitude, and I want to thank her for her support and kind words.

After this past year, the **Scholarship Committee** and scholarship contest judges must be thanked. I had the honor to work with this committee, and their professionalism and businesslike

manner was impressive. The scholarship program made me very proud to be part of the Auxiliary.

Thank you, **American Angus Auxiliary members** who have taken my calls or lent me your ear when I have had questions and needed advice or explanations regarding programs. Many great women have preceded us in the Auxiliary, and it is rewarding to listen to them about our past accomplishments. They are the backbone of our strong scholarship program and success in such committees as Miss American Angus and Beef Education.

An Auxiliary thank-you column would not be complete without expressing gratitude to the **American Angus Association** for its support of our programs and for funding travel and other expenses for Miss American Angus, and to the **Angus Journal** for all its Web site updates and guidance. Cheryl Oxley, advertising/production manager, and staff are definitely unsung heroes, and their assistance to the Auxiliary is paramount.

In appreciation

When I look back on the past two years as an Auxiliary officer, I have met many people richly deserving a thank you. I have established Angus friendships in numerous states and learned a lot about the American Angus Auxiliary's robust history.

As far as my dad and his bull-replacing story — it wasn't so much the story that had an impact on me. It was the way the two producers felt about my dad and his willingness to make things right that left an impression on me at that young age. It is my hope as part of the Auxiliary to also touch the lives of juniors, be it with a scholarship or junior award or cook-off experience. Together, we can make great things happen for Angus juniors.

E-MAIL: bellisfamilyfarm@aol.com