

# An Angus Foundation

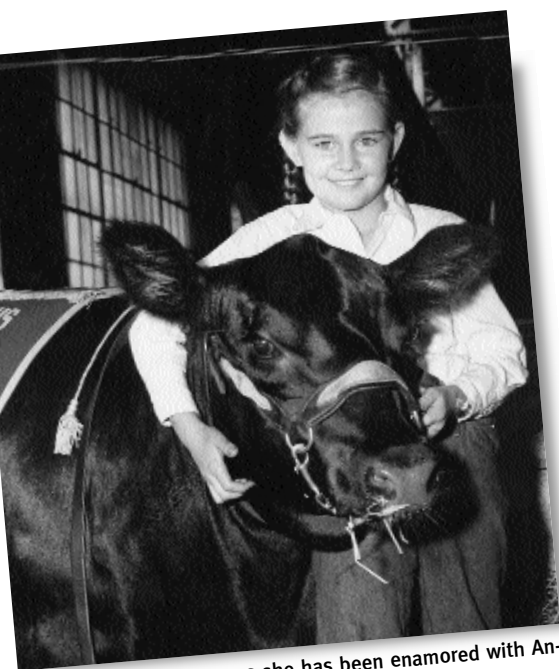
Anne Patton Schubert's passion for Angus was nurtured through childhood and still remains her foundation today.

by Janet Mayer

A top cattle person. ...  
Someone who has a good eye for cattle. ...  
A top showman. ...

All are terms that have been aptly used to describe Anne Patton Schubert, an Angus breeder with deep roots in the cattle business. A positive and enthusiastic supporter of the breed all her life, Schubert was honored as a Distinguished Woman by the American Angus Auxiliary in 1995 and named to the Honorary Angus Foundation in 1999 in appreciation for her work with the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA).

"I am honored by both awards, but being named to the Angus Foundation was a very special surprise," Schubert says. "I did not know about it until James Fisher handed me the program that year at the national show in Tulsa. It was basically because of my work with the junior association and the Cook-Off (the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American Certified Angus Beef® Cook-Off).



► Schubert says she has been enamored with Angus cattle for as long as she can remember.



► This photograph was published in the April 1949 issue of *The Aberdeen-Angus Journal*, which has since been renamed the *Angus Journal*. "The reporter came to do a story about my mother and how 4-H could help young people build a herd by using a club heifer," says Anne Patton Schubert, who is pictured in the red snowsuit.

Working with the juniors is such a treat for me because I was once a junior myself."

Growing up on her parents' Angus farm near Earl Park, Ind., Schubert started her show career when she was 9 years old. Today she and her husband, Gordon, continue to show cattle bred on their farm near Taylorsville, Ky.

"Angus are my whole life," says Schubert, who has been enamored with Angus cattle for as long as she can remember. "Actually, my first exposure to the Angus world came many years prior to my first showing in 4-H. I was just 2 years old and made my appearance in a photograph in the *Angus Journal*."

The photograph was published in the April 1949 issue of the *The Aberdeen-Angus Journal* along with a feature story about her parents, John Jr. and Lucile Rheude Patton, owners of Patton Farms. The article focused on how the couple had built a small herd of Angus cattle, starting with a 4-H heifer Lucile had shown before her marriage.

"The reporter came to do a story about my mother and how 4-H could help young people build a herd by using a club heifer," Schubert recalls. "I was dressed in a red snowsuit, and the reporter took a photograph of my dad, mother and me. It

clearly shows I am being restrained by my dad because, I would

guess, I was trying to join my mother at the halter of the Angus heifer she was holding."

The reporter described little

Anne Patton as a very energetic young miss who indeed headed for the cattle as soon as she was on the ground. Impressed with her enthusiasm, he predicted the girl would probably have a bright future in 4-H.

## An early attraction

During her first year in 4-H, Schubert proved the reporter's prediction was correct by showing a junior yearling heifer that was named the 4-H champion and champion Gold Medal heifer at the 1957 Indiana State Fair. She also showed the heifer in the open show, competing against veteran breeders

*Leading Ladies*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 84

## An Angus Foundation CONTINUED FROM PAGE 83

from several states, and walked away with the reserve junior champion title. That same year, she fed two steers, showing them at the Benton County (Ind.) Fair, where one was named the champion steer. Both the heifer and the steer were progeny of cows descending from her mother's original 4-H heifer.

The same reporter who wrote the article about Schubert's mother wrote an article, titled "A Girl and Her Calf," for the November 1957 issue of the *The Aberdeen-Angus Journal*. The article focused on Schubert's wins, her parents' background and the history of the Patton Farms Angus herd. This was just the beginning of a long,

successful show career for Schubert, with most of her direction and determination throughout her teenage years aimed at showing her Angus cattle.

In 1965 she showed the grand champion Angus and grand champion steer at the National Western Junior Show in Denver, Colo. In 1966 she claimed champion Angus and reserve grand champion steer overall, as well as top showman honors, at the National Western Junior Show. In 1967 she took grand champion steer at the Houston Livestock Show with a full brother to her 1966 steer.

Her junior showring career came to an end when she attended Stephens College in

Columbia, Mo., where she earned an associate degree. She later went on to the University of Missouri—Columbia where she earned a bachelor's degree in journalism. After graduating and relocating to Saint Louis, Mo., she had a short career with a local newspaper, taught journalism at a community college, and became a wife and mother. She also did a lot of volunteer work for various organizations.

### Something missing

Although Schubert continued to own cattle, she found she missed being part of the cattle industry while living in the city.

"My association with cattle had always been there, and it just wasn't a part of our lives while living in Saint Louis," she says. "When my son Jamie was at an age that he could have been showing cattle, it just wasn't an option. However, I decided I still wanted to keep in touch and continue to do cattle-related things with the Angus breed, and I did this by working with the American Angus Auxiliary."

With her knowledge of cattle, her journalistic background and her exceptional organizational skills, Schubert soon found herself serving on many of the Auxiliary's committees. During her 35 years of membership, she has held virtually every office in the organization.

In 1982-1983 she was elected Auxiliary president. She co-chaired the 40th anniversary celebration and co-edited the *40th Anniversary History Book* in 1992, served on a committee for the Centennial Celebration of the American Angus Association, has been responsible for the annual Auxiliary yearbook for several years, chaired the group's Publicity and Ways & Means committees, and has chaired the Cook-Off for most of its years.

Fellow Auxiliary member Rachel Breck of Salisbury, Conn., describes Schubert as a diligent, hard worker who has been a real asset to the organization.

"Anne is so easy to get to know and continually gives of herself," Breck says. "Plus she is as well-organized as anyone I know and always does what she says she will do. And that is very important when you work with others in an organization.

"I think she has especially shown herself to be extraordinary in what she has done with the Cook-Off, always putting a little extra into it to make it interesting. And, thanks to her, it has grown over the years. She is just remarkable."



► Schubert had a long, successful career in the showing as a junior.



For Schubert, the Cook-off is probably one of her proudest achievements. The brainchild of Schubert and her friend Ardyce O'Neill, the idea was hatched after three years of staffing a beef education booth at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) in the early 1980s.

"It became increasingly difficult to get volunteers to work the booth, and we came up with the idea of trying a cook-off at the national junior show," she recalls. "It continues to be a source of inspiration, admiration and a thrill when I see our creative juniors display their knowledge each year. It is also rewarding because I think it gives these young people self-confidence, and of course I would like to think that carries over into other parts of their lives. Plus, it is a lot of fun."

According to records from the past 19 years, the educational event for both junior and adult participants has grown from 12 participants in 1983 to more than 170 in 2002, usually drawing a standing-room-only crowd. This year will mark the 20th anniversary of the event, and Schubert predicts an extra-special occasion.

### A farm of her own

In 1997, Schubert added some fun back into her personal life when she and Gordon bought a 20.3-acre farm about 30 miles from Louisville, Ky. They also bought Hillary, an Angus cow.

"Gordon and I were married that year, and I was still living in Saint Louis and he was living in Louisiana," she says. "Neither of us wanted to move in with the other, and with Gordon's background as a herdsman for several large cattle herds in the East, and his profession as a cattle sale management consultant, it seemed a natural progression for us to buy a farm and start breeding cattle. We both liked Kentucky, and we were lucky enough to find this farm, so this is where we settled."

Hillary, described by Schubert as the "first lady of the farm," was joined by three more cows before the end of 1998. The first calf crop produced two bull calves and two heifers. One of the bull calves was APS Stock Traveler, the 2000-2001 Roll of Victory Program (ROV) Intermediate Show Bull of the Year.

"I don't think we actually thought about showing cattle when we bought that first cow, but it was just a natural progression of things," she says with a laugh. "I just love showing cattle; I guess it is in my blood ... I



PHOTO BY COURTNEY WIMMER



► **Above:** More than 170 people competed in last year's Auxiliary-sponsored All-American Certified Angus Beef® Cook-Off. The Cook-Off, which Schubert (center left) helped create, will celebrate its 20th anniversary this summer.

► **Left:** Schubert (left) was named to the Honorary Angus Foundation in 1999.

find I still love doing it as much as I did when I was younger."

Capacity at the farm is usually about 15 cows with some of the heifer calves being sold as junior show calves, which Schubert says is a real treat for her also.

"Kentucky has a wonderful agriculture program that encourages kids to show. The premium money is not based on how well they place, but instead on having shown. It does encourage the kids to participate, plus it gives them the opportunity to show a lot of times. I think one of the juniors showed one of our heifers in 24 shows within the state last year. Of course, I get to go and watch a lot of the shows, and I do really enjoy that because not only can I see our heifers, but it is a lot of fun to watch the

kids. It makes me proud."

Another proud moment for Schubert is when she looks at the photo of the first Auxiliary Luncheon at the Palmer House in Chicago during the Chicago International Livestock Exposition in 1952. In it are her mother, Lucile Rheude Patton, and her grandmother, Clara Rheude.

"I have always had a natural love for the Auxiliary because my mother and grandmother were both charter members," she says. "When the Auxiliary celebrated its 50th year, my mother and my sister Mary attended the reception, and I am delighted to have shared that with them and with all of the other members."

