



Auxiliary Notes

► by *Nancy Thelen*, president, American Angus Auxiliary

Challenges and adventures ahead

Happy New Year! 2008 promises to be another exciting year for the American Angus Auxiliary as we work on new initiatives and continuously strengthen ongoing programs.

New officers, directors

It is a pleasure to welcome our new secretary-treasurer, Kathi Creamer from Montrose, Colo., to our officer team. A highlight of our annual meeting in Louisville, Ky., was the preview of our redesigned Auxiliary web site. Thanks to the leadership of Angus Productions Inc. (API) staff and our public relations committee chair, Shirley Williams, our web site is phenomenal. If possible, check it out at www.angusauxiliary.com.

An important goal for 2008 will be working as a team to implement the addition and election of six regional directors to our Executive Committee, which was approved through a bylaw change at our annual meeting.

Introduction

Since this is my first column for "Auxiliary Notes," I thought I would introduce myself and share some of my Angus history with you. In 1957 our first registered Angus female arrived on our family farm, Herb-Lou Farm, located near Ann Arbor, Mich. I was only 5 years old, but

I can still remember how proud my parents, Herb and Louisa Diuble, were of their new purchase.

At the time we had a dairy and commercial sheep farm, but my dad had a dream of raising powerful Angus cattle and worked toward that dream every day. I am so thankful my parents instilled in me so many strong values and work ethics.

By the time I started high school, our herd and interest in Angus cattle had grown tremendously, and our dairy cows and sheep flock were sold to make room for the Angus herd. It was a great time to be a junior Angus breeder. At shows I had the opportunity to have my cattle evaluated by many of the best judges in the country. I was a charter member and one of the first directors of the Michigan Junior Angus Association. Everything we did was a new adventure and laid a great foundation for the organization.

I was selected to participate in the 1969 National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest and received honorable mention. I was also the first Michigan Angus Queen

and was honored to receive the first-place American Angus Auxiliary girls' scholarship in 1970 and serve as the National Angus Queen in 1970-71 (the name was changed to Miss American Angus in the late 1970s).

As a student at Michigan State University (MSU) I had the privilege of working in Harlan Ritchie's office. A highlight of my college years was my involvement on the MSU livestock judging team and a top-five finish in beef judging at the Chicago International. Dave Hawkins was our team coach, and he has been a wonderful mentor over the years.

Following college graduation, I taught school for one year and then Larry Cotton, who had joined Premier Beef in Minatare, Neb., asked me to work for Premier as coordinator of performance testing and cattle records. What a fantastic experience that was!

I also had the opportunity to briefly work for Ron Long and Jerry Morrow at Curtiss Breeding Industries as the beef sales manager for Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee. I met so many Angus breeders in both of those positions, many of whom have remained lifelong friends.

For the past 28 years I have enjoyed working for Michigan State University

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2008 American Angus Auxiliary Officers

- **President** — Nancy Thelen, 7821 Weber Rd., Saline, MI 48176; 734-944-6262; hillsideacres01@aol.com
- **President-elect** — Michelle Rieff, PO Box 923, Bentonville, AR 72712; 479-795-2584; michellerieff@aol.com
- **Secretary-treasurer** — Kathi Creamer, 17270 6450 Rd., Montrose, CO 81401; 970-240-2798; lazyjb@rocketweb.net
- **Advisor** — Mary Greiman, 1960 200th St., Garner, IA 50438; 641-923-2235; tmkcg@ncn.net



PHOTOS BY STEVE THELEN

► Elected to serve as American Angus Auxiliary officers are (from left) **Mary Greiman**, Garner, Iowa, advisor; **Nancy Thelen**, Saline, Mich., president; **Michelle Rieff**, Bentonville, Ark., president-elect; and **Kathi Creamer**, Montrose, Colo., secretary-treasurer.

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Extension — 10 years as the Eaton County 4-H agent. I am currently the county Extension director in Washtenaw County, the same county I grew up in. I have been fortunate to be able to work with young people and beef cattle — the best combination in the world.

Over the years I have served on several American Angus Auxiliary committees and have been president of the Michigan Junior Angus Association, the Michigan Angus Association and the Michigan Angus Auxiliary. I have also served as an advisor for our junior association.

A family affair

Raising Angus cattle has been a family affair, and I really appreciate their support. My husband, Steve, has been active in the Michigan Angus Association, and our two daughters, Renee and Julie, started showing when they were 5 years old and have a deep love for Angus also. They have been very active in the Michigan and National Junior Angus associations.

Renee is a former National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) director and received honorable mention in the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest in 2003. Julie received the girls' Crystal Award at the 2007 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), was among the top 15 showmen and was the first-place girls' Auxiliary scholarship winner in 2005. The friendships we have all made over the years are priceless.

I am looking forward to working with a great group of Auxiliary volunteers and supporters. A special thanks to Glen Grote for donating his barbecue trailer to the Auxiliary to raise money for the Pat Grote Memorial fund, which provides awards and Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) scholarships. The winning ticket was drawn during the Angus Reception in Louisville. I also want to thank Nancy Sullivan for chairing the barbecue raffle project.

Finally, congratulations to our 2008 Miss American Angus — Danielle Foster from Michigan. 2008 is going to be an exciting year!

Nancy Thelen

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► **Above:** The American Angus Auxiliary Executive Committee met early Saturday, Nov. 10.

► **Right:** Michelle Rieff passes out copies of the bylaws during the American Angus Auxiliary Annual Meeting Saturday. The proposed changes published in the October 2007 *Angus Journal* were passed. The Executive Committee of the Executive Board will now be made up of the elected officers, regional directors and the immediate past president. Regional directors will be elected at the annual meeting.



► **Above:** Cathy Miller and Jane Ebert set up the Auxiliary Salebarn in the Holiday Room at the Executive West.

► **Right:** Anne Patton Schubert (right) was recognized at the Auxiliary brunch for her 25 years of involvement with the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® Cook-Off. Also pictured are Ardyce O'Neill (left), co-founder of the Cook-Off, and Anne Lampe (center), current co-chairman of the Cook-Off.





► Willing hands make short work of preparations for Sunday's Auxiliary breakfast.



► **Right:** 2008 Miss American Angus Danielle Foster of Niles, Mich., gets fitted for her blazer.



► **Left:** The Michigan Bag Ladies made an appearance during the Auxiliary Brunch Sunday morning.



► Auxiliary past presidents include (seated, from left) Jane Ebert, North Carolina, Ardyce O'Neill, Iowa; Mary McCurry, Kansas; Yvonne Hinman, Montana; (standing, from left) Mary Greiman, Iowa; Nancy Sullivan, Utah; Linda Brost, Kentucky; Shirley Williams, Arkansas; Carol Bloom, Indiana; Sharee Sankey, Kansas; Renee Driscoll, Iowa; Anne Patton Schubert, Kentucky; and Lois Foster, Michigan.



► Five contestants vied for the title of Miss American Angus Saturday and Sunday during the NAILE. They earned the right to compete through the American Angus Auxiliary's girls' scholarship competition earlier this year. The five competed via a written quiz, interview, impromptu questions and by preparing a speech.



► Winners of the American Angus Auxiliary Distinguished Service Award include (seated, from left) Jane Ebert, North Carolina; Anne Patton Schubert, Kentucky; Sandra McCurry, Kansas; (standing, from left) Lois Foster, Michigan; Linda Brost, Kentucky; and Yvonne Hinman, Montana.

