



Angus Stakes

► by *Shauna Rose Hermel*, editor

Snapshots in time

It's amazing how your mind can capture an image of a moment in time. While little else of the event or day may stand out, that memory is etched as deeply and as permanently as the names carved in granite that now welcome guests to the American Angus Association. The moment captured on this month's cover is certain to be one for me and I hope for many others who joined fellow Angus breeders at the front entry of Association headquarters Nov. 3.

Defining moments

I have many similar Angus memories: I can picture Black Majesty rounding the corner post to enter the barn lot as I told Dad she was the heifer I wanted to show that year. She wasn't my first show heifer, but she was the first I selected.

I recall carrying a pan of brownies down the north steps of our house to cattlemen gathered on portable bleachers under the oak tree for an Angus field day.

I can visualize sitting at a table in the Association parking lot for the World Angus Forum, waiting for the speakers to commence, surrounded by so many Angus breeders.

As you ponder what makes these events stand out, it's not the weather or the importance of the event itself; it's how it made you feel at the time.



Inspiration

This organization provides many such moments to its members through its programs, services and events. These moments instill confidence and empower our juniors to take on responsibility and prepare them to take leadership roles in their industry, whether in agriculture or another. It instills a hope in many that even if they take another career path for a while, they might return to production agriculture at some point — even in retirement.

They offer a sense of community, the knowledge that we are part of something larger than our own family ranch. With that understanding comes the awareness that others share the same problems, seek guidance and are willing to work together to find solutions. We are not alone in our

thoughts and concerns. We have contemporaries who are willing to work together to solve problems, explore opportunities and celebrate good times and accomplishments.

The celebrations — whether a World Angus Forum or a *Building an Angus Legacy!* ribbon-cutting ceremony — remind us of those who took risks, who stayed true to a mission and paved the way for us to be where we are today.

Another moment

My barometer for gauging the success of moving the annual meeting away from Louisville, Ky., was whether it would have the same feel — getting together with our Angus family — that Angus events at the North American International Livestock Exposition provided. As we mingled with producers during the open house at Association headquarters and cut the ribbon on the new front entry paved with the names of so many of our Angus families and ranches, I couldn't help but feel this was a moment for all of us, serving as a reminder that our greatest Angus resource is each other.

You'll find some brief highlights of the event in this issue. Watch for more detailed coverage as traditionally presented in the January issue or in the convention newsroom online at www.angusconvention.com.

If you didn't have a chance to come this year, I hope you'll make plans for next year's event Nov. 3-5 in Overland Park, Kan.

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