

# Honoring Our Best

American Angus Association honors those who have set the standard in leadership, longevity, showing performance and contributions to the organization and breed.

by *Carrie Gilliam*

The American Angus Association honored its outstanding Angus leaders Monday, Nov. 14, during its Annual Banquet in Louisville, Ky. Five Angus Heritage Foundation inductees were honored, in addition to the 2011 Barbara Smalstig Outstanding Leadership Award Winner; Roll of Victory (ROV) Show Heifer; ROV Show Bull; ROV Breeder of the Year; and four Century Award herds. The banquet capped off Angus events at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE).

## Five inductees join the Angus Heritage Foundation

When the Angus Heritage Foundation was established in 1983, the Association described the purpose as, "An incalculable debt to the many men and women who, for more than a

century, have worked tirelessly and selflessly to make Angus cattle and the American Angus Association the leaders in the beef cattle world."

The tradition continues as five new members join the ranks this year.

The 2011 inductees include Jerome "Jerry" Helgren, Lake Villa, Ill.; Anne Patton Schubert, Taylorsville, Ky.; Walter "Cecil" and Sandra McCurry, Mount Hope, Kan.; and Gary Dameron, Lexington, Ill. Lucile Rheude Patton, formerly of Earl Park, Ind., was inducted posthumously.

Inductees were recognized during the Association's Annual Awards Banquet Nov. 14 in Louisville, Ky. Each inductee or a family representative received a framed Angus Heritage Foundation certificate, and all names will be permanently engraved on the Heritage Foundation plaque displayed in the

library of the Association headquarters in Saint Joseph, Mo.

Photos and brief biographies will be included in the next edition of the Angus Heritage Foundation booklet listing inductees.

**Lucile Rheude Patton.** Breeding Angus cattle for nearly 70 years was an achievement Lucile Rheude Patton cherished. She began her cattle herd in 1938 while living on an Iroquois County, Ill., farm where she and her sister participated in 4-H. In 1941, Lucile showed the Illinois State Fair grand champion steer. Following the show, the dream of having Angus cattle was enhanced by A.D. Bradshaw, the breeder of her steer, when he gave her a heifer after the show.

Her cattle business expanded when she married John Patton Jr. and moved her

Angus cows to a northwest Indiana farm. From that merger began Patton Farms, which continues today. Many of the original cattle came from the Bradshaw herd in Illinois, and El Jon and Wilton Farms in Iowa.

Lucile served as president of the Indiana Angus Auxiliary and was a charter member of the American Angus Auxiliary. She

received the American Angus Breeders' Futurity Pioneer Breeder Award. The herd has been recognized as a national Historic Angus Herd and as an Indiana Historic Angus Herd.

Lucile has two daughters, Anne and Mary, who continue to share their mother's love of Angus cattle.

**Anne Patton Schubert.** Anne Patton Schubert has been a lifelong supporter of all things Angus. She grew up on an Angus farm in northwest Indiana with her parents, John and Lucile Patton, and sister, Mary Patton. She continues her Angus involvement today with her



► **Anne Patton Schubert**, Taylorsville, Ky., and her mother, the late **Lucile Rheude Patton**, were inducted into the Angus Heritage Foundation. Pictured are (from left) Paige Wallace, 2011 Miss American Angus; Brooke Harward, 2012 Miss American Angus; Mary Patton, accepting on behalf of Lucile; Anne; and Joe Hampton, 2011 American Angus Association president.



► **Jerome "Jerry" Helgren**, Lake Villa, Ill., was inducted into the Angus Heritage Foundation. Pictured are (from left) Harward, Helgren and Hampton.



► **Walter "Cecil" and Sandra McCurry**, Mount Hope, Kan., were inducted into the Angus Heritage Foundation. Pictured are (from left) Wallace, Cecil and Sandra, and Hampton.



► **Gary Dameron**, Lexington, Ill., was inducted into the Angus Heritage Foundation. Pictured are (from left) Wallace, Dameron and Hampton.



► **DAJS Shockwave 612** won Roll of Victory (ROV) Show Bull of the Year after first winning Intermediate Champion Bull of the Year. Katy Satree, Montague, Texas; and Jennifer Ewing and Matthew Ewing, both of Rushville, Ill., own the winning bull. Pictured are (from left) Matthew Ewing; Jennifer Ewing; Wallace; Satree; and Shelia Stannard, American Angus Association director of activities and events.



► **Lazy JB Queen Latifah 925** was recognized as ROV Show Heifer of the Year and Junior Champion Heifer of the Year. Britney Creamer, Montrose, Colo.; and Werner Angus, Cordova, Ill., own the winning heifer. Pictured are (from left) Harward; Britney, Kathy, Jeff and Brandon Creamer; and Stannard.

husband, Gordon, in Taylorsville, Ky. She exhibited her first champion heifer at the Indiana State Fair in 1957. Throughout her youth, Patton Schubert was also involved in the Indiana Junior Angus Association (IJAA).

Today, Patton Schubert is an active member of the American Angus Auxiliary. She has served in several chairperson positions and was president in 1983. During her time of service she helped launch the All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off.

In 1996, she received the American Angus Auxiliary Distinguished Woman Award, and she received the Honorary Angus Foundation Award in 1999. She recently completed two terms as a director of the Kentucky Angus Association and serves as an Auxiliary representative on the Campaign Leadership Cabinet of the Angus Foundation. Schubert also helps raise funds for junior winners at NAILE as a member of the Sale of Champions committee.

She and Gordon were also named Master Breeder of the All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity.

**Jerome "Jerry" Helgren.** Helgren began his lifetime commitment to the Angus breed in 1952, purchasing his first Angus heifer at the Interstate show and sale in Sioux City, Iowa.

Shortly after, he began to work with the Penney and James show herd until 1954 at the International Show in Chicago, Ill. He also managed the Picket Fence Farm, Grayslake, Ill., until 1980. Helgren had a successful career showing the 1973 International reserve grand champion female and owned several top herd bulls.

In addition to his showing honors, Helgren played a significant role in expanding markets for Angus cattle abroad, including Russia, Spain, Japan and Italy.



► **Greg Smith, Elida, N.M.**, won ROV Breeder of the Year. Pictured are (from left) Harward, Wallace, Smith and Stannard.



► **Evergreen Stock Farm, Marshalltown, Iowa**, received the Century Award. Pictured are (from left) Harward; and Walter and Jan Wilkinson, Evergreen Stock Farm.



► **Five Star Land and Livestock, Wilton, Calif.**, received the Century Award. Pictured are (from left) Ryan Nelson, Abbie Nelson, Wallace and Andra Campbell.



► **The Michigan State University Beef Cow-Calf Teaching and Research Center, East Lansing, Mich.**, received the Century Award. Pictured are (from left) Russell Erickson, Ken Geuns, Harward and Dave Hawkins.

In 1977, after judging three major Angus shows in Australia, he realized the potential for the breed in that country. With his wife, they created the Picket Fence Quarantine export station in 1983, and the first shipment of cattle to Australia was in 1984. In the last 26 years, Helgren has exported several thousand head of livestock.

**Walter "Cecil" and Sandra McCurry.** Denoted as Angus cheerleaders, Cecil and Sandra McCurry promote the Angus breed and CAB brand to all who will listen.

Cecil is the youngest of six sons of Walter and Cora McCurry. His Angus roots began in 1928, before his birth, when his parents

purchased their first Angus heifer from pioneer Angus breeder Johnson "J.W." Workham, Cora's brother. With their initial purchase, the McCurry Brothers Angus Ranch formed. His father's advice, "Stay in the middle of the road" when breeding cattle, is still the rule of thumb at McCurry Angus Ranch.

Cecil and his brothers traveled to shows across the country and have exhibited several champion bulls, females and cow-calf pairs at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS).

Cecil has been active in the Kansas Angus Association for many years and was on the

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state board of directors in the 1980s, serving as president in 1988. He also served on the Association Board of Directors from 1995 to 2001.

Sandra, Cecil's wife, is a lifetime member of the American Angus Auxiliary. She has served on several committees and received the Distinguished Woman Award in 2003. She was also selected as an honorary advisor to the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Board of Directors.

Cecil and Sandra have three sons — Brad, Greg and Geoff, 10 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

**Gary Dameron.** In the past four decades, Angus cattle and activities have played a major role for the Dameron family. Gary began to purchase registered Angus females in the mid-1960s to add to his father's commercial herd. Today, the herd consists of 200 registered Angus cows.

The Dameron program has produced three national champion bulls, 16 grand or reserve grand champions at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), more than 28 grand or reserve champions at the Illinois State Fair and numerous other winners across the country.

Members of the Dameron family can be found on all levels of Angus leadership.

Gary's children, Christy, Jay, Jeff and Julie, are all past members of the NJAA and the national junior board. Gary's wife, Sharon, is a past Illinois Angus Auxiliary president, and Gary served two terms on the Association Board of Directors, serving as president in 1989.

## Georgia youth receives Leadership Award

**Katie Gazda**, Athens, Ga., received the 2011 Barbara Smalstig Outstanding Leadership Award, which recognizes an outstanding NJAA member each year based upon leadership exhibited through Angus and various other activities.



► **Katie Gazda**, Athens, Ga., won the Barbara Smalstig Outstanding Leadership Award. Pictured are (from left) Garrett Knebel, National Junior Angus Association leadership director; Fred Smalstig; Gazda; and Wallace.

Gazda has had several active roles at the national and state junior association levels. She also held numerous officer positions in the Georgia Junior Angus Association and was the 2009 junior co-chair for the NJAS in Perry, Ga.

She was awarded an American Angus Auxiliary scholarship in 2008 and was named the 2009 Miss American Angus.

The Fred Smalstig family established the NJAA Outstanding Leadership Award in 1994 in memory of Barbara Smalstig and her support of the NJAA.

Gazda received a cash award and a bronze sculpture in honor of her service to the NJAA. The award is made possible by the Smalstig family and their generous contributions to the Angus Foundation.

## ROV winners honored

Roll of Victory Show Heifer, Show Bull, and Breeder of the Year were also recognized at the Annual Banquet, while division winners were recognized during the show.

The 2010-2011 ROV Show Bull of the Year and Intermediate Champion Bull of the Year honors went to DAJS Shockwave 612, owned by Katy Satee, Montague, Texas; Jennifer Ewing, Rushville, Ill.; and Matthew Ewing, Rushville, Ill. They were awarded engraved bull statues.

The 2010-2011 Show Heifer of the Year and Junior Champion Female of the Year honors were awarded to Lazy JB Queen Latifah 925, owned by Britney Creamer, Montrose, Colo.; and Werner Angus, Cordova, Ill., who were honored with crystal awards.

Greg Smith, Elida, N.M., was named 2010-2011 ROV Breeder of the Year.

The complete list of other ROV award winners for 2010-2011 can be found in the September *Angus Journal*, page 259, or can be found online at [www.angus.org](http://www.angus.org).

## New Century Award Honors Angus Herds

The work of Angus producers is more than a business — it is a way of life. Since 1873, breeders have committed time, money and their lifestyles to the future of Angus cattle. Today's nearly 30,000 Association members have their Angus predecessors to thank for the breed's well-earned reputation of success.

To honor historical herds, the Association has established

the Century Award. The award recognizes herds and their owners and families who have been in continuous production of registered Angus cattle for 100 years or more. Four historical herds were recognized during the banquet.

**Evergreen Stock Farm** in Marshalltown, Iowa, is a fifth-generation farm dating back to 1900. Founding father Richard Wilkinson switched from Shorthorn cattle to the Angus breed to improve beef quality. After the change, Wilkinson began to import Angus cattle from England and Persia.

The first bull used by Wilkinson, Frank F. of Wells 32453, was the sire of the grand champion carload of steers at the first International Livestock Show in Chicago, Ill.

Richard had seven sons, several of whom decided to develop their own herds. However, one son, Walter, assumed his family heritage and began farming in 1906 in Prairie City, Iowa, with 220 purebred cows and bulls from the original herd.

During the Depression, Walter and his son, Robert, moved back to Marshalltown and began producing the famous Evergreen females, branded through their Evergreen Stock Farm.

Walter traveled around the country to major shows and sales while Robert, also known as J.R., managed farm operations. Throughout the years Evergreen Stock Farm also hosted production sales on the farm, consigned bulls to Valentine, Neb., and sold bulls to producers across the United States.

The third-generation owner, Robert, and his son, Walter, continue to produce cattle and look to the future with fifth-generation owner, Caleb Wilkinson.

As of 2010, Evergreen Stock Farm is home to 175 brood cows and one sire.

Because of the success they have found in Angus, the Wilkinson family believes the Association and cattlemen are the heart, soul and backbone of the country.

**Five Star Land and Livestock** of Wilton, Calif., is owned and operated by Mark and Abbie Nelson. Abbie is the fourth generation to manage the farm, which was established before 1911 by Thomas Ryan and his son, Earl Ryan.

While the herd has been around for more than 100 years, its journey has been one of many turns. The original name and location was Pleasant View Farm in Shelby County, Iowa. In 1913, the farm, and the Earl Ryan and Charles Escher partnership, purchased the W.A. McHenry herd of Denison, Iowa, which included the young bull, Earl Marshall.

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During the Depression, the herd was dispersed and cattle were shipped around the country. Unfortunately, the cattle market was less than expected, and the cattle were sent back to Iowa.

However, third-generation rancher Charles Ryan crossed the country with the cattle in 1930 and established Rancheria Angus in California. Years passed, and until 1992, the herd was managed by Charles' daughter, Elizabeth.

In the meantime, Charles' daughter, Abbie, established Five Star Land and Livestock, with several foundation females that are close descendants of Earl Marshall.

Five Star Land and Livestock currently hosts bull sales in the West and experiences

showring success throughout the country. Abbie also served on the Association Board of Directors.

The Nelson family continues to uphold the Angus legacy through their children. Mark and Abbie's daughter, Andra, was the champion showman at the 1990 NJAS. Their son, Ryan, also exhibited the 2000 NJAS bred-and-owned grand champion female.

**Michigan State University (MSU) Beef Cow-Calf Teaching and Research Center**, East Lansing, Mich., has had consistent leadership toward the goal to breed outstanding cattle for classroom instruction for more than 100 years.

Cattle have been part of the classroom

since the university was founded in 1855 as the Michigan Agricultural College (MAC), the first land-grant university in the country. The name changed to Michigan State University in 1955.

The first Angus heifers, purchased by Professor George Brown, originated from Elm Park in Guelph, Ont., Canada, and were the foundation females for the Angus herd still active across the country today.

In the early 1900s, MAC exhibited livestock to showcase the college's nutrition and management programs. The cattle were quite successful, winning grand champion carcass at the International Livestock Show in 1901 and 1921.

Early Angus sires used at MAC include:

Plumb Square and Level, Ohio State grand champion; Revolution of Wheatland, 1923 International grand champion; and Revalloch of Sunbeam, a second-prize winner at the 1938 International.

The legacy of success continues as breeders donate semen, cattle and/or embryos to the MSU Angus herd. As a result of these donations, the teaching center raises and exhibits several champions. The most recent is MSU Lucy 830, which is the 2009 Arizona National supreme champion and the 2009 reserve grand champion at the North American International Junior Angus Show.

The MSU purebred beef cattle program continues to lease bulls to most of the major

artificial insemination (AI) organizations in North America and to export semen, embryos and/or live cattle to breeders on every continent except Antarctica.

Alfred Llewellyn French began his Angus herd on **Sunny Home Farm**, now in Eden, N.C., in Ohio in 1898 and was active with the development until his death on March 13, 1921. Since then — 111 years after its foundation — the herd has been passed to each generation, including Gaylord H. French and Gaylord H. French Jr.

The registered herd, now in Eden, N.C., began with a bred-and-owned calf, Chapelle Lady 34672, born April 1, 1899, and sired by Baron Ida.

Besides managing the cattle and

operations, Gaylord H. French was active in the North Carolina Angus Association and served on the board of directors. He also consigned several cattle to Association-sponsored sales.

The current owner, Gaylord H. French Jr., practices veterinary medicine while overseeing the present-day herd. Today, the farm consists of 38 brood cows and is co-managed by Thomas Collins.

Visit [www.angus.org](http://www.angus.org) for complete coverage of Angus events in conjunction with the 2011 NAILE, including board elections and show results.

