

Banquet Honors Leaders

Angus breeders recognized at Annual Awards Banquet.

The American Angus Association honored outstanding Angus leaders Monday, Nov. 12, during its Annual Awards Banquet in conjunction with Angus events at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Ky.

Five Angus Heritage Foundation inductees and two Century Award recipients were honored, in addition to the 2012 Barbara Smalstig Outstanding Leadership Award Winner; Roll of Victory (ROV) Show Heifer of the Year; ROV Show Bull of the Year; and ROV Breeder of the Year.

Five inducted into Heritage Foundation

The American Angus Association is built on generations of farm and ranch families devoted to raising Angus cattle and positioning the Association as a leader in the beef business. It is due to their unrivaled passion and perseverance that the breed is successful in today's marketplace.

To honor leaders involved in shaping the Angus legacy, each year the Association inducts members into the Angus Heritage Foundation. Five additions were recognized this year: Howard Hillman, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Joe Bill Meng, Bowling Green, Ky.; Stan Prox, Macomb, Ill.; Marvin Walter, formerly of Ames, Iowa, recognized posthumously; and Marvin and Katheryn Robertson, formerly of Aldie, Va., recognized posthumously.

Each inductee or a family representative received a framed Angus Heritage Foundation certificate. The names of the inductees will be engraved on the Heritage Foundation plaque displayed in the library of the Association headquarters in Saint Joseph, Mo.

Photos and biographies will be included in the next edition of the *Angus Heritage Foundation* booklet. Read more about the 2012 inductees in the paragraphs that follow.

Howard Hillman. The Angus breed has supported the Hillman family for generations, starting with the first bull purchase in 1908. Today, Howard Hillman is dedicated to giving back to the breed that has given him so much.

Howard graduated from South Dakota State University with a degree in animal science and partnered with his father, Clarence, to continue the family-owned Bon-View Farms of Canova, S.D.

The Angus seedstock operation raised elite cattle, recognized by many throughout the industry. Bon-View Farms bred many Angus cattle that continue to be a part of Angus pedigrees today.

Although Bon-View Farms dispersed in 1999, Howard remains part of the Angus community in a number of leadership roles, including the 2001 president of the American Angus Association Board of Directors. Howard was also co-chair for the Angus Foundation's *Vision of Value: Campaign for*

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►Howard Hillman, Canova, S.D., was inducted into the Angus Heritage Foundation. Pictured are (from left) Brooke Harward, 2012 Miss American Angus; Howard Hillman, recipient; and Jarold Callahan, 2012 president and chairman, American Angus Association Board.



►Joe Bill Meng, Bowling Green, Ky., was inducted into the Angus Heritage Foundation. Pictured are (from left) Harward; Philip Trowbridge, 2013 president and chairman, American Angus Association Board; Debbie and Joe Bill Meng, recipients; and Callahan.



►Stan Prox, Macomb, Ill., was inducted into the Angus Heritage Foundation. Pictured are (from left) Harward; Linda and Stan Prox, recipients; and Callahan.



►Marvin and Katheryn Robertson, formerly of Aldie, Va., were posthumously inducted into the Angus Heritage Foundation. Pictured are (from left) Trowbridge; Harward; and Mark Duffell, Tom and Nancy Andracsek, and George Lemm, all of Whitestone Farm, Aldie, accepting the award.



► Miller's Viewlawn, Mabel, Minn., received the Century Award. Pictured are (from left) Harward; Larry and Margaret Miller, recipients; and Callahan.



► Sunnyslope Angus LLC, Lanesboro, Minn., received the Century Award. Pictured are (from left) Harward; Julie, Daniel and Isabelle Ekstrom; Ruth and Philip Abrahamson; and Callahan.

Angus, and he and his wife, JoAnne, were inducted by the National Junior Angus Association into the Honorary Angus Foundation in 2012.

Howard and JoAnne, married nearly 50 years, attribute all honors to the hard work of their family — daughter Rhonda and her husband, Rob; son Brad and his wife, Carmen; and nine grandchildren.

Joe Bill Meng. Joe Bill Meng's Angus roots go back to the year he was born, 1947. That same year his father and grandfather purchased 20 Angus heifers and established Meng Farms Inc. in Bowling Green, Ky.

His involvement started by showing cattle in both 4-H and FFA, and he represented Kentucky in the first National Junior Angus Showmanship Competition. Joe Bill was also the first president of the Kentucky Junior Angus Association.

A graduate of Western Kentucky University, Joe Bill holds an animal science degree and was a member of the livestock judging team. He returned to the family farm after college and continued his judging career to more than 250 livestock shows across the United States and Canada, including the National Angus Show and the National Junior Angus Show.

Throughout his career, Joe Bill has

continued to be involved with the Angus breed as manager of The All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity, associate at the American Angus Hall of Fame, and vice president of Creekstone Farms Premium Beef LLC. He served the American Angus Association for two terms on its Board of Directors. In addition, Joe Bill is a charter member of the National Cattlemen's Association and the Kentucky Beef Cattle Association.

He and his wife, Debbie, have four children — Alissa, Will, Ann and Lucy — and five grandchildren.

Stan Prox. Known as Mr. Illinois Angus, Stan Prox has been involved in the beef business for more than 60 years. It all started when he showed his first calf when he was 10 years old. Stan's family had an Angus operation near Carthage, Ill., where he was active in 4-H and FFA.

Leaving the farm after high school, Stan attended Western Kentucky University and worked on an Angus ranch for five years. He returned to Illinois in 1963 and became manager and co-owner of Vega Farms. In 1966 he, his father-in-law Wayne Sperry and brother-in-law George Sperry formed the partnership for Shilo Farms.

Stan served as president of the Illinois Angus Association and has been business manager for 16 years. He's been chairman of the Illinois delegation to the American Angus Association's Annual Meeting for 20 years, served on the selection committee for the Angus Heritage Foundation, and was the first recipient of the Illinois Angus Association President's Award for his commitment and dedication to Illinois Angus cattle, youth and activities. In 2011, Stan was



► Paige Wallace (center), Stotts City, Mo., receives the Barbara Smalstig Outstanding Leadership Award from Harward (left) and Kelli Retallick, National Junior Angus Association leadership director.

honored as the Land of Lincoln Purebred Breeders' Association Man of the Year.

The Prox family is active in promoting beef products, as well. For 25 years, Stan has sold ribeye sandwiches from his Chuckwagon Food Stand at local and state fairs and festivals.

Stan still maintains a small herd at Shilo Farms, and he and his wife, Linda, have two married daughters — Carrie and Jeff Keeney, and Colette and Matt Culbertson — and three granddaughters, Kayla Wideman and Emma and Anna Culbertson.

Marvin and Katheryn Robertson.

Marvin and Katheryn Robertson, Aldie, Va., were passionate about the land and the farming way of life. Through more than 30 years as co-founders of Whitestone Farm, they were avid supporters of programs involving education, youth and research for the advancement of the Angus breed.

Affectionately known as Kitty and Robby, the couple married in 1945 and spent the next 65 years together. Katheryn was a city girl, but grew to love the peace and tranquility of rural America. Agriculture was in Robby's blood. Born on his family's farm in the small town of Elkhart, Iowa, March 29,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 84



► Marvin Walter, formerly of Ames, Iowa, was posthumously inducted into the Angus Heritage Foundation. Pictured are (from left) Harward; Allyson Walter and Janice Walter, Marvin's daughter and wife, accepting the award; and Callahan.

Banquet Honors Leaders CONTINUED FROM PAGE 83

1923, Robby loved to work the land.

The Robertsons purchased land that would become Whitestone Farm in 1981 with George Lemm, making Marvin's dream of returning to his farming roots a reality.

Together, they grew a 122-acre farm with 49 head of commercial cattle into a progressive, nationally known Angus seedstock operation. Today, Whitestone Farm consists of 2,200 acres of leased and owned land, and 1,200 head of cattle.

The couple hosted numerous national and local tours and events at Whitestone Farm, including the Young Cattleman's Conference sponsored by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. The Robertson family and Whitestone Farm have been recognized with several awards, including the 1998 All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity Master Breeder of the Year and the 1996 *Angus Journal* Land Stewardship Award.

Since the early to mid-1990s, Whitestone Farm has produced and exhibited many state and national champions from coast to coast. In the spirit of Kitty and Robby's memory, Whitestone Farm aspires to continue producing the finest Angus cattle possible.

Marvin Walter. A legend in the meat business, Marvin Walter's story begins in Watkins, Iowa, where he grew up on a 200-acre livestock farm. After graduating from Iowa State University with bachelor's and master's degrees in animal science, Walter joined the American Meat Institute (AMI) staff for two years, and then continued as a commodity broker on the floor of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

In 1968, Walter took a chance and moved his family back to their Iowa roots. From the ground up, Walter and his business partner established the Carriage House Meat and Provision Co. His dedicated efforts ultimately

paid off, and that company was just one of 18, mostly agriculture-related, that Walter had a hand in starting. He was also part owner of the company that operates the National Centralized Ultrasound Processing Laboratory & Technology Center (the CUP lab), which handles data for 26 breed associations.

Walter's successful career came from his endless energy and his meaty mantra: No matter the business venture, quality is the bottom line.

That core belief allowed for W&G Marketing, a custom meats company, to come to life in 1979. The company now produces *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) brand precooked smoked beef brisket, barbecued beef and short ribs.

Following an eight-year struggle with multiple myeloma, a bone cancer, Walter passed away in 2011. Walter and Janice have two daughters, Allyson Walter of Jewell, Iowa, and Stacy Woodward of Ames, and five grandchildren.

Century Farm Awards

Longevity is significant in a cow herd, in more ways than one. Just like productive females, a long-standing cattle operation impacts generations. Thanks to the predecessors who dedicated time and money into developing Angus genetics, the breed is able to have the success it now enjoys. The American Angus Association recognizes historical herds by presenting Century Awards each year at its annual awards banquet.

Involved in continuous, registered Angus cattle production for 100 years or more, the 2012 Century Award recipients are Miller's Viewlawn Angus, Mabel, Minn.; and Sunnyslope Angus LLC, Lanesboro, Minn.

"We are grateful for the commitment

Miller's Viewlawn Angus and Sunnyslope Angus have shown to the business breed," says Bryce Schumann, Association CEO. "Without their support, and the support of hundreds like them, Angus genetics would not be where they are today."

Miller's Viewlawn. Roy Miller established the Viewlawn Angus herd in 1892 with the purchase of his first purebred bull. He persuaded his father to bring home an Angus to their farm in northern Iowa, Winneshiek County. Almost 10 years later, he added eight registered Angus females to the operation and registered the herd in 1903 with the American Angus Association.

The Miller family's reputation for quality cattle grew as their farm expanded in Iowa and southern Minnesota. The first sale Miller consigned was also the first Angus sale hosted in Minnesota. On Nov. 9, 1916, the sale consisted of one bull and four cows, and the female sale averaged \$180.

For the first 35 years of the operation, Miller managed the Viewlawn herd exclusively. Now, several generations of the Miller family have continued to be involved in the herd, including Miller's two sons, Frank and Charles. In 1945, Charles' son, Robert, joined the operation and continued to expand the herd involvement with his son, Larry.

Since that time, much has changed in the cattle business, and Viewlawn Angus continued to adapt to market demands. In 1965, the farm became an international source for breeding stock, selling 36 head of cattle to Ryuka Islands in Okinawa, Japan.

What has kept Miller's Viewlawn in the Angus business for more than 100 years are private-treaty sales to local cattlemen. Many of their customers are fifth- and sixth-generation buyers.



►EXAR Wanted 9732B was named the 2012 ROV Show Bull of the Year. Express Angus Ranches, Yukon, Okla.; Ward Ranch, McAlester, Okla.; and Willow Springs Ranch, Prairie Grove, Ark., own the winning bull. Pictured are (from left) Harward; Randy Ward; Bob Funk; Jarold Callahan; and Shelia Stannard, director of activities and events, American Angus Association.



►Express Angus Ranches, Yukon, Okla., was named the 2012 ROV Breeder of the Year. Pictured are (from left) Harward; Bob Funk; Callahan; and Stannard.

Today the herd is in its fourth, fifth and sixth generation of ownership; Larry and his sons, Mat, Chris and Andy and Mat's son, Carter. The day-to-day operation of 240 cows is managed by Larry, Margaret and Chris.

The Miller family has served several roles in the Angus industry, including Robert's current role as the North East Iowa Angus Association president and Chris serving as the Iowa Angus Association vice president. Miller family members are also members of the Minnesota and Iowa Angus associations.

Robert has held leadership roles in the Minnesota Angus Association as president and as a member of the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

Sunnyslope Angus. Philip and Ruth Abrahamson, Sunnyslope Angus Farm, Lanesboro, Minn., know the importance of looking to the past in order to have a successful future. Sunnyslope has been stewarded by the Abrahamson family for nearly 150 years. Buildings that date back to the early 1900s still stand strong — telltale signs of the farm's historic legacy.

Philip's grandfather, Peter Abrahamson, established Sunnyslope's herd in 1898 after purchasing an Angus bull, Duke of Lanesboro, and an Angus heifer, Ivy of Canton 2d. The first group of Sunnyslope cattle was sold in 1900, and the Abrahamson family has been in the Angus business ever since. Philip's grandfather was also instrumental in launching the Minnesota Angus Association in 1915, serving as its first secretary.

Philip is the fourth generation caretaker of Sunnyslope. In 1960, he studied under J.C. Meiske of the University of Minnesota to develop a method, modeled closely after the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®) program, for creating genetic advancement of his Angus cattle through scientific measurement along with visual perspective. That fall the first weaned calves were weighed and graded through AHIR.

As a result of 52 years of performance testing, the quality of Sunnyslope Angus cattle is recognized across the United States. In recent years, bulls from this herd have included SS Rito 8221 X01, commonly known as Super X; SS Rito 0715 0H3, referred to as The Mathematician; SS Traveler 6T6; SS Traveler 6807 T510; SS Objective T510 0T26, referred to as Objective; SS Traveler T510 2T22; SS Incentive 9J17, known as Incentive; SS Fast Track M719, also known as Fast Track; SS Surge 0T26 8J20, commonly known as Surge.



► Silveira's Elba 0521 was named ROV Show Heifer of the Year. Pictured are (from left) Rick and Allison Blanchard, Firebaugh, Calif.; owner Clayton Stevenson, Brenham, Texas; Darrell Silveira and Carol Silveira, both of Firebaugh; and Gary Stevenson, Brenham.

Sunnyslope's SS Traveler 6T6 sold to Philip's neighbor and friend, Bob Miller of Miller's Viewlawn Angus, Mabel, Minn. 6T6 became an ABS sire and sired OSU 6T6 Ultra, the 1995 National Western Grand Champion Bull, for Oklahoma State University.

Sunnyslope's SS Objective T510 0T26 sold to ABS and Quaker Hill Farm of Louisa, Va. He has 173 sons listed in the 2012 American Angus Association *Sire Evaluation Report*, 31,362 registered progeny and ranks eighth on the all-time list for registered progeny.

In 1998, the Abrahamsons celebrated a century in the Angus business, and production at Sunnyslope continues in full force today with their 36th production sale next summer.

Philip and Ruth's daughter, Julie, and her husband, Keith Ekstrom, joined the operation in 2010. Their other daughter, Jess, married to Jason Rebhahn, works as a news anchor at KTTC in Rochester, Minn.

Missouri youth receives leadership award

An active member of the Angus community, Paige Wallace, Stotts City, Mo., received the 2012 Barbara Smalstig Outstanding Leadership Award, which recognizes an outstanding National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) member each year based upon leadership exhibited through Angus and various other activities.

Wallace is a deserving award recipient with leadership roles that include officer positions within the Missouri Junior Angus Association and serving as the 2011 Miss American Angus. She is currently serving as the junior co-chair of the 2013 NJAS committee, and has shown dedication and creativity in that role. Cattlemen and women also watch Wallace on *The Angus Report* each week on RFD-TV. She helps deliver top cattle industry news to households nationwide.

Outside of the Angus world, Wallace is active at school and in her hometown. She

recently completed her associate's degree at Butler Community College, and while there was a member of the livestock judging team, and the Butler Ag Ambassadors Association. Wallace has also coordinated community blood drives and is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Wallace currently attends Oklahoma State University and is pursuing a degree in agricultural communications.

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

Wallace 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

ROV Heifer, Show Bull, and Breeder of the Year were also recognized during the Annual Awards Banquet.

The 2011-2012 ROV Show Bull of the Year and Senior Champion Bull of the Year went to EXAR Wanted 9732B, owned by Express Angus Ranches, Yukon, Okla.; Ward Ranch, McAlester, Okla.; and Willow Springs Ranch, Prairie Grove, Ark. They were awarded an engraved bull statue.

The 2011-2012 Show Heifer of the Year and Reserve Senior Heifer Calf of the Year were awarded to Silveira's Elba 0521, owned by Clayton Stevenson, Brenham, Texas, who was honored with a crystal trophy.

Express Ranches, Yukon, Okla., was named 2011-2012 ROV Breeder of the Year.

The complete list of other ROV award winners for 2011-2012 can be found in the September *Angus Journal*, page 336, or can be found online at www.angus.org.



Editor's Note: This article is compiled from news releases distributed by the American Angus Association and available in the newsroom at www.angus.org.