

Newsmakers

► Items of interest **about** and **for** members of our Angus family. *Compiled by Linda Evans*

IN THE NEWS

James Rentz of Creek Side Farm in Coldwater, Ohio, has been recognized by the American Angus Association as a recipient of the Historic Angus Herd award. He is well-



James Rentz

known in the industry for his 65 years of dedication to raising high-quality Angus cattle and making monumental impacts within the breed and its Association.

This award is presented to active Angus breeders and

immediate family members who have been in continuous production of registered Angus cattle for 50 or more years.

Since joining the American Angus Association in 1953, Creek Side Farm has participated in shows and sales at the local, state and national level. Rentz and his wife, Judy, have three children who were active in the Ohio Junior Angus Association and successfully exhibited cattle at several National Junior Angus Shows (NJAS). He and his family have bred and exhibited multiple winners and sale toppers throughout the years. They were the first family to be named All-American Futurity Champion Udder Cow in 1984. Rentz also has the only Angus herd to breed and exhibit

back-to-back champion carcass steers at the NJAS in 1985 and 1986.

In addition to their involvement in the Angus show circuit, Rentz has served in several leadership positions at the state and national level within the Association. He served as the publicity chairman and announcer during the 1984 NJAS. He was the 2001-2002 president of the Ohio Angus Association and a board member for more than 25 years.

For nine years Rentz served on the Ohio Beef Council and is a former treasurer of the Ohio Cattlemen's Association. For five years he served as the president of the Mercer County Cattlemen's Association. Rentz was also a director of the American Angus Association for two terms and served on the board for six years.

The Rentz family was the recipient of the 1994 Ohio Angus Family of the Year. The Mercer County Cattlemen's Association named him the 1999 Mercer County Cattleman of the Year. In 2013, he was inducted into the Angus Heritage Foundation. For 14 years he served as a fieldman throughout the Midwest for the *Angus Journal*.

Through the years he has had a hand in establishing a number of successful businesses and events. He founded the Rentz Auction Co. in 1973, which specializes in Angus sales management and auctioneering

throughout the United States and Canada; the well-established Showcase Sale; and was a co-founder of the Ohio Beef Expo and served as chairman and manager for its first five years.

A few years ago Rentz wrote the book titled, *50+ Years of Angus Trails and Tales*, which highlights the dynamics of the Angus industry and how it was shaped into what it is today. The book was introduced in Louisville in 2006 and has been sold in more than 40 states and in Canada.

Douglas Preuss, Monogram Farms, Terry, Miss., has been recognized as a recipient of the Historic Angus Herd Award by the American Angus Association.

Preuss is known throughout Mississippi for his commitment to raising high-quality Angus cattle. In 1963, Preuss showed his first Angus steer (named Napoleon) and started his own legacy within the Angus breed. He bought his first steer from Dave Pingrey, who was among the state's most prominent Angus breeders and a member of the American Angus Association. His steer was named champion at the Hinds County Show, Southwest District Show and reserve champion at the State Round-Up. When Preuss sold Napoleon, the steer weighed 865 pounds (lb.) and brought \$1 per pound.

"I liked black cattle just like some people like Ford over Chevy," Preuss said. "As a teenager, I wasn't aware of the bred-in attributes of Angus. The Angus breed has been good to me. It gets into your blood and becomes a part of who you are."

Using the money he made from selling Napoleon, Preuss bought three Angus heifers for \$150 per head and started his Angus herd. One of the heifers was named reserve grand champion at the Southwest District show in 1964. Today, Preuss's herd has one descendant from his initial three females.

Continuing to build a quality herd of Angus cows, in 1974 Preuss was able to purchase 11 Angus heifers from Spears Angus in Oklahoma for \$400 per female. More than 40% of Preuss's current herd can be traced back to the heifers purchased from Spears.

Preuss started out involved in 4-H through his cattle projects, but quickly

► Northeast Arkansas Angus Ass'n Sale, March 17, Charlotte



► **Snider and Lewis Angus Farm**, Carlisle, Ark., received the Historic Angus Herd Award from the American Angus Ass'n. Pictured are (from left) Richard Dyar, American Angus Ass'n director; Dixie Lewis; Charlene Lewis; Harold Lewis; and Tommy Hill, president of the Northeast Arkansas Angus Ass'n.

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became immersed in different roles throughout the industry. He served as the Mississippi Junior Angus Association's first secretary in 1964, and has since been actively involved in the state's beef cattle Extension and Mississippi Angus Association.

He has been an instrumental supporter of the Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association (BCIA) program, where Monogram Farms has topped performance bull sales. For years he served on the BCIA board of directors and was president at one time. In 2011, he was nominated for the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Outstanding Seedstock Producer Award, which he said he values more than winning any show.

Preuss and his brother both manage their cattle under the Monogram Farms name, but each has his own member code with the Association. Today, their herd consists of about 180 head of cows.

Visit www.angus.org for more information on the Historic Angus Herd Award and to view a list of awarded members since the program began in 1988.

Julie Conover of Cameron, Mo., has been announced as the Missouri Angus Association general manager. Conover began her role July 1 and will represent the state's many dedicated Angus breeders.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to combine my passion for the cattle industry with the unique skill set I've developed over the past seven years in education," Conover said. "I look forward to this new chapter in my life working to fulfill the needs of the Missouri membership."

Conover is a third-generation Angus

breeder who was active in 4-H, FFA and the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA).



Julie Conover

Always having a passion for agriculture, she stayed true to her roots while raising and showing Angus cattle. In her junior career, Conover participated in each of the contests available at the NJAS and served as a leader in the

Michigan Angus Association. She has continued to stay involved with the Angus breed and currently serves on two American Angus Auxiliary committees.

Conover earned two bachelor's degrees from Michigan State University and began her career in Indiana as an agricultural education instructor and FFA advisor. While teaching, she earned a master's degree in agricultural and extension education from Iowa State University.

In 2013 she joined Michigan State University Extension as the statewide 4-H livestock and veterinary science educator. She worked with faculty and extension staff, 4-H volunteers and stakeholders to evaluate and implement statewide programs that provided opportunities for youth to develop content knowledge and life skills.

In the past four years, she has expanded the livestock and veterinary science programs by introducing the 4-H Animal and Veterinary Science Camp and revamping the livestock judging program. She has focused on curriculum development by creating 4-H Animal Science Anywhere lessons and

bringing zoonotic disease education to the forefront of animal science.

Missouri Angus Association members are encouraged to give Conover a warm welcome as she begins her role this summer.

For more information contact Julie Conover at 734-260-8635 or Julie@missouriangus.org.

Lyall Edgerton of Botany Angus in Souris, Man., Canada, and **Kuno Freitag** of Town n Country Angus, Alameda, Sask., Canada, were honored by the Canadian Angus Association (CAA) for 50 years of consecutive membership in the Association.

Edgerton began his Angus herd, which would later be known as Botany Angus, in the fall of 1967. At the age of 21, he started the Botany herd by purchasing four females from the Manitoba Angus Association Sale from three consignors. These three breeders were Angus Valley Farm, Elmdale Farms, and Prairielane Farms.

Edgerton was also very involved with both 4-H and the Manitoba Angus Association. Edgerton acted as the leader of the local 4-H Club for 13 years. Additionally, he was also an active member and a director for the Manitoba Angus Association for six years, with his time as a director being dedicated to sitting as chairman of the advertising and promotions committee, and two years spent as president. In addition, Edgerton took a keen interest in the Angus Association and the relationship with the Douglas Bull Test Station Association. Acting on this interest, Edgerton served nine years as a director at the Douglas Test Station, and served as president for another two.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION



► **The Langley family**, Camp Hill, was recognized as Family of the Year. Pictured are (from left) Jennifer Lee, Alabama Angus Ass'n president, presenting to Elizabeth, Chris, Chandler and Chelsea Langley.



► **Jack Tate** (right), Windy Hill Farm, Boaz, receives the Breeder of the Year award from Jennifer Lee.

Kuno Freitag's roots in the Angus breed stem from his involvement with the Alameda 4-H Beef Club, beginning at a young age in the late 1940s. His first 4-H project was an Angus calf that had been selected from a neighbor who owned a herd of commercial cattle. In the 1950s, he began working for that same neighbor who had sold him his 4-H project years earlier. With a love for those Angus cows, Freitag accepted a pick of his neighbor's heifer calves as part of his work wages. As a result, when he got married to his wife, Dolly, in 1957, he already had a small commercial Angus herd.

Through decades of selective purchases and breeding, Freitag's herd developed a strong base of females. Those females became the foundation of the herd that his daughter Anna-Marie and her husband Greg now operate under the name of Perrot Cattle Co.

The CAA instituted a long-term

recognition award program in 1998 to honor individuals and families that have demonstrated a long-term commitment to the Angus breed in Canada by maintaining a continuous membership in the Association for at least 50 years. In 2011, the award program expanded to recognize families with 75 and 100 continuous years of membership.

Meghan McGillivray of Kamloops, B.C., received the Dick Turner Memorial Award, and **Austen Anderson** of Swan River, Man., was selected as the Outstanding Young Angus Breeder. The Canadian Angus Foundation (CAF) announced these awards at the CAA Annual Meeting.

The Outstanding Young Angus Breeder Award recognizes an Angus breeder between the ages of 22 and 30 who has demonstrated a desire to stay involved in the Angus business for years to come based on their involvement within the breed up to this point

in his or her career. The award comes with a \$3,500 cash prize.

CAA CEO **Rob Smith** unveiled his leadership team at the CAA Convention. Member Value Team Leader and new CAA staff member **Carmen Koning** joins existing staff **Kajal Devani**, member service team leader, and **Tina Zakowsky**, administration team leader, to form the new leadership team.

In conjunction with the leadership team announcement, Koning launched the CAA's 2017-2018 strategic planning process and mentorship program. CAA will spend the next year consulting with members and industry partners to develop the next iteration of its strategic plan. This plan will be unveiled at Convention 2018.

The new CAA mentorship program is for new breeder development and support. Through this program, the CAA aims to develop a database of expertise to fill

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commonly identified gaps of knowledge in the industry.

Generous donors raised nearly \$184,600 during the sixth annual **CAF Building the Legacy** fundraiser auction during the CAA National Convention. The fundraiser was initiated in 2012 to support the CAF in preserving and expanding the Angus breed for future generations through education, youth development, scientific and market research and historical restoration.

The high-selling lot with a winning bid of \$15,000 from **Tanya Belsham** of Poplar Meadows Angus in Houston, B.C., was for the pick of the 2017-born heifer calves donated by the **Liebreich family** of Merit Cattle Co. of Radville, Sask.

The high-selling embryo lot was donated by **Blairswest Land and Cattle** of Drake, Sask., for \$6,100 to **Roger Reynolds** of CSI Angus of Emerald Park, Sask. The high-selling semen donation was made by **Bar-E-L Angus**, the Longshore family of Stettler, Alta., selling to **TSN Livestock**, Canadian Angus Association Director **Shawn Birmingham and family** of Brandon, Man., for \$4,000.

The rights to the CAA's 2 millionth registration sold for \$8,000 to **James Arnott** of Coul Angus in Kirriemuir, Scotland, and **Y Coulee Cattle Co.** of Frenchman Butte, Sask., paid \$4,000 to add their logo to a patio pillar at the CAA national headquarters, Angus Central.

The 2017 sale featured buyers from across Canada and online through DLMS.

The CAF extends sincere gratitude to all the sale officials and staff who donated their time and expertise, as well as to the donors and buyers who participated in its largest fundraiser to date.

IN PASSING

Edward "Ed" Tuckwiller, 65, Lewisburg, W.Va., died May 28 at Greenbrier Valley Medical Center following a sudden illness.

Ed was born Oct. 1, 1951, in Ronceverte, W.Va., the son of the late David and Grace (Keyser) Tuckwiller.

Ed's life revolved around family, friends and the farm. He was a lifetime member of Calvary United Methodist Church and had been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1977. He was a graduate of the West Virginia University animal science program, and worked all his life in the agriculture industry, most recently working at Boone Tractor and with the family farm, Lone Oak LLC. He was on the board for the Greenbrier County Youth Camp, was a State Fair of West Virginia Member, supporter of

the 4-H and FFA programs, and was a coach for youth athletics for many years. He was also a lifetime Mountaineer fan.

Surviving Ed are his wife, Sandra; sons David and Edward II; daughter Kelly; sisters Alice, Ellen and Meg; brother Robert; and grandchildren Edward, Maria and Kacey.

Elizabeth "Betty" Johnson, age 90, of Summitville, Ohio, died May 30 at her home.

Betty was born Jan. 2, 1927, in Minerva, Ohio, daughter of the late Edgar and Valores (Lotz) Johnston.

Betty was a 1945 graduate of Minerva High School and a graduate of the Pittsburgh Art Institute. She was a longtime member of the Bethesda Presbyterian Church.



Betty Johnson

She was an accomplished professional master photographer and award-winning portrait painter. She opened and ran her

own business in Canton, Ohio. She did not know that women were not supposed to run independent businesses; she did.

One day a man came to her shop for a passport photo so he could travel to Europe. After he sat for the photo she asked, "When would you like to pick this up?"

"I will wait," was the reply from Fred Johnson. They were married Sept. 25, 1960, and went to Europe together.

For 57 years, until his death on Sept. 6, 2007, Betty and Fred were inseparable. Together they traveled the world, built farms and ranches, raised a family of four children and then grandchildren. They would water ski in the summer and snow ski in the winter. They loved to dance. They hosted cattle sales where Betty would display her artistic ability with flowers and decorations to create events that were the talk of the cattle industry. Her flower gardens were awe-inspiring.

With Fred she toured Europe, South America, Russia, China, Australia and New Zealand, always with her camera. When Fred was knocking down the Berlin Wall, she took the pictures. They drove their motor home more than a million miles across the United States and Canada. She photographed it all.

However, having seen the world, she loved her home and family the most.

Survivors include sons Fred "Sam" and Jeff; daughters Vicky and Cindy; stepdaughters Patti and Penny; sister Vivian; six grandchildren; and eight stepgrandchildren.

William "Bill" Clark, 96, Crockett, Texas, died at his home June 19.

Bill was born June 12, 1921, in Golden, Okla., to Mary and Marvin Clark. He graduated from Levelland High School and enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force (USAAF) in 1943. Bill served his country as a B17 Pilot in the European Theater during WWII, receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross.

He married Ruby Gay April 2, 1944, and was discharged from the USAAF just prior to moving to Houston. Bill opened Clark Motors in Houston in 1945 and began the operation of Clark Angus Ranch in Huntsville in 1952, later moving it to Crockett, where he was actively involved in the operation of Clark Angus Ranch until his death.

He was active in Heights Little League; a member of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo; served as president of both the Texas and American Angus Associations; and was inducted into the Angus Heritage Foundation in 1996.

He had been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1953. Bill was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Crockett.

Bill is survived by his wife, Shirley; the mother of his children, Ruby; daughter Christine; sons Eddie, Douglas and Matthew; six grandchildren; five stepdaughters; and numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Nan Gardiner, 83, Ashland, Kan., died June 22 at the Ashland Health Care Long Term Health Care Unit in Ashland.

Mary Nan Arnold was born in the bedroom of her parent's home on their small cattle and wheat farm near Rozel, in Pawnee County, Kan., Feb. 8, 1934, to Charles and Mary Arnold. Her earliest memories were taking care of chickens — from gathering eggs to "harvesting" the chickens for family meals. She decided early in life that she preferred cooking the chickens to harvesting them.

She remembered helping on the farm and often cooking for all of her hungry family to refuel everyone for the tasks at hand. This actually became a lifelong labor of love for Nan. She cooked hundreds, if not thousands, of meals for hungry family members, visitors, hired men and custom wheat cutters (who usually showed up for supper around 11:45 p.m.)

When it was time to go to grade school in 1939, she and her older brother Edward rode their ponies 4 miles to school, and then back home after school, carrying their lunch pail over their saddle horns. This "bus" system had many advantages and adventures.

Upon graduation from Rozel High School in 1951, she enrolled at Fort Hays State University and graduated with a degree in music education in 1955. That fall she moved to Clark County to teach music to first through eighth grade at Ashland Elementary; her annual salary was \$3,200. In order to make a little extra money she also gave private piano lessons to 24 students. She lived in the basement of the Ashcraft family home, because her parents felt when she moved to Ashland it wasn't "proper" to live alone!

Upon the urging of her friend Pauline Baker, Nan went on a blind date with a handsome young rancher at the local soda fountain of the Ashcraft Drug Store on Main Street in Ashland. Henry and Nan were married on May 29, 1957, and remained united for more than 57 years prior to Henry's death in 2015.

Henry and Nan raised three boys, Greg, Mark and Garth. From Rozel to Hays to Ashland, Nan was always a product of the Kansas prairie. Life was not easy, but it was good.

Together they continued to build what started from a failed homestead among other lost farms to the operation today known as Gardiner Angus Ranch. With Henry and Nan's leadership, this operation was able to grow to support their three sons' families in

addition to five other families that help operate the ranch.

Henry and Nan had many adventures. One of the more memorable ones was collecting semen from Angus bulls in the barn, and then rushing to the kitchen table to "extend" the semen with egg yolk to be able to inseminate multiple cows. At times these experiments did not go as planned! In 1964, Henry and Nan made a revolutionary decision to go to total artificial insemination (AI) without the use of clean-up bulls.

This meant that Henry AIed every female on the ranch. The young boys quickly became the heat detectors to identify which females to breed. The family would work from mid-November to mid-January breeding cows.

Thanksgiving and Christmas meals were special as everyone got up early to feed and breed, have lunch, and "get back out there" to feed and breed. To date, not much has changed. These days filled with work were actually labors of love. They all were working together and doing their jobs. Nan cooking, Henry breeding cows, and the boys feeding and gathering cows. This pattern was really the same on a year-round basis, whether it was breeding, calving, farming, wheat harvest or putting up hay.

Techniques that were developed on the

ranch were often the topics in many talks given by Henry, accompanied by Nan, across America and around the world. Henry once came up with a speech topic of "Hire 'em & Fire 'em." Henry would mention all the things that *did* work within the operation ("Hire 'em"), and Nan came up with the "Fire 'em" for all of his efforts that *didn't* work. Henry was a dreamer, and Nan was a pragmatist. They were a great team.

In the early 1980s Nan continued with her love of music and enrolled in an organ performance class at Saint Mary of The Plains College in Dodge City. This weekly class would ultimately lead to her love of playing the pipe organ for many different organ recitals in the Cathedral. She directed the youth choir and chancel choir at the Ashland United Methodist Church, as well as playing the organ, for nearly 50 years.

Although she didn't care for the music up too loud when riding in a vehicle with one of her sons, there was *no* limit to how loud the pipe organ volume could go when this feisty redhead played "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God."

Although her given name was "Mary Nan," there were only a few people who could get away with calling her this, and she would "politely" tell a person on the other

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end of the phone who asked to speak to “Mary Nan” that “My name is Nan!”

Nan’s greatest joy was her family. She was very proud of Henry and their three sons. While she was never afraid to use “plain Kansas talk” to inform all how we could work to improve, her constructive criticism came from the desire to make all around her better. She raised her family to be the best that they could be. Were they or are they perfect? Of course not. However, they all can hear “Nanny” in their minds knowing they better “snap to it” and work to get better!

At family gatherings, she cherished sitting down in her chair at the end of the table during a meal, smiling down to the other end of the table where Henry would sit, both of them surrounded by their family, and with a twinkle in her eye ask, “Dear, would you like to return thanks?”

Henry Gardiner once asked, “When in the life’s cycle does a wheat plant die?” He answered with, “It does not die but merely changes form. It changes from a single green shoot to a vigorously stooled, many-leafed plant to a tall, slender, many-headed, golden-grained, mature plant. However, that is not the end, for there is still life in this plant that lives on for generations.” With this example for their family and community, Henry and Nan Gardiner’s legacy will live on for many, many generations.

Nan is survived by sons Greg, Mark and Garth; nine grandchildren; brother Edward; sisters-in-law Alice and Helen; a host of nieces and nephews; and countless friends.

INDUSTRY EXTRAS

Joe Swedberg of Longmont, Colo., has been elected chairman of the Board of Directors of Farm Foundation. Swedberg, a retired executive of Hormel Foods Corp., succeeds Mark Scholl of J&M Scholl Inc., Owensboro, Ky. Larkin Martin of Martin Farm, Courtland, Ala., was elected as vice chair of the board. The election took place June 9 at the board’s annual meeting in Charlottesville, Va.

Richard Carlson has been hired by Select Sires GenerVations as beef manager. Carlson will be responsible for leading the Select Sires GenerVations beef program, including development of the beef sire lineup, representative sales force, as well as marketing and sales.

William Scrimgeour has been appointed by Zinpro Corp. owner Michael Anderson to be the company’s next president and CEO. The transfer in CEO responsibilities to Scrimgeour will allow Anderson to concentrate more time and energy on his role as chairman of the board of directors. Anderson has held his positions as CEO and board chairman since May 1992.

Anne Hazlett has been named assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development and will oversee the Rural Utilities Service, the Rural Business Service, and the Rural Housing Service within USDA.

The board of directors for **Select Sires Inc.** and **Accelerated Genetics** have reached a unanimous decision to unify the two cooperatives. Under the planned agreement, Select Sires will acquire the assets of Accelerated Genetics, joining forces of employees and independent sales representatives in each of their geographical member organizations. This decision coincides with an already collaborative business relationship that began in 2001, where each shares ownership of World Wide Sires Ltd. World Wide Sires serves as the international marketing arm for both companies in Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Oceania.

Accelerated Genetics and Select Sires Inc. are built upon the same cooperative business principles and share similar operating structures. Each organization stems from a root of innovative breeders, who had a common vision to move the dairy and beef industries forward. Both cultures value the input of their member-owners and recognize the importance of their guidance in driving the need to produce superior genetics and outstanding reproductive programs.

On June 22, 2017, Accelerated Genetics delegates came together to cast the final vote on the direction of the cooperative. The goal is to create a unified cooperative that is second to none in the marketplace dedicated to the producer.

Gregg Doud has been nominated to serve as the Trump administration’s chief agricultural negotiator under the U.S. Trade Representative.

Caitlin Tye has been hired by BioZyme as the content and social media manager. She will relocate to Cabot, Ark., to live with her husband, Dylan, a staff sergeant in the U.S. Air Force stationed at the Little Rock Air Force Base.

Jennie Hodgen with Merck Animal Health has been named one of three recipients of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA) Distinguished Achievement Award. This prestigious honor is bestowed on AMSA members who have demonstrated noteworthy scientific skills in muscle foods research technology that contribute to the animals products industry.



Editor’s Note: This column is compiled by Assistant Editor Linda Evans. To submit your newsmaker, email levans@angus.media or call 816-383-5245.