

# Longtime Angus breeder earns national honor

## Corfu native elected president of association



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Courtesy of The Daily News, Batavia, NY

GHENT — Phil Trowbridge certainly has no “beef” with his latest accomplishment.

The Corfu native and third generation Angus breeder was recently elected president of the American Angus Association at their annual meeting in Louisville, Ky., something he calls “quite an honor.”

“Our membership in the organization goes back to my grandpa Walter, who joined in 1957,” Trowbridge said.

Phil’s dad Paul Trowbridge Sr. bought his first Angus cow in 1954 for his eldest son Paul Jr. to get him interested in 4-H, and with hopes his other eight children would follow.

That started a Trowbridge Angus legacy which is known today throughout the United States.

All nine Trowbridge children at one time were involved in the raising of Angus, Phil said. Paul Jr. “P.J.” Trowbridge went to work for several Angus breeders in Western New York and now runs the family farm on Sumner Road, Corfu.

He and youngest brother Patrick drove to Louisville, Ky. in November to see Phil sworn in.

“We wouldn’t miss seeing that,” P.J. said. “We won’t have another chance to see our brother elected president of a \$38 million organization.”

Phil is the middle son, who earned a degree in animal science at Alfred, graduating in 1976. The day after graduation, he went to work as a herdsman for an Angus farm in Ghent, southeast of Albany, eventually acquiring his own farm.

He met his wife Annie in college, and they have two children, P.J., who works with his father, and Amy, who is a nurse, following in her mother's and grandmother's footsteps, Phil said.

Throughout his career, Phil has dedicated himself to elevating the Angus breed to new heights of greatness.

An industry expert is quoted on the Trowbridge Family website as saying, "In a short time, Trowbridge completely revitalized the grand old tradition of Angus families from a new and innovative perspective. It's no accident the Trowbridge Angus Farm's animals are considered to be an elite herd of super cattle, legendary in the industry."

Phil's herd numbers between 250 and 300, he said. His affection for the breed is evident in his conversations.

The Angus breed is the largest beef breed registry in the world, at 300,000, he said. "You would have to combine the next eight breeds to equal the number of Angus," Phil said. He credits the American Angus Association with doing a good job of marketing the breed. "You never hear anyone in a restaurant ask for a Charolais burger, do you," he joked.

Trowbridge Angus Farm was among the first to utilize the national Farm Animal Identification and Records System. Realizing the need to help their customers sell their offspring, Trowbridge Farms has created many outlets to help in merchandising, such as a registered Angus female sale in Ghent, and annual bull sale in Canandaigua.

Phil said being elected president of such a prestigious organization is even more special with him being "a small town kid." "It was a big surprise," he said.

In addition to his brother P.J. in Corfu, Phil has sisters Helen Hanes in Pembroke, Donna Saskowski in Darien, Mary Lou Merritt of Orchard Park and Anita Burrows in Wisconsin; and brothers Peter, a professor at Cornell, Patrick, former Angus breeder who now runs a horse farm in Connecticut and Mike of Meriden, Conn.

*photo courtesy of Paul Trowbridge*

[www.TrowbridgeFarms.com](http://www.TrowbridgeFarms.com)