

# It's her Wynn-ing way

*NJAA leader Wynn Dalton was awarded the 1995 Outstanding Leadership Award for her service and dedication.*

BY ANGIE STUMP



Sharing her warm smile with Angus breeders and junior members, Wynn Dalton, Altavista, Va., was awarded the prestigious leadership award given in memory of Barbara Smalstig and her support of junior Angus activities.

The award is designed to recognize one outstanding National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) member each year at the American Angus Association banquet held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting in Louisville, Ky.

This year's winner is the 21-year-old daughter of Douglas and Beverley Dalton. A "late bloomer," Wynn joined the NJAA and the Virginia Junior Angus Association (VJAA) in 1990.

"I'm proud to be a member of the National Angus Family," Wynn explains. "The fellowship among the breeders is what keeps me going."

Her love for Angus cattle is recognized by many. The love of her "black babies" is so well known that a friend says, "If Wynn gets cut, she bleeds black."

This Virginian has been sharing her smile for five years with her Angus family. "To me a smile makes me happy, comfortable and gives me extra courage," she says.

She believes if you smile at somebody it will make them happy. "I hope my smile has done that for somebody."

## **In the Beginning**

At the dinner table one day in 1990 Wynn's dad asked, "What do you think about showing cattle?"

Wynn had not seen a cattle exhibition before and didn't think that was her calling.

Her younger sister, Whitney, on the other hand would do anything once and said she'd try. So for several months a heifer their dad and herdsman, Dennis Eastin, had purchased was Wynn and Whitney's project. A month before their first show, the Atlantic National, Wynn

decided she wanted her own heifer so they picked one out for her to show.

Wynn thanks Eastin for getting her family started showing cattle. "All of the knowledge I have about the cattle industry has come from Dennis," she says.

In 1991 her family helped host the Eastern Regional and in 1992 she attended her first National Junior Angus Show in Milwaukee, Wis.

"Wynn got bit full force by the Angus bug in Milwaukee, Wis., at her first National Junior Angus Show," says Ruth McCall Boden, past advisor of the VJAA.

"That sold me," Wynn says about the National Junior Angus Show. "It was the first time I saw the 'green jackets' and I fell in love. After that I knew I'd be forever and ever with this breed. This breed can be a part of every aspect of my life — not just a hobby."

Boden says the "green jacket people" became Wynn's inspiration and she wanted to become one of them. Even though Wynn's heifer set the record for the number of times getting loose at a National Show that first year, that did not stop Wynn from beginning an incredible journey towards that green jacket.

Wynn has had a very successful journey during her years as an NJAA member. Many highlights and awards fill the five short years of her membership.

### Atlantic National Council

When Wynn and her family attended the Atlantic National for the first time in 1990 her family was sold. It is a true family event, she explains. After that first year, the Daltons have continued to spend their Memorial Day weekend at the Atlantic National because of its strong family tradition.

When the adult members of the Atlantic National decided to start a junior program, Wynn joined the group. She was selected as chairman of the by-laws committee and set the foundation for the growing



Wynn Dalton, Altavista, Va., was presented the 1995 National Junior Angus Association's outstanding leadership award. Dalton, who attends Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kan., currently serves on the NJAA Board. Presenting her award is Fred Smalstig, Naples, Fla.

Atlantic National Junior Angus council.

"I grabbed at the opportunity and wanted to do the best with it," she says. She then served two years as chairman of the council.

Boden says, "Wynn has always thought that the junior members' opinions are important and their voices need to be heard."

As the founding organizer of the council, which joined junior Angus breeders on the East Coast, Wynn received the Calderazzo Award in 1994 for her time and effort with the council and the contributions she made to the Atlantic National Show. She was also a recipient of the Atlantic National Merit Award and the Ayrshire Award.

Another highlight of her Angus career was being named Premier Breeder of the 1995 Atlantic National ROV Angus Show.

### NJAA Involvement

Wynn says she fell in love with the Angus Association because of how hospitable the breeders are to one another.

In 1992 she reigned as Miss Virginia Angus. Active on the state level she served

two years as vice president of the VJAA and one year as president.

"Togetherness and teamwork are two words that you could hear Wynn say often, whether it was during a VJAA planning meeting or one on one with another junior member," Boden explains. "Don't overlook the little things she passed on to other juniors which they will be able to use later in life. Courtesy, pride, responsibility, confidence, organizational skills and sportsmanship are just a few of these little things she believes in and are those quiet contributions she has made at national and regional shows since 1991."

In five short but productive years Wynn earned the NJAA Gold, Silver and Bronze recognition awards. She was also elected to the NJAA Board of Directors in 1994. She is currently serving as Foundation Director.

Her enthusiasm, dedication and drive to achieve within the Angus business has not gone unnoticed.

Connie Melton, advisor of the VJAA, says Wynn motivates the VJAA members by her example of

enthusiasm, leadership and service. "Wynn uses her personal achievements to help others achieve success."

### Future Goals

During the spring of 1995 Wynn was an intern for Creative Exchange Inc., an advertising company in Fort Worth. Following her internship she decided to change her major and university.

She is now attending Kansas State University majoring in agricultural journalism.

"Within the ag journalism curriculum I am learning the instincts of questioning and thoroughness that will be important in my life no matter what avenue I take," she says.

Wynn is unsure of her career path but she hopes it is within the cattle industry, possibly advertising.

"Anything she sets out to accomplish will be a success because of the unique 'Wynning' ways that go into it," says Julie McMahon, president of Creative Exchange Inc.

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## It's her 'Wynn-ing' way cont.

### Being a leader

"A leader to me is someone who encourages others to succeed in a common goal," Wynn says.

Beverley, Wynn's mom, describes Wynn as an encourager and says she is happiest when she is interacting with other people.

Likewise, Wynn believes her people skills are going to take her far in life. "My experiences with other Angus breeders and junior members has taught me more than any book can," she explains.

This junior member has watched and looked to many people for support and encouragement as she has grown within the Angus industry.

One special person who has helped Wynn and her family is past VJAA advisor,

Ruth McCall Boden.

"If I had a question, I'd call her. She taught me to be a better person, that I was worth it and that I was capable of being or doing ... She was my mentor," Wynn says.

Boden encouraged Wynn to step out of her comfort zone and become an active NJAA member.

Wynn says serving as a leader on the Atlantic Council, the VJAA, and the NJAA has strengthened her to stand up for what she believes in.

"Before I was involved in the NJAA I was not as confident as I am today," she explains. "It has given me strength and confidence in myself. I've also learned you can't do everything by yourself."

## How Do You Qualify for NJAA leadership Award?

The Outstanding Leadership Award was designed to recognize one outstanding NJAA member each year and is available only to members 14 years or older.

This award is based upon the leadership exhibited by the nominee through their NJAA and various other activities. The award recipient receives a bronze eagle sculpture and a check for \$150 from NJAA at the American Angus Association's annual banquet in Louisville, Ky., in November.

The winner is selected by a judging committee composed of the NJAA advisory board, a member of the American Angus Association Board of Directors, chairman of the NJAA Board, NJAA Board leadership director, and one other member of the NJAA leadership committee.

### AWARD PROGRAM RULES

- 1. Only current members of NJAA, who are at least 14 years of age, will be considered for this award.**
- 2. Deadline for the award application and letter of recommendation is Sept. 1.**
- 3. NJAA members may receive this award only once.**
- 4. No additional pages may be added to the award application.**

For an application and more information on this award program, contact James Fisher, director of junior activities, American Angus Association, (816) 233-3101.

