

# TEN YEARS AFTER



*The first board of directors for the National Junior Angus Association was elected in July of 1980. Pictured with Jerry Lipsey (back row, left), director of junior activities, are board members: (front row 1 to r): Julie McMahon, Tracy Crose, Angie Hunt, Tracy Chapman, Jodie Wallace, Sharon Diuble. Back row (L to r): George McDonald, Mark Wyble, Dale Rains, Brad Staley, Bruce Kroeker, and John Kieseewetter.*

## **What were you doing 10 years ago?**

You can bet these 12 people won't forget. They were busy serving on the National Junior Angus Association's very first board of directors.

These original directors will be honored, along with other directors serving in NJAA's first decade, in a special 10th anniversary ceremony bring the National Junior Angus Show in Omaha July 9-13.

The *Angus Journal* decided it would be interesting to find out what the original board members were doing today. With the help of Mark Wyble, director of junior activities (who's a member of this elite group), and *Journal* staff member Ginette Gottswiller, we put together a "then and now, feature profile.

Each of the 12 members, along with NJAA's first director, Jerry Lipsey, were asked to field questions on their present careers and family. More importantly, they were asked how NJAA influenced their career and life decisions.

Here are their thoughtful answers:

## **JERRY LIPSEY**

*Animal Scientist/Instructor  
University of Missouri-  
Columbia*

Prideful! That's how I feel on being the first NJAA director. C.K. Allen wanted more youth leadership development activities. I'm not sure that any of us recognized that there was a huge supply of 4-H and FFA "pre-developed" young leaders in our membership.

Given the opportunity to collectively demonstrate their skills with Angus activities, our first board members opened eyes with their thinking and speaking abilities.

The development of the Angus Foundation was a good learning experience for me. At the time NJAA was formed, the American Angus Association had no system to develop or accept charitable funds to support youth activities. The first NJAA Board members learned to prioritize and budget income and expenditures.

If he was NJAA director today would his advice differ from that given 10 years ago?

A definite no! Lipsey says. I would encourage our young leaders to think and act to create opportunities that challenge and reward people. Take a broad perspective,

recognize that NJAA decisions and programs impact the Angus industry. Learning to see through the eyes of others is a leadership skill we all must learn.

## **MARK WYBLE**

*Junior Activities Director  
American Angus Association  
St. Joseph, Mo.*

The single most significant influence while serving on the board was the election itself. It filled me with pride to know that fellow juniors from throughout the country found me worthy to represent them. Yet, it was humbling to know that a tremendous amount of trust had been placed in me and other directors.

It was exciting and inspiring to be part of something as challenging and promising as the NJAA in July of 1980.

The enjoyment I got through my involvement in Angus activities greatly influenced my decision to become director of junior activities. Perhaps more than any other former director, I draw often and deeply from my experience on the NJAA Board. Having been "in their shoes" helps me better understand the concerns, constraints, goals and motivation of juniors I work

with now.

The skills and techniques I developed while on the Board are still useful to me today. Likewise, many of the friendships made years ago are still alive and have benefitted me in my current job.

To watch NJAA's growth and development is a great source of pride for me. The success isn't to any one person's credit, but rather to that of the numerous active juniors, their parents and leaders, and others who believe in and support NJAA.

I will always fondly remember particularly happy, absurd and inspiring moments: Like the time NJAA directors organized a "baby bingo" game without my knowledge when Evelyn and I were expecting our first child. To top that off, they presented all the proceeds to our son, Morgan. Or the times pranks (played by me or on me) ended in hilarious results.

Certain letters from people I have worked with or admired are especially treasured—as are memories of thousands of people and hundreds of places I've had contact with. And there is the experience of watching the heroic efforts of a physically handicapped youngster care for and show his calf.

While I'm still a partner in

my family's WE7 Angus Farm, my job and the distance to the farm (800 miles) keeps me from doing chores very often.

Since making the move to St. Joseph with Evelyn, our family has grown to three boys. The latest addition, Stephen Joseph, was born May 26. Our boys, David (3) and Morgan (5) enjoy working cows and going to shows whenever they can. They each own an Angus cow and have the distinction of being the youngest members of NJAA.

They greatly anticipate, as I do, the day they will be able to actively participate in NJAA activities. I can't think of a better group I'd want them to be associated with!

### **TRACY (CROSE) HYER**

*Ag Video Script Writer  
San Luis Obispo, Calif.*

The experience most vivid in my memory is that of the election process that was used to select the first NJAA Board. We were interviewed and rigorously quizzed by our peers. The effort and interest on the part of the juniors present to select the best candidates they could — emphasized the importance of my leadership role. This also emphasized to me the quality of juniors involved in the Angus business across the nation.

Striving and working together to meet common goals was an important learning experience from NJAA. That philosophy carried over in my academic life as well. Learning to work with people to achieve common goals and communicate effectively are the most important tools for living that I've been able to take with me since NJAA. Those tools were directly applied to my education, career and family life experiences.

Since serving as a NJAA director, much has happened. I completed my degree in Agricultural Business Management at Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo,

Calif. I met and married my husband, James Hyer, and moved to Stillwater, Okla.

At Oklahoma State University, my husband completed his Masters degree in animal sciences, while I enjoyed my work as an agricultural extension assistant. I worked on a program designed to assist farm families with financial management.

From Stillwater, we moved back to our alma mater, where my husband accepted a job as livestock judging team coach. In September 1989 we were blessed with a beautiful baby boy, Zachary James Hyer. I am currently working part-time as an agricultural video script writer and caring for our son.

I am truly grateful for the opportunities afforded me through my involvement in NJAA and fondly remember those I served with. I commend Mark Wyble for his efforts. The NJAA is a thriving group which is working effectively to prepare Angus youth to meet the challenges that lie ahead of them.

### **BRUCE KROEKER**

*PCA Vice President  
McAllen, Texas*

The fun, excitement and thrill of serving for the NJAA was a great experience. It was a formative period for NJAA. New ideas, activities and events were being added to the show and NJAA-sponsored events.

An atmosphere of openness to new ideas and freedom to relate opinions was very apparent in our organization, coupled with a "can do" attitude. This "can do" drive meshes well with the overall attitude of the Angus Association and Angus breeders as a group. It develops WINNERS, which I can honestly say, is greatly beneficial in every part of our lives.

My current position with PCA of South Texas is vice president/branch manager. I enjoy working in agriculture,

but do miss seeing the Angus cattle.

My wife, Julie, and my two daughters, Charlee (4) and Maggie (3) live in McAllen, Texas. We are just 10 miles from Mexico and one hour from South Padre Island. I believe we're still in the USA. However, to help in conversing, speaking Spanish has become important. So here it goes... muchas gracias!

### **ANGIE (HUNT)**

#### **SIEMENS**

*Meat Scientist/Teacher  
Columbia, Mo.*

I thoroughly enjoyed my tenure on the NJAA Board. I believe that it opened a whole new dimension to the American Angus Association. It has allowed young people to get involved beyond their respective states.

Because of NJAA, I now know people from across the country who share the same interests as myself.

The Board allows 12 juniors with diverse backgrounds to share ideas, work out solutions and plan future activities for the good of the association.

There is one experience that I have drawn from on numerous occasions since leaving the Board. I remember a heated discussion during our first Board meeting. What can you expect when you get 12 different people together?

I'm not sure who won, or that it matters, but I do remember that compromises were made and solutions instituted. This experience showed me the value of compromise in a group setting.

My family currently includes my husband, Mike; our Australian Shepherd dog, Peppy; six cows; two heifers; and one yearling bull. The one sad note is that only one of the lot is Angus. The rest are (do I dare say) Simmental. But don't worry, now that we are out of school, we are planning to increase the Angus percentage.

My career was really influenced by a member of the American Angus Association, Jerry Lipsey. As most of you recall, Jerry, as junior activities director, oversaw that first NJAA Board.

Jerry invited my husband, Mike, and I to study under him at the University of Missouri during the summer of 1983. Little did we know, we would spend seven years there.

I completed my Ph.D. in food science and nutrition with meat science emphasis and Mike completed a ruminant nutrition Ph.D. He is now a consulting nutritionist with DeKalb Feeds at Onslow, Iowa. After teaching a semester at MU, I have taken the last six months off to relax and finish those odds and ends we all want to do but just haven't had time to do! I plan a career in teaching and research.

### **SHARON (DIUBLE) VAASSEN**

*Administrative Manager  
Ann Arbor, Mich.*

I remember the first meeting well. We were sitting in a room staring at each other, not really knowing what to do next. But with Jerry Lipsey stepping in and getting us started, it became quite clear that we had a huge job ahead of us.

The next two years for us were filled with mostly organizational agenda items: from deciding on by-laws, to officers, to dress codes, to fund raising. Although we didn't get everything accomplished we would have liked, we laid a good framework for today's leaders to work from.

I feel the biggest improvement since the start of the NJAA Board has been the exposure young people have received. Michigan is proud to have had a NJAA Board director every year. In a state where quantity might not be the best, quality runs high. The enthusiasm for the Board has been great.

Having a NJAA Board director talk to other juniors,

informing them of what is happening around the country, really seems to excite them and raise their interest. This happens not only with Angus cattle, but also with leadership skills and other abilities.

Serving on the NJAA Board gave me the confidence level and ability to communicate with a variety of people. I quickly learned to voice my opinion and feelings. This has helped me in my position as state Auxiliary president, as well as my job as an administrative manager.

Probably the best thing I got from NJAA was that I met my husband, Dan. To this day, Dr. Lipsey takes all the credit for this. It's interesting when others ask how we met. Our response is: "At the National Junior Angus Heifer Show in Nashville!" We get some pretty strange looks, considering I'm from Michigan and he's originally from Iowa.

Dan and I are herd managers for Herb-Lou Farm, my parent's family farming operation. My father, Herb Diuble, and Dan have a 100-head Angus cow-calf operation and a feedlot. We also produce club calves. In addition, I work full time at the University of Michigan as an administrative manager.

We have a three-year-old daughter, Rachael Lynn, who feeds her calves and loves doing chores with us. Last summer she showed her first calf at the community fair and won her first blue ribbon. Now she wears her cowboy boots all the time!

### **TRACY (CHAPMAN) GRIFFITH**

*Beef Producer  
Buchanan, Ga.*

As a director serving on the first NJAA Board, I have seen some exciting progress coming on. My first year we were just in a planning stage. It's nice to see that our plans are now becoming realities.

While on the NJAA Board we had to attend a leadership meeting in St. Joseph. At that

point, I had never taken a speech class. After that experience it has been a lot easier to make good conversation with today's cattle producers and businessmen.

At the end of my term, I married Joe Griffith of Buchanan, Ga. He and his family started G-Whiz Farms. Our primary cattle are Angus. From these cows we try to produce good club calves for area 4-H and FFA kids to show. Some of our awards include first place Georgia Breeders Special (four out of five years), one state grand champion, two reserve state grand champions, and many area show champions.

Joe and I are expecting our first child in August. We like going to cattle shows. We also love snow skiing and spending time with special friends.

I would like to say good luck to all the past and new directors. The changes you make today will affect the NJAA members of tomorrow.

### **DALE RAINS**

*Angus Breeder  
Mercer, Pa.*

The National Junior Angus Show is a good experience because it offers other activities for members besides showing cattle.

Serving on the NJAA Board taught me that it's important to keep on improving what you have in an organization. Don't try to start from nothing or change everything.

I am currently working on our family Angus farm in Mercer, Pa. We were awarded the Pennsylvania Angus Breeder of the Year in 1990. I also do some custom fitting work and serve as an advisor for the Pennsylvania Junior Angus and Pennsylvania Junior Cattlemen's Associations. I'm engaged to Brenda Walters.

### **JULIE McMAHON**

*Advertising Freelancer  
Ft. Worth, Texas*

My experience with NJAA brought the joys of friendship,

the learning of leadership, cooperation and organization, and furthered my belief in Angus cattle and Angus people. The board was a fabulous preparation for leadership roles. The challenges of working with others and planning and executing national activities cannot be replaced by any other educational opportunity.

At this time, I do not have children of my own. However, I can't wait for my nephews and nieces and children of friends to find the same rewarding and irreplaceable lifelong friendships and learning experiences through NJAA.

### **JODIE WALLACE NEELY**

*Industrial Engineer  
Winchester, Ky.*

The NJAA is a great way to meet new people and make new friends. Being a director was a lot of fun and very educational.

My family includes husband, Rodney and a daughter, Sarah.

### **JOHN KIESEWETTER**

*Director of Advertising  
Great Britain*

My wife, Nancy, and I have enjoyed much traveling after moving to Great Britain.

Some of the European places that we've visited include: Paris, Geneva, Munich, Heidelberg, Cologne, Brussels, Amsterdam, London, Chester and Edinburgh. In October of '89 I attended the Perth Bull Show and Sale. I had an opportunity to visit with a few local Angus Breeders.

### **BRAD STALEY**

*Beef Producer  
Hampton, Iowa*

During my term on the NJAA Board, we didn't accomplish any earth shattering activities, however, it was an outstanding educational experience for me.

My wife, Susan, and I have two children, Megan Renae and Kyle Scott. In 1989, I coached the champion 4-H

livestock judging team at the American Royal.

### **GEORGE McDONALD**

*Beef Farmer  
Riddleton, Tenn.*

I feel the NJAA Board has touched many young people's lives. It is a role model for other junior members to look up to. While on the Board, we suggested having a public speaking contest. I'm glad we now have one. This cultivates the talent of our young people and builds self-confidence to present our views to others.

As farmers and ranchers, we need the ability to express our views in a professional manner to different groups.

Being on the NJAA Board was a very enjoyable and educational experience. As the first Board, we had plenty of learning to do. My only regret was that I only served a one-year term.

As show chairman of the National Junior Angus Show, I learned real quick that a few people could not put on a show of that size. I learned to utilize people and their talents associated with the Angus business. It was amazing how smoothly and efficiently everything went.

I am married to Carol Coley. We help manage Catesa Farms, a 1,150-acre diversified operation, in partnership with my parents. We have a 100-cow registered herd. The crops include corn, soybeans, wheat, alfalfa, tobacco and sweet corn. I also have a seed business.

We were awarded the Smith County Young Farmer in 1990 and the Outstanding Young Farm Couple in 1988.

Besides reading farm related magazines, I also enjoy photography. I am fortunate to have two adorable subjects to practice this hobby on: daughters, Celia (3) and Sarah (1).