

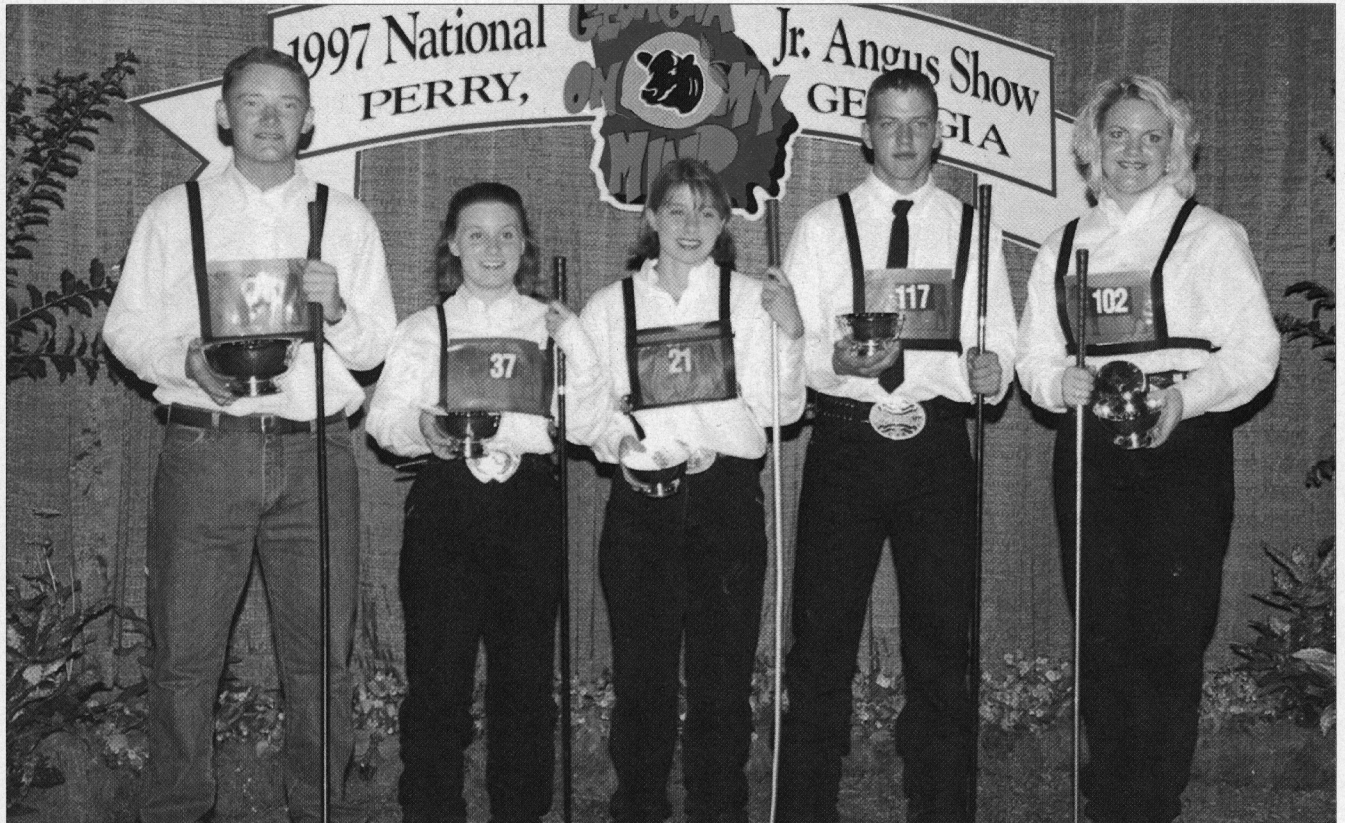
Brent Scarlett, Snow Camp, N.C., displays his handling skills in the 1997 National Angus Showmanship contest.

Scarlett Captures “Top Showman” Title at National Angus Showmanship Contest

Brent Scarlett, Snow Camp, N.C., took home the coveted title of “Top Showman” from the 1997 National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest held July 18-19 in Perry, Ga. Scarlett topped the 52 contestants who represented 29 states in the

competition, which was held in conjunction with the 29th National Junior Angus Show, the world’s largest single-breed beef cattle show.

Along with the honor of “Top Showman,” Scarlett received \$350 from the Hamilton



Top five showmen in the 1997 National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest pictured (l to r) are: **Brent Scarlett**, first; **Cindy Perret**, Edgard, La., second; **Deanna Bloom**, Westville, Ind., third; **Aric Mindemann**, Sullivan, Wis., fourth; and **Shannon Grote**, Bryan, Texas, fifth.

James Memorial Fund and an engraved silver Revere bowl from the American Angus Auxiliary.

Cindy Perret, Edgard, La., placed second in the competition, receiving \$250 for her efforts. Placing third was Deanna Bloom, Westville, Ind. She was awarded with \$175.

Aric Mindemann, Sullivan, Wis., took fourth in the competition, winning \$125, while Shannon Grote, Bryan, Texas, was awarded \$100 for her fifth place finish.

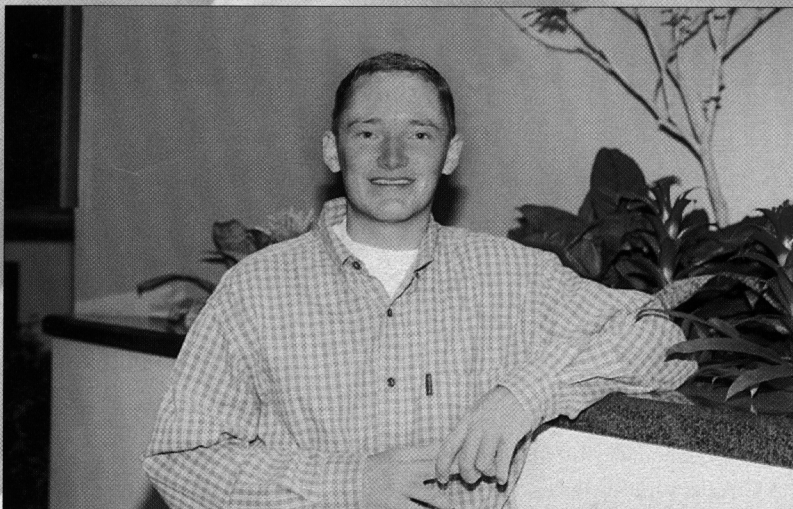
The cash prizes awarded to the top five showmanship winners were on behalf of the Hamilton James Memorial Fund, established in the memory of Angus enthusiast and auctioneer Ham James. The American Angus Auxiliary presented each of the top five finalists a silver Revere bowl.

The three judges for the event were Chuck Brost, Oxford, Ind.; Joe Bill Meng, Leoma, Tenn.; and Jill Rishel Wolforth, Houston.

These judges evaluated the contestants on the skill in handling their animal, their ability to follow instructions, use of equipment, courtesy, sportsmanship and general appearance. The contestants did not show their own animals, but rather drew for animals owned by other exhibitors at the show.

A group of top 15 finalists were selected after five rounds of preliminary competition. The 15 finalists then competed for the "Top Showman" honor.

Other contestants chosen in the top 15 finalists were John Cassidy, Dacula, Ga.; Sam Lawson, Nicholasville, Ky.; Geri Wills, Pontotoc, Miss.; Alan Harris, Snow Hill, N.C.; Heather Blackmon, Tigerville, S.C.; Caroline Smith, Pendleton, S.C.; Andrew Donnell, Jackson, Tenn.; John Veach, College Grove, Tenn.; Jason Michael, Mt. Solon, Va.; and Lucas Young, Peoria, Ill.



Brent Scarlett is a senior at North Carolina State University majoring in biochemistry with plans to enter veterinary school after graduation.

“Always remember the three “C’s” — calm, cool and collected,” says Brent Scarlett, Snow Camp, N.C., top showman of the 1997 National Angus Showmanship Contest. Brent has been exhibiting Angus cattle for 10 years and says winning the National Showmanship Contest is something he always dreamed about, but never thought it would come true.

“My goal was to be one of the 15 finalists, I never imagined I would win it,” says Brent.

His show career started in 4-H, showing lambs and hogs. Through those experiences, he acquired the basic techniques of discipline in the show ring. The people who Brent most looked to for advice, in and outside the show ring, were his family. His dad, mom and sister were the ones who encouraged and critiqued him after a long day in the show ring.

“It takes one-third skill and two-thirds luck to win in showmanship. A showman needs luck to get a good heifer and the luck that the judge will notice him or her,” Brent says.

He grew up on a small farm in North Carolina where he and his family manage 50 head of Angus cows. Brent and his sister, Julie, always try to show four or five heifers each year at local, state, regional and national shows.

Showmanship has always been an area Brent has tried to excel in. “You can’t always have the best quality heifer in the ring, but you can control how your heifer looks and acts in the ring,” he says. Working with your heifer at home and building a relationship will make a tremendous difference in how well they will act in the ring.

Brent is currently serving on the National Junior Angus Board of Directors as leadership chairman.

The National Junior Angus Association has provided many opportunities for Brent including making new friends from across the country. His junior involvement has taught him the basic skills for life.

Showmanship skills don’t come naturally, learn from your mistakes and incorporate them into how you show in future shows. He says the best advice to someone wanting to improve their showmanship skills is to watch others and learn from their mistakes.