

# Scraps on Display

**Eighteen state junior associations complete their scrapbooks for the 2004 NJAS.**

*Story & photos by Alaina Burt*

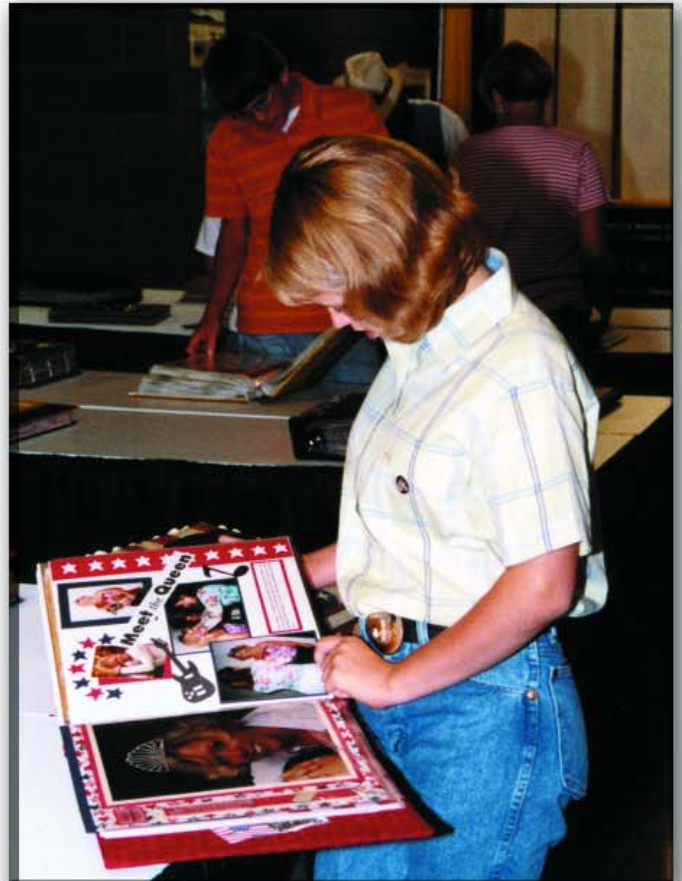
**E**ach year the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) and the American Angus Association co-sponsor a scrapbook contest to encourage state and regional junior associations to keep a record of the events in which they participate. Eighteen states brought their scrapbooks to compete at this year's National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) July 12-17 in Kansas City, Mo.

Winning the top honor in this year's scrapbook contest was Maryland. Second place was awarded to Louisiana, while Mississippi took home third place. Rounding out the top five were Wisconsin and Missouri, placing fourth and fifth, respectively. Judging the contest were Karen Jones, Gainsville, Mo.; Jennifer Svoboda, Sargent, Neb.; and Brad Fahrmeir, Lexington, Mo.

Scrapbooks are judged on a variety of subject matter. The greatest emphasis in judging is placed on content, representing 60% of the final score. Creativity, organization and originality are secondary considerations, accounting for the remaining 40%.



► Judge Karen Jones, Gainsville, Mo., was charged with judging the scrapbooks on the basis of content, organization and creativity. Jennifer Svoboda, Sargent, Neb., and Brad Fahrmeir, Lexington, Mo., also judged this year's contest.



► Eighteen states brought scrapbooks documenting their activities to compete in the scrapbook contest. The scrapbooks were on display throughout the week of the NJAS.

## Day by day

The state's organizational, leadership and representative entities provide a glimpse of how a state association operates. Many scrapbooks contain personal greetings from officers, advisor and regional manager profiles, membership listings, and pictures of royalty.

Maryland got to know its membership by calling each member and handing out informative flyers at shows in order to obtain information about their hobbies and interests, as well as what schools they attended. It's not always possible to do this with states that have larger junior memberships, but it is possible to spend some time getting to know officers and people in leadership positions.

Once readers get acquainted with the membership and leaders, it's time for business. Minutes from meetings, agendas, reports and guest speaker bios are a few highlights in this section of a scrapbook. Newsletters, Web pages, interactive CDs and correspondence are all integral parts of how an association communicates. Several pages of Maryland's scrapbook are devoted to reports, notes, newsletters and thank-yous.

What an association provides its membership is also important. State and regional shows, as well as the NJAS, make up a large portion of NJAA members' activities. Photographs from events such as these, along with backdrop photographs, can depict the show life.

Other activities that junior members participate in, such as Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conferences at the state, regional and national levels, are also of interest. Field days, fund-raisers, sales and any other activities in which junior members are involved provide good material for scrapbooks.

Honors and awards accumulated by NJAA members help depict a

detailed historical record of an association's events. Bronze, Silver and Gold award winners; scholarship recipients; leadership awards; and contest participation spotlight individuals and provide an accurate acknowledgement of accomplishments.

### Cover to cover

Beyond content, the way the material is presented is also important. The first physical part of a scrapbook that is observed, the cover should incorporate the association's name and be creative, while not costly, according to the NJAA Scrapbook Contest rules. This can be accomplished by using state logos, Angus artwork or wording.

Maryland's cover, painted and contributed by Robin Sharrer, was unique to this year's NJAS. It caught her eye, says Svoboda of the cover, which depicted cows playing instruments to support the NJAS theme of "Angus and All that Jazz." Maryland's scrapbook committee consists of junior members Jessica Clarke, Rocky Ridge; Candace Howard, Keymar; and Brittany Full, Mount Airy; along with adult volunteers like Donna Full and junior advisor Julie Feeser. They all helped put the scrapbook together and develop its theme.

With the proper cover, the information is set for the reader to page through the rest of the scrapbook. Opening the book, a state's scrapbooking creativity becomes evident.

Maryland stuck with a simple theme and followed it throughout the book. "We like to keep each page the same way and we used the instruments to go along with the jazz theme," Brittany says. She adds that they used music notes and music background as well.

Fahrmeir comments, "I like the common background. It's clean and easy to read."

Tying in creativity and originality with organization is not an easy task. Judges found it difficult to read some scrapbooks because while the creativity was present, organization was not.

Fahrmeir says, "The ones that are creative aren't necessarily organized, and the organized aren't really creative."

An organized book makes the reader want to turn the pages, leaving a 108-page scrapbook, such as Maryland's, a breeze to flip through, Fahrmeir says.

### Judging — personal preference

The judges say they were impressed with the scrapbooks present at the NJAS, finding it enjoyable to see the amount of creativity the NJAA members have. They found it hard to imagine the work, dedication and time invested in one scrapbook, let alone 18. The best advice the judges say they can give is to start on scrapbooks early. Last-minute projects are easy to recognize.

Brittany says, "We worked on it probably five hours a day for five weeks," over the course of the year. In years past Maryland's scrapbooks were often left until the last minute before the NJAS because everyone was simply too busy.

Judges have one of the most difficult tasks — completing the scoring sheet for each scrapbook entered. A copy of the judge's score sheet and rules for the competition can be found at [www.angus.org/njaa/contests/scrapbook.html](http://www.angus.org/njaa/contests/scrapbook.html).

Judges who take the time to fill out the score sheets with comments help juniors for future competition, Feeser says. It was the



►Winning top honor in this year's scrapbook contest is the Maryland Junior Angus Association.

judges' critiques in the past that fueled her juniors to make a better scrapbook, capitalizing on the constructive criticism.

Juniors at a young age are already becoming scrappers by recording history and events in their state and regional junior Angus associations. This task often falls to the state association's historian. Leadership positions such as those of historians are often filled by junior members looking to gain experience for later leadership opportunities, the judges surmise, concluding that scrapbooks are pieced together by a state's younger membership. Brittany is only 14, and this is her second year compiling the state's scrapbook.

Brittany reflects that her experience with scrapbooking has been fun and a rewarding experience.



### Auxiliary historian gives insight

Lois Foster, historian for the American Angus Auxiliary, has been scrapbooking Angus events for more than nine years. She says the purpose of a scrapbook is to be informative for the reader and to provide a historical account of the year. Foster compiles a scrapbook each year to serve as a historical record of the president's activities and committees' accomplishments.

"The secretary's minutes only record what happens in the meetings," she explains. "I record what happens when the program is being carried out, including national, state and regional action."

In her scrapbooks, Foster takes a cost-effective approach and skips the stationery store, utilizing resources available. "I cut pictures from magazines and newspapers and the like to enhance the pages of my scrapbook," Foster says, adding that she has her own design and flavor for scrapbooking, which differs from previous Auxiliary historians.

To scrap a year's worth of events, Foster says she works during fall evenings, after most of the news is in. "I do it at night, and I enjoy it. You can zero in on it, stay with it and gather your thoughts and decide how to plan the pages." She asks that someone from each region of the United States, including Angus publications and state newsletters, send her material for the scrapbook.

"It's a way of recording history that is not commonly done," Foster says, adding that she never thought she would be a historian, but didn't want history to be lost.