

# Behind the Scenes

Georgia's Carolyn Gazda named NJAA Advisor of the Year.

by Molly Witzel

**H**ardworking. Dedicated. Responsible. That's the general consensus of those asked to describe Georgia Junior Angus Association (GJAA) Advisor Carolyn Gazda.

Her allegiance to Georgia junior members and her loyalty to the Angus breed were recognized July 15 during the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Denver, Colo. During a break in Friday's owned heifer show, Gazda was presented the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) 2010 Advisor of the Year Award.

"I've seen it awarded all these years we've been coming to nationals," Gazda says. "It is a great honor."

Gazda has served as the GJAA advisor for seven years. During that time she has been instrumental in coordinating meetings, activities and shows on state and national levels.

"She works hard," says Clay Williams, GJAA president. "She does what she says she's going to do, and she always makes sure she does it to the best of her ability."

Christy Page, Georgia Angus Association secretary-treasurer, says most of Gazda's hard work isn't in the spotlight.

"Carolyn is reliable and dependable," Page says. "She's more of a behind-the-scenes kind of worker. Whatever she volunteers to do or agrees to do, you know she will handle it."

Page says she has known Gazda her entire life, and has had the opportunity to work with her on various committees for the last 10 years. Gazda and Page served as co-chairs for the 2009 NJAS in Perry, Ga.

"She would best be described as a person who gets the job done," says Larry Bramblett, president of the Georgia Angus Association.

Gazda's high energy level and enthusiasm toward Angus juniors are what Bramblett considers to be her best leadership qualities.

Gazda grew up raising and showing Angus cattle and says the life lessons learned through junior Angus activities are valuable.

Page says Gazda does her best to help GJAA members succeed and encourages



► Carolyn Gazda (left) receives the 2010 NJAA Advisor of the Year award from NJAA Board Member Ashlyn Carter during a break in Friday's owned heifer show.

them to participate in contests and apply for scholarships.

"Carolyn's really good about the one-on-one talking to kids and offering support, whether they're new kids or kids that have been doing this a while," Page says.

"It's good to see kids excel," Gazda says. "And even if they don't, it's good to see them put forth their best effort and have a good time because, ultimately, that's what it's all about."

Gazda's family also remains involved in the Angus breed.

Her husband, David, is an American Angus Association regional manager for Florida, Georgia, and North and South Carolina. Daughters Katie and Taylor have served as Miss American Angus and Miss Georgia Angus, respectively. The family resides near Athens, Ga.

**Editor's Note:** Molly Witzel is the 2010 American Angus Association summer intern, working in the Public Relations and Communications Department.