

The American Angus Association turns 125 this fall. Recognition of the milestone will occur at various Angus events during the year. As part of the celebration, the Angus Journal will feature glimpses of the past throughout the year.



## SOLID FOUNDATION — National junior program

# A SOLID START

The American Angus Association's long-running, successful junior program has helped teach unforgettable life lessons for a multitude of members.

BY LORI GILMORE & TOSHA POWELL



Maybe you can relate to the shy, reserved girl who didn't stray too far from her mother's side at the show. Or maybe you were the one willing to attempt any Angus activity.

Perhaps you never exhibited an animal at the national junior show, but you wouldn't have missed attending the annual summer event. Possibly you excelled in Angus activities offered in your state or region.

Perhaps the showing wasn't your "thing." Maybe you'd rather participate in the team fitting contest, serve in a leadership position, or compete in public speaking, team sales, photography or beef cook-off contests.

No matter the level of involvement, the particular area of appeal or your hometown, a significant portion of the American Angus Association membership has benefited from taking part in activities offered by the world's largest junior beef breed organization. Years later some have remained in production agriculture, while others are employed in sectors serving the industry. No matter what career path members chose, the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) helped by planting seeds for success.

"There are a number of adults who have grown up in the junior Angus program and today are raising Angus cattle," says James Fisher, the Association's director of junior activities. "Some are leaders in their state, while others have served as Association Board members. There are prominent breeders of Angus cattle who are that way because of junior programs."

"Youth development is the heart of our breed association," says David McMahon, owner of Belle Point Ranch, Lavaca, Ark., and an Angus Foundation benefactor.

McMahon and his wife, Mary Ann, raised five children, all of whom were junior Angus members. Two daughters served on early NJAA Boards.

McMahon, an avid supporter of youth programs, wants to see the Association remain strong into the next century. He

believes quality junior activities can help achieve this goal. "It's just a win-win, win-win situation all the way around," he says.

### Looking back

Junior members have been an integral part of the No. 1 beef breed association for several decades. While the original intent secured a solid foundation for youth development, throughout the years teaching "life skills" has become increasingly important. Just as membership has grown — to more than 12,000 members\* — so have the myriad of opportunities for Angus youth.

In 1951 the first junior membership was issued for \$5 to be converted to life membership at age 21 for \$15. In setting the cornerstone for junior programs, the Association Board voted in 1956 to hire a full-time employee, Val Brungardt, to direct junior activities. Just after the breed headquarters moved from the Chicago Stockyards to Saint Joseph, Mo., the Association introduced a program to help young people with Angus livestock projects.

"I think we have to give credit to the late Frank Richards, Association secretary, and his Board for having the foresight to see the need and get something started," Dean Hurlbut says. In 1957 Hurlbut became the Association's second director of junior activities, a position he filled for 15 years.

### Starting out

In 1956, Lyle Haring, Association fieldman, and Ed Stout, Missouri Angus Association fieldman, formed the first state junior Angus association in Missouri. One year later Hurlbut joined the American Angus Association and worked to establish additional state junior groups. These newly formed grassroots organizations were closely patterned after adult associations.

In those days, state field days served as the main tool to recruit new members. "There would be fitting, grooming and showmanship demonstrations, judging

contests, and a lot of sloppy joes and baked beans,” Hurlbut says. “We were trying to get parents to bring their kids to learn more about showing and fitting.”

Dave Nichols of Nichols Farms, Bridgewater, Iowa, grew up participating in youth organizations. As an Iowa Junior Angus Association member, he recalls serving as an officer and helping Haring conduct field days.

“While I was active in both 4-H and FFA and held state offices in both, my Angus junior activities were more focused on what I had chosen to do with my life,” Nichols says. “My involvement in the Iowa Junior Angus Association gave me the confidence to pursue my goal of becoming a nationally recognized source of high-quality Angus seedstock.”

Today, Nichols’ southwestern Iowa beef operation raises multiple livestock breeds, including more than 2,000 females, most of which are Angus. Each year, Nichols Farms sells nearly 1,000 bulls. The program has exported semen, embryos and live animals to 30 foreign countries.

### Introducing a national event

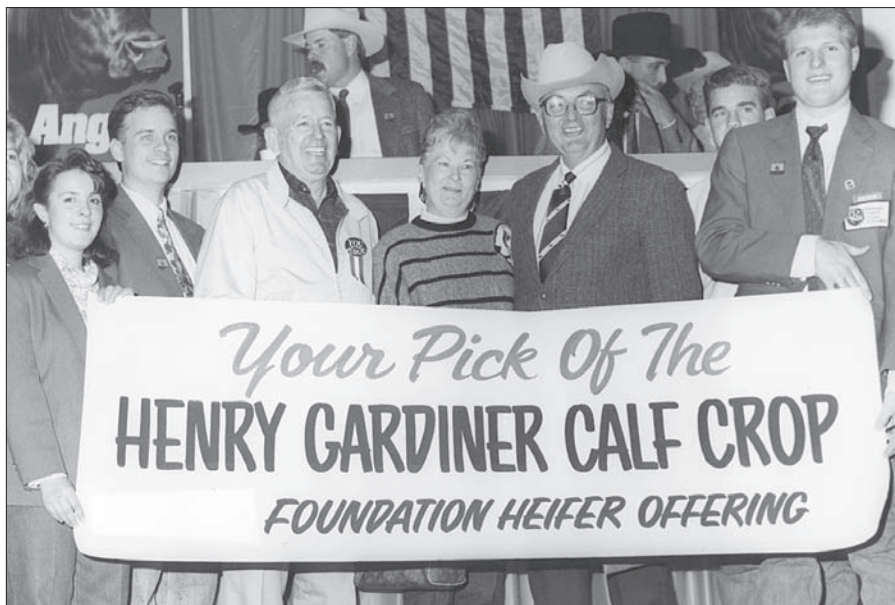
While state field days played a notable part from the start, it wasn’t until 1967 that the first national breed youth competition debuted. That year the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest took place in Lexington, Ky., in conjunction with the All-American Angus Breeders’ Futurity.

“In setting it up, we were trying to get state leaders to compete at the national level,” Hurlbut says of the Association-sponsored showmanship contest. In the beginning, he says, it was not uncommon to have 70 showmanship contestants compete for the top title. Much like today’s national showmanship event, two juniors representing each state could advance to the national level.

Randy Daniel of Colbert, Ga., remembers competing at the inaugural event. “I was 15 and the youngest person,” he says. The Georgia Junior Angus Association representative finished fourth.

“Most of us [who] are actively involved in the cattle business can trace our love for the business to our desire to compete in junior organizations,” Daniel says. He owns Partisover Ranch, a family Angus and commercial operation.

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►The Angus Foundation was established in 1980 to support youth, education and research activities. Much of the Foundation’s funding is gained through the annual donation and purchase of a Foundation heifer. Above David McMahon, Belle Point Ranch, Lavaca, Ark., purchases a heifer donated by Henry and Nan Gardiner, Ashland, Kan.



►Above: In 1967 the first National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest took place in conjunction with the All-American Angus Breeders’ Futurity in Lexington, Ky. For the first time, state leaders had an opportunity to compete at the national level.



►Left: In 1956 Val Brundgardt became the first full-time employee to direct Angus youth activities. Soon after, the Association moved from Chicago to Saint Joseph, Mo., where a new program was introduced to help young people with Angus livestock projects.

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Daniel, an alumnus of the University of Georgia, judges many livestock shows each year. His résumé includes judging numerous national junior breed shows. In 1996 he evaluated the steer entries at the National Junior Angus Show in Kansas City, Mo.

As a junior exhibitor, Daniel exhibited both Angus and Hereford cattle. “The main reason I wanted to be involved in the junior Angus association in Georgia is that they were more active than the others,” Daniel says. “It was the one you wanted to join.”

Daniel credits energetic junior members, as well as tireless adult volunteers, for making his junior Angus experiences memorable. Each year, the Georgia group raised money to attend the All-American Angus Breeders’ Futurity. It was at this event that the young people had an opportunity to meet Angus breeders from across the country, Daniel says. “It was a big deal for us,” he says.

The Daniel family’s next generation was also active in Angus youth activities. Randy and his wife, Beth, have two children, Buck, 25, and Whitney, 22. The family traveled and competed at local, state and national livestock shows when the children were of junior association age.

### Providing a national show

Recognizing the immediate success of the showmanship contest, the Association Board soon followed with a national junior show in 1969. According to Hurlbut, the National Junior Angus Heifer Show originated as a separate event from the showmanship contest. That first year, junior exhibitors brought 103 Angus heifers to Columbia, Mo. Later, in 1974, the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest was moved from Kentucky and ever since has taken place in conjunction with the national show.

Throughout the years, the national show expanded to include bull, steer, cow-calf pairs, and bred-and-owned divisions. When

“The junior program put the framework together for a network that never existed before.”

— Julie McMahon French

bulls were added to the show in 1982, it was reorganized as the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS). At the 2007 event in Tulsa, Okla., 680 junior participants from 37 states exhibited 1,241 Angus entries.

Today, 39 years after its inception, the midsummer event is not limited to showing participation; interested junior members can compete in a variety of individual and team contests outside the showing.

### Forming an official youth organization

Growing interest in state associations, in addition to the immediate success of the two national competitions, set the stage for forming a national youth organization. In the early 1980s, under the direction of Jerry Lipsey, then director of junior activities and now executive vice president of the American Simmental Association, an official youth organization was created.

The NJAA was officially formed and the first 12-member Angus youth Board was elected in 1980 at the 12th National Junior Angus Heifer Show, which was in Wichita, Kan. Prior to that, junior Angus activities centered around the showing. Earlier in the year, breeders had established the Angus Foundation to fund a variety of youth programs and opportunities. This momentous move allowed educational programs to emerge.

Julie McMahon French, a past Arkansas junior Angus member, served on the

inaugural NJAA Board. “It was pretty exciting because we hadn’t done anything like that before,” she says.

Although she had been a state leader and had exhibited cattle at several national shows, French had hesitated about pursuing a position. “Richard Dyar, our Association regional manager, came to me at the state show that winter and said, ‘They are going to organize the National Junior Angus Association, and I think you should run,’” French says. “That was the first time I felt anybody outside my family recognized my potential.”

Since the novice organization lacked established guidelines, French recalls drawing straws to determine term lengths. She drew two years, and later served as the second national chairman for the 1981-1982 term.

“I really credit Dr. Lipsey and his leadership style,” she says. “He was careful not to overprogram the result, and that allowed the NJAA a chance to blossom from a youth perspective. I also feel he was carrying out a lot of Dean Hurlbut’s vision.”

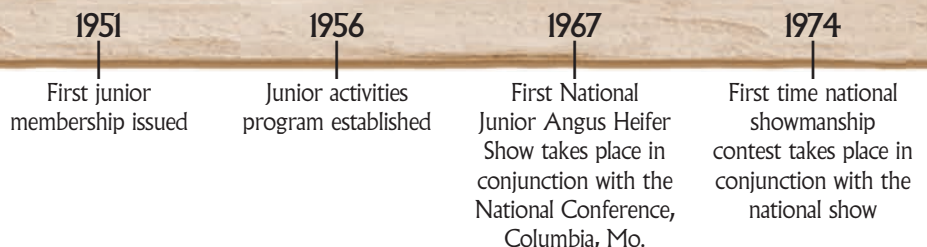
Now, looking back nearly 30 years later, this active Angus Foundation volunteer still lives by the lessons learned through her early NJAA experiences.

“It’s all up to you as a kid,” she says. “How much are you going to give? What are you going to throw yourself out there to do? Are you going to show your heifer? Enter in showmanship? Make that speech? If you only do one thing or if you do everything, it’s all up to you how you want to measure it later.”

Today this Oklahoma State University alumna owns and operates an advertising and marketing business in Beaverton, Mich. Some of her clients manage Angus programs, including her family’s Arkansas operation, Belle Point Ranch.

“The junior program put the framework together for a network that never existed before,” she says. “From 1980 to 2008, and 40 years hence, there will be a network of people within the

## NJAA TIME LINE



American Angus Association membership who know, trust and respect each other, probably differently than anyone who has come before us.”

### Serving as volunteer leaders

Linda Mrotek Alexander, a past president of the Virginia Junior Angus Association and past state Angus queen, also attended early NJAA gatherings, where she served as a voting delegate.

While a majority of her Angus activities focused on state and regional junior competitions, Alexander traveled one summer with her family to the NJAS in Milwaukee, Wis., as Virginia’s showmanship contestant.

“It was an honor just to be a part of it,” she says. “It’s awesome to feel the excitement.” Alexander and her husband, Chuck, manage a small herd, Turning Point Angus, based in Berryville, Va.

Now as an active adult member in her home state, Alexander appreciates the opportunities she experienced as an Angus junior. She is giving back to the organization by volunteering as an advisor for the Northern Virginia Junior Angus Association.

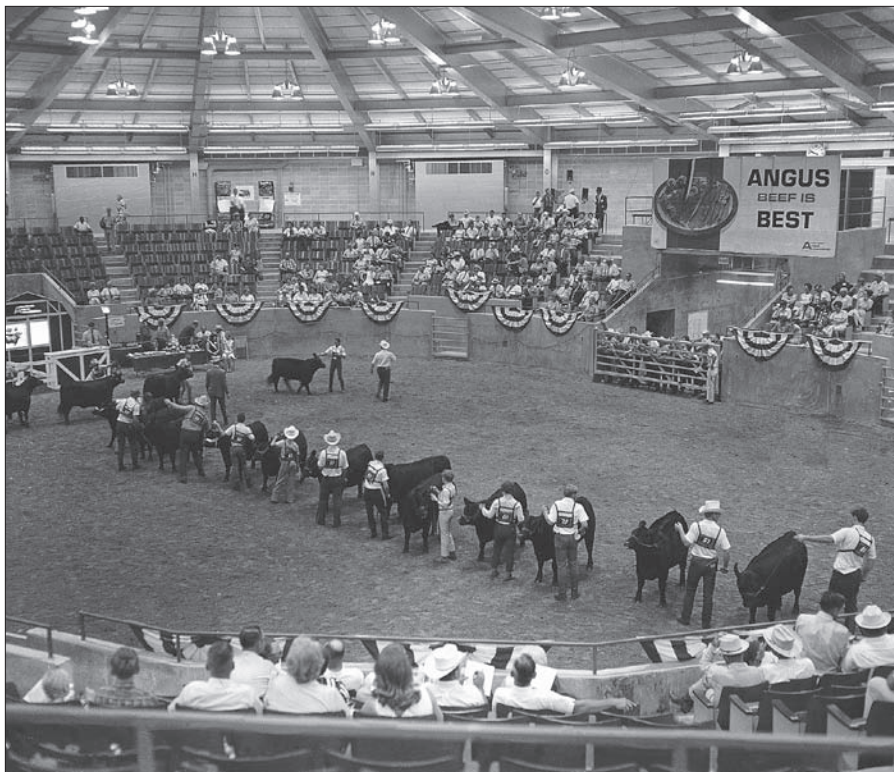
“We’ve always been active with youth,” says the mother of two children, ages 13 and 11. “I guess that is part of who we are.”

In 1999 the Alexanders also worked with several other northern Virginia Angus breeders to introduce the Mid-Atlantic Junior Angus Classic (MAJAC), where she continues to serve as show chairman. In addition to providing another show for junior Angus exhibitors, MAJAC provides family fun and educational activities, Alexander says.

This Virginia volunteer encourages others to take time to serve as adult advisors and mentors. “Be there for them. Work with, teach and help them learn, because it’s a wonderful foundation,” she says.

“One key to the success of the junior

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► Recognizing the success of the first showmanship contest in 1967, the Association followed suit with a national junior show in Columbia, Mo., two years later. After 1973, the showmanship contest would take place in conjunction with the national junior show.



► “I believe youth are our future,” says past Angus Foundation chairman and Association president Charles “Bud” Smith (second from left). “Organizations such as what we have definitely build and develop great leaders — not only Angus breeders, but as national leaders. And I’d put the future of our country in the hands of the young people [who] are involved with Angus activities.”



► The American Angus Auxiliary and state auxiliaries have been steady supporters of junior activities, sponsoring awards, contests, ambassador programs and scholarships to reward juniors for their participation.

1976

Bred-and-owned heifer division created at National Junior Angus Heifer Show

1980

Angus Foundation established

1980

National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) formed; first junior board elected

1982

Bull divisions added to the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS)

1983

First Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off contest

**A Solid Start** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 71

program is the volunteer leadership that we get at the state level from junior advisors and state associations,” says Fisher, the Association’s director of junior activities since 1991. “Those adults are providing leadership on a volunteer basis to help young people. We could not offer the junior programs we do without them.”

Past Angus Foundation Chairman and American Angus Association President Charles “Bud” Smith Jr. agrees, saying, “I have seen what it has done for my family and in my state.” Although Smith grew up raising Angus cattle in Russell Springs, Ky., he first became involved with the NJAA through his children. Smith has served as a state junior advisor in Kentucky and is a past advisor to the NJAA Board.

Today he believes the breed’s junior program is second-to-none. “Our young people are a great asset to the American Angus Association,” he says.

“It’s a wonderful way of life,” Smith says, borrowing a slogan adopted by the Kentucky juniors for a fundraiser several years ago. “It’s also wonderful for us adults to watch them grow and mature. The NJAA gives young people an opportunity that a lot

**New this year, the Angus Foundation is offering Association members graduate student scholarships.**

of times they wouldn’t have.

“Not only do I think about the learning experiences that these kids are able to attain but the special friendships that they make,” he says.

Growth of the junior activities wouldn’t be possible without adult support, says *Angus Journal* editor Shauna Rose Hermel. “Some of the most unsung supporters of junior activities are the ladies of the American Angus Auxiliary and each state auxiliary. As I grew up through the ranks of the Missouri and National Junior Angus associations, the ladies of the Auxiliary were steady supporters of our state and national activities.”

Their sponsorship of contests, awards and scholarships is only part of the story.

“As a shy youngster, it’s so much easier to become involved in activities when there are people, besides your family, encouraging you to try and telling you they believe in you,” Hermel says. “I owe a lot to the ladies of the Missouri, Iowa and American Angus auxiliaries for giving me the confidence to compete and the means to do it.”

**Adding activities**

Various contests continued to be added to the NJAS, providing junior members access to events outside the showring. First came the Angus Quiz Bowl in 1979, serving as the first contest in which junior Angus association teams from all over the country could take part at the national show without showing an animal. Then came the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off in 1983. Next came the national scrapbook, public speaking and poster contests. Team sales debuted in 1991. Since then, photography, extemporaneous public speaking, graphic design, creative writing and team fitting contests have been implemented.

“These contests give juniors a taste of ‘real-world’ issues affecting the cattle business — both registered and commercial,” says Matt Perrier, past Association regional manager for Texas and New Mexico, as well as past director of commercial programs.

This former Kansas junior Angus member mainly benefited from options offered outside the showring, including the computer cow-calf game. Perrier grew up near Eureka, Kan., where he and his family operate Dalebanks Angus. He competed in showmanship and team sales on the national level and helped plan an NJAS. In 1994 this active Kansas junior — who never held a state leadership position — joined the NJAA Board. He served as chairman in 1995.

“Through this leadership experience I learned to work with a variety of people from extremely diverse backgrounds with



► Rhonda Nida McCurry, 1998-99 NJAA vice chairman from Red Rock, Okla., says she learned a lot about responsibility and hard work from her junior involvement. “If parents want their children to meet great people and learn a lot of skills to prepare them in life, then they need to encourage them to participate in the NJAA.”



► “Through this leadership experience I learned to work with a variety of people from extremely diverse backgrounds with one common interest — Angus cattle,” says former junior Board member Matt Perrier (right), who worked for the Association before returning to his family’s Angus operation. (Also pictured is regional manager Rod Wesselman.)

**NJAA TIME LINE**

	1989	1990	1991	1992
	First NJAA public speaking contest at NJAS	NJAA poster contest introduced at NJAS	NJAA team sales competition introduced at NJAS	First <i>Angus Journal</i> /NJAA photography contest at NJAS

one common interest — Angus cattle,” says the Kansas State University (K-State) graduate.

In supporting leadership development, the Foundation also funds programs such as the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference. Introduced in 1993, the national LEAD conferences emphasize leadership training and development opportunities for Angus youth. NJAA Directors help plan and conduct various sessions at this annual conference.

In 1994, the NJAA Board set up the Outstanding Leadership Award, which was funded by contributions to the Angus Foundation in memory of Barbara Smalstig, a longtime junior advisor in New York. This award was presented to an NJAA member involved in state junior Angus activities who had exhibited outstanding leadership on that level.

Not only can participation help young people learn to relate to others, it fosters a strong work ethic. That is how past NJAA Board member Rhonda (Nida) McCurry of Colwich, Kan., says she has benefited. “Growing up in the NJAA, I learned a lot about responsibility and hard work,” she says.

The 1998-1999 NJAA vice chairman became involved at an early age. At age 12, this young state leader, originally from Red Rock, Okla., remembers serving as a voting delegate at the NJAS. After that, she advanced to numerous state leadership positions.

During her NJAA experience, McCurry exhibited some champions in the showing, won the NJAS public speaking contest and competed on several winning Cook-Off teams.

During the summer of 1998 this K-State alumna, who majored in agricultural journalism and animal science, received a Foundation scholarship for \$1,000. It was the first time the Foundation presented \$20,000 in scholarships to 17 juniors. The following year the Foundation was able to raise more money for scholarships and presented two additional \$2,500

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► The NJAA Officers and Directors work together to develop new activities to continue leadership growth among junior members.



► Additional contests, such as public speaking, were added to the NJAS to provide junior members with leadership skills necessary for success.



► A significant portion of the American Angus Association membership has benefited from taking part in activities offered by the world’s largest junior beef breed organization.

1992	1993	1994	1996	1999	2001
First NJAS Sweepstakes Award given	First national Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference	First Outstanding Leadership Award offered	First NJAA extemporaneous speaking contest at the NJAS	Graphic-design contest introduced	Junior membership fee structure was changed to an annual dues-paying membership

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scholarships to qualified applicants. McCurry was one of the lucky two.

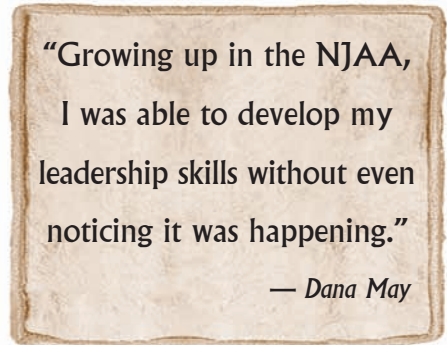
"I was really honored to receive that \$2,500," she says. "My husband, Jesse, also received Foundation scholarships as a junior member, as well as my younger sister, Rebecca, a few years later."

In 2006, Angus Foundation scholarships were increased from \$25,000 to \$100,000, which includes two \$5,000; 20 \$3,000 and 30 \$1,000 scholarships. These scholarships are presented to youth in undergraduate programs across the nation.

Since its inception in 1980, the Angus Foundation has grown as the major financial backer to the youth organization. Numerous activities have been established to create funds to support youth, education

and research. Youth activities and fundraisers include scholarships, a silent auction at the NJAS, the annual heifer package at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) in Denver, Colo., and an annual golf tournament during the week of the NJAS. The Foundation also supports the NJAA Board of Directors on their travel and workshop expenses.

New this year, the Angus Foundation is offering Association members graduate student scholarships. The Foundation will select five students planning to enter graduate school and award each of them a scholarship fund of \$5,000. For more information about this opportunity, contact the Foundation at 816-383-5100.



**Continuing to grow**

New features added to the NJAS continue to make the NJAA shine bright among other junior organizations. A sweepstakes competition began in 1992 to honor state associations with the best overall performance record at the NJAS. Additions throughout the years have been made to the national show to give juniors opportunities for leadership growth outside the showring. A mentoring program was added in 2002 to give first- and second-year juniors an opportunity to learn the ropes of show week from older members (see "Friends Across States," on page 84).

An addition to the 2007 NJAS was the start of a community service project. Juniors and their families collected more than 14 pounds (lb.) of aluminum can tabs, totaling around 18,500 tabs, to be donated to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Oklahoma City. Each state was given a collection bag for the week of the national show, and states also brought additional containers in which they had collected tabs throughout the year. Current Board members are hopeful this will become an annual trend, and they are encouraging members to collect tabs again this year for donation to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Iowa.

Leadership has always been on top of the list of priorities for the NJAA. In 2007 the NJAA Board announced its first state officer training program, Raising the Bar. This conference was designed to encourage state officers to build stronger officer teams

**Spreading the news**

Since its inception in 1980, the responsibilities of the NJAA Board increased, and they have become more visible throughout the Angus industry. In 1985, NJAA Board members decided to begin publishing the "National Junior Angus Association Newsletter" (later renamed "Directions"). Written almost entirely by members of the NJAA Board, it is mailed twice a year to every junior member. In addition, directors began writing monthly columns in the youth section of the *Angus Journal*, "Next Generation."



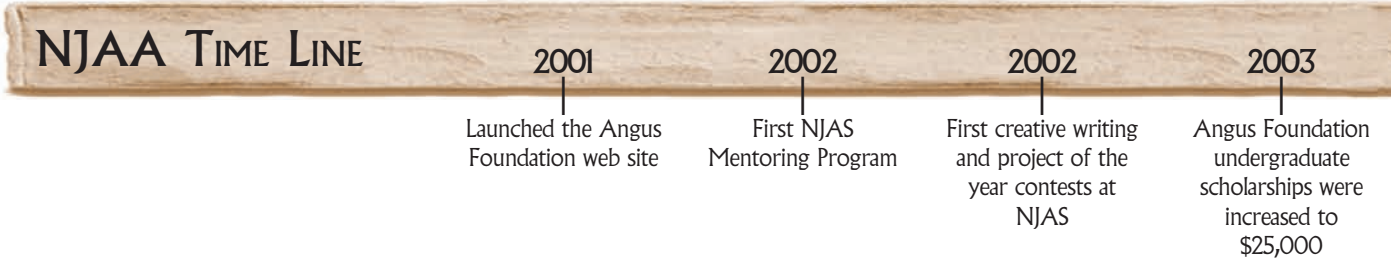
The junior association web site was launched in 2001 as a tool to make the organization's news and events more accessible to its members. The web site includes a "What's New?" section, NJAA Board biographies, scholarship information, an event calendar and leadership opportunities as well as links to state association sites. Juniors can go to [www.njas.info](http://www.njas.info) for any questions they have about upcoming shows or events.

**NATIONAL JUNIOR NJAA ANGUS ASSOCIATION**  
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**What's New at NJAA**  
Notice: the 2008 National Junior Angus Show Graphic Design Contest theme is to design a one page magazine advertisement for promoting the state officer training, Raising the Bar. The green information packet had a reprint of designing a brochure.

**NJAA Aluminum Tabs Project**  
Opening up Our Hearts to Families in Need  
There was an addition to the National Junior Angus Show this year that didn't need a slot in the schedule or take much preparation. This year the juniors and their families collected over 14 lbs of pop tabs, totaling approximately 18,500 tabs, to be donated to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Oklahoma City. Each state was given a collection bag for the week and states also brought additional containers in which they had collected throughout the year. This was the first community service project at the National Junior Angus Show in many years and it proved to be a great success! The Oklahoma City Ronald McDonald House was very appreciative of our help in their efforts to help children and their families during the child's stay in the hospital. They wanted to be sure to thank everyone who donated and were excited to hear this project would be continued for the years to come in order to benefit families around the country!

In 2008 we plan to continue this project, with the hope that the states will challenge their junior members to get started early and make this a year round project. Start using your tabs today. Make sure to save all your aluminum pop tabs and tabs from other beverages that come in aluminum cans, and then bring them with you to the National Junior Angus Show in Des Moines next summer. Through your efforts we hope to make a sizable contribution to the Ronald McDonald House Charity.



within state associations and to promote regional relationships. The conference offers opportunities for state teams to learn success strategies, create regional connections, exchange ideas and develop the means to communicate with one another. There are four regions and four conferences.

The NJAA fosters leadership skills through every activity it offers.

“Growing up in the NJAA, I was able to develop my leadership skills without even noticing it was happening,” Dana May, NJAA membership director, says. “Being active in the Wisconsin junior association, attending the NJAS annually, and taking part in contests fostered my drive and determination that has allowed me to take various leadership positions in my life.”

Leadership skills and activities developed through the junior association have the tendency to stick with you throughout your life.

“The best part about the way the NJAA develops leaders is that it develops leadership skills through a variety of fun events and activities, which allows each member to take advantage of what works for them,” May says. “The NJAA also surrounds members with peers and families who value leadership and strive to better themselves and their community, which is a source of support and encouragement throughout their lives.”

The junior association cultivates a love for the Angus breed through cattle shows, contests and leadership activities. New programs for the NJAA continue to build a solid leadership foundation and encourage junior members to get their backs off the wall and jump into leadership positions while creating lifelong memories.



**Editor’s Note:** \*In 2007, the Association recorded 7,831 active members and 4,905 inactive members, which includes multiple-year junior members who have not registered an animal within the last six fiscal years.

## Forming lifelong friendships

A memorable part of Kellie (Coonrad) Enns’s experience as a Washington Junior Angus Association member involved meeting people from other states. “Some of the best friends that I have today I met through the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA),” says the former NJAA Director from eastern Washington. She served as NJAA vice chairman in 1991.

For Enns and her three older siblings, much like countless other juniors, Angus youth activities were considered a “family thing.”

“There was a lot of road time traveling to various junior activities in the Western region,” she recalls.

Now, as an agricultural education instructor at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, she believes this time together is very important in a young person’s life.

“It’s a wonderful opportunity for families to really get to know the things that are important to their kids,” she says. Enns, a graduate of Washington State and Colorado State universities, just completed a doctoral degree in agricultural education.

Even though it was always too far to haul cattle to the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), the Coonrad family didn’t miss the chance to compete at the NJAS. “We’d charter a bus in the northwest region and take about 40 juniors each year,” she says. Her parents, Dan and Karen Coonrad, often would serve as chaperones.

Enns competed in public speaking, showmanship and the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off. At the NJAS in Springfield, Ill., the Washington cook-off team won. Other highlights for this junior included finishing first in the speech contest and second in showmanship.

“That’s the neat thing about the National Junior Angus Association,” Enns says. “We were able to participate even if we weren’t able to show.” She goes on to say, “One of the most important things we can do as an Association is offer kids a lot of different avenues to be active.”

Kara Wilson, current NJAA communications director, says she wouldn’t be the same person without the variety of experiences the NJAA has offered her.

“This past April I was able to attend YBIC (Youth Beef Industry Congress). I really enjoyed the opportunity to talk about the cattle industry as a whole and get to know the leaders of the other breed and state junior cattlemen’s associations. It was a great chance for the Board to look at what other associations are doing and possibly get new ideas to add to our own program,” Wilson says of her junior Board experiences. “I’ve had the opportunity to work with hundreds of wonderful people and travel to areas of the country I had never seen before — and may not have had the chance to see otherwise.”



►“It’s about providing an avenue for a kid to succeed,” says Kelly Coonrad Enns (front row, second from left), a former NJAA Board member who is now an agricultural education instructor. “If we don’t provide [the kids] positive things to get involved in, they’ll find a lot of other things.”

2006

A team fitting competition was introduced at the NJAS

2006

Angus Foundation scholarships were increased to \$100,000

2007

First statewide community service project at the NJAS

2007

Regional “Raising the Bar” state officer training introduced

2008

First graduate student scholarships available totaling \$25,000