



► Maine juniors come bearing gifts to their first NJAS.

# Maine's First Showing

These junior members made the most of their first NJAS experience

Story & photos by *Tosha Powell*



PHOTO BY MATTHEW ELLIOTT

► The Maine Jr. Angus stall display features junior's hometowns and a tropical Christmas

**F**or the first time ever, an organized group of National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members from the state of Maine attended a National Junior Angus Show (NJAS). Last year they opted to go to a regional instead of attending the 2007 NJAS in Oklahoma, but this year they set their sites on the 2008 NJAS in Des Moines.

“Attendance to the 2007 Eastern Regional was decided due to proximity to Maine,” says Michael Trenholm, an adult leader for the state. “The juniors experienced a sense of achievement and fellowship, which became the catalyst toward a desire for further participation in Angus events.”

Also in 2007, the Maine juniors attended the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference and Raising the Bar officer training.

“The adult group has been very supportive of the rejuvenation of the junior association,” Trenholm says. “Maintaining enthusiasm at the current level is a challenge

that will attempt to be met partially by communicating the benefits of membership and providing opportunities and funding to experience those benefits.”

The Maine Junior Angus Association includes 25 members. Rachel Stevenson is the adult advisor. Stevenson and seven members went to Iowa with six animals. They made the most of their NJAS experience, participating in almost every event or contest throughout the week.

“This group has shown the ability to create goals and follow through,” says Trenholm, who is also father to Anne Trenholm, Association assistant director of communications and former NJAA member. “They raised the funding as a group in order that no individual would have to incur the expense of attending any planned event.”

This fundraising effort was made possible by generous financial support from family, related industries, the Maine State Department of Agriculture and Maine Angus breeders. Maine juniors held various fundraising events, including the sale of a donated heifer, preparation and hosting of a *Certified Angus Beef®* (CAB®) brand prime rib dinner for the Maine Angus Association annual meeting, raffles, and food sales.

The Trenholms appreciate the value of the American Angus Association and the junior programs and hope to encourage juniors to continue to be active through the educational events the Association offers.

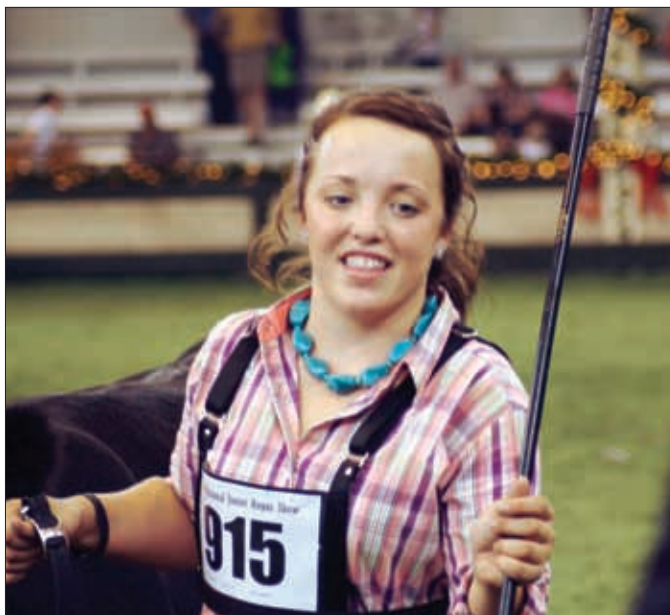
“Our over-arching goal is to bring an awareness to the multiple opportunities that exist for youth through American Angus,” he says. “We hope that as many youth as possible will be able to capitalize and then share their experience to keep the momentum going forward. This should have a ‘trickle-up’ effect within the entire group of youth and adults.” ❄️

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— **Michael Trenholm**



►Members learn teamwork and cooperation while competing in the team fitting contest.



►Left: Seven juniors brought six head of cattle to show in Des Moines. Fundraising is already in place for a trip to the 2009 NJAS in Perry, Ga.

►Below: Junior member Mitchell White vvs for the title in the showmanship competition. Maine junior members competed in almost every event and contest.

