

THE IMZA

CON*NECTION

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Official Publication of the International Miniature Zebu Association
IMZA - Home of the World's Smallest Cattle



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RARE TWIN Miniature Zebus create excitement!!
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Cover Picture:

TWIN heifer calves born 06-19-2014, near Coweta, Oklahoma to Charles Campbell's cow and bull, Chigger Ridges Suzy and PJV Little Tex. The calves are pending registry as "Sissyminu" and "Sassymilu". Minu and Milu are names from India, homeland of indigenous small zebu cattle. (See additional article P. 15)

(Photo by Dee Woodward)



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President's Message

Happy Spring (and Summer) Everyone,

It is wonderful to have that nasty, frigid winter with its arctic blasts behind us. I hope that your cattle came through it well and healthy.

Most of us are in the midst of calving season now. IMZA has some ways to help you sell your calves and to promote the breed at the same time. The Board of Directors voted to add a reduced cost gift IMZA membership. You may gift a one year membership to your mini zebu buyers or interested friends one time if they are non-members for a reduced fee of \$25. Several of our member/ breeders are now making it a practice to gift a one year IMZA membership as a bonus for their non-member buyers with the purchase of a calf, cow or bull.

We also have IMZA pamphlets available. These tri-folds are packed with colorful pictures and useful mini zebu information. They are an excellent selling tool when distributed at your local feed store, farm store or livestock sale barn. The pamphlet is designed so that you may add your own address sticker to the back thus personalizing it and bringing interested buyers directly to you. Don't forget to include one in your registration/transfer paperwork sale packet. Your buyers will appreciate it. These pamphlets are available for free from our IMZA registry office.

One more sales tool that IMZA offers is the "Sale Barn" page on our website www.imza.name. Great sales results are being reported by our member users and it's free. Please, take advantage of all these helpful selling tools which IMZA has provided for your use. They really are designed to work for you.

I hope that you all have enjoyed spring and have taken time to celebrate the births of your new little miniature zebu calves and that you carry on into the summer activities that are fast upon us and, of course, the continued births of more new calves as the season progresses.

Judy Rohner
President, IMZA

2014 IMZA ANNUAL MEETING



Photos on P. 4 & 5 by IMZA Board member Alan Blumhorst

The 23rd annual meeting of the International Miniature Zebu Association was held on April 9, 2014 at the Fly Wheel Club building located in the fairgrounds in Macon, Missouri. The evening began with a social time at 5:30PM followed by a delicious BBQ buffet style dinner served by Nolan's Catering of Macon, MO. The annual meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Judy Rohner with 40 people in attendance, representing 9 states.

The President opened the meeting by giving the annual address. The minutes of the 2013 meeting were read by Secretary Rick Bogle and approved followed by Treasurer Dennis Beranek's report. Then a reading of the Registrar's report from Maureen Neidhardt and Standing Committee reports were given by the chairpersons: Matt Loudenbeck-Alternative Registration Committee, Dennis Beranek-Membership Committee, Bob Balensiefen Newsletter Committee and Rick Bogle-Show Committee.

The results of the Board of Directors were revealed. Rick Bogle and Matt Loudenbeck were each re-elected to serve another 3 year term. The president then called for a vote by the general membership in attendance concerning the proposal to change the By-Laws. A 2/3 majority vote is required for a change in the By-Laws. The proposal was unanimously approved. All late charges and fines have been dropped. There will be no more late fees charged for any registry work. All references to late fines and fees have been stricken from the By-Laws.



At the sale, Dean Schocker's miniature zebu consignments represented by copies of their registration certificates and a poster from his farm, Mini Cornpatch of New Liberty, IA.

Breeding Miniature Zebu, The Early Years



Kathy and Dick Heiken

**This article contains:
An Early Member
SPOTLIGHT,
IMZA HISTORY**

**AND DETAILS OF HOW
IMZA was formed and
how a breeder developed
their own line of Miniature
Zebus**

**A First Person Inter-
view with Kathy and Dick
Heiken, Heikens Ark, Des
Moines, IA**

By: Maureen Neidhardt, IMZA Registrar and Newsletter Editor

A VISIT TO “HEIKENS ARK”...

An interview with Kathy Heiken

The 'love affair' with many species of animals between Dick and Kathy Heiken of Des Moines, IA started in 1987. That is when their interest became more intense and involved. Dick Heiken was initially a farmer as he had grown up on a farm but found that he really couldn't make a living at it so he then started out working in a factory, and he subsequently became a plumber and from those background experiences he found that he could envision how something can be made, he can build and create. He envisioned self- service car washes that he then built and he and Kathy together got into Mini Storage Units as another business venture.

Kathy loved animals before meeting Dick. Her family had a milk cow and pigs and she just always liked animals. She has additional experience in hand milking cows and raising a big garden on a small acreage. She became a Physical Education Teacher and further, went into professional business ventures. When she and Dick were married 34 years ago, she took over his office and has kept the records for their businesses ever since.

Perhaps it was an adventure, perhaps it was a lark, perhaps it was a well thought out business venture but at any rate it was a mutual agree-

Heikens Ark Spotlight...Continued



ment to get some special animals to put on their property. However this venture called “Heikens Ark” actually got started, it has become a well-known icon of the alternative livestock industry for the past 27 years or so. Starting in 1987, first came camels...White Dromedarys, then came the Potbellied Pig rage of the 1990’s and also the fun of the mysterious Tennessee Fainting Goats and membership in the International Fainting Goat Association which was a new registry and association at that time. In April of 1990 at the Lolli Bros Alternative Livestock Sale, Macon, MO, they were fired up to expand further and Miniature Zebu cattle came into the picture. They purchased “King” and “Missy”, a 40 and 42 inch pair of grey Miniature Zebus at that sale. At that time they cost \$2500.00 and \$7750.00 respectively. Kathy commented that, “they were very pretty”.

As it is with many people who deal in the exotic livestock field, the interests expand about as far as the ability to care for the animals will allow!! Thus in 1991, “Heiken’s Ark” also became home to a number of very fine Watusi cattle, (the largest horned cattle in the World) and got a start in their Miniature Donkey herd. That year they also added Grant Zebras, and Jacobs Sheep.

In 1992 the addition to the Ark was Reindeer followed by Peacocks and Llamas.

Kathy commented that some people research forever but they are the

Heikens Ark Spotlight...Continued from P. 7



“Heikens Ark Maxi” spent his two year old summer with the watusi herd as he needed a place to be and was content there!!

type of people that jump into an animal related project and learn by doing. They had friends who helped along the way, someone who knew about each species so they could call for help as needed. Animal people are very helpful because they are concerned about the care of the animals and because they like other people who have their common interests.

Dick and Kathy Heiken were Founding Members of the IMZA having been in attendance at the formation meeting on April 15, 1991. Kathy served on the IMZA board of directors for about twelve years and further served as Treasurer during that time.

The Miniature Zebus now number 35 head and they are not having any calves born this year as they work at getting numbers down due to work load and the fact that Kathy is caring for her elderly mother who lives with them and Dick’s health is another issue that is causing them to slow down with their animals.

Kathy said she really had no idea how many Miniature Zebus they have raised through the years but we can be sure that the number exceeds several hundred.

There were three years or more that Heikens Ark presented animals at the Iowa State Fair, Avenue of Breeds. Among the animals they presented were, “Heiken’s Ark Kari” who was a beautiful Miniature Zebu breed example and the outstanding Watusi bull, “Spitfire” who always went.

Another special promotion or recognition was achieved when RFD TV did a show on Miniature Zebus and Fainting goats at Heikens Ark, which aired on National TV. There were also a number of additional tel-

evision programs and newspaper articles done regarding Heikens Ark and it's menagerie of animals.

When "Heikens Ark" was at it's peak it was a very full Ark with large numbers of certain of the species.

When asked about special hobbies that she and Dick might have Kathy said that it was mostly animals!!! Now in the evening, Kathy likes to read and Dick enjoys watching ball games on television.

Dick and Kathy have 11 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Some of the grandkids really like being at the "Ark" and doing some chores. These are girls ages 13, 15 and 7.

Kathy said, "We go to auctions because we love to visit with all of these people who are like us and in our own communities we are the 'odd balls', so to speak!"

Advice from the Heikens to newcomers thinking of raising Miniature Zebus is as follows: Do your research on the project, sift through and use what will work on your farm in terms of facilities and then make your decision but don't get them unless you love them. They are very nice animals to have if you have the time to work with them and keep them calm and gentle. Start small in numbers and gradually grow your herd if this fits your lifestyle and enjoyment. To do justice to them you need to be able to find the time to work with them.

In general only raise the breeds and species that you care for, always understand that you never have all of the answers and that you can go to your friends to learn what you are in question about. All of this effort is then a joy. It is an art to have the know how and a blessing to be able to do and then does not really feel like work.

A 'First' at Tulsa Boys Home

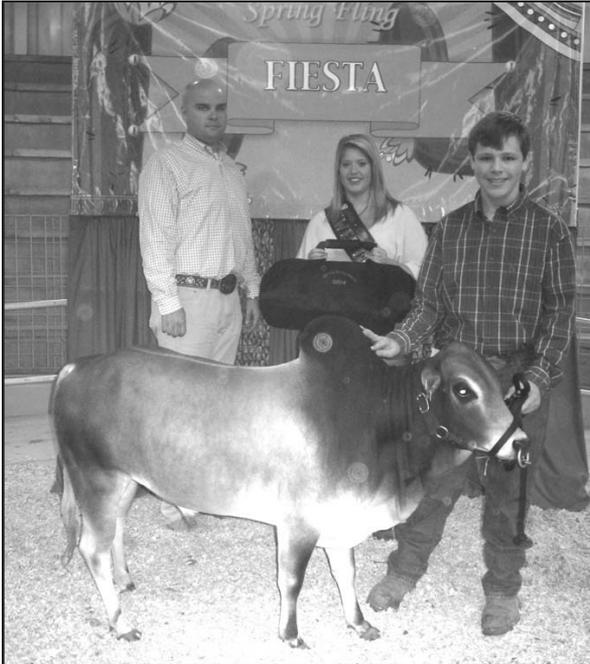
In the September 2013 IMZA CONNECTION we published an article titled, "Campbells Donate Miniature Zebus" which you can refer back to. Charles and Sharon Campbell, Coweta, OK donated a young bull, Little Valleys Kiowa and a heifer, Little Valleys Junebug, to the Tulsa Boys Home.

The Equine and also Miniature Zebu director of the home is Scott Averill, along with Charles Campbell they are pleased to announce that Junebug recently gave birth to a little bull calf. The Miniature Zebus have become a very nice addition and success at the Tulsa Boys Home. The boys are enjoying them so much that a decision has been made to expand their herd. This very classy facility has an additional 50 acres available for pasture and with this in mind the plan is to add about 8 more cows to their herd.

If there are any IMZA members who would wish to sell quality cows to the Tulsa Boys Home, possibly at a somewhat reduced rate or if anyone would like to donate miniature zebu cows in exchange for a tax deductible credit, contact Scott Averill at 918-724-0681 Cell.

Miniature Zebu take part in 2014 Spring Fling Fiesta, Youth Cattle Show, Bartow, FL

Photos and article by: Rick Bogle



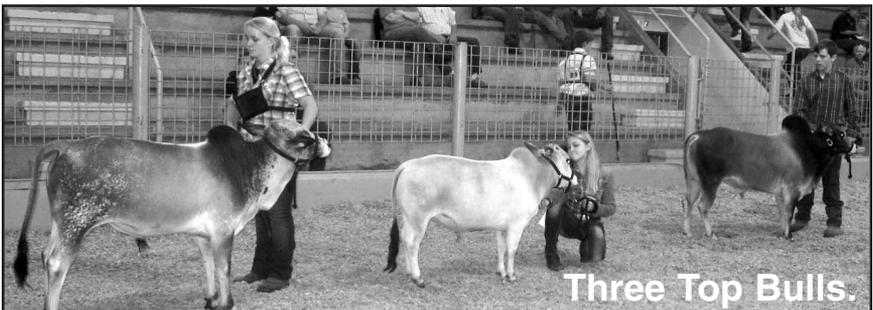
The Grand Champion Bull was Cheg's Little Bond, shown by Zachary Bogle.

Little Bond shown by Zachary Bogle. The Grand Champion Female was Bogle Farms Cinnamon shown by Nicole Bogle. Megan Handley had the top Zebu in the costume contest.

2014 Spring Fling Fiesta Youth Cattle Show

Another successful Miniature Zebu Show was held April 18 and 19, 2014, as part of the Spring Fling Fiesta Youth Cattle Show in Bartow, Florida. A great group of young people showing a nice group of zebus made for a grand time for all. In addition to the usual bull and heifer age classes, there was also a Luau Costume Show that was lots of fun.

The Grand Champion Miniature Zebu Bull was Cheg's

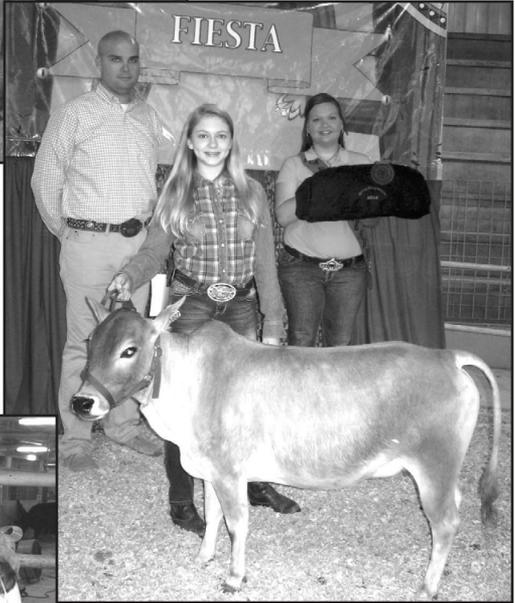


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Annate Green showing her Jr. Bull, Zephyr.

Once again, our little cattle stirred lots of interest in the rather "set in their ways" fat steer crowd. It was clear that we had converted quite a few of them to our wonderful little cattle. Slowly but surely, the masses are being won over!!



The Grand Champion Female was Bogle Farms Cinnamon, shown by Nicole Bogle.



Megan Handley had the top Miniature Zebu in the Luau Costume Contest.

IMZA Youth Member Tells His Mini Zebu Story

By: Wyatt Maddison

Well I guess to start off; I should say my name is Wyatt Maddison. How did I get involved with Zebu? When I was 12, I worked at our local rodeo. I never really cared about competing in the rodeo but my family all competed. My job was to hold the goat for the goat tiers and to push the cattle back for all the roping events.



Wyatt walking 2013 calves.

When I was done with that, it was my job to run around and make sure all the other workers had everything they needed. When the last show was done, Johnny, the man that owned the rodeo, gave me my first zebu as payment for working all summer. He told me that the bull had come in with a pot of cattle that he got from Texas and that he was around 4 months old. We took him home and we set up a water tank and a feed bunk for him. When my sister came home, who was 17, and saw him, she told us that he looked like a Roger and that has been his name ever since.

At the time, we knew nothing about the Zebu breed so we had to look it up on the internet. Around this time it was getting close to winter, and during winter we rent our neighbor's field so our horses can graze it during the winter. We would just let them out in the morning and when they heard the feed the feed hitting the feed bunks, they would come running in. One day we decided to see if Roger would go out with the horses. I opened the gate separated him from the horses and I took a step back. He just stood there and stared at me. Finally I walked inside our shop and I got a can of feed and tried to coax him out with that. Finally he followed me into the field and when I started to walk back to our shop he looked at me and ran back into his lot. After doing this 3 more times he finally stayed out in the field. During the first few weeks of letting him out there, he stayed along the fence where he could see our house. It never failed that every time I got off the bus, he was along the fence bawling at me. After about week 4 of this he decided to go out and explore the field, but when he heard the feed, he always beat the horses back to the shop.

After winter had passed, he went back to his lot to eat the spring grass. When it was about July, we started talking about getting some other cattle to put in with him. During this time, our neighbor Don heard about Roger and told us about how he had wanted to have a Zebu herd. When it came time for

the fall exotic cattle sale at Lolli Brothers, my dad and Don went up to buy a few. My mom had told them to come home with 2. You can say we were surprised when we go outside when they get home and see they came home with 9. After we got them all vaccinated and tagged, we put them in with Roger. We all laughed because he kept running around from cow to cow. In the group they brought home, there were 3 really friendly ones, 4 that would let you mess with them if you had feed, and then we had 2 that were just plain mean.



**Wyatt with Reba 2013.
Laying together became a routine!!**

After winter, we rented our other neighbor's field so they could graze in it during summer. Of the 4 cows that had been exposed, 3 of them were pregnant. Around July, the first cow tried to give birth but the calf had died inside her. After we pulled it, we gave her antibiotics. About a week later, the second cow, Virginia, had her bull calf and everything went fine with it. We left it on her for about 30 days, which we then learned later that you don't need to leave them on that long. When we separated him, we put him in a fairly spacious dog pen right next to our house. When we put a halter on him, we were trying to figure out a way to teach him to lead. One day we put him out on our dog line that we would put the dogs on so they could run and pretty soon he started leading really good.

About the time that Stormy, the first calf, was 2 months old, our second calf was born. Now with 2 calves, I had a lot of bottle feeding to do before I left for school and after I got back from school. When it was time for the spring Lolli Bros sale again, we took the cows to Macon that we didn't like or were unfriendly.

At the sale we sold the 2 calves and 5 cows, because 3 were unfriendly and 2 were just too large. After the sale, this left us with; Roger; Virginia; Casper, a small, white, and friendly zebu; Red, a small, red zebu who was a little nervous of people, who died from ulcers; and Bessie, who was an older, black cow who later died giving birth to her next calf. When it was April 14th, Virginia had her second calf, who we named Reba for her dark red color, which is still the same this day. We took her off of Virginia when she was 7 days old. When I started to bottle feed her, I would try to pet and rub on her as much as I could.

On July 7th, Casper had her first calf, that we then named Jewel. Again we left her on Casper for 7 days and then started to bottle feed her. When Reba was about 3 months old, it was a hot summer day and I sat down on the concrete next to her dog line. Next thing I know, she was lying next to me

and had her head lying in my lap. Pretty soon, this turned into a regular thing with me scratching her as she would lie next to me. After that, I could do just about anything with Reba and she would just rub her head against my leg.

Now things were not the same with Jewel. She was pretty nervous around people. When it was winter time, we decided to put Reba out with the bigger cows while we kept Jewel in the pen. When winter had passed we were trying to decide when to put Jewel out with the others. Then I came home at the beginning of February and told my parents that we could not put her out there until after I took her to the FFA petting zoo so all the little kids could pet a cow that they were taller than. When I told Paul, our FFA chapter

president I was bringing a Zebu, he asked me how much space it would need. When I told him about the same as a sheep he just laughed at me. When I got there on the day of the petting zoo, I saw the pen they had set up for her was bigger than all the other pens. Paul got there and saw that my calf weighed maybe 90 lbs. and was just above knee high.



Wyatt and “Jewel” in the car, on the way to the FFA petting Zoo!

When all the kids came through,

they couldn't believe that Jewel was a cow that small. She was voted the coolest animal there, above the Llama that Paul brought!

Then on March 22nd, Virginia had her 3rd calf, which was named Daisy by my sister Sam and best friend Corina. This is really my story of being introduced to miniature zebu cattle, learning about them and caring for them. Since the IMZA Annual meeting I have been busy trying to teach Daisy to lead and trying to make our new bull that we purchased at the sale a little friendlier. Right now we are also trying to wean Daisy off of the bottle, little by little.



Worth a Sniff

The IMZA would like to welcome our new members that have joined from February 2014 through June 2014.

Fred & Brenda Fuller, Homosassa, FL

Kreg & Deb Shane, Greenville, OH

Alexander Thompson, Williams, IA

Keith & Kelly Reed, Tecumseh, OK

Charles Shane Sims, Dayton, TX

Mary Cox, Mary's Go Round, Waldorf, MD

Monte Dalton, Comanche Creek Ranch, Marble Falls, TX

Sally A Strom, Worthngton, MA

Bobby Clark, Jubilee Holistic Farm, Floyd, VA

Greg Bennett, Red Gate Farm, Eustis, FL

Blank Park Zoo, Des Moines, IA

Kreg Eldridge and Nikki Bailey, Murphysboro, IL

Back Cover Photo...More about the TWINS!

There may have been twin Miniature Zebras born before but as IMZA Registrar I do not recall specifically having registered any.

Charles Campbell of Coweta, OK called to report the birth of twin heifers born on June 19th and this is a rare and exciting event.

About 21/2 years ago, Charles and his wife purchased most of the Miniature Zebu herd belonging to Chester and Dee Woodward, also of Coweta, OK.

In an arrangement beneficial to both the new herd known as Campbell Family Farm and the former Woodward herd known as Little Valley Acres the Campbells pasture some of their cows at the Woodward's each summer. Chester was accustomed to raising and caring for his Miniature Zebu and enjoys having some of them return to spend the summer.

Chester knew that Chigger Ridges Suzie was close to calving when the Campbells brought cows to pasture in June. Imagine his surprise when about a week later he checked on the cows and saw that Suzie had her calf. He turned to go back to the house, then did a 'double take'. so to speak, as there were two calves nursing!! They turned out to both be heifers and appear to be very much identical with exception of a little black tip on one tail!!

Needless to say, the Campbells are very proud owners and having both be heifers is a plus due to the fertility factors involved with twins. If born twin to a bull the heifer will be sterile 92% of the time.

Meanwhile, the Woodward's grandchildren are enjoying meeting the little calves that were 14 lbs each at birth. Cover photo includes their 6 year old grandson, Noah Rapp, learning a bit of the cattle business in a "small way"!!

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Keeping
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unity
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Founded in 1991, the IMZA is the oldest registry of miniature zebu in the world. Our purpose is to collect, record, and preserve the pedigrees of all Miniature Zebu cattle. Additionally, we support our members through education and promotion of the breed, maintenance of a breed registry, and the regulation of all matters that pertain to the history, breeding, exhibition, or improvement of the Miniature Zebu breed.