

SOME COMMENTS-- DR. GERD HEUSCHMANN SYMPOSIUM, OCTOBER 2017

“Gerd's consistent emphasis on building a proper bridge for the horses' welfare is inspiring. He never waivers and it verifies what I hope to teach the next generation of horsemen/women. I love it! My medium trot seemed to melt out of the "Podhajsky trot" with very little effort on my part. So cool.”

Kelly Theisen, Professor of Equestrian Studies at Savannah College of Art and Design

“What a refreshing, educational way to spend a weekend. Just attended the Dr. Gerd Heuschmann clinic, and beautifully hosted by Andrea Haller and Cathy Willson.

Dr. Heuschmann first presented the most intriguing bio-mechanics lecture, complete with video and slides, fascinating and very eye opening, from structure and muscles and everything in between. Of most interest was the section on rein lameness and his way to correct that issue through correct riding, stretching and bending from the leg, true throughness, instead of the rein bending often seen. This is his specialty and dedication, horse first, rides with much more relaxation, feel, freedom for both.

Then on to the riding clinic where his video/slide lecture turned into a demonstration of what we learned, with each horse and rider combination taking up the task of correct stretching, true bending, asking for much more use of the back. This developed into lovely connection through the whole body, a horse and rider connection to the bit without pulling, a phrase repeated over and over!! His total dedication to bringing dressage back to classical training is obvious and quite helpful to the horses --and I think-- appreciated by the riders, even as the lessons were challenging.

His energy and enthusiasm were contagious and I'm happy to say, there are plans to bring him back, in May 2018. My trainers and I will attend again.”

Jean Brinkman, owner, ValHalla Farms

Wellborn FL

“Thank you again for putting together last weekend's Florida clinic with Gerd. It was by far the best clinic I have ever attended! The 2017 Gerd Heuschmann Equine Biomechanics Symposium was an outstanding educational experience for me as both a veterinarian and a rider. Gerd made the complex topic of equine biomechanics accessible to attendees through clear and understandable explanations and demonstrations. The application of his theories and explanations in the ridden lessons tied all of the information together and showed the validity of the classroom teachings. I look forward to future

opportunities to learn from Gerd Heuschmann- a master educator and advocate for the classically-trained horse!

Kindest regards,

Leighanne Erickson DVM

Hi Andrea, this is what I left with from attending Dr. G's clinic....thanks again to both you and Cathy for providing this wonderful opportunity!!

I spent three enlightening days at the beautiful Magnolia Farms located in Florida, consisting of lessons, bio-mechanic lectures and auditing other riders with Dr Gerd.

My horse and I are so thankful that someone with so much expertise, education, skills, and genuine love for the horse, was so passionately willing to share his immeasurable amount of insight.

His instruction was exuberant, comprehensible, easily understood and applied. I have so many mental images to take home with me to practice on my own..."ride to the loose, give to the heavy," "put your hands on a pedestal," "create a great feel, and you will create a great look", and most importantly, "I have time, you are never in a hurry"!

My desire and aspirations with my horse has always been, and always will be, lightness, bend, engagement, a soft back, relaxation, licking and chewing and a happy partner. I feel confident this weekend while attending Dr. Gerd's clinic I found the doorway, and I am on the right path!

Thank you for your undying devotion, passion and commitment to the welfare of the most noble and magnificent creature on earth!!!!

Natasha Corday, President, Duchess Elite Equine Products

Ft. Myers, FL

from Jennifer K. in Sorrento FL and her Lipizzan mare "Beans":

" I can't thank all of you enough for that symposium! It was way better than what I expected and I did have high expectations going :)

I will definitely audit in May and if there are any spots available I would also love to ride. Dr. Heuschmann saved my life...more importantly...he saved the lives of my horses. I only started riding in my adult life a few years ago and had never ridden dressage in my past. I watched my young mare that I had from 10 months of age slowly decline over the years. No one could give any information or help. There were lots of speculations from arthritis to kissing spine...to bad genetics. It really seemed hopeless at times! I was not riding her hard and for two years (due to personal injury) not at all! She is out in the

pasture in a small herd 24/7. I watched her front right hoof turn more and more inward—and her spicy spirit kind of dull. Her pasture movement became more and more choppy and when I did start riding her again she felt like riding a spinning washing machine!

The “ahh-haa!” moment came early this past spring when I first read, “Collection or Contortion”. With tears running down my face I understood finally that my little mare was so crooked she was extremely rein lame! Determined to study all that I could published by Dr. Heuschmann I ordered and read all of his books available. My mare and I started making some progress on the ground and in riding to try and help with her crookedness. Everything biomechanically started to make sense...and it was a relief to find out the why behind the turning of the hoof, the hollow side, the puffed out side...and her washing machine movement!

The symposium was the icing on the cake. That is where gaps and questions from the reading for me personally were filled in and answered. I came home more excited than ever to ride and fix all that had gone wrong with my little mare, Beans. The first ride I went into my best impression of a 2-point seat and trotted and cantered around until her head dropped...and it did—just like he said it would. From there using other techniques engrained in my head and notes from the symposium I moved forward... We are on the right track and I feel like for the first time in my life I am helping my best little mare! My family watched my second ride after the clinic—they said they didn’t recognize us! They said we were a different horse and rider...that Beans looked like she had more swing to her movement and that she really liked it—that she was very interested in what we were doing. Thank you, Dr. Heuschmann, Andrea, Magnolia Farms, and all of the sponsors!”

“Hi Andrea!

It was amazing, especially the lecture series followed by the rides. I have several friends that wish they could have attended. Magnolia Farms was a very good venue as well. Having turnout for the Horses was a welcome surprise so advertise that.

The sponsors were also excellent. I Learned a lot from both of them. Having the 20-30 minute “commercials “ was a good way to see what they had to offer.

I loved being able to stay on site with my horse! Keep me on your email list. Several of my friends would come to see Gerd & ride with him if he comes back next year especially including the lecture. “

Evie Dinkins, Atlanta