

Jan Biss Clinic November 24-25 2023
Mary Wicksten, BACH

Don and Marcetta Darensbourg of College Station graciously invited noted German rider and clinician Jan Biss to give a clinic at their Look Sharp Farm. Auditors had benches along the spacious covered arena. The day began with Mr. Biss demonstrating lead changes and steady gaits aboard the Darensbourg's fine Hanoverian "Sir Ian Scott". Even though it was a cold day, by the time anyone finished riding they had worked up a sweat!

The next ride went from a big Hanoverian to a gypsy Vanner, "Dugan", ridden by Aynsleigh Fettig. Using the proper balance and aids to get lead changes was a challenge. I think that many of us spectators were too busy trying to figure out how the owner kept those shagging fetlocks clean!



Mr. Biss emphasized how the rider's position and balance affect a horse, large or small. He called attention to saddles that were too big for a horse or that managed to slide forward and interfere with the motion of the shoulders. One attendee recommended a Wintec saddle that could be adjusted. The rest of us tried to figure out if our own saddles were OK.

The last horse of Friday morning was a Haflinger, a new prospect for the Darensbourgs. He was an "old fashioned" Haflinger, a chestnut with a build like a "mini draft" horse. This little rascal needed work! Just lunging him was a challenge. He learned RESPECT with Mr. Biss. Let's see if he works out to be a good mount for a smaller person.



F1Kelly riding Darensbourg's Regency