



# Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey

## COMMON SCENTS

March/April, 1997  
Vol. 21., No. 2

### From the President's Desk

Dear Members,

What a delight to see so many people at the Awards Brunch held on March 23. Among the 28 present were several founding members, a former member, new members and potential members. The brunch was simply delicious, what choices we had ... surely no one went home hungry.

We gave out 8 awards this year, the most we have had for many years. We all hope this trend continues. Congratulations to those members whose dogs earned titles this year.

Ruffie T.D. & Joanne Mac Kinnon  
Pippin T.D. & Pat Etchells  
Abner T.D. & Mimi Ruch  
Ziggy T.D. & Tony Svizeny  
Pega T.D. & Hope Meeker  
Pega Can. T.D. & Hope Meeker  
Derby Can. T.D. & Hope Meeker

&  
Tawny T.D.X. & Martha Windisch

We also honored our outgoing President, Anna Burbank, with a Kennel Ration Good Sportsmanship Medal. This award succeeds the Gaines Medal as the company is now owned by Heinz Pet foods. Anna was given the medal in recognition of her many years of work for the club in many capacities, from hospitality, being secretary, vice-president and president. And just because she

got an award doesn't mean she won't still help. Right, Anna?

Thank you to all the members who took time to fill out the survey. The board will be looking at the results and planning for the future based on this information, your opinions and suggestions as the club starts its 23rd year.

Tracking Experience Day has filled to overflowing with several people on the waiting list. Many of the members have agreed to help on April 20th, but we can always use more hands ... so call me at 908-832-7231 to volunteer. We always have a great time at TED introducing new people to our wonderful sport of TRACKING.

Now that spring has sprung, you no longer have an excuse not to get out to work your dogs. See you on the 20th !

Dear TED Participants,

We are looking forward to an informative and a fun filled day on the 20th. Take some time to read over the materials you have been sent. We'll be ready to introduce you to TRACKING.

Peg Forte

### Dates To Remember

**TED 1997**

..... Sunday, April 20, 1997

**Follow-up 1**

..... Saturday, June 7, 1997

**Follow-up 2**

..... Sunday, July 6, 1997

**Follow-up 3**

..... Saturday, August 9, 1997

**Certification Workshop**

..... Sunday, September 21, 1997

**Tracking Test**

..... Sunday, November 2, 1997



ANNA BURBANK lost her Dobie Raven late last year.

The HEIDE's Flat Coat Lacy took BOS at Westminster.

Golden Chipper MACKINNON earned the 2nd leg on his CD at Princeton.

HOPE MEAKER's Flattie Pega earned a leg toward her CDX at Princeton.

**President** - Peg Forte ♣ **Vice President** - Barbara Greenfield ♣ **Secretary** Mimi Ruch-  
**Treasurer** - John Etchells ♣ **Board Members** - Anna Burbank, Pat Etchells, Joanne MacKinnon, Ralph MacKinnon, Linda Riley ♣ **Editor** - Pat Etchells, PO Box 326, Lebanon, NJ 08833. deerhill@ptdprolog.net

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## And the Survey Said .....

*More than half our members, over 30 of you returned the surveys, that is a phenomenal response for a survey. Herein is a recap of the information gotten from the survey. The Board of Lenape will be looking at the information in detail and will plan our course according to the members suggestions. Thank you all for caring enough about our sport to spend the time to fill out the survey. For those who didn't fill one out yet we are still interested in your opinions and suggestions, so fill yours out and return it.*

People joined LTC because they wanted to learn to track, had an interest in tracking & dogs in general, liked Tracking, wanted to know more about AKC tracking, to learn to track and get TD titles on their dogs. They needed help & moral support & to help others train their dogs, wanted to support tracking, to help learn tracking & to be able to train with people & support tracking activities. They also wanted to learn more and get more people involved in tracking, attended TED & dog liked to track and they came for certification at match. They include charter members - group wanted to learn AKC tracking being a supportive husband and curiosity of the sport. They enjoyed the nice people, the good food and the fun.

Twenty five respondents said the club has met their

expectations. Six of the seven who checked no also checked yes. Their reasons for dissatisfaction included that they would like to see more regular training sessions, club provides a network for tracking partners but not formal lessons, not enough help or instruction when training and it is difficult to find people to track with or to lay tracks.

On the positive side the comments said TED's are outstanding and set a good foundation for their tracking training. They enjoy the activities and help, have learned a lot, have made friends, they got a "T", and their dog had fun. Others said how the club has grown and has evolved through the years and is accomplishing more all the time and that "people I refer have positive comments."

Of those who responded 36 have earned TD's with their dogs and 2 have earned TDX's. Ten are currently training their dog(s) to track. and eleven were not. Fourteen have trained dog(s) in the past and 16 plan to train a dog(s) to track in the future.

On the question of the club holding **regularly scheduled training sessions** the answers was 21 yes and 5 noes. Twenty members said they would help at these sessions.

**Variable Surface Tracking Test** question showed that 12 members are interested, 15 responded with a no, two said maybe or they didn't know. Reasons for the noes: Too advanced for me and the time involved, enjoy tracking in woods and fields, not pavement - would be interesting to experiment with it just to test dog's ability, but I would not pursue title. They have enough to learn, they or their dogs are too old, involved in judging and

starting OB with a new pup, it's enough working on TDX and the time involved. Several cited the dangers to the dogs in tracking over various surfaces that might contain contaminants (asphalt in parking lots) and the fumes from car exhaust, gas and oil leaks. On the pro side were those who are doing it now or would like to do it after their dog earns the TD.

Eighteen members expressed an interest in LTC developing an **Intermediate test** for which we offered our own award, one which helped to prepare you and your dog for the TDX test. Seven responded no.

**Other dog activities** our members are involved in: 15 in Obedience, 15 in Agility, 7 in field work, 11 in breed, and others are doing herding, carting, therapy dogs, instructing and judging.

Twenty felt they could help at TED, TD tests and 14 said they would assist with certifications workshops. Eighteen said they could help with hospitality. Guess that's why people like us and our food.

Conflicts with other dog activities keeps 15 of our members from **attending activities**, and five find it too far to travel. Working on weekends keeps some more away, but some of those said if they knew far enough in advance they could plan to attend. Members said they would try to help at various activities and we will be counting on them to follow through.

Holistic healing, herbal remedies, customs, narcotic dogs and working dogs were the categories that members are interested in having **programs** about. Some members said they had sources for speakers on some





of these topics so we have a place to start. Most members preferred Saturday or Sunday afternoons for programs and activities.

**Tracklayer certification** question showed that 15 of the respondents are already certified, three would like to be. Thirteen would be interested in having a T-shirt (Etc.) to show they are a "certified tracklayer."

On TED we had 23 of the responders who had attended the program, and 25 who like the concept. No one wanted to see TED replaced by other programs, 17 said TED should be done yearly and 6 would like to see TED alternated with programs by "experts." There were a couple of suggestions on programs and "experts."

On the Newsletter, 23 checked that they liked the format. Suggestions of having flyers on events have more emphasis, a list of people currently working dogs and looking for people to work with, advanced tracking tips, judges comments on tests, more human interest) i.e., profiles of members, officers and board members.

In addition, some members have offered to write articles and a suggestion of a source for articles on the Internet from two very knowledgeable long time tracking people.

Peg Forte compiled the statistics from the surveys and contributed this report for the newsletter.

## Letter from Charlotte Schwartz

(Ed Note: Charlotte is one of the club's founders, who is now an honorary member living in Florida)

Thanks for sending me all the stuff re Lenape Tracking Club. Oh, how I wish I could be in NJ to participate in all the wonderful activities you have planned! However, tropical Ft. Myers is a bit too far away.

In answer to your survey, I always read the newsletter, cover to cover and love it. It's the closest thing I can get to real tracking these days. Keep it coming!

I believe the TED should be held every year. Special programs by "experts" are fine but should be offered as extras, not in lieu of TEDs.

Certifying tracklayers is great concept and I encourage it. When I was active, I took tracklaying as my favorite part of tracking training and was very precise in knowing exactly where I had walked. I had a good teacher, Glen Johnson, who taught me to lay a track, plant a penny somewhere along the way and be able to go back an hour later and pick up the penny. If anyone failed to retrieve their penny, they had to stay in the field until they found it! That's a tough assignment, but we did it and were better tracklayers because of Glen's tough approach. We also did a lot of night tracking and let me tell you THAT will teach you to trust your dog if nothing else will!

As for the other areas of scent work, I believe that anything you can do or learn will benefit you and the dogs you train in many ways too numerous to mention. Keep learning!

Here in our area, we must be concerned about alligators and poisonous snakes - they are everywhere! Trouble is, they hide in tall grasses and weeds and you don't know they're about until you're too close for comfort. Moral to this - treasure your fields and enjoy getting out with the dogs and each other. Have a wonderful Spring and a



happy time at your upcoming activities. Wish I could join you all.

Best regards and Good tracking,

/s/ Charlotte

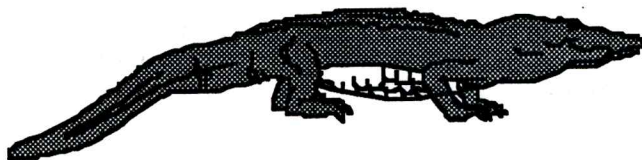
## Membership

The following former member has submitted an application for reinstatement. She will become a member 30 days after the mailing of this newsletter unless the secretary, Mimi Ruch, 179 Grove St, Somerville, NJ 08876 receives any letters of objection within 30 days.

Beatrice Smith, 15 Locust Road, Bordentown, NJ 08505.

Phone - 609-298-6729  
Miniature Schnauzer  
Standard Schnauzer

Sponsors - Pat Etchells  
Peg Forte





## SUMMARY OF MINUTES BOARD MEETING

March 7, 1997

### Correspondence

- AKC has approved us for an 8-dog TD test and has cancelled our TDX test - but has held the date for 1998.

### Old Business

- 97 Events
  - Carole Artim withdrew as one of our judges for our TD test, but we have Romaine Halupa to take her place
  - We still don't have a judge for the September certification match
- Land.
  - Ralph has prepared a proposal for landowners.
  - The field to the right of the town hall belongs to

the township and we can use it in addition to Rich's fields and Smith's top fields.

- Survey. Peg will prepare synopsis to mail with the next newsletter

### New Business

- Breeder's Directory.
  - Motion 1 : When people submit Breeder's Directory applications, they must prepay their dues for the following year. Passed.
  - Motion 2: Breeder's Directory applications should be brought before entire Board for approval. A minimum

requirement is that the applicant has been a member for a year. Passed.

- Gift for speakers. Peg made a breed-specific gift for the speaker at our nominations meeting. John will send a check to Seeing Eye for \$25 when Peg gives him the address.
- Hunterdon County Library wants to have clubs sponsor a magazine subscription. A motion was made by Barbara and seconded by Joanne that we do a dog-related one. Passed.

## ATTACKED BY A DOG CRATE

author unknown - (this is making the rounds on assorted Internet lists)

Geez, can you believe my (non)luck??? Two car accidents in one week, a very sick dog and now tonight, I am attacked by a vicious Vari Kennel. The vicious attack was unprovoked and resulted in facial surgery...ok, just stitches, but I had to make it dramatic! :) I went to get Zima out of her crate...she didn't want to come out (thought she was in trouble for barking and chose to stay in her crate where it would be safe ;) ). I took ahold of her scruff to get her out and she did a back pedal, threw the crate forward and WHAM...clearest my sinuses have been in a LONG time. :) ha ha Three darned stitches and a tetanus shot. I'm considering having the Vari Kennel euthanized due to aggression. hee hee

Monica

Dear Monica,

Please don't make that decision in haste. You have not even brought in a crate behaviorist to evaluate the Vari-kennel. It may have been a single episode

where the crate misread your social cues. Please re-consider. I am sure someone can put you in touch with Crate Rescue, if this is a situation you don't feel you can handle at this time.

Sincerely,

Lynn

Hey Monica!!

Send me the pedigree of the crate. Maybe we can get a research project going. Can you get a DNA sample, maybe from a plastic shaving?

We've got to stop crate aggression, people. If you are breeding, you need to be aware of which crates are behind yours. And I know of a couple other breeds-Star, General Cage, Furrari-that have been bred into the Vari line in the past, causing some interesting problems.

I can put you in touch with a company that makes crate

muzzles. You might want to check them out.

Cheers

Dusty

I think this crate needs a thorough exam by a doctor before you decide to euthanize it to make sure it doesn't have a medical problem like having a screw loose. If it does you might have to put it down and upgrade to one with a more stable locking mechanism... ;)

Are you sure you weren't at fault for teasing it or something? I was bit by my folding wire crate once, but it was my fault for sticking my fingers in its mouth as it was closing! Happily it was well-trained enough to let go when I screamed "Aiiyowww!!" (that's Ow! with a two-syllable southern accent). Luckily that crate trained me never to do that again and we haven't had any problems since.

Laura





## Flea Control

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I don't know why everyone is so afraid of the wonderful new flea control products that are available now. Program, Advantage and Front Line are all extremely effective, reasonable cost wise and probably the safest things you can use on your dogs (and CATS - heck if it's safe for a cat, puppy and kitten, you know it's ok for a dog).

Program (Lufenuron) made by Ciba is a type of IGR (insect growth regulator). It works when ingested by your pet by being absorbed into the blood stream and fat layer (where it is slowly released over 30 days). Its method of action is as a chitin inhibitor in the flea. Chitin is that hard stuff flea shells are made of (ever caught one and killed it by popping it?- that's the chitin). Mammals don't have chitin as part of our structure, so the product is inert towards us (as opposed to traditional flea chemicals, organophosphates, pyrethrins, permethrins, citrus, etc. that work on a part of the nervous system that mammals have in common with fleas and ticks).

Program will not harm an adult flea but it keeps the eggs from hatching because the immature flea can't form an "egg tooth" (made of chitin) to break free of the shell. Also flea egg shells contain chitin, and without it, the shell becomes rubbery and more permeable, letting moisture out and pathogens in - so fewer eggs even make it to the point where they could hatch if they wanted to. Finally, "flea debris" deposited by adult fleas feeding off a Program treated dog also contains Program. Larval fleas already in the environment feed off this debris (digested blood passed by adult

fleas) and get dosed with Program, causing them to halt in maturation since they can't form their chitinous exoskeleton.

Altogether, a very safe, very effective method of control. Major drawbacks are #1- all pets in household must be treated or else adult fleas feeding off the untreated pets will have eggs that hatch out. #2- relatively more expensive since you must treat all pets. #3- no effect on adult fleas whatsoever. So if you have LOTS of fleas or go somewhere where you pick up lots of fleas, you need an adulticide as well (read on...)

Advantage (Imidacloprid) made by Bayer was the first non-toxic, effective topical adulticide available in the USA (previously available topicals included the organophosphate Pro-Spot and several Pyrethrin based ones). It is applied either once a month or as often as once a week if the animal was bathed. The product DOES NOT get absorbed into the animal's bloodstream. It spreads through surface lipids over the entire body and kills fleas on contact. This product works on a section of the fleas' nervous system that is unique and unlike that found in mammals. It is so specific that the product works only on fleas and won't even kill ticks. It is safe for use in 16 week old puppies and kittens. Its major advantage is that most of the fleas die PRIOR to biting - major relief for the flea allergic among us.

Watch out for claims of water resistance in Advantage - if you read the claims closely, they only studied efficacy of the drug for a certain number of days after a single bath. If you only bathe once every two to three weeks it will probably be OK but if you bathe once a week it

probably won't be as effective as you'd like.

Again- a very safe and effective product. Major drawbacks are: #1-for show dogs who get bathed a lot - not going to last very long so gets expensive to keep re-applying it weekly. #2-Leaves an oily spot where applied. (This goes away in 24-48 hours as the product spreads). #3-doesn't prevent any eggs that get laid from hatching. Most experts recommend using Program along with this product. #4-relatively expensive.

Major advantage - available over the counter without a prescription.

Last but certainly not least-FrontLine (fipronil) made by Rhone Merieux is the latest topical adulticide available. It comes either as a spray or a topical oil (like Advantage). This is also a non-absorbed product - it spreads through surface oils and binds to the sebaceous follicles, hair shafts and dermal layer of the skin. By binding to the hair follicles, it can be slowly released up to the dermas to provide prolonged flea control. This product also affects part of the nervous system of fleas and ticks that is unique to the fleas and ticks.

FrontLine's unique properties are control of both fleas and ticks for up to one month and control of fleas for up to 3 months from a single application. It is waterproof so you can bathe, swim or whatever your dogs as much as you want. It is safe for use in 8 week old puppies and kittens. Its properties that it shares with Advantage are safety, efficacy, ease of application, kills the critters before they bite (You wouldn't believe the improvement in flea allergic dogs where I work- no



more steroids!!). Experts still recommend using Program as well to make sure any eggs that are laid won't hatch and contribute to your overall flea count.

FrontLine is the least expensive of the 3 products, it is available ONLY from veterinarians, although it is non-prescription. It also leaves an oily spot for 1-2 days from the topospot product. The company recommends applying it to dogs who have not been bathed for a few days to make sure they have a good oil layer present for it to spread through.

Nothing bugs me more than people who assume every time the evil veterinarian recommends a product, we are trying to poison your dogs! These products have been thoroughly tested both here and in Europe (in fact Europe has been using them for something like 10 years). They had to pass stringent tests to get approved for use- that's why it took us so long to acquire them. In fact we are trying to get you away from poisoning your pets with flea sprays, bombs, shampoos, dips, collars, etc.

I agree that IGR sprays are safe and effective for some people- but not nearly as effective as the above mentioned products for people who have a current problem. I don't know how many times I spent an hour outlining a house/yard attack involving IGRs to a client, they spent \$100+ buying all the sprays and bombs, supposedly did everything and come back complaining that their pet still had fleas. It is so rewarding to be able to take a flea allergic pet

off cortisone because we got rid of the fleas using Program and Advantage or FrontLine.

I currently have 4 dogs and 3 cats on Program (have been on it for 2 years - not a single problem). The cats have been on Advantage since we could get it (last August) - not a single problem. The dogs have been on FrontLine since I smuggled some in from Arkansas since November - no problems. Better yet no fleas, no itching, no tapeworms.

I work for a huge hospital in Southern California (flea central). It's always flea season here. We have not had any adverse reactions to any of these products at all (as opposed to numerous problems with people who have poisoned their pets with dips, sprays and Proban obtained elsewhere). I would not recommend these products if I felt they were harmful.

{A poster} asked the question about safety of Advantage vs. FrontLine- both are very safe and neither will cause a problem. Spoke with a Rhone Merieux rep at a convention this week who told me a dog could eat something like 27 tubes of FrontLine without any toxic effects (why they would is another question...)

Also rep from Rhone Merieux recommends applying FrontLine every 30 days if you do bathe weekly or more. On my huge study of 4 dogs bathed every 4-10 days since November, no sign of fleas after one dose (but I also use Program and already had my fleas well controlled).

Also addressing the comment about resistance to FrontLine in (I think) Africa...all flea control products result in some resistance - that's why certain flea sprays, bombs etc. will work great for a while then seem to stop working. Best way around stuff

like that is to use combinations of products. Such as Program along with FrontLine or Advantage. Not a bad idea to switch off between FrontLine and Advantage to keep those little suckers guessing!

I didn't talk about BioSpot (or Exspot or Defend) because I was trying to limit it to the newer products. These three are all pyrethrin based and are in essence just flea spray applied as a spot on. Since many animals do have reactions to pyrethrins (which attack a portion of the nervous system that is also found in mammals), these products are not as safe.

According to statements made by all three companies, Program, FrontLine and Advantage are safe for all stages of gestation (pregnancy) and lactation (while puppies are nursing).

Regarding giving it directly to or applying directly on the puppies the companies recommend:

Program: 6 weeks.  
FrontLine: 8 weeks.  
Advantage: was 16 weeks, but hearing reports that it may be OK to put in on 8 week olds. (the original 16 week old rec was not due to any toxicity noted, it was simply that they hadn't done the study showing its safety yet - so maybe they have done that now).

This is just my opinion, but I was going nuts reading the back and forth so I thought some facts about what these products do and don't do would be appropriate.





## Judges and Tracklayer's Duties

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Last April, I judged a TDX test where no one passed. The next day I reported the result of the test to the tracking mailing list on the Internet. This is an e-mail list, in which any message gets set simultaneously to everyone on the list. At that time, I think there were about 30 to 40 people on the list, spread all over the U.S. and a few foreign countries.

After I posted the results of the test, one of the exhibitors e-mailed a message to the list, complaining that the tracklayer didn't know where the track was after the dog flunked and tried to complete the track. This led to a lengthy, sometimes heated discussion about the duties of judges and tracklayers at tracking tests. This column addresses those duties.

### Tracklayers

If you don't already know this, there is a great deal of variation around the country as to the specific duties and qualifications of tracklayers. This usually depends on local customs, which vary from "grab someone off the street" to "use only tracklaying school graduates." I was surprised to discover from the disgruntled exhibitor that in some areas, they have waiting lists for the honor of laying a TDX track at a test. They actually give certifications through a local training program that are required before one can taste this otherwise forbidden fruit (WOW!)

The incident of the inexperienced tracklayer led to a discussion of how important it is to have experienced tracklayers who know the track as well as the judges. In some part of the country, tracklayers are routinely so good that they can coach the judges on the day of the track, if necessary. In some

other areas, you are lucky to get a warm body. This variation is all part of the sport.

Once a dog flunks a tracking test, some exhibitors think it is their right to have a competent person who knows the track (usually the tracklayer) follow them to help complete the track. They may not realize that the test is officially over when the dog flunks, and that any extra benefit such as completing the track is a courtesy, not an obligation.

The tracklayer's job is to lay a regulation track. Period. Of course, experienced tracklayers are less likely to make mistakes in a situation where flags are gone on the day of the test, or when other unusual things happen. Experienced tracklayers know to complete the track as best they can no matter what, and then report to the judges any problems encountered.

### Judges

While the tracking test committee is in charge of the test, led by the tracking chairperson, the judges are in charge of the track, and directly supervise tracklayers. The club decides who the tracklayers will be ahead of time so the judges often don't meet them until the day of plotting (usually the day before the test). I encourage clubs to also appoint a chief tracklayer, who does nothing but supervise tracklayers. The chief tracklayer can serve as a backup for the regular tracklayers and watch all tracks being laid to insure it is done properly.

After being confronted with a situation where none of the tracklayers had laid a TDX track at a test (last spring), I was delighted that all the tracks were laid properly. Whether any of them could find

the track after someone flunked was not a concern at all, under these unusual circumstances. This opinion was not well received by some in my on-line discussions, who were appalled that tracks would be laid at a test by people who were so inexperienced.

I told them to deal with it - it happens. Yes, in a perfect world, all tracklayers would be as good as those who can find the track better than the judges. But don't count on it. When tracklayers are inexperienced, the judges must, in my opinion, concentrate on fulfilling the most important job as it relates to tracklayers, which is to lay regulation tracks. At a tracking test, it's too late for a judge to teach map drawing and other skills.

### Conclusions

This little tracklaying incident last spring made me appreciate more the people who volunteer to work at tracking tests in the less glamorous jobs, like tracklaying. I've known too many people in this sport who have left it after critical comments about their performance. It's good to remember that this is an unpaid, voluntary sport.

It takes a lot of work by quite a few people to prepare tracks for a tracking test. As I said on the tracking list last spring, "Judges, tracklayers and other people work very hard for two long days to provide the opportunity for handlers to gain glory through their dog's concentrated effort."

I hope you get a brilliant tracklayer at your next test. But if you don't, please remember the effort that (s)he gives so you can have a chance at a tracking title. It's a perspective sometimes lost on exhibitors.