



COMMON SCENTS

March-April 2003
Vol. 28 Issue 2

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President's Message

As the brand new president of Lenape I am writing my first "Message from the President" Like all the other members I was sorry that Barbara Greenfield had to give up this position, she left me with large tracks to fill.

I think first for those of you who do not know me I will give you a brief run down of who I am. I am the proud owner of Cardigan Welsh Corgis, presently I have 3. I have owned Cardigans for over 40 years and just recently I lost a rescued greyhound that I had for 9 years.

I do everything with my dogs: conformation, obedience, agility, herding and tracking. My first love in all these things is tracking. I have actually been doing tracking for about 11 years and in that time I have put 3 TDs on Cardigans and 1 TDX on my greyhound. So now you have a little insight into who I am.

Thank you to the following who contributed to this newsletter:

Alice Crans
Hope Meaker
Bev Olsen
Lisa Pattison
Mimi Ruch
Laurie Shuren

Now to get down to business! On Saturday, April 5th we held our annual TED (Tracking Experience Day), yes in the rain and the fog and the cold. We had a very large turn out this year and it went off like a charm. Alice Crans was at the helm for the first time and she did a GREAT job, many thanks to Alice for all her hard work, coordinating this program is no easy job and she did it and did it well.

We had many club members that came out and helped because without their help we could not run this program.

One of the helpers even earned a new title "Hospitality Queen", way to go Teryl.

I want to extend my thanks to all who came out and gave of their time and effort to help their club do a great program. Many of us are into other sports and Sat. was a big agility day which we gave up to help our tracking club, Thank You for making that choice.

I hope we will see many of you continuing to come out and help with the TED follow up days. Until then., Happy Tracking.

Bev Olsen

TED 2003

Wow. What a day! Once again there was a marvelous early response to our Tracking Experience Day, and a terrific turnout from club members. We had enough that we were able to move up 6 people on the original waiting list – and still have people in the wings. We ended up with 30 participants and 3 auditors plus guests and about 28 club members showed up to help. And we didn't lose anybody in the fog. (No minor achievement since one practically needed a GPS to get back to the municipal building. Fortunately the dogs could be trusted to bring one home again.)

Actually, my luck with the weather held. Considering the predictions of heavy rain, the fact that we only had dense fog was a definite plus. The demo dogs did very well – we had a small version (Corgi **Torrie** handled by **Peg Forte**) and a larger version (Dobie **Jack** handled by **Teryl Lebkuecher**).

However, the Map Makers under **John Etchells** and **Peter Heide** had a bit of a tough time seeing distant markers. "Distant" meaning beyond 4 feet, I think. Even the Pace Measurement with **Hope Meaker** and **Jeff Pierce** had problems; mid way the end marker had to be moved closer so it could be seen!

We kept the Lead Handling (**Priscilla Gabosh** masterfully played the role of the dog to **Lisa Pattison's** handling) and the "About Your Dog" sessions with **Teryl** and **Bev Olsen** under cover. **Mimi Ruch** and her lab puppy **Geordie** and **Peg** demonstrated "Starting your Dog" thankfully within sight of the building. The Herders had a wonderful time just keeping their groups in sight!

Judging by the talent shown in the afternoon session, there were a lot of very capable canines and humans out there – I see a bunch of Tracking Dogs (TD's) on the horizon!

Next, of course, are the three follow up sessions. The first is "Turns" under **Peg Forte** and **Mimi Ruch**. This will start at **9 AM** on **Sunday, April 27** at the **Municipal Building**. The other two sessions will be "Lead Handling" on **May 10** and **Article Identification** on **June 8**. These latter two will start at 8 AM. Please bring your own beverages, and water for your dogs as we will be outside for the duration.

All participants and members who opt to help are asked to contact **Peg Forte (908-832-7231)**, email PegForte@worldnet.att.net, or **Mimi Ruch (908 722 9723)**. They need to know you plan to come because they will have to contact you if for some reason (weather!) the session needs to be postponed. *I will not be available for a response that week, so do not try to contact me!*

Once again, good tracking to all our participants – and many, many thanks to all those club members who came and assisted in one fashion or another. Literally, we can't mount this day without you!

Alice Crans

PLANNING TO FERTILIZE YOUR LAWN? READ THIS FIRST

As warmer weather approaches, you're probably getting ready to dig into spring. And for many, that involves digging into flower beds and gardens. If you're thinking of using cocoa bean mulch to fertilize your lawn, please think twice. Made from spent cocoa beans used in the production of chocolate, cocoa bean mulch may deter slugs and snails, but it also attracts companion canines, who can be poisoned by eating it.

Cocoa beans contain caffeine and theobromine, both chemicals that are toxic to dogs. Depending on the amount ingested, symptoms range from vomiting and diarrhea (that's if about two ounces were eaten by a 50-pound dog) to tremors, seizures and death, if a canine of the same size were to eat nine ounces of cocoa mulch.

If you suspect that your dog has eaten this organic fertilizer, immediately contact your veterinarian or the APCC Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435 for 24-hour emergency assistance.

For more information on cocoa bean mulch and other substances toxic to pets, please visit APCC online

Tidbits...



Just a reminder to all our members, we welcome your brags—no matter what your dog(s) have accomplished. May we suggested that when your dog accomplishes something that you send it to the newsletter editor right away so that you don't forget. Also while we like to use photos they do not always reproduce well.

Bev Olsen reports: In February at the Tailblazers Agility Trial, **Snowflake** (Welsh Cardigan Corgi) finished both the Novice Preferred titles with two second places and 10 seconds under course time. Then she got her first Open Jumpers Preferred leg under course time and 2nd place.

On 4/12/03 Snowflake got an open Standard Preferred leg with a second place and an Open Preferred Jumpers leg with a second place. On 4/13/03 she got her third Open Preferred Jumpers leg with a second place which earns her that title.

Lisa Pattison's **Lacey's** AKC CD brag that completed her VCD1 brag and I think you have her 2nd utility leg with 2nd place in ASCA.

Also I was contacted for article on **Murphy's** VCD1 and found out he was one of only 7 Aussies in 2002 to complete his VCD1.

Peg Forte's **Deacon** earned his second MXJ leg on 4/13/03 ably handled by Irwin Linker.

We know that many of you are out there doing wonderful things with your canine companions. When you earn a title, regardless of what organization it is with, please share the information with your fellow members.

We suggest that when you accomplish something, be sure to e-mail or contact your editor with the facts while it's still fresh in your mind.

Ten Top Reasons why dogs can't use computers

10. He's distracted by cats chasing his mouse.
9. "Sit" and "Stay" were hard enough; "cut" and "paste" are out of the question.
8. Saliva-coated floppy disks refuse to work.
7. Three words: carpal paw syndrome.
6. Involuntary tail wagging is a dead giveaway that he's browsing www.purina.com instead of working.
5. The fire hydrant icon is simply too frustrating.
4. He can't help attacking the screen when he hears, "Mail Truck."
3. It's too messy to "mark" every Web site he visits.
2. The "fetch" command isn't available on all platforms.
1. He can't stick his head out of Windows 98.

Proposed New Member

The following person has applied for membership in the Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey. She has attended the two required events. She will become a member in 30 days from the mailing of this newsletter unless we receive written comments as to why she should not become a member.

Melody A. Kist
PO Box 456
Three Bridges, NJ 08887
(908) 806 3327
harmonicorgis@att.net

Recommended by Peg Forte and Edie Braginton

Melody has Welsh Pembroke Corgis

Send your Tidbits to your editor

pegforte@worldnet.att.net
or
104 Sliker Road
Glen Gardner, NJ 08826

Tidbits don't have to be something your dog has accomplished. If you have a funny story or got a great doggie oriented e-mail.... send it on.

If you have a tracking training question perhaps the answer would help someone else. Send in your question and we will publish it and our suggestions on what to do.

?? Tracking Trivia ??

Why do we call something that distracts attention from the real issue at hand a "red herring"?

Herring are quite abundant off the coast of northern Europe. They were an important dietary staple. Herring were cured by salting and drying in the sun, causing them to turn brown. When smoked, herring take on a reddish color. Because it preserved so well sailors favored the red herring on long voyages.

Red herring is also very aromatic and had another practical use. Hunters would use this pungent smoke-cured fish to train their hunting dogs to follow a scent. By dragging the fish across the ground, hunters could lay a trail for the dogs to follow. Subsequently, if a hunting dog, tracking game, went off the trail, he was said to be chasing a red herring. It is also said that escaping criminals in the 17th century would drag the red herring behind them to distract the pursuing bloodhounds from the real trail.

FIND IT PART II

Now that the dog understands the game, we begin to make some subtle changes. During this phase we no longer double lay the track and the dog no longer sits at the starting flag while the track is being laid. The dog is allowed to watch the tracklayer but is not brought to the starting flag until the tracklayer returns. The tracklayer should be sure to tramp down the grass sufficiently at the starting flag and the dog should be made to sniff the area to get an adequate amount of scent. At this time the dog will be tracking with the wind direction blowing away from him. The track age is timed from the point at which the tracklayer leaves the starting flag. Again you must remember to follow the schedule and not rush ahead.

By the third week the dog should understand that there is something out there to be found and by following this strange smell, he will eventually find the object. We are now ready to try a turn. The second leg, the turn, must be laid into the wind so that the scent will be blown towards him. When you begin to teach the turn, you should triple lay that leg and place the article a short distance from the turn to reinforce the dogs' actions. After finding the new direction, typically, most dogs will circle to the right, so the first turn should be in that direction as to minimize the amount of time that the dog loses the scent. The tracklayer must mark his turn and end of track well so when triple laying the track, he stays in line. From this point on, the dog no longer watches as the track is laid. When the dog is brought to the starting flag, the command to start is given as long as the dog has taken the scent. If not, put the dog in a down position next to the flag and point to the scented area encouraging him to take the scent. Once the dog starts, the handler should remain still until the thirty foot knot is felt in your hand. The dog will most likely run past the turn before he realizes that the scent is no longer present. The handler should not pass the corner stake but wait for the dog to find the turn. Do not face the direction of the turn at this point but stay straight ahead. If the dog gives up or becomes discouraged in any way, take a few steps in the new direction and encourage the dog to find it.

During this period of training the handler needs to practice handling the lead. It should remain tight as long as the dog is tracking but remember to stop when the dog's behavior changes, such as coming to a corner. You need to allow for a cross wind by letting the dog track at least 5 to 6 feet off the actual track, keeping the line tight. However, I wouldn't let him go off track by more than 6 feet. Do not let the line touch the ground between you and the dog and if he becomes tangled, call the dog to you and untangle him so as not to foul the track or loose you place.

At this point you can start to add a second turn. I would continue to triple lay the turns in the beginning to help the dog understand the change in direction. Once he is adept at the turns, you can increase the age and length of the tracks. Eventually you will need to train in a variety of ground cover and changes in weather. But all of the advances must be done very slowly and only when the dog understands the previous lessons.

Always remember to praise the dog profusely when he finds the article. Make a game of it and let him retrieve the article a few times after a successful track, play tug of war, do anything that will make him love finding that glove. I've even hidden a piece of very tasty food inside the article to be rewarded to the dog at the find.

I really enjoyed my tracking experience with Woody, it gave me a much clearer understanding of his body language. I'm having just as much fun teaching Gnat, although I must admit, I've taken a few months off. As much as I love the tracking game and the great outdoors with my dog....I don't enjoy freezing!

Sue Iobst



Photo by Laurie Shuren

Notice to people who visit my home

1. The dog lives here. You don't.
2. If you don't want dog hair on your clothes, stay off the furniture.
3. Yes, she has some disgusting habits. So do I and so do you. What's your point?
4. OF COURSE she smells like a dog.
5. It's her nature to try to sniff your crotch. Please feel free to sniff her's.
6. I like her a lot better than I like most people.
7. To you she's a dog. To me she's an adopted daughter who is short, hairy, walks on all fours and doesn't speak clearly. I have no problem with any of these things.
8. Dogs are better than kids. They eat less, don't ask for money all the time, are easier to train, usually come when called, never drive your car, don't hang out with drug-using friends, don't smoke or drink, don't worry about whether they have the latest fashions, don't wear your clothes, don't need a gazillion dollars for college, and if they get pregnant you can sell the pups.
9. The same applies for the cats, except they will ignore you... until you're asleep.

Tracking Tests

The board voted to eliminate the tracking test list in the newsletter. The information is available on the AKC website (www.akc.org) Use the pull down menu under Dog Events. Select Results and Reports then select Events/Results Search. You can search multiple states and a range of dates to find the info on Tracking Tests.

Information on tests is also available in the AKC Events Calendar (the supplement to the AKC Gazette. But every test isn't always listed there. The info on the AKC website is more up-to-date.

Tracking Statistics

Mimi Ruch passed along these statistics from the AKC April Events Calendar. In 2002, 859 dogs were entered in tracking tests, and 476 titles were earned, making the pass rate 55.413%.

Five hundred thirty-one dogs were entered in TDX tests, and 91 titles were earned, making the pass rate 17.137%.

These pass rates have remained consistent for quite a few years.

For VST, the pass rate in 2002 was 3.8201%. Six titles were earned by the 191 dogs entered.

There were a few more tracking events offered in 2002 than 2001. There were 154 TD tests in 2002, up 5 from 149 in 2001; 139 TDX tests, up 6 from 133 in 2001; and 47 VST tests, up from 38 in 2001.

W. Orrin Eldred II reported on the tracking list:

As in years past, the number of dogs per TD and TDX are lower.

The percentage remains about the same for both TD and TDX.

In Front and Finish the article by Pat Norris breaks it down thusly:

55 Champion trackers by end of 2002.

All groups are represented with the exception of the Toy group.

Herding Group has 22
Sporting Group has 20
Working Group has 7
Hound Group has 3
Non sporting group has 2
Terrier has 1

By breed:

German Shepherd and Golden Retrievers have 9 each
Pembroke Welsh Corgis and Rottweilers each have 6
Labrador and Flat Coated Retrievers each have 3
English Springers, Belgian Tervurens and Border Collies each have 2

Lenape Tracking Club
of Central New Jersey

Training Session

Sunday, April 27, 2003- 9:00 - 12:00

at the Lebanon Township Memorial Park
(same site as TED)

Please park at the Woodglen School
We will access the large field from that point.

This training sessions is for TED participants and members

We will be outside for this training session. Bring water for your dog. There are porta-potties in the park and a deli (Woodglen Store) on the corner if you want food.

Topic : Turns

The topic will be covered at the beginning of the session, then we will pair up
and practice what was covered and/or lay tracks for each other.

Please call by April 25th to let us know you are coming

We need to know how many are coming to have sufficient members present to help and
in case of *extremely* inclement weather, who to notify in case we have to cancel the session.

Contact: Peg Forte 908-832-7231 or e-mail: pegforte@worldnet.att.net

DIRECTIONS:

From the East: I-78 to Exit 17 (Route 31 North). * Take Rt. 31 north - as you approach the second light, stay to the right as jug handle takes you off onto Route 513 at the 513 - Grayrock Shopping Center - at the STOP sign turn right and note mileage at this point. Follow Rt. 513 to and through High Bridge. Shortly past Voorhees High School, turn left onto Rt. 628. There is an old, unopened Sunoco gas station on the corner. This turn will be 3.9 miles from the light on Rt. 31. Follow Rt. 628 to the top of the hill. Watch for Woodglen School on the right and Lebanon Township Memorial Park on the left. Park in the school parking lot we will access the large field from that point.

From the West: I-78 to Exit 15. Right at end of ramp. Take Main Street into the town of Clinton. At the light in the center of town, turn left onto Halstead Street (Route 513). Observe the speed limit here! Halstead will end at Route 31 where you turn left and will be at the first light. Follow directions above from *

Lenape Tracking Club

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18 7:30 PM Board Mtg. - Leb. Twp. Mun. Bldg.

27 9:00 AM TED Follow Up/Training Session

May

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10 9:00 AM TED Follow-Up/Training Session

16 7:30 PM Board Mtg - Leb. Twp. Municipal Bldg.

June

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8 8:00 AM TED Follow-up/Training Session

20 7:30 PM Board Mtg - Leb. Twp. Mun. Bldg.

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18 7:30 PM Board Mtg - Leb. Twp. Mun. Bldg.

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15 7:30 PM Board Mtg - Leb. Twp. Mun. Bldg.

September

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20 9:00 AM Certification Workshop - Plotting

21 8:00 AM Certification Workshop - Ringoes, NJ

November

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1 Tracking Test - plotting Tracks

2 Tracking Test - Ringoes NJ

December

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6 TDX Test - Plotting Tracks

7 TDX Test

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Dates listed are subject to change.

Lenape Tracking Club of
Central New Jersey



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IMPORTANT DATES

TED Follow-up Sessions

April 27
Turns

May 10
Lead Handling

June 8
Article Identification

Please save these dates
Come out and help

**Please post
the calendar
on the other side
of this page**

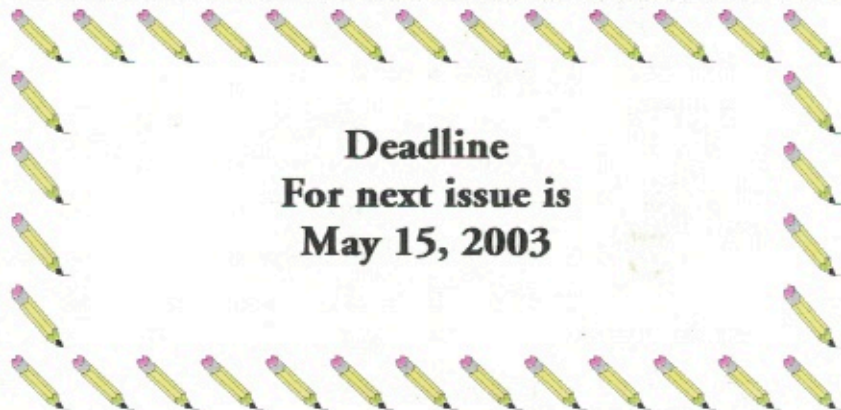


The Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey was founded in June 1975, for the purpose of assisting people in the training of their dogs in tracking, to encourage sportsmanlike competition in tracking tests and to sponsor educational programs of interest to tracking enthusiasts.

Tracking demonstrates a dogs' ability to recognize and follow human scent, a skill that is useful in the service of mankind.



Deadline
For next issue is
May 15, 2003



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