



Common Scents

Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey
September - October 2003 Volume 28 Issue 5

The President's Message...

I am happy to report that even though Hurricane Isabel tried to do us in, we came through with flying colors and had a wonderful certification workshop. We had eight entries and we had four that certified and four that failed. Congratulations to those that passed and for those that did not pass, please do not get discouraged. I know how bad you feel because I have been there but now maybe you have learned what you need to work on and the next time out you will do just fine.

To the club members that came out and worked this event, I want to thank all of you. Carol Shields took on the secretary's job for the first time and did a fine job. Mollie Heide, as usual, did a wonderful job keeping us all fed plus housing our judge on Saturday night. Teryl Lebkuecher and I went to Philadelphia Airport on Friday night and picked up the judge. Teryl opened her home to him for Friday night. Our track layers, under the supervision of John Etchells, did a great job. John and Pat Etchells both walked two tracks, while Teryl Lebkuecher, Alice Crans, Peg Forte and myself each walked one track each. Eve Nelson Barry drove the judge back to Philadelphia Airport on Sunday afternoon. I hope I have not missed anyone because everyone did such a great job and I like to see them recognized for it.

To all the members out there, we need to see you get more involved. The Club needs you to come out and be certified so you can lay track for events. The Club has a large enough membership where no one should have to lay two tracks for one event. I would really like to see you get more involved.

I would like to get some feed back from the members as to how many of you would be willing to give up a Saturday or Sunday morning and come out and get certified to lay track so that you can help out at our club's tests. My email is bevcwgh@monmouth.com. Pretend I am asking for a show of hands and get back to me.

Happy tracking, Bev Olsen



www.LenapeTrackingClub.org...

So what do you think? The web site has been up for about one month. Have you had a chance to take a look? We would like your suggestions and comments. We are also asking for pictures of club members...have a favorite, maybe one of you and your dog tracking.



Important Dates...

Tracking Test

November 1 - Plotting of Tracks

November 2 - Test Day

**TRACKLAYERS
NEEDED!!**

TDX Test

December 6 - Plotting of Tracks

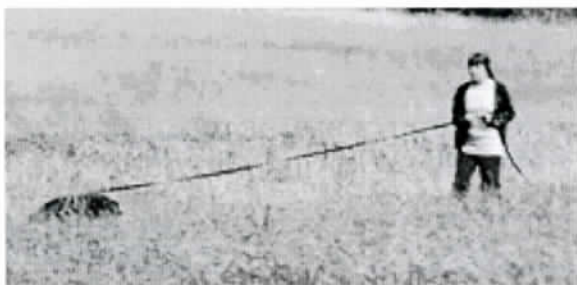
December 7 - Test Day

Newsletter Deadline

You have something to contribute,
I'll get it in!!!!

Lenape's Tracking Certification Workshop

This year's Certification Workshop was held on September 21, 2003. The hurricane that hit the East Coast had us guessing if the event would take place. But Lenape was lucky, and the judge, Jacob Kay was able to arrive on time from Virginia. The weather was beautiful for both plotting and running the tracks. The certification was open to Tracking Experience Day participants and club members. All eight slots were filled and no one had to be turned away.



No, you are not seeing double. Diane Thompson participated with her two Rotties, Jack and Georgia. A seasoned handler, Diane handled the line with ease. Both dogs gave a beautiful performance... Georgia nosing each footstep and Jack giving Diane an aerobic workout.



AKC Tracking Judge
Jacob Kay



They are little but they are mighty. Melody Kist participated with her two Pembroke Welsh Corgis. It was a wonderful site to see those "bunny buns" going down the track.



Lenape's Tracking Certification Workshop



Another Rottie in attendance. Gina Dealmeida worked the track with her big, handsome boy, Tatanka.

Marilyn Mueller participated with her German Shepherd. Nothing was getting in the way of this girl's start.



Dublin, the Doberman brought his owner, Elaine Thompson along down the track with him. It was a good thing both handler and dog are tall or we might have lost them in the field!



Teryl Lebkuecher participated with her Cardigan Welsh Corgi, Mace. The team gave the appearance of tracking but they were actually just sleep walking. Did any of the gallery stay awake long enough to watch the whole track?

Thank you

The judge for the certification workshop, Jacob Kay, was an absolute delight. He was well organized and willing to answer all of our questions. Jacob made the plotting of eight tracks an easy task. Lenape has invited Jacob back to judge the November TD test. We hope that Jacob is available for that weekend.

Lenape's Proposed New Members

The following person(s) have applied for membership in the Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey. They have fulfilled all of the requirements of new members and will become members in 30 days from the mailing of this newsletter unless we receive written comments as to why they should not become a member.

Diane Thompson
800 Bethel Church Rd.
Jackson, NJ 08527
(732) 364 4577
email: rottiecentral@earthlink.net
dogs: Rottweillers

Look for the new member profile in the next issue. Be prepared new members, you will be asked to provide a short biography. Help the new editor out and send it in before she has to ask!!



Thank You...

A very big THANK YOU goes out to Peg Forte, who for so many years was editor of the Common Scents. Peg, your dedication and efforts will be missed.



ATTENTION...Date Change

The upcoming members only training session has been changed from **October 11 to October 19**. The event will still be held by Bev Olsen in Holmdel, NJ. We must have an accurate count of those who wish to participate. Please call or email Bev Olsen by October 8 at 732-772-0886 or bevcwgh@monmouth.com. Come on out and enjoy the fresh air even if you don't have a dog to work.

Training Session Sunday, October 19, 2003

Bragg and Tidbits

Every weekend you are out doing something with your dog...tell us about it, send us a photo.

Peter Weber's 10 month old Cardigan Welsh Corgi, Sunshine, took Winners Dog a Tuxedo Kennel Club for one point. The following week at Pocono Kennel Club, Sunshine took Best of Breed over a top winning special for a 3 point major, giving the dog a total of 6 points toward his AKC Championship. Peter was the handler for this win!!



Officers:

President: Bev Olsen
Vice President: Alice Crans
Secretary: Mimi Ruch
Treasurer: John Etchells

Board:

Peg Forte Lisa Pattison
Peter Heide Laurie Shuren
Teryl Lebkuecher
Immediate Past President:
Barbara Greenfield

Editor

Teryl Lebkuecher
OneDobe@aol.com
732-493-4919

Check This Out...www.finographics.com/schutzhund

If any of you like to search the internet for tracking information, you might have run across this site: www.finographics.com/schutzhund. If not, it is definitely worth checking into.

This site has loads of very interesting information about the sport of Schutzhund. Have you ever been to a Schutzhund trial? Most find it very exciting and come away with a new respect for the working dog. What drew my attention was the tracking article by Armin Winkler. Armin Winkler is a well know and respected name in the Schutzhund world. In his article, **"Only the NOSE really KNOWS: a tracking perspective"**, Mr. Winkler takes a slightly different view to tracking than most of the AKC tracking literature I have scene.

Mr. Winkler discusses scent association. When the dog smells the disturbed ground the scent has no significance. *"Therefore, I say in sport tracking we are asking the dog to follow a meaningless odor. The first task in tracking then has to be to attach meaning to a previously meaningless odor."* Okay, most of us get that but how do you begin making that association? Mr. Armin suggests this: *"Here is a technique that I have had good success with. I trample an area that measures approximately one and a half body lengths of the dog by one and a half body lengths of the dog. So the size of the dog determines the size of the square. I trample the entire area down, so that every inch of the inside of this square has disturbed ground."*

Inside this trampled square area I scatter a handful of food, being careful that no food lands outside the disturbed area. At this point, the concept of scent prioritization becomes very important. What does that term mean? Well, for the dog there will be two clear scents in this trampled square. One has meaning, his food. One has no meaning, the odor of the track, crushed grass, insects, dirt, etc. whatever the ground may consist of. In order for the dog to make the association that becomes useful and helpful for us in the future, the meaningless scent has to be priority #1, and the scent of the bait has to be priority #2. In other words, the scent of the track has to be the primary scent for the dog, while the scent of the bait has to be secondary."

How do we achieve this? Fairly simple actually, we stomp our foot down on the surface we are going to track on and then drop one single piece of bait into that stomp. Then we get down on the ground on our hands and knees and we close our eyes about a foot over the stomp. Start sniffing and lower our nose towards the stomp with the piece of bait. Whatever you smell first is the primary scent."

I am sure by this time you have many questions or hopefully you do. Good...check out this web site and read the article in its entirety. Maybe you will consider starting your next dog in this manner or re-starting a dog you are having trouble with using this method. Don't have access to the internet? I will be happy to send you a copy of the article. In any event, please read the full article. Maybe, just maybe, you will be inspired to share your thoughts and comments with the other Lenape members in the next newsletter.

