



Common Scents

Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey
January / February 2005 Volume 30 Issue 1

President's Message

I hope everyone had a great holiday season and I wish you all a wonderful, happy, healthy New Year. This is the first president's message for the New Year and the last one from this President. In March at our annual meeting and awards dinner, the new slate of officers will be voted in and will take office.

In October and December, Teryl headed up our training sessions down here in Monmouth County. We had a fair turn out and all had a good time. If you have not joined us at a training session, you are really missing out on a good workout for you and your dog as well as a fun day. It is a great chance for those of you that have dogs in training for their TD or TDX to have other folks lay track for you and a chance to work in a strange place. Another benefit of attending a training day is everyone picks up tracking tips from each other. I hope that in the future we will see more of our membership coming out.

Along with the New Year comes our new list of dates for club events. Be sure to mark these dates on your calendar and plan on coming out to help or participate. We need all the help we can get for TED, Tracking Certification Workshop, TD test and TDX test. As a member of Lenape, we expect you to participate and help at club events.

Thanks to all who have helped out during my tenure as president, I really appreciated it. I hope to see you all at the February and March meetings.

Happy Tracks. Bev

★ *Important Reminder*

Any club member who has earned a tracking title in 2004 is eligible for an award of recognition from Lenape. The awards will be presented at the March meeting. Please forward your name, dog's call name, title earned and date of test to Peg Forte at 104 Sliker Road, Glen Gardner, NJ 08826 or PegForte@worldnet.att.net. All information must reach Peg by February 15.



April 2, 2005
Tracking Experience Day

TED Follow-Up Dates
April 17 Article Indication
May 14 Turns
June 18 Lead Handling

February 26, 2005
General Meeting

March 20, 2005
Annual Meeting

June 18, 2005
30 Year Celebration Picnic



Training Day for Members

Saturday
December 11, 2004

Lenape's last training day was another success with several members in attendance. The rain did keep a few folks away. Those participating were Diane Thompson and her Border Collie, Rose Mary Laubach with her Golden Retriever, Marilyn Mueller with her German Shepherd, Marilyn Taurig with her Curly Coated Retrievers, and Gail Thompson with her Collie. Bev Olsen and Teryl Lebkuecher were the track layers. The dogs and handlers did a great job.



Marilyn Taurig's Sunny enjoying the snow

Welcome New Lenape Members...

Charlene Bridgwood

Marilyn & Michael Taurig



Tracking Test Morning

Awaken to dark shivering skies
Drive into a winter sunrise
Fingers clawed with the cold; rocks in
stomach
We walk to the start
A smile from the judges; "Good luck!"
Trust your dog.
I watch him. Head down,
Doing what I never could.
The hills impossibly green
Dew balancing precariously on every
blade
The sun sprinkling down through the fog...
Watch your dog.
We turn, the track comes into view;
I know he is right--
More right than I know how to be.

Some nibbles of the sweet grass --
for fuel or moisture? He pulls into the harness,
harder now
As we traverse the glistening hillside.
More turns, my body once tense,
begins to relax into a rhythm
We are dancing to the music of our bond--
Human and canine, older than memory
Trusting, moving forward as one
My heart swells to see him leading the way
Until he is down.
"What did you find?" I trill with joy!
Paws on the glove, he beams up at me,
his eyes like pools of warm chocolate.
And I know in that instance he did it not just
for me
But for both of us.

By Suzanne Bria

Lenape would like to thank Suzanne for sharing her work with us.

A Rock & Roll Tracking Day

By Rose Mary Laubach

Morning came early. It was test day! It was hard to sleep the night before. My all supportive husband, Meg and I were up at 3:30 am and soon after on the road, on our adventure to Lackawanna, PA. The fog was so thick that we could barely see the road. I thought daylight would never come but it did and we found the Lackawanna Kennel Club site. We were greeted by rolling hills, beautiful farmland, aroma of fresh brewed coffee and some of the friendliest folks you would want to meet.

After introductions and the usual story sharing along with a few chuckles, we started the draw for tracks. Since it was the weekend before Thanksgiving, we drew decorated turkey magnets. Megan and I picked track number 4 of 6. Off we went to watch the first two teams. The problem was that the fog had not lifted. All we saw was the start flag as each team began. Then we waited to hear the cheer as each team found that coveted glove. Soon it was our turn. The fog lifted but the drizzle continued. I needed to drive to our track but it was not to be uncomplicated. My rear wheels became mired in the mud! Well those nice Pennsylvania folks came to my rescue. As they pushed my van my wheels sprayed mud. As I drove away, I glanced in my rear view mirror. Oh my, they were wiping the mud from their faces and laughing!

At our track site, Meg saw me reach for her tracking harness and she began spinning in her crate. This was a good sign. Once "dressed" she ran to the start flag and began our journey. I had informed the judges and spectators earlier that Megan has a habit of "rolling" on her track. This "roll" could go on for as long as a minute or two but only once on the track. What did I know?!? So off we went and low and behold Meg rolls in the drenched grass within 30 feet. She continued on and melted into a left turn and "rolls" on leg number two. We continue dead on the track and Meg makes a right turn and "rolls" on the third leg! I begin to hear giggles from the judges behind me. We make another right turn and continue on a very long fourth leg and Meg "rolls" again. Now there was outright laughter behind us! Meg blends into an open right turn and onto leg number five that went up a steady incline. She must have felt my adrenaline through the line. Our goal was so close. Meg did not roll but ran as she tracked her way up the hill to the glove! She went down on the glove then "rolled" on it. As I waved the glove, the cheers from the judges was mixed with laughter. My very wet dog and I did it. How sweet it was! Meg's total tracking time was eight minutes: three minutes dedicated to "rolling."

***Congratulations
Megan & Rose Mary***



One Person's Opinion

The start flag. Have you ever really thought about it and why it is there? This is how I see it. That flag is the point where I want my dog to start thinking about tracking. Sure he thinks about tracking when he does not get breakfast, when we drive to a familiar field and when I put his harness on him but that flag is where I want him to pick up the scent he should follow for the next couple hundred yards. It is the beginning of the work area. The flag is the dog's start. It is not the handler's start. I do not think that a handler should ever stand at the flag. Remember when you were teaching your dog to track? Where did you put the first piece of food or the first place you scuffed your feet? It was at the start flag. So why would you stand and cover up the area where your dog may need to come back to if he gets a poor start? Stand back from the flag or if your dog seems committed to the track and takes off but then stops, stand a bit to the side or in front of the flag but please don't stand at the flag. Besides come June, you will have a cotton glove at the TD start flag.

You work hard to have your dog get to that glove and when he does, what do you do? Do you do nothing, stand and critique the dog's performance, talk with the track layer about why did the track go through the mud or just make a bee line to the car to get in from the cold? Forgetting to reward your dog is something else that I think folks should pay more attention to. This should be the time where all of your energies as a trainer are focused on your dog. You may have a small window of opportunity to tell your dog that he just did a wonderful job. Most often we are quiet while tracking in order to let the dog perform its work without interruption. Finding that glove or wallet (remember the rules state that the end article for a TD can be a wallet) is when the work is over and the party should begin. You have lots of time after the celebration to talk, think about your handling or getting warm.



Do You Know...

Did you see the February 2005 issue of the AKC Gazette? There was a review written by Wendy Volhard of a new book by Dominique Grandjean, "*Practical Guide for Sporting and Working Dogs*." Highlighted were several facts concerning the scenting abilities of dogs. These are listed below:

****Females dogs between their estrus cycles have the best noses and can detect scent better than altered animals.**

****Dogs with heavier pigmentation in their nasal mucous membranes have superior olfactory sense than those with light pigmentation.**

****The shape of the nose determines how many olfactory cells are present:**

Labrador Retriever.....	220 million
German Shepherd.....	200 million
Fox Terrier.....	147 million
Dachshund.....	125 million
Cocker Spaniel.....	67 million



Lenape Members Clear Your Calendars

Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey turns 30 this year. We are going to mark the occasion with a picnic for the membership. So please make arrangements to join the celebration. As always with any tracking event, there will be lots of food, fun and storytelling. The Board hopes to see all the members on June 18 at the Lebanon Township Municipal Building. Details will follow.

Lenape Tracking Club Central New Jersey

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