



# Common Scents

Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey  
January / February 2006 Volume 31 Issue 1

Looking back, LTC had a good year – capping off our thirty year celebration in the summer with a picnic and games that demonstrated what a talented and diverse group we really are! Tracking does not require obedience, as you know, but quite a few of our canines showed they not only have a handle on routine stuff but can do some pretty fancy tricks and routines as well. Must say, you all impressed the heck out of my husband.

As we moved into our thirty first year, we had a qualifier in our TD test – and not only our first TDX qualifier, but the very first on NJ soil! Thanks to *Whitfield Bluvu Perigee*, the English Cocker Spaniel handled by Glenn Williams of Vermont, and first-time track layer Gina DeAlmedia. A very special word of appreciation for all those track layers.

I'd also like to extend a special thank you to Mimi Ruch for continually staying on top of our missing TDX judge situation (we had a cancellation) and Beverly Olsen, who as secretary, found the whole problem on her shoulders.

Looking forward, those who served as cross track layers in the "X" may also be assured that at least one of our judges felt laying cross tracks is the more difficult task – so we hope to see you out at our certification match in September and as many as possible signing up for our TD in November. Several of us had to "double up" this year on the TD, which we can do, but guys, John Etchells almost had to triple – and that places a real strain on the judges and chief track layer (it's a timing issue...even if you have two good legs – which at least one of us most assuredly did not.) Not that this is a young person's sport.

Please join us for our February 25 and March 18 programs – these are regular meetings – with food and entertainment, and we need a quorum for the March vote. And, DO PLAN TO CALL CAROL SHIELDS and sign up for assisting us with The April 1 TED this year and/or the follow up days on April 23, May 13 and June 11. The more members, the merrier.

Enjoy the winter, and remember, tracking is a good activity in cold weather (at least for your four-legged companion....and, after all, you can wear a hat and gloves!)

*Alice Crans*  
*LTC President*



## General Membership Meeting

February 25, 2006  
Meeting at Noon

## General Membership Meeting

March 18, 2006 **DATE CHANGE**  
Meeting 3:00 pm Dinner 5:00 pm

## Tracking Experience Day

April 1, 2006

## TED Follow-Up Days

April 23, 2006 May 13, 2006  
June 11, 2006

## Welcome New Lenape Member

*Christine Landuvt*

### Brags and Tidbits

**Beverley Olsen...**Rain the Cardigan has earned his Rally Advanced title.



### For Your Information

For those of you who have never seen a TD trial, Burlington County Kennel Club is having a Tracking Dog Test on March 19th in Moorestown, NJ. Other than Lenape's, this is the only other tracking test in New Jersey. Take a ride south and meet some other tracking enthusiasts. The hospitality is great. Email [info@lenapetrackingclub.org](mailto:info@lenapetrackingclub.org) for information or directions.

# Attention!

### *Have You Earned a Tracking Title in 2005 ?*

If you have, make sure you notify Peg Forte as soon as possible so she can plan for your recognition at the March 18th dinner. All members who plan on attending must RSVP to Peg as well so the food can be arranged. Peg can be reached at 908-832-7231 or [PegForte@worldnet.att.net](mailto:PegForte@worldnet.att.net). **Don't forget !**

#### ***Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey***

##### **Officers:**

President: Alice Crans 908-537-2574  
Vice President: Carol Shields 732-787-4209  
Secretary: Mimi Ruch 908-722-9723  
Treasurer: John Etchells: 908-236-2423

##### **Board:**

Peg Forte 908-832-7231  
Peter Heide 609-466-4160  
Teryl Lebkuecher 732-493-4919  
Lisa Pattison 908-850-8879

Past President: Bev Olsen 732-772-0886



*Charlene Bridgwood*

*Susquidilla High Fiber VCD2 RN MX MXJ*

"A tracking we will go, a tracking we will go, hi ho the dairy, oh a tracking we will go" has been my marker for clueing Beannie in for when it's time to start seriously thinking about the job at hand. I start this while we are still on the buckle collar approaching our start flag and then maybe 10 yards out or so switch the line to her tracking harness and stop my horrible attempt at singing.

December 11th started out very cold with about 3" inches of snow still on the ground. The 8 of us tracking that day were all worried about one thing or another...to cold, to much snow, goose droppings and my greatest fear - blowing by the last glove. Being new at this, I'm told its possibly some kind of record as I'm happy to say all 8 of us passed! The part that really surprised me the most was the fact that the dogs themselves all seemed to use their nose the same, irregardless of the fact that the track was pretty visible to us not one dog just stayed exactly in the track. Beannie (now I'm proud to say is officially Susquidilla High Fiber VCD2 RN MX MXJ) started out slower then normal choosing to eat some droppings & snow in the beginning while my heart sank thinking she would not continue on. However, after her tasty refreshment, she then proceeded to almost drag me off my feet at times finishing the 470 yard track in 7 minutes, breaking her 475 yard 8 minute certification track time. She even stopped to pick up the glove!

I'd like to thank not only my wonderful Chessie, but Teryl Lebkuecher. Without Teryl's help, wisdom & encouragement this title may not have happened. I can also state for certain, continuing on with thoughts of pursuing a TDX would not be there if it wasn't for Teryl. Her wit, her realistic attitude keeps me grounded and most importantly, having fun.

*Congratulations*

*Beanie  
has earned her TD !*



## *Claire Gelok*

### *Spring Valley's Pele' TD*

*By Bev Olsen*

In June of 2005, Claire Gelok brought this beautiful Rhodesian Ridgeback youngster, Pele', to start tracking. I handled for the first lesson him because Claire was taking pictures of her boys. Pele' took to tracking like a duck to water.

The next time Claire arrived I put down the track and told Claire it was her turn to work her boy. The look on her face was priceless as she told me that she wanted a tracking title on the dog and did not want to hamper his progress. So began Pele's and my adventures through the summer.

He was a very quick learner. I knew he was ready for certification in Sept. But being a very young male he missed a turn and got lost. The track layer put us back on track and I nearly had to run to keep up with him as he finished. So, about 2 weeks later we took a trip up to Wind Gap, PA and met tracking judge Sue Ammerman. The boy certified with no problem.

We entered Lenape's TD test...another bad day for the boy (seems like Lenape is a bad omen for this guy). Well bottom line on Sunday, the 11<sup>th</sup> we were #1 alternate in Burlington County Kennel Club's tracking test and with the AKC new rule that the alternate track can be used as a test track we were able to run for a title on track no. 8.

Pele' does not really like wind. All morning there was very little but of course right about the time we were ready to step on the field the wind kicked up. Now for those of you who know Claire, you will appreciate that she was running around like a chicken with its head cut off, "Oh my why is it windy now, oh my he will be cold, should I put a coat on him, should I get him out now." I had to look at her and say NO COAT and quit being a nervous wreck you are going to upset my dog!!!! Well we got him out of the van I took him to the start flag and off we went. I knew the way he started it was going to be the day. It was a really cold day and I had mittens on. Half way through the track, I dropped the line. All I could think was that the dog will be running back to his Mom. I am sure I was quite a picture out there in the field trying to scoop up the line keep his feet out of it and remember where we were going. Once we got though that little scene, he flew to the end of the track, nosed the glove, sat down and looked at me waiting for his breakfast. We headed back to the car and it was all I could do to hang on to this big guy as he was charging across the field to his Mom. Pele' is a really great dog and it was a pleasure to work him. Thank you Claire for allowing me to be part of this boy's career.



## *Congratulations*

### *Pele' has earned his TD !*



## *The Rest Of The Story*

*By Claire Gelok*



When I asked Bev how old Pele' should be for tracking training, her answer was something like "whatever age he is right now".

Pele' and Bev met June 24, 2005 at 7:00 AM, he was 6.5 months old. With favorable Ridgeback weather ahead of us, Bev and I planned our get togethers around conformation shows for Pele' and agility/rally shows for her. The dozen or so practices for Pele' and Bev were spread out over the course of the next six months,, ending in early December, definitely NOT Ridgeback weather!! On December 6<sup>th</sup>, we planned to have a training session, but due to a snowstorm, we rescheduled to the next day, which was Pele's first birthday.

When we left home, the sky was blue, sun was shining, minimal wind,, a beautiful winter morning. I remember paying the toll on the GSP and thinking that it seemed rather windy. By the time I followed Bev to the field, I thought I was in another world! When Bev left the van to plot the track, the wind blown snow quickly stole her from view. This is NOT Ridgeback weather!! While Bev defrosted for a few minutes, she said to me, "I'm not sure if I'll be able to see my foot prints in the snow." Folks let me tell you, the wind was so strong the flag was bent to the ground! Pele' went off with Bev to the first flag, a huge gust of wind/snow came over the field, I remember hearing Bev yell, "here he comes". The look on Pele's face said, "NOT my kind of weather."

Our "homework" for the next few days entailed lots of playing with Pele' in the snow. I've gotten more exercise lately than I care to think about, but watching Pele' designate his glove by 'dropping' in the snow diminished my muscle pains.

Murphy's Law prevailed the morning of the trial. I overslept for starters; ended up leaving home fifteen minutes late. Outside was FIVE degrees, but it was still dark. Pele' got car sick, he has NEVER gotten car sick before. While cleaning out his crate, I noticed Pele' was licking his front foot. It was still dark, I would check it out later at the 'draw' site.

During the drive, the sun came out, the sky was blue, minimal wind, sound familiar?? For the entire test, the weather was perfect. Pele' and Bev had the last track. You guessed it, the clouds rolled in, and the wind kicked up. NOT Ridgeback weather!! As the words "Bev can I put a coat on Pele'?" came out of my mouth, I knew exactly what she was going to say. "NO coat, and stop being a nervous wreck, you are going to upset my dog !!" She has a way of putting things into perspective.

As I watched Bev and Pele' head out for the start flag, I remembered the foot issue. Watching his tail wagging with complete joy to be with Bev on the field, it was a fair bet everything was OK with Pele', even if it wasn't Ridgeback weather.

Thank you Bev for your knowledge, patience, and most of all your friendship.

# *Confessions of a Foggy Tracklayer*

By Alice Crans

This is for those of you who are thus far too chicken to demonstrate your prowess as a track layer.

Experienced track layers need not embarrass me by reading. This is meant to encourage tyros, not discourage. We have all goofed while laying a track from time to time, (come on, admit it, you guys who are sneaking a peek), and, contrary to popular belief, the only one who gets annoyed is the judge – not the participant. (As long as you tell the judges what you did wrong so they can fix it!) Mind you, I won't tell tales out of school – like the experienced track layer who made a left turn instead of a right and almost mirrored the original, or the cross track layer who left in the flags (needed super long flag raising tongs for that one! Don't I wish) And I'm sure there are others we don't even hear about.

Let me set the stage. On Saturday, plotting day for our TD, old limp along has drawn the nastiest field. The one with all the tufts that are almost impossible to walk on – even for the Olympic layer. The judges agree on the direction and off we go. At the first turn, the distance markers are agreed upon, and as we get closer, the one judge adds a ground marker – some dried milk weed pods in the distance. (The other judge snickers a bit – like anybody's really going to see *those*! Good ole' blind-as-a-bat-in-the-best-of-circumstances, me, agrees.)

And we continue. After the third turn, we go up over a rise – there is a suggestion that we should put in an extra flag, because the one over the rise may not be seen, but in re-walking the course, I can see the pennant just fine from the previous turn flag. Although, I did notice that I could not see the flag designating the second turn from the vantage point of the first turn flag, so I added one between them – at a slant (so I'd know it's not the turn.).

T-Day: Mine is track no 3, and when I had to start laying the sucker, I find the area is still socked in by fog. Like I can see the first three flags from the start – the first 2 plus the turn, but I had no clue where the telephone pole was (the distant marker). Well, I guessed I can walk sort of a straight line with 3 flags to help. When I got to the turn, I just put my arms out at right angles – no sight markers visible at all – and I followed my right arm. It was rather like scuba diving without a light in opaque water. And I couldn't have found the AC Tugboat unless I stubbed my fin on it.

After some paces, I saw one flag down on the ground – assumed it was my short flag, but I knew that I was a little off line – plus I still could not see the other turn flag. And still the distance markers were lost in the white soup. Intrepid soul that I am, I kept wobbling in the same direction (bet if I had had a 40 foot line behind me, I would have seen it in a strange configuration). Until, lo and behold, I spied....you guessed it – the milk weed pods shining white against the rest of the ground cover! Deer had apparently re-located the two flags indicating that location. And yes, I was sort of a little off line. Fortunately not by a whole lot. Everything being relative. I could also see the next turn, and by the time I got to the next, while that little pennant was lost over the rise, I could see my silos shrouded in fog both fore and aft used as distance markers. So, maybe I weaved a little over the rise, but the last turn was perfect.



## *Confessions of a Foggy Tracklayer*

*Continued...*

Then, of course, I had to explain to the judges what happened, and give them a rough rendering of the track which looked like two legs had been walked by a drunken sailor.

Then came the dog. Well, after a tenuous start, he made the first turn (no surprise). Then actually followed where I walked. (I'm sure the handler was confused, but the judges let her go so.....) Next two turns were letter perfect, then a little more weaving. This is now taking forever. However, when the dog approached the area where the last turn should have been – and he actually turned – then hesitated. Guess he thought it should weave a bit more? Anyway, after much more time elapsed, the handler chose to follow the dog straight ahead and came to the road – and missed the glove! On the minus side, the dog missed qualifying. On the plus side, he didn't mess up on all my bad tracks – only on one of the good turns! Also, that particular dog had a very good day. The handler was really pleased he finished – and excited when she found out truly how well!

So, yes, one can louse things up – but - it's not the end of the world! And, watching that poor dog follow exactly where I walked was a real eye opener. Gives me a lot more faith in our dictum – follow the dog. They will follow your path.

# Please Don't Forget

**February 25th**

**General Meeting at Lebanon Township Municipal Building**

**Noon**

**Please RSVP to [info@lenapetrackingclub.org](mailto:info@lenapetrackingclub.org)**

**March 18th**

**General Meeting and Awards Dinner  
at Lebanon Township Municipal Building**

**3:00 PM Meeting 5:00 PM Dinner**

**Please RSVP to Peg Forte at 908-832-7231**

**or [PegForte@worldnet.att.net](mailto:PegForte@worldnet.att.net)**