



Common Scents

Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey
May / June 2006 Volume 31 Issue 3

One of the questions I hear most often is, "What do I get if I join Lenape?" Aside from finding people to chat with who understand the sport, and great food at club meetings, you do get several other benefits. One is the opportunity to become a certified track layer.

The best way to learn how to track, is to learn how to lay a track properly, paying attention to all barriers, fence lines, hedge rows, tree lines, changes of cover, wind direction and force, length of legs (on the track, that is), and of course, stationary markers. First, you learn what pitfalls to avoid (accidentally making the track more difficult for your dog than you intended), and, you become more accustomed to reading the terrain, so when you are running your dog in a test, you can say – no, I know the track cannot go where that hound is headed!

John Etchells will certify members - after taking a test. But, the certification is relatively easy once you attend the workshop! This year, the certification workshop will be July 15 at the Lebanon Township Building. You must RSVP as to whether you intend to participate in the workshop, so we can advise you of any changes in time or location. Note that the weather in July tends to be rather hot, so you will be the one out in the fields, not your dog. If you have not been certified, come out and learn. We tend to use ONLY members who are certified track layers for our TD and TDX tests. (And, the opportunity to lay track at a test is bona fide reason to join....)

Another good reason for membership is to attend meetings where we have great speakers. This year, we have arranged for an AKC seminar presented by Herb Morrison, AKC Rep. This seminar is considered one of those suitable for people interested in judging tracking events, as well as for the rest of us, so it is expected to draw in experienced people from a wider area than usual. Members get to attend for the price of the food provided, and you get the opportunity to sign up first! Once it is open to the public, space may be taken quickly. Sign up now for October 14 and 15. The seminar may also give you a chance to meet some of the prospective judges and see what life is like from their vantage point. If you live a distance away, and prefer not to travel two days in a row, let us know; we may be able to find a member who lives nearby. "Happy trails to you....."

*Alice Crans
LTC President*



VST Seminar
October 14 & 15

Track Layers Certification
July 15 - Rain Date July 16

Tracking Tests
November 5, 2006 TD Test
November 12, 2006 TDX Test

The Crock and the Willow

By Alice Crans

After I slid off the TheraPet hot seat as president, we decided to take a winter vacation in the Florida Keys. This time, we prepared ourselves by getting ID tags made with our cell phone numbers on them for our newest family member, our (then) seven month old golden, Willow. (Or Shifu, as we affectionately call her much of the time.) Thus, if she decided to wander, people don't have to call New Jersey to find her owner.

The first hurdle: her resistance to getting in the vehicle. Any vehicle. At any time. Understandable, since she lost whatever was near her stomach most of the time, regardless of how much Rescue Remedy or ginger we used. On the advice of our vet, we started our journey by giving her Benadryl, and that, plus a fast highway which went pretty much in a straight line for three days, worked. We found quite a few economical pet friendly motels on the way – and although we trucked in her kennel each evening, she seldom used it, preferring the floor in some corner. When we arrived at our destination on Little Torch Key, it took no time at all for her to settle in. Naturally she had to inspect everything, including the low coral bulkhead separating our backyard from the open water leading to the Atlantic Ocean. Unfortunately, the house we rented with a “fully fenced yard” because we had a puppy, turned out to be “fully” fenced on two sides only. Fortunately, I thought to bring my X Pen, which we put up along the front as a barrier.

Since we were actually on the water, with a dock extending into very deep water, we wanted to make sure she could swim ASAP. We knew she had no fear of the water, having spent much of the summer cavorting in the stream and edges of the pond (even tumbling in over her head). But, some dogs actually do not swim – and never get the hang of it. And, because Florida does not take kindly to dogs on board a boat without a life vest (if some agency has to rescue a vest-less dog, the fines are astounding) and we planned to take her out on the boat, we purchased a life vest – one with the collar cradling her neck in front. Our first plan was to find some suitable water which was deep enough for her – and not too deep for us.

We re-discovered the fact that the mangrove areas in the less populated keys were 1) populated with either gators or crocodiles, and 2) had very sucky bottoms. She could stand on the bottom, but we started sinking in the soft stuff before we even got her to swimmable water. So, we started her out in the Atlantic with a harder surface – right along the Overseas Highway (US 1). Yes, I kept her on a long line. We took her out in the vest and her legs immediately worked properly – took the vest off, and she swam like a pro. No puppy puddling for her! And she loved it. She could retrieve coconuts forever – until she spied some pelicans nearby....

Of course, now we really had a problem with the property. While we were working outside getting the boat ready for launch, we discovered ole Shifu was no longer with us. I ran out on the dock to check the water, and lo and behold, there was this little gold fuzz face looking at me from a dock three docks away! Willow had apparently climbed down the coral bulkhead and swam over to my neighbor's beach for easy access, and ran out to the road. Our barrier in the front prevented her from returning. Cheesh. Now we had to go to Home Depot for some orange construction fence and some rebar and made up another fence under our deck. On the plus side, *our* view of the gorgeous bay was not compromised. The neighbors, on the other hand....

The Crock and the Willow

Continued...

Next job - get the boat in the water. Well, that we managed, and the motor got us out of the canal into the open water, and died. And started, and died. On the plus side, we had oars. On the minus side, Wayne had to use them. So, while we were waiting a week to get the motor fixed, we found every other possible place we could safely put a dog or ourselves in the water, including Key West, where our little girl was retrieving her coconuts 90 miles from Cuba.

We were also exercising her in the more desolate areas of the keys, practicing her recall, retrieving, and generally letting her explore new terrain. But Willow has a nose. And that nose would take her to every raccoon trail in the brush, and every covey of birds she could find. But one spot in particular she seemed to love. We could see flashes of golden fur through the ground cover as she appeared to roll over and over on something. As we got closer, we discovered she was scratching her back on a crocodile and loving every minute of it. Fortunately, it was relatively small. More fortuitous, it was dead.

Yes, after two weeks of building fences and land exploration, I was delighted to get the boat back on the water. We had found an island all to ourselves where we all could swim to our heart's content, and she could flush cormorants and practice fishing.

All in all, Willow had a very successful journey. She had amazing new experiences, like learning how to chill in restaurants where she settled under the table perfectly, got a lot better walking on a loose lead, had some great puppy playtimes with other dogs, and even made the three day trip home without once losing her lunch. First car trip she took in our neck of the woods? Full stomach exposure. But she doesn't get seasick! And she can swim. Can't wait 'til next year.

Lenape Has An Email List

Lenape has formed a Yahoo email list for the members. We would like to see all members join. The list will provide a place where Lenape information can be shared as well as tracking tips, problem solving and a place where members can easily find others to track with. If you are interested, please email your questions or request to join the list to Teryl at OneDobe@aol.com.



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
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Gina DeAlmeida 908-963-9552
Teryl Lebkuecher 732-493-4919
Lisa Pattison 908-850-8879
Donna Hess 908-953-9431

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.

Linda Schmauser
18 Rupell Road
Clinton, NJ 08809
908 735-2096
Dobermans

Annette Murphy-Wales
1000 N. Line St.
Lansdale, PA 19446
215 361-8714
Rat Terrier

Dr. Joan Cook Luckhardt
385 George's Road
Dayton, NJ 08810
732 329-3429
Golden Retrievers

Janet Doerer
5 Woodlawn Way
Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889
908 534 9467
Belgian Malinois

Alyson Fuge
4 Kingsbrook Court
Mendham, NJ 07945
(973) 927 8222
Golden Retrievers

Congratulations Kim & Autumn



On April 23, 2006 at Hudson Valley's Tracking Test, Kim Kosko's Lab, Autumn, earned her Tracking Dog title. Kim and Autumn were participants in Lenape's first tracking class. From the first class, Autumn knew what was being asked of her and she was happy to do as Kim asked. Not often does a team like this come along. Kim was eager to let Autumn take the lead and Autumn never let her down.

Kim drew the seventh track. The wait was almost too much to ask. Then The judges decided to let the two TDX dogs run before finishing the TD dogs. Another hour went by. The heavy rain had not let up all morning. As if it was ordered, the rain stopped and the sun popped out just as Kim and Autumn approached the start flag. Autumn put her nose down and went to work, looking back one time to make sure Kim was still at the end of the leash. This team has a bright tracking future and has begun TDX training.

