



# Common Scents

Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey  
July / August 2006 Volume 31 Issue 4

---

Whew! Hope you all are enjoying the heat. I, for one, gave up tracking at the end of July. When my glasses steamed up the moment I stepped outside, I knew we were in trouble. My dog doesn't need to see – but I need to see her! At least it has been damp enough for the ground to hold scent well.

Anyway, Lenape has proven once again that we can keep busy even in the “down” time of the year. The certification workshop run by **John Etchells** for tracklayers was very well attended, and **Teryl Lebkuecher** had an additional workshop for the spillover. We hope all you newly minted people (listed elsewhere in this newsletter) put your skills to good use in our certification test on **September 23/24**, and in our TD test **November 4/5** and /or the TDX on **November 11/12**. (Of course, you get a “pass” on laying a track if you have entered any of the tests – with our best wishes for a super test!) Many, many thanks to both John and Teryl for a wonderful job.

Another person to thank this month is **Christine Landuyt**, who has accepted the position of Membership Chair. John Etchells and I had been sharing that job for about 5 years (John taking charge for many years by himself prior). It is actually a pleasant task, but a responsibility nonetheless, and Christine has jumped in before a huge void opens up. She will now be “tracking” our members – without a harness – working in concert with our treasurer, **Peter Heide**, in keeping our membership books straight. Thank you Christine.

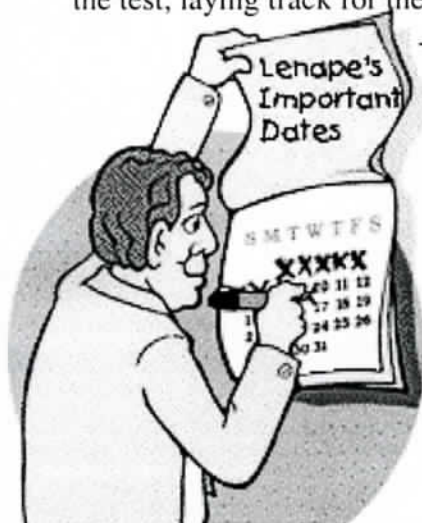
We are still looking for a newsletter editor. If anyone is willing to share the responsibility with someone else, that can be arranged; and I'm sure Teryl, in her delight at getting someone started; will offer a great deal of assistance in the beginning. Currently we offer 6 issues a year – ranging from one page to as many as you would like.

Meanwhile, if you have any interest at all in attending the AKC VST tracking Seminar on October 14/15, please let Teryl Lebkuecher know ASAP. The catered food alone is worth the price of admission. We do need help on the “social” end of things as well – making the coffee, providing the snacks and so forth.

Enjoy the rest of your summer; hope to see you all in the fall at the certification – whether taking the test, laying track for the test – or rubbernecking!

---

*Alice Crans*  
*LTC President*



## Certification Workshop

September 24 *Members Only* Closing Date September 21, 2006  
Please contact [info@lenapetrackingclub.org](mailto:info@lenapetrackingclub.org) or 732-493-4919 for entry

## Tracking Tests

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

## VST Seminar

October 14 & 15

## ***Littlest Crime-Fighter Shows She Can Sniff with the Big Dogs***

BY CONNIE MABIN  
*Associated Press*

CHARDON, Ohio -- Though she's only a 6-pound Chihuahua-rat terrier mix who looks like she belongs in Paris Hilton's purse, Midge has the will, skill and nose of a 100-pound German shepherd.

The newest recruit for the Geauga County Sheriff Department's K-9 unit could very well be the nation's smallest drug-sniffing pooch.

"Good girl," Sheriff Dan McClelland says, praising the 7-month-old, tail-wagging puppy, during a recent training exercise.

McClelland began training Midge for drug-detecting duties when she was just 3 months old, after reading about departments being sued by suspects whose cars or homes were damaged by larger dogs.

Like many police departments, Geauga County has had German shepherds and Labrador retrievers for years. In fact, visitors often ask, "Is the big dog out?" -- referring to 125-pound Brutus, says Lt. Tom McCaffrey, Brutus' handler.

Still, Brutus' intimidating, deep-pitched bark disappears when Midge -- her name is short for midget -- playfully wrestles with him in the grass outside the old jail. That's where the dogs participate in narcotics training, where Midge watches the bigger dog maneuver through cabinets, heating vents and other spaces in search of marijuana.

Police dogs must pass a test in which they successfully search for drugs in several places to get state certification. Then they can officially become K-9s and conduct legal searches. McClelland hopes Midge will receive her working papers when she is about a year old.

McClelland's idea of using smaller dogs was reinforced when he returned from vacationing in Canada and saw U.S. Customs officials using beagles to sniff luggage.

The sheriff seems to be part of a trend, as others are training smaller dogs for police uses.

Dogs called Belgian Malinois have earned spots on departments in Pennsylvania, Michigan, South Carolina and Ohio after training by Dave Glosser, owner of the private Tri-State Canine Services in Warren, Ohio. The breed can be as small as 40 pounds, and Glosser compares the dogs favorably to larger breeds.

"Size-wise, endurance-wise they last longer," he says.

And there are other advantages to smaller dogs, says Bob Eden, whose Eden Consulting Group trains police dogs and handlers. "Smaller pups can get into smaller and tighter spaces in order to carry out their searches," Eden says.

On the other hand, dogs that are too small may not be able to get around certain obstacles -- and there could be a credibility problem, Eden says.

---

### ***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: Peter Heide 609-466-4160

Membership: Christine Landuyt 732-222-3639

#### **Board:**

Peg Forte 908-832-7231

Gina DeAlmeida 908-963-9552

Teryl Lebkuecher 732-493-4919

Lisa Pattison 908-850-8879

Donna Hess 908-953-9431



## ***Littlest Crime-Fighter Shows She Can Sniff with the Big Dogs***

*...continued*

"A Jack Russell terrier may make an extremely capable narcotics detection dog," he says, "yet some agencies would shy away from using such a breed simply because the dog doesn't have the same respect level from the public as a Lab or shepherd might."

As for a Chihuahua-rat terrier like Midge working as a K-9, well, the president of the North American Police Work Dog Association, H.D. Bennett, says he's never heard of a police dog so small it nearly fits in an outstretched palm.

That's not stopping McClelland, who bought Midge from a co-worker's relative and takes her everywhere with him -- she even has a pair of goggles for rides on the sheriff's motorcycle. On a recent day, she was curled in his lap, sporting a black "sheriff" vest over her brown-spotted white fur.

The sheriff says he knew instantly Midge would be good for his police experiment in Geauga County, whose picturesque rolling farm land and old-fashioned town squares are home to about 90,000 people east of Cleveland.

"She is very calm. She is not yappy. She likes people a lot, really loves kids," he says as he strokes the dog.

Midge has helped boost the department's relationship with the community. The tiny dog was grand marshal for a Memorial Day parade, wearing an American flag scarf while perched atop a motorcycle.

She has been a hit in the county jail, where McClelland takes her to visit well-behaved inmates. Wearing flip-flops, some of the prisoners giggle when Midge licks their toes. Others cuddle her close as they talk with the sheriff about missing their own dogs at home.

On visits to school classrooms, Midge gets passed among tiny hands. And McClelland offers a lesson: "I tell the kids, 'Even when you're small, if you take a stand you can make a difference.'"



---

## ***Welcome New Members...***

**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

**Donna Ellis**  
1622 Glassboro Road  
Wenonah, NJ 08090  
856 468 6629  
Schipperkes

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

# *Persistence Pays Off*

*By Alice Crans*

For the past five years or so, I was on the sheltering committee for the Animal Emergency Working Group authorized by the Office of the State Veterinarian to come up with disaster rescue, evacuation and sheltering plans. My personal goal has been to allow people to bring their animals with them when they are forced to evacuate their homes in times of a disaster, and to have a pet shelter located close in proximity to people shelters. And, I have been working to introduce the idea to the Red Cross locally. While there are many individual counties within the United States which do encourage setting up temporary animal shelters near people shelters, and both the *Humane Society of the United States* and the *American Humane* (this year) have entered into agreements with the Red Cross, arguably the largest sheltering agency for people world wide, it is done infrequently, and never in NJ.

Nonetheless, when a disaster occurs, it occurs at a local level first, and it is your county people, and local volunteers, who need to make the idea work. Or not.

This June, during the floods, I was in the right place at the right time – and made it work!

I had been instructed to interface for the Hunterdon Office of Emergency Management by the Red Cross of CNJ. One of the major concerns was that a lot of elderly people normally refuse to evacuate because they are not allowed to bring their pets. When I heard the problem mentioned, I suggested using the parking lot near the shelter we use for people, and the OEM person from Franklin said, “And we have an animal sheltering team in our county ...I think they would be happy to be put to work!”. Now, I had to get permission from all the players. Fortunately I knew the person in charge of the shelter (he said fine), and ran it by the Red Cross Disaster lead in CNJ and he said OK. You should have heard the cheers when I mentioned it at an open meeting – as in “Please tell these people they may bring their animals with them – (along with leads, crates, the usual). They will NOT be allowed inside the shelter, but, we have a team of people who will care for them outside, and they can visit their own animals as they like”.

While not many took advantage of the offer, some did, and our Red Cross people in charge of the people shelter thought it was wonderful. First time to my knowledge in NJ – legally!

Dolores Reich, of Franklin Township (Pittstown area) was in charge of the animal shelter, and my thanks to all the OEM and Red Cross people in CNJ who were so supportive.

So guys, get out there and offer to volunteer with your own county CARTs. We need people to maintain these shelters day and night during times of emergency (The state plan requires 24 hour protection). I can almost guarantee they WILL be used. There needs to be a vet on call, and there is usually a vet tech or two on hand. All animals need to be checked, or triaged (much depends on the nature of the calamity, and whether the pet has been directly affected, then checked in. With luck, the locations will be very close to the locations where their human family is staying.

We hope there are no disasters, of course, but, if there are, the ground has been broken, and the way prepared for people and animals to be evacuated together in NJ! Yessss!!!!





## ***Tracklayer's Certification***

*By Marilyn Taurig*

The morning of July 15, 2006, was hot and humid. President, Alice Crans and five members, Donna Ellis, Donna Hess, Alyson Fuge, Linda Schmauser, Marilyn Taurig, Janet Doerer, gathered at the Lebanon Municipal Building for the 2006, Lenape Tracking Club Tracklayers Certification.

We moved behind the Municipal Building, sitting at the large picnic table, John Etchells took command by giving a wonderful presentation on plotting and laying TD tracks the day before the trail and the day of the trail. Sharing with the group his wealth of knowledge and years of experience, John also touched on the AKC tracking regulations and judges. Peg Forte also contributed giving us an idea of the responsibilities that go along with putting on the tracking events at Lenape Tracking Club.

Five track layers went back out to the field where they had plotted and laid their tracks earlier. To add a little excitement to the day, they started setting up for a large party in the same field the tracks were laid. Everyone came through in great tracking style and returning with their two flags and colored pins indicating they found their turns and glove. What little pins they were, about the size of a dime! Everyone had a great day and we just missed the rain.



Lenape has four major events taking place in the very near future: Certification Workshop, VST Seminar, Tracking Dog Trial and Tracking Dog Excellent Trial. The Board needs help from the Lenape membership to ensure success of these activities. Everyone has very busy schedules but maybe you can squeeze out a bit of time to lend a hand. Come on out and spend a couple of hours with other Lenape members. If you would like to join us, please notify Alice Crans, 908-537-2574, [crans@earthlink.net](mailto:crans@earthlink.net) or Teryl Lebkuecher, 732-493-4919, [info@lenapetrackingclub.org](mailto:info@lenapetrackingclub.org)

