



Common Scents

Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey
September / October 2006 Volume 31 Issue 5

We've all (officers plus a few...) been very busy, busy, busy this fall. Between the certification workshop (**Carol Shields**) and the AKC VST seminar (**Teryl Lebkuecher**) – plus getting our ducks in a row for the fall tracking TD (**Peter Heide**) and TDX (**Teryl** again...) tests – we've been burning up cyberspace. While the above mentioned were "in charge" of the specific events, nothing much could be done without **Mimi Ruch**, club secretary, who arranges for the judges, **John Etchells**, Chief Tracklayer, who organizes the tracklayers, **Molly Heide's** hospitality, and all of us who pitch in to help with food, track laying, clean up, etc.

We were delighted that so many new people were out to certify. DO NOT be disappointed if your dog misled you down a garden path. For many of you, it was the first time out, and while the dog may not have been nervous, I'm betting most of you were! The day was rather warm (never the best of conditions), and we did run into a few surprises in the fields. [Thank you, thank you, thank you, Penny (Chuck Shultz's *Gullwing PT's Penelope Cruiser*) for passing on the track I laid – a track that was chock full of oddities like plowed sections and ponded trenches!]

On the down side was the fact that once again, nearly everyone who laid a track had to lay two. (Only I escaped – with a sprained ankle and touchy opposing knee, which was being threatened by those same ponded trenches...). Bear in mind, The Lenape Tracking Club is most certainly not an "I pay my money to join the club so everyone else can lay track for me while I keep getting titles on my dogs and you can handle all the lesser details like food, paperwork and stuff". (In other words, "You are there to serve me while I accomplish great things.") It was noted by **Peg Forte** that Lenape was *founded* on the notion of people helping people.

Tracking is different than many other dog sports. The tracks are too long and demanding for a whole host of people to be out cheering us on for a two or four minute event, and a bunch of gallery members depositing scent all over is not necessarily the way to go anyway. So, it is rather solitary. But we all need to help out each other individually – laying tracks, observing the dogs' responses, etc. After all, we learn by teaching. And we also need to help collectively at major events. It is a responsibility of being an active member. Let's see more of you working for the TD and TDX tests. Think about putting that agility title on the back burner for a week or two, wait for the next indoor Rally event. Our tests are well advertised a year in advance, there is plenty of notice. Your officers do enough to put on these tests – they should not have to do absolutely everything related to the event. Enough said.

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Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey

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President's Message

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Now there is one more person to thank for her efforts. **Marilyn Traurig** volunteered to be newsletter editor starting in 2007. We can all help her by providing articles, thoughts, information, tidbits worth sharing with the membership (Most editors agree to *edit*, not provide ALL the content....oooooh, was that a subtle scold?) Anyway, thank you Marilyn!!!

Once again, we hope to see y'all on November 4th or 5th – either to run your certified dog, or to lay one of the ten or so tracks that will be needed. Please don't wait for someone to call you; call **John Etchells (908) 236 2423** if you plan to lay a TD track, **Peter Heide (609) 466 4160** if you wish to help in any other way.

Thank you all again for your support of Lenape – and of each other.

*Alice Crans
LTC President*

A Word About the Gallery

By Alice Crans

As mentioned in the President's message, tracking is rather a solitary sport. While many of us have supporters who help lay our tracks, and who may have a vested interest in how our dog is "performing", tracking is usually not considered a spectator sport. We certainly do not want to prohibit people from observing from the distant hill, or taking pictures after you have completed the track, but certain rules have to be observed.

The lands we use are in private ownership. They are not state owned game lands, or otherwise in the public venue. Cars must be kept to a minimum. Vehicles piloted by those of us laying track, picking up stranded tracklayers, and the competitors, make enough vehicles to be moving about on the fields. When your friends do not come in time to drive with you, but arrive later and expect to drive themselves onto someone else's land to "observe", it is asking a bit much of the land owners, and most definitely runs the risk of contaminating the track. PLEASE remember that once a given track is "laid" the **FLAGS ARE GONE**. A person who does not see the first two flags, and starts bounding across an open field to see you and your dog, may well be bounding across several legs of someone else's track. Not good.

For our tests, we will require that no one will be allowed near the fields when the tracks are being laid, and there will be a volunteer who will serve as a "guide".

Prospective gallery members who arrive too late will not be allowed near the venue. Thank you for observing these courtesies, and informing your friends of the rules.



Tracking Tests

November 5, 2006 TD Test

November 12, 2006 TDX Test

Willow Watch Continued

By Alice Crans

While all of our companions have unusual experiences, some appear to have a more dramatic flair in their life style than others. (Or less conscientious guardians?) My Wee One has a knack for indiscriminately picking up *everything* she sees. When I carry the dishes from the table to the sink, and a fork or knife falls to the floor and I say "Oh sh*#!". she picks it up and hands it to me. (At this point she really does believe "Oh sh*#!" is a command, and looks around frantically for something she can bring to me when she hears the expression.) Sometime this indiscriminate way of exploring her world can get her into trouble, however.

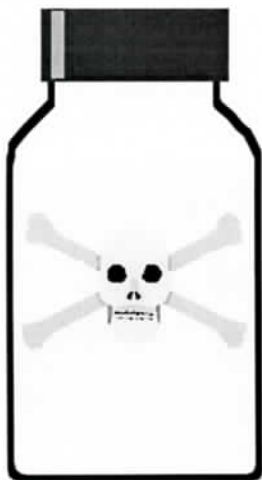
One day in July, I had noticed a chartreuse puddle in our drive where the tractor had been momentarily parked, and cleaned it up. The next day, Willow was inside with me while I was working, and a few hours into the day my husband came to me and said, "We may have a problem." He had placed a container under the tractor to catch the drips so he could determine exactly which fluid was leaking, and at what rate of speed. He had noted there was a least a thimble full of fluid at one point when he had last examined it (this amount changed dramatically in the telling over the course of the next hours to "an inch of fluid") and he now could not find the container. He suspected either Willow, or her playmate (the neighbor's golden) "retrieved" it and/or sampled the contents.

We tried to encourage her to upchuck without benefit of hydrogen peroxide - she had yet to ride to Califon without losing her lunch - except for this time. And the hour's drive to *Animerge* didn't encourage any loss either, more's the pity. But, we did come away with two new pieces of information. 1) ANY amount of antifreeze is dangerous - some dogs are so susceptible that even a thimble full may be enough to be fatal, and 2) There is now a test which determines toxicity levels, so the animals can now avoid a three day intravenous drunk (the usual treatment for anti freeze poisoning).

After four hours of nail biting, we were told that Willow did not have a toxic level, and could go home. Whew.

As if to test our mettle, within a few days, our *car* developed a leak in its radiator and spewed the stuff all over. What are the chances???

So, keep the hydrogen peroxide handy, and if you suspect your dog may have had contact with antifreeze, use it - and get a toxicity test immediately. It's still cheaper than the treatment - and a lot less stressful for all.



Shelter Success

By Alice Crans

Most of you know I sometimes work with the Red Cross, and sometimes with animal rescue organizations – including serving on the shelter committee for the AEWG, where we have been trying to arrange for animal shelters to be located near people shelters in times of disaster.

This June, I served as a disaster assessment person during the “June Floods”, where the Delaware River over flowed into the river communities, requiring the Red Cross to open a shelter. I interfaced with our Office of Emergency Management, and gathered information pertinent to housing people who may be displaced by the floods. It just so happened that I was in the OEM when the guys mentioned their concern about a complex of older people who lived in a low lying area and who always refused evacuation because they could not bring their animals with them. Since I knew where we planned to open our shelter, I knew there would be room in the adjacent parking lot, and an officer standing behind me mentioned he had a team of animal rescue people on the CART in Pittstown he could activate. So, cell phone glued to ear, I contacted the OEM person who controlled the space for the shelter, then got permission from Red Cross of Central Jersey to agree. Bottom line, I was invited to the OEM meeting to announce that these people can be told to evacuate **WITH** their animals (and crates, and leads, etc.). This is the first time legally (meaning with permission) in NJ to my knowledge an animal shelter has been located next to a people shelter under Red Cross management.

Later comments from the people who operated the shelter were very complimentary – **Ed Bauer**, who was shelter manager when we brought the first buses in told me it was a very effective strategy, and caused no problems whatsoever. (Although I did hear from a friend who breakfasted with the Fire Chief the night after that one dog kept the guys up all night – but you didn’t hear that from me!) Regardless, this is what we’ve worked for five years on in the AEWG – and I was delighted to be in the right place at the right time for once to help make it happen!

My thanks go out to the Red Cross of Central New Jersey who approved, to **Harry Shephard** Director of the OEM of Delaware Township who had control of the property, to **Kenneth Mandoli**, Emergency Management Coordinator of Franklin Township, who activated the Pittstown rescue group, and to **Dolores Reich** of TDI (she volunteers at Hunterdon Medical Center), who led her group into action. The first animal to be housed was a little terrier named “Cotton”. (And, Cotton did come with crate, bed, leads, harness, collar, dishes, food, toys, instructions, certs, everything we say to bring!)

If you live in NJ and are able to serve in any capacity with a county animal rescue group, please do volunteer. Each emergency shelter opened need rounds the clock attention, an on-call vet, and people assisting who can register animals as well as feed, walk and care for them.

Let there be no more disasters, but should fate have other plans, let’s be certain people evacuate with their pets, AND with all the emergency supplies they may need.

