



Common Scents

Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey
November / December 2006 Volume 31 Issue 6

President's Message

Much appreciation to all our members who came out to help in the various fall activities. It's really exciting when a member passes whom you have had a little hand in, either with the information or the direct training. (Doubly rewarding when they pass on the track you plotted with the judge and walked.) As a matter of fact, for those of you who really don't have faith in your dog, one way to get that confidence is to actually put down a track, then watch someone else's dog follow it. You have a much different vantage point than laying a track for your own dog, then running your dog on the track.

December and January will be months of rest for Lenape members in terms of club activities. This does not mean you can give up tracking. Weather permitting (and even if it doesn't) you can always continue to train your dog. Take that spare Saturday or Sunday, call up a friend, cook up a pot of chili, and plan your own "fun" tracking event.

Regardless, we hope to see you at our February (soup, salad, and dessert) and March (free food) meetings. Remember, the March meeting is our annual membership meeting where we vote in a new slate of officers, and it is a member recognition event. We would like to discuss your ideas for programming for the 2007-2008 year, look at possibilities for having a VST event, and start a dialog on any other issue of importance to you.

This will be Teryl's last newsletter. I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to her on behalf of us all for having undertaken the job for the past few years. That's also a neat way of leading into the note that from now on, please send all articles of interest for the next issue of the newsletter to Marilyn Taurig.

Thanks again (words of appreciation can never be redundant) for all your hard work this year, and may everyone have a peaceful and restful holiday filled with much joy.

Alice Crans



General Membership Meetings

February & March

dates to be announced

Tracking Experience Day Certification Workshop
April 14, 2007 September 22 & 24, 2007

Tracking Dog Test
November 3 & 4, 2007

Tracking Dog Excellent Test
November 10 & 11, 2007

Tracking and Land

It is almost a sure bet when the conversation turns to tracking, the subject of land availability for tracking training and tests will surface. In many areas of the country, the sale of family farms and over development is of concern to the tracking clubs and enthusiasts. Even the areas that lend themselves to Variable Surface Tracking are hard to obtain permission for use. This has resulted in clubs reducing the number of test tracks offered or the number of trials they offer per year. So is the case with Lenape Tracking Club. Presently, Lenape uses both private and public land for their TD and TDX tests. We would like to investigate additional land for our tests, training and Tracking Experience Day. If you have any suggestions or possible areas, please contact info@LenapeTrackingClub.org or Teryl @ 732-493-4919.



Please Note...

Lenape is hoping to have a huge turn out for the February and March general membership meetings. At this point in time, we are looking into some very interesting speakers for the meetings. Also, several members have earned tracking titles this year and they will be honored at the March meeting. Please plan on coming out for good food and good conversation. The dates are tentatively set for February 17th and March 17th. Confirmation of these dates will be coming. We are waiting to sure up our program for each meeting before confirming date and time. Mark your calendar in pencil...we would love to see all the members.

And This Too...

The Common Scents will be in new hands come January 2007. Marilyn Taurig will be taking over the responsibility of the Lenape newsletter. Please send all articles of interest to Marilyn along with any brags or news you would like to share with others. Welcome Marilyn to this new adventure by sending lots of information for the first newsletter of 2007.



Marilyn Taurig
17 Fundus Road
West Orange, NJ 07052
landaracurl@yahoo.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
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



The Tracking Bug: What is it?

Submitted by Donna Smith (who admits to having this bug for 15 years, and to deliberately passing it on to others)

There is one bug we see emerge every year with the warmer weather – the tracking bug. It affects both humans and canines. It can strike people of any age or gender. Do you have the tracking bug? Here are some of the symptoms of the tracking bug in humans:



- Purchasing quantities of nylon cord, in a variety of colors, even though you have bags of rope in the basement, all tied in knots
- Driving endlessly around the countryside, measuring snowmelt on the fields
- Haunting lost and found bins and claiming stray leather gloves – taking them home and adding them to yet another bag full of old, one-off gloves
- Hiding gloves around the house and running around like an idiot with a clicker, asking your dog to find them
- Walking through deep puddles in your outrageously expensive hiking boots, to see how waterproof they are
- Buying raingear, hats and t-shirts that match your rolls of flagging tape
- Filling the freezer with bags of boiled, chopped up chicken wieners
- A marked tendency to turn any conversation into one about fields, weather and the scent cones

Dogs seem to catch this bug from their owners. It is believed dogs all have the tracking bug, but their owners bring it to the surface. Symptoms in dogs are:



- Screaming in a vehicle while driving dirt roads
- Squirring uncontrollably as a harness is put on them
- Immediately sniffing the ground and pulling with determination once the harness is on
- Obsession with gloves

Unlike other bugs, this bug seems to build both physical strength and positively affect a dog's confidence. It can strike both puppies and senior dogs. Veterinarians can offer no cure for this bug, nor do they seem concerned about it. It does not seem to affect cats.

It should be noted that when the tracking bug strikes, humans are more noticeably in a daze and seem willing to turn control over to their dogs, while the dogs appear filled with joy and purpose, and are willing to take the lead. The tracking bug appears to be highly contagious, as people and dogs become affected after exposure to others with the bug. Those affected tend to be found in groups, often seen wandering oblivious to the weather, through fields, carrying their precious chicken wieners even in bear country. The dogs are always seen leading their dazed human charges to gloves that have been deliberately left in the field, hours before. Some of these groups have become organized enough to hold tests to find these lost gloves, and newly affected people actually volunteer to wander through fields for two days exposed to heat, rain and snow.

People with the tracking bug can often be found sitting in truck stops very early in the morning. They are easily spotted in their water-soaked clothes. They are usually covered in dirt, sunburned and plagued by mosquito bites.

If you see someone you suspect has been bitten by the tracking bug, stay clear, because once bitten, there is no cure. At our next meeting, some of our members who admit to having the tracking bug will discuss this affliction. If you have ever wondered what it is, and how to avoid it, please be sure to attend.



With Time to Spare

By Marilyn Taurig

It was a relatively nice morning for November and I started out for the TD tracking test at Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey. I put Dina in the van, it was 6:30 a.m. with draw time at 8:00 a.m. and it takes an hour drive. I stopped for gas and on our way we went. Straight to Glen Gardner, OH MY, I'm at the wrong place and its 7:40 a.m. I'm supposed to be at the Heidi's place in Ringoes. After a few cuss words, a few tears, I called my husband and said I was thinking about going home, I didn't know how to get to the TD test from where I was. He encouraged me to try and salvage my mistake.

You have to understand that I am geographically challenged, I get lost following yahoo maps and GPS systems. I'm thinking maybe Ringoes isn't that far. I head down to Rt. 31 (I think) and ask directions. A gentleman tells me Ringoes is straight down the road about 18 miles. Swell, I have 10 minutes to drive 18 miles to get to Ringoes and then find the Heidi's on Wertsville Road, what are the chances of that happening?

I drive down the road about 15 miles and stop for a red light. I think this is a good time to ask for more directions, I look over at the car next to me. I honk the horn and roll down my window. The passenger in the car next to me obliges and rolls down their window. As I'm about to ask directions, I'm thinking these people look familiar, oh my gosh, its John Etchell's and his wife. I tell them, I don't think I can make it to the Heidi's by draw time. They tell me you have plenty of time, draw time is at 9:00 a.m. and they were on their way there. Not letting on that I was totally lost, thought draw time was at 8:00 a.m. I ask them if they minded if I followed them. John said, sure but were taking the back roads. At this point, I didn't care what roads we traveled, I couldn't believe I got so lucky as to have some body to follow right to the Heidi's and I was getting there before draw time.

Tah Dah, I get to the Heidi's with plenty of time to spare and we draw track 4. As the day progressed, it was our turn to go out to the fields and wait for the Judges. Time to harness up, the Judges are here, we head down to the start flag and off we go.

What can I say? Dina tracked great, she did a wonderful job. Dina came to what was the last turn and she was checked her direction and off she went right down the last leg to the glove. I was so proud of her when she came to the glove, I howled yahoo and jumped up in the air. I scared Dina with my exuberance.

Do you believe in god, mysterious happenings, uncanny things? Track #4 was put in by John Etchell's. I met John at the red light, he took me to the Heidi's, he got me there before draw time, put down track #4 and was never far behind us from start flag to the glove. Thank you John. Thank you Dina. Thank you to all of the Lenape Tracking Club members who work so hard to put on these events.



**A Job
Well Done**



Rhewllyd Let Er Fly

By Bev Olsen

Breeze is a four year old rescued greyhound that I have owned since May of 2005. Yes, she is a sight hound and most people think they are not good at using their nose, well this is not true. Breeze is the second Greyhound I have had and they are wonderful tracking dogs. Shortly after Breeze came to live with me I started her tracking and she just loves it to the point of driving me crazy. When she is in the car waiting for her turn to work she barks and raises the devil until she gets her chance.

When Lenape held their tracking certification workshop, I entered Breeze and was lucky enough to get in. We drew the 3rd track. I walked out into the field with Breeze and the judge looked at me and said, "OH a sight hound. This should be interesting." Breeze walked up to the flag, put her nose to the ground and took off. At one point out on the top of the hill looking down on the road, she stopped, went into a beautiful stance and watched the cars went by. After that bit of sight seeing, she put her nose back down and finished the track without another pause. Greyhounds are also known for not sitting but when Breeze got to her glove she went into the most beautiful sit in anticipation of her breakfast.

Now we had our certification, so it was time to enter a test. I entered Hudson Valley but was not lucky enough to get in. I also entered Lenape's trial and was the number four draw. Test day came quickly. I drew the seventh track for the test. I felt very confident about Breeze passing until I found out that my track was in the field that since I have been a member of Lenape, I have never seen anyone pass, including my own Cardigan, Snowflake. Oh well, the luck of the draw. My buddy, Teryl, told me not to worry Breeze could do it. She was soooooooo right. Our turn came, we walked out to the start flag and Breeze was happy that it was finally her turn. Breeze put her nose down and never looked back. Six minutes later, she sat at the glove and I thought I heard her say, "Mom, what were you worried about? It was easy."

I do many activities with my dogs, but of all the things I do, tracking is what I love best. To me, there is no greater reward than to have a dog finish a track and get to that glove with me just along for the ride. To have this dog do such a beautiful job when I have only had her 19 months brings tears to my eyes.

Thank you Breeze!

The Start...



And



The Finish

Phlaire

By Joan Luckhardt

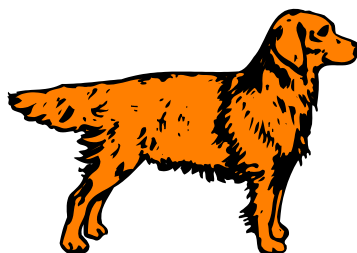
First, thanks to the Lenape Tracking Club for holding seminars, follow-up workshops, organizing certification tests and tracking tests. Phlaire and I could not have accomplished the TD without the help and training we received from Teryl Lebkuecher--our trainer, teacher, and tracking expert. Her encouragement kept us going over the rough spots!!

During the process of learning about tracking, I learned to trust my dog and respect her decisions!

Certifying Phlaire, my not-quite-two year old Golden Retriever, to track proved a challenge of weather and time. We did not succeed the first try at the Lenape certification test--but we did on the second--and in pouring rain!!

To enter an AKC tracking test (trial), a dog must be certified as ready by a tracking judge. Not easy to do as there are no tracking judges in New Jersey. I made arrangements to meet a judge in Pennsylvania, near Allentown at a farm where a track would be laid for Phlaire (there is a start article containing the scent of the track layer, a path walked by the track layer, and a glove or wallet at the end of the track--the track can be about 1500 feet with three to five turns). The day of the certification test arrived along with a torrential downpour, a downpour that increased with each passing hour. The certification test is the same as a trial, but without a second judge. Phlaire was the third track laid that day---and she certified in rain so heavy that I couldn't see through my glasses fogged from rain. Certainly I had to trust Phlaire to take me to the glove. As the judge said later, Phlaire is a really good tracking dog and nails the corners. That's the same judgment made by her tracking trainer. I really take Phlaire tracking because Phlaire loves tracking, showing it by barking as soon as I get her tracking harness out. Once we arrive at the tracking field and she sees the flags, again she starts barking. Once certified (which is really like a first tracking test), Phlaire could be entered into 4 AKC tracking tests. As there are always more dogs entered than there are tracks, her number would be pulled in a lottery. Phlaire won the lottery with a first draw. So we made the Lenape Tracking Club's Tracking Dog test--and I pulled the fifth of nine tracks available that day.

On Nov. 5th, Phlaire, not quite 2 years old, earned her Tracking Dog title at the TD trial held by the Lenape Tracking Dog Club of Central New Jersey--9 tracks for 9 lucky dogs (each track takes about 4 to 5 acres). On a very cool, cloudy morning, Phlaire with me attached on a 40 foot long line, sniffed the start article (a sock) and set off on her circa 1400 foot track on a sloping field with calf high clumpy grass and weed cover. She was like an Amtrak passenger train on rails---she hit each of the 5 corners (four 90 degree turns and one 45 degrees), and in tracking dog language, she nailed the corners. She was going at such speed that I feared I'd soon be body surfing along behind her--so I let out the 40 foot line (a 20 feet distance is mandatory), hoping she'd slow a bit at the corners and I could catch up. I kept my eyes on Phlaire and because of her speed, had no chance to look anywhere else. At the last turn she did slow by a stream, and then I could see what looked like a track to me, but she didn't choose it. Phlaire seemed to be following another track.



Phlaire

...continued



I trusted her and didn't try to woo her to the track I could see (obedience trained handlers tend to want to direct their dogs). That was a good decision as it later turned out---Phlaire sailed forward up the slope, saw the glove, pawed the glove, turned to me and then belly flopped on the glove. I dashed up the slope and grabbed the glove--and we finished to the celebratory shouts of the gallery watching from the sidelines. Later the track layer told me what happened---as she lay track using the two judges track map, the wind took the paper map and it flew toward the stream. She dashed for it and had to lay a parallel track back toward the glove. Phlaire followed the track of track layer who owned the scented start article, ignoring the original track walked by the judges the day before. As both judges said, she's a great dog, a great tracking dog. She's just good at everything!! So now she has a TD after her name--and as a parting burden after the trial, the judges and the gallery said, almost in unison--and she's so good, she needs to run the TDX (tracking dog excellent) next. But we can only do that if Teryl has some time to help us again.

Brags and Tidbits

Donna Hess...Aussie, Jessie, earned all three Rally titles in nine shows total, her ASCA CD and most recently her OA and OAJ titles in just a handful of trials and all with placings!!!

Teryl Lebkuecher...Cardigan, Cadi, earned her Novice Rally title !

Any Suggestions?

The Lenape membership is encouraged to share any suggestions or concerns with the Lenape Board. We are always trying to improve attendance at our events, improve our programs and get more people involved in tracking. You can reach any Board member by phone (listings in this newsletter) or by emailing info@lenapetrackingclub.org.

Toro !

By Gina DeAlmeida

Yes, that is right! This November, Toro & I made the draw for the Lenape TD Tracking trial. We were lucky enough to be picked as the last entry in a trial of 8 TD tracks. I was just happy to have made the entry. This would be Toro's first try at a TD title to be added to his name. I was nervous, but, I had still entered another trial later in the month for a backup just incase my nerves got the best of me.

We arrived that morning with all the other entries & was treated to a wonderful breakfast. As the time drew nearer, I knew that I did not have to pick a track. Being the eighth of 8 entries, we would have what ever track was left... This would be the last one left in the hat, the one not chosen by all the other people who picked before me. We were hoping to go early - but - we had no say in the matter. Let fate give us our track.

Well, as each person picked the numbers of the tracks began to be called out. 4, 7, 2, 6, 8, 3, 5. Where is #1? Who has #1? The first track was NOT drawn. OH MY, CAN THIS BE?? Did I get the first track? Right after I finished pinching myself I was given the last slip of paper from the hat. #1 - Wa Hooie!!

No time to think. No time to get nervous. No time to waste. Just enough time to run to the potty! Get in the truck & off we go. Keep calm, let the judges go first and follow them. Thirty seconds later we were across the street from where we started. There was a convoy of 6-7 cars/trucks following us filled with "The Gallery". These were the people who wanted to watch your track, they were NOT supposed to make you nervous. Ha Ha Ha Ha

Well we got there and everyone got out of the trucks quickly. The judges, the track layer, "The gallery" and especially that person that walked so many tracks for me, my trainer - were all watching us. NO PRESSURE!

We tried to block every one out. This was just another morning track that we had been running for the last 8 months. Toro took his usual 2 minute potty break, got some water, played with his stick for a 30 seconds, put his harness on & we made our way over to the 2 judges waiting for us. I clipped his line from his collar to his harness & it was now time to work!

He took me onto the track. He made a left turn towards a dirt part of the field. (I thought we were off track, but I trusted him) We made a few more turns, we were very far away from the start. (I thought we were off track, but I trusted him) We headed down towards a river, the grass got higher, I was waiting to be called off the track by the judges. (I thought we were off track, but I trusted him) Then it happened, he stopped, turned and looked at me, put his head down and picked up a GLOVE!!! We did it. He was wonderful. He brought the glove back to the start and schmoosed with everyone the gallery. I heard some wonderful comments about my young boy. I was so proud and I just wanted to say one thing..... I TRUSTED HIM AND HE CAME THROUGH WITH A WIN.

The Start...



And



The Finish.

Lenape's Tracking Dog Excellent Trial

by Teryl Lebkuecher

November was a busy month for Lenape. We held our TD trial as well as our TDX trial. As many of you know, putting on an AKC trial is hard work. It is especially difficult when you have to rely upon the good will of many of the club members to make the event a success. Such is the case of the Lenape TDX trial.

The food at a tracking trial is almost as important as the tracks themselves! Donna Hess, Carol Shields, Bev Olsen and Mollie Heide all contributed to the wonderful lunch we had. It is not an easy task to bring food from miles away, keep it hot, set up and clean up as nothing had taken place in the building. I heard Bev was signing up for the 2007 TDX as well.

The judges traveled significant distances to judge our trial. Rosemary Janoch flew in from Ohio and Judi Edwards from Virginia. Keep in mind that the judges are NOT paid for their time. Yes, they are reimbursed for any expenses but not paid. Lenape does present them a small gift but it certainly does not fully compensate them for leaving their homes from Friday to Sunday. Judging is truly a labor of love.

A TDX track needs not only one track layer, but three. The main track layer lays the the complete track from beginning to end...800 to 1000 yards. The two cross track layers walk another track which crosses the main track. Lenape was VERY fortunate to have a full compliment of track layers. Donna Ellis, Gina DeAlmedia and Christine Landyut were our main track layers and Alyson Fuge, Chuck Shults, Donna Hess, Cris Courdruff and Susan Palius were the cross track layers. These folks gave up two days to make the TDX trial happen. These were very long and tiring days. Carol Shields was the Chief Track Layer. She walked each track along with the judges carrying the marker flags and making sure everything went smoothly, making sure everyone was at the right place at the right time.

Plainly stated, Lenape President, Alice Crans, worked her tail off for this trial. A complete list of all that she did for the trial could not be written.

After all of the planning, emailing, phone calling, thinking and worrying...how many dogs entered this trial...nine. How many dogs actually got to run in this trial...three. Yes, three. How many dogs passed...none. Did any come close...no...not a one. This situation is not unusual but rather common place when talking about a TDX trial. Hmmm, some of you may be wondering why does Lenape put on a TDX trial. It seems like so much effort for so little return..

IF you ever get a chance to train for a TDX title, enter and get in a TDX trail and PASS a TDX trial, you will never again question why people work so hard. Earning a TDX title may be one of the most memorable experiences in a tracking enthusiast's experience. It just takes one successful track to earn a TDX but I know that the handler who does pass will be thanking all those involved for many years to come.

Gina DeAlmedia

Donna Hess



Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey

Teryl Lebkuether
1501 Roller Road
Wayside, NJ 07712

