



Common Scents

May/June, 2009

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



DATES TO REMEMBER

Tracking Classes Start

..... Saturday, May 30
..... Monmouth County, NJ

Tracklayer Certification

..... Saturday, August 8
..... Lebanon Township, NJ

Certification Match

..... Sunday, September 20
..... Ringoes, NJ
..... Judge: Richard Knapp

TD Test

..... Sunday, November 1
..... Ringoes, NJ
..... Judges: Stephanie Crawford
..... Jacob Kay

TDX Test

..... Sunday, November 8
..... Lebanon Township, NJ
..... Judges: Mike Clemens
..... Art Twiss

It is June already and Lenape events are in full swing. Since my last report the Club has been busy. We had a successful TED in early April along with three follow-ups. Thanks to the many members who helped to make this a credit to the Club. In May, we held a VST seminar which received rave reports. Thanks to Peg Forte, Lisa Pattison and Carol Shields for making this a successful seminar.

As you may know, AKC is in the process of updating the Tracking Regulations. One of the proposed changes involves a Test Worker Option. This option, would allow Clubs to set aside a limited number of tracks for working club members as defined and identified by the Club. This option would increase the likelihood that these members would get into the test and will probably be effective in 2010.

In anticipation of this change, the Board discussed how Lenape should position itself so we could take advantage of the opportunity to help members get into tests. As a result, we voted to expand the 2010 TD from 8 to 9 tracks, which would allow us to shield 3 (rather than 2) of the total tracks for working

club members. Given our current fields, this should be fairly easy to do.

With regard to TDX, we have asked Alice Crans to see if we can find enough additional fields around the Hagedorn Center to expand from 3 to 5 TDX tracks. This would allow us shield 1 track for members. Since at this point we are not sure what fields are available, we have not committed to the additional tracks for 2010.

The Board also started its initial discussion of "What is a working member?" Numerous ideas were presented - from a simple list of members who have worked at an event to a point system which would assign different numeric values for work performed. Given the fact that we wanted to get input from club members, we tabled the discussion. If you have some thoughts on "What should qualify as a working member" please let me or another Board member know. We would like to have a policy in place later this year.

Until next time, keep on tracking.

John

President – John Etchells * **Vice President** – Anna Burbank

Secretary – Carol Shields * **Treasurer** – Peter Heide

Board Members – Alice Crans – Gina DeAlmeida – Janet Doerer – Peg Forte – Joan Luckhardt

Editor - Pat Etchells, deerhill.tracking@gmail.com

Anna Burbank

Drop John Etchells an e-mail before August 1 at jetchells@att.net or call him at 908-236-2423 to let him know you are interested. Full details will be sent to those who sign up.

TED - 2009



Mother Nature wasn't too kind to us this year, but in spite of bone chilling wind gusts, the dogs learned the important lesson that if you put your nose to the ground, good things happen. Most of them couldn't believe that their people had actually brought them to a field where hotdogs grew (but none complained)!

The participants were enthusiastic and brought a variety of breeds with an assortment of tracking styles. But within a short time, most of them "got it".

Without the help of many Lenape members, this event would not have been so successful. A big thanks goes out to:

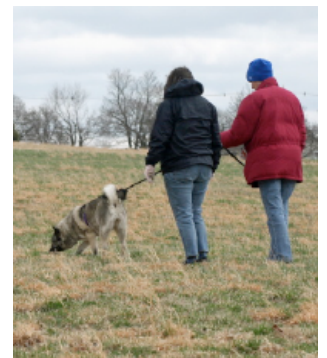
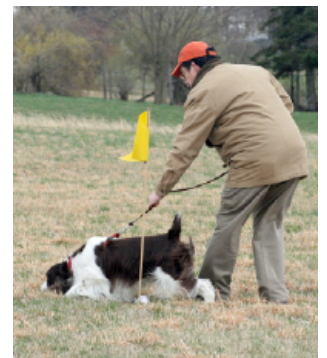
James Bunderla
Cris Courduff
Gina DeAlmeida
Janet Doerer
John Etchells
Pat Etchells
Peg Forte
Alyson Fuge
Nancy Grove
Peter Heide
Lynn Kwiatkowski
Teryl Lebkuecher
Pat Losco
Joan Luckhardt
Marilyn Mueller
Susan Palius
Marion Rapp
Carol Shields
Frank Shields
Gail Thompson



Peg and Torrie doing the demo track



Participants starting their dogs



VST SEMINAR

reported by Peg Forte

The first weekend of May, Jerry Lewis came from Iowa to lead a seminar on Variable Surface Tracking. Twelve LTC members and two others signed up for the seminar that was held in Flemington, NJ in an industrial park area. We were fortunate to have the use of Arc Industries, a day program site for The Arc of Hunterdon County. Jerry shared with the participants his journey to the VST with his Golden Retriever, Chammy. All throughout the seminar Jerry gave us a positive message that we can do the VST with our dogs. He made many points about the mistakes he made along the way to achieving his goal to earn the VST and the CT (Champion Tracker) titles. He stressed that we should not make those same mistakes.

On Saturday we each worked our dogs on different components of the VST – the importance of practicing many starts was emphasized.

Transitioning from vegetation to asphalt was also tried.

On Sunday, Jerry laid a VST track in the industrial complex. He asked for volunteers to work the track. First would be a dog to do the start and get to the second article. Then a second volunteer would do from the third article to the last article. The third volunteer would do the entire track. Cheryl Mathews yellow Labrador, Grady, did the first part. The track started (start article was a sock) on grass, crossed and proceeded across a parking lot, down a concrete sidewalk – across another parking lot to the second article (plastic) on the pavement. Then Donna Ellis's Schipperke Gracie began the track at the third article on grass, towards a building – paralleled the building onto another parking lot that included a MOT (Moment of truth) turn, continued for a long straight leg down the center of the driveway to the



Jerry Lewis explains the map of the track he laid in the industrial park.

last article. The gallery followed the two dogs and their handlers, so by the time the third dog (Peg Forte's Pembroke Welsh Corgi) Torrie, was brought to the start there were many scents on the tracks, very much like what would happen in a VST test. Torrie handled the track enthusiastically, I'm sure the rainy wet day helped her do the track.

Jerry's enthusiasm for our sport of tracking and his sense of humor made the seminar hours fly by. Carol Shields provided the food for both days – and as usual no one went away hungry. Thanks also goes to Lisa Pattison who picked Jerry up at Newark airport and made arrangements for him to stay with a friend of hers in the Flemington area. Each of the participants received a copy of Jerry's book, "VST, A Journey Worth Pursuing." The proceeds of his book are donated to Golden Retriever rescue.

Jerry makes a point about the track to the gallery



TIDBITS



GINA DeALAMEDIA's Rottie **Toro** earned his TDX at Oriole DTC. (See Page 6) Then in May he earned his AD - a German endurance title. There was a 12 mile run/bike ride that took almost 2 hours (including three 15 minute rest stops) with evaluations by a vet for heart rate, breathing & pad checks.

The ETCHELLS' 10-month-old Toller **Diggs** earned his first

RN leg at Bucks and the second at Allentown DTC. 9-year-old Cocker **Beans** came out of retirement to earn her second RN leg at Allentown. They both finished their titles at Greater Philly.

PEG FORTE reports that in March, Pembroke Welsh Corgi, Jimanie's Golden Touch (**Torrie**), earned her RE title. Her Flat-Coated Retriever housemate, Light-foot's Texas Two Step (**Tex**) earned two RN legs. He also earned his first CD leg at Union County with a 2nd place. Switching gears, Torrie earned her PT (Pre-trial Tested) herding title at the Burlington KC Herding trial on May 16th. The following day, her trainer and handler, Katherine Spence, enter the field for a try at the Started level. She was not sure that it had been a good idea to move Torrie up to that level. Torrie went to work, moved the sheep speedily through the A course and one minute and 57

seconds later they left the ring with their first Started Sheep leg.

Blaze, PAT LOSCO's 6-year-old Aussie, finished her ASCA OTCh this spring. Pat adds, "Now we are going for her MACH, although it will take a while due to her having a speed challenged handler. Then we will get to tracking"

CHUCK SHULTZ's yellow Labrador, **PT**, got her AKC Rally Advanced title in 3 shows over Memorial Day weekend in Freehold. Her daughter, **Cruiser** (Gullwing PT's Penelope Cruiser, Am/Can/ASCA TD) is expecting a litter of all black puppies on Father's Day weekend.

Reminder: Send your news to: deerhill.tracking@gmail.com. The next deadline is August 1.

TRACKER'S DISEASE

A Mental Disorder

reprinted from the Palo Alto Foothills Tracking Assn. Gone Trackin', April, 1993

A new disease has been discovered that is spreading across the nation in near epidemic proportions. The disease is characterized by the following symptoms:

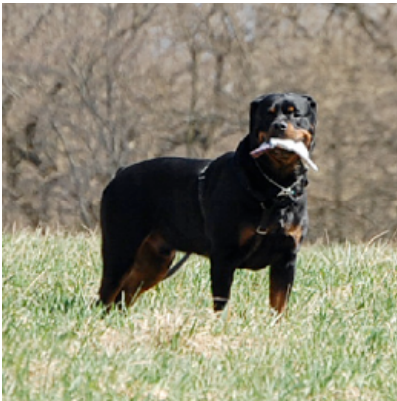
- a. Missing meals regularly.
- b. Being annoyed by wind: particularly in the earlier stages of the disease.
- c. The tendency towards hoarding leather gloves and other small objects.
- d. The habit of wandering about in fields with a dog at all times of day or night.
- e. Continually searching for new fields to wander in.
- f. Being unable to drive past a field without picturing yourself and your dog wandering through it.
- g. Being unable to walk anywhere at all without counting your paces.
- h. A fondness for rain and rubber boots.
- i. A phobia for dry grass and foxtails.

The disease is highly contagious and may be chronic, although it has never been known to be fatal. In 1977, in the California area, a few cases were diagnosed for the first time in many years. Within three years, the disease had spread in the state to many thousands of diagnosed cases and many suspected cases.

There is no known cure. In a few cases, the disease is self limiting and never quite develops or simply goes away by itself. In most cases, however, it goes on for months and even years. Possession of an AKC Tracking or Schutzhund title will give some relief and may cause the disease to subside temporarily. However, the disease frequently reoccurs after a period of remission. The recurrence is usually associated with the acquisition of a new dog. There have been recent diagnosed cases of an advanced form of the disease. When this advanced stage is reached, the prognosis is doubtful.

TORO'S TENACIOUS TDX TRACK!!!

By Gina DeAlmeida



As we started out early Sunday morning the easy drive relaxed both me & my boy, Toro. We were on our way to Maryland for our big TDX trial. We arrived early with plenty of time to check out the surroundings & enjoy the wonderful breakfast that we were offered.

Then it all began... The TDX entries were gathered together for the DRAW... We were the last one in line, so, the last track not chosen by all the others was ours! Track #2 was left for us to run. Nice! Not too early (plenty of time to gather my thoughts) & not too late (the day was going to get a little warm). As the first dog started his track with both judges following, we started our tracking morning ritual to get ready for our Track #2. Take a quick drink. Take a quick walk. Then prepare myself, with Toro watching as I put on my boots & vest. At this point we always have a little heart to heart. Ready to head out...

We were called up & escorted to our field. As we arrived, the gallery & judges were already there. Another drink for the boy, collar on, harness on, line attached, grab bottle of water & OFF WE GO!!!

The track started out heading into a beautiful field. Toro's nose went down at the start flag, he found a sock and we started our track. After a little fussing with verbal encouragement & a drink of water, Toro continued to work his track. Soon enough we turned right, then we turned left & proceeded on a straight line for what seemed like a very long time. I was getting a little worried, but, trust your dog is the motto that I track by... So I trusted him. Later I found out that leg of the track continued straight on for 245 yds... Toro & I were truly enjoying ourselves because this was just another beautiful sunny morning out on the tracking field for us. We purposely did not look back or acknowledge anyone else with us on the field. This is how we work together every day that we track. He loves to take me for a walk to find stuff on the tracking field. Toro then stopped, looked at me & sat – This is his way of saying “Mom, I found something.” Yes you did, it was a glass case. Good boy, let's go find some more. Off we went heading towards the woods. First we made another turn, then we went through a hedge row, then into the woods where we found a horse trail. We followed it for a while until we turned quickly to the right & headed for a brook (he did take a little drink). After crossing the brook we were out of the

woods heading towards a field with some marshy bog. Toro enjoyed going through the wetland (it was getting a little warm out). We then headed out across the field when Toro stopped again, looked at me & sat. Yes, we found a nylon zip bag – good boy, let's go find some more. We ventured out and turned right again, through another hedgerow, into another field. After one more open turn we headed towards the middle of the third field. Toro was still working strong & thenHE STOPS!! YES!! THE GLOVE!!!! WE DID IT!!!

What a feeling. It was a great track on a beautiful day. I am so proud of my boy. We both worked so hard for this title. Thank you all who helped me get this far. A special “Thank you” to Teryl, she believed in us as strongly we believed in ourselves.

Onward to the VST...I think Toro would make a wonderful Champion Tracker!!

Nordikes Nothing But The Best CD, TDX, RE, CGC, TT, TDI - “TORO”

