



Common Scents

September/October 2009

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Fall is here and tracking events are well underway and it looks like Lenape members have been actively tracking this summer. As you will see in Pat's match report we had seven members and one TED participant sign up for the match! It's been a long time since we had so many dogs entered. Way to go folks!

We had another change this year - both the match and the test have been moved to a new site. As you may know, both Peter and Mollie are having health problems, and we wanted to move the events until they feel better. Janet Doerer was able to obtain access to fields around Solberg airport in Readington NJ. These are another first for us in that the fields are all in the same location so there is no driving between locations. Since these fields abut a working airport, the cover is lush grass. Given the amount of land available,

we had space to run all 8 tracks during certification without worrying whether the fields would be tight. Janet, thanks for finding these fields for us! And also thanks to Anna Burbank who agreed to step in as test secretary for the TD (as well as the TDX).

On August 8th, we held our annual tracklayer certification program. This year we were able to successfully certify 8 new tracklayers. The participants were put through our program, which condenses the two days the tracklayers spend laying track for a test into 4 hours. Again this year we have received very positive comments about this program from judges who appreciate having trained tracklayers as team members to assist them with plotting and running their tracks.

Hope to see you in or at the TD and or TDX tests. Until next time, keep on tracking.

John

DATES TO REMEMBER

TD Test

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

TDX Test

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

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

MEET THE BOARD

As a founding member of Lenape, tracking has always been the favorite thing I do with my dogs. Since the club was founded in 1975 I have served on the board in some capacity, held every office but Treasurer, chaired TED many years, and have laid miles of tracks at our events.



My first tracking dog was a German Shepherd (earned his TD in 1975). The next one was a Bernese Mountain Dog who earned her TD at the age of 6 months and three weeks. Third was a Golden who came to me with a TD, but I ran him in a TD test to be sure we could work together in a test situation as we prepared for the TDX. Unfortunately we didn't get the opportunity to reach that goal.

Then I discovered Flat-coated Retrievers. Earned a TD with Deacon, my first Flat-coat. They are now my breed of choice. But there is also a Pembroke Corgi in my life and Torrie is my current tracking dog.

I started doing obedience with the German Shepherd in the mid-seventies and still compete in obedience, and now in Rally. I also do agility with my older Flat-coat, Tex and the corgi.

And of course, if you have a sporting dog, they need to do field work. Torrie and Tex are certified by TheraPet and visit the local school where the students read out loud to them.

With the addition of StormWatch Whirlwynd, a female Flat-coat, I have reluctantly entered the world of conformation with her. Her sire is a British dog, who has quite a show record in the England and Scotland, so she needs to compete on this side of the big pond to show his progeny.

Of all the dog events, tracking still remains my favorite of the performance events. There is nothing else like following a dog on a track - learning to read that the dog is on the "right" and the spirit of camaraderie that exists in the tracking dog community.

Peg Forte

PLAN AHEAD FOR SUCCESS

Reprinted from *Cross Tracks*, July, 1990, by Barbara Ford

What can I do to make sure my tracking dog succeeds on any type of terrain or in different weather conditions? Do I need to carry an anemometer, thermometer or soil moisture measuring device to assist me in tracking? Most of us have asked ourselves questions such as this after a day of tracking under difficult conditions.

No, you don't have to carry instruments in the field, but it would help before tracking to learn about some of the ways terrain, vegetation, weather and human factors can help or hinder your dog's performance. Here are a few points about each of these that you may find to be of interest.

WEATHER:

1. A drying wind on sunny days will disperse scent quicker than on damp, still days.
2. Cloudbursts will wash out a track. Learn to observe clouds and avoid getting caught in a storm.
3. Dampness such as dew, light rain and snow increases the scent-holding capacity of a site.
4. Overcast skies reduce the amount of incoming solar radiation, which reduces the rate at which evaporation decreases the scent. Dust, pollen and industrial emissions act in the same way to screen the sun's rays.

However, strong winds, high humidity and atmospheric instability act to decrease the amount of scent remaining on the ground.

5. Differences in temperature create differences in air density and atmospheric pressure. This, in turn, causes vertical and horizontal air movement which affects the rate of evaporation of your track. Slopes, inversions and valleys and dips are examples of conditions which produce differences in temperature.
6. Heavy dew will suppress evaporation of the scent for a length of time.

7. Wind speed not only controls the stability of the air but the evaporation rate of scent from the ground. Wind speed also increases at a faster speed going around hills and up and down slopes. The evaporation rate is affected by terrain and vegetation as well as wind speed.

TERRAIN:

Topography plays an important role in local surface temperatures by the way steepness of slope and surface cover influence temperature. It also affects the track scent.

1. Hills can cause the wind to blow the scent in many different directions and the wind accelerates on a hillside, leaving no scent for the dog.



2. Ditches and dish-shaped areas in fields will cause the scent to settle over a broader area and show no direction to your dog. He will waste a lot of energy trying to find the apex of the scent.
3. Windbreaks such as tree lines can help or hinder your dog's ability to stay on the track. The track is either protected by warm pockets of air and settles all over the area because

of lack of wind, or the tree line can act like a tube of air traveling at increased speed. Either way the dog will be all over trying to find the out-leg.

4. Soil texture and color may increase or decrease evaporation according to exposure to the sun, shade and other weather elements. Soil will also act as a sink for scent if the track is laid on it under ideal conditions (wet, shaded areas, deep furrows). It may be a poor scent-holder if it is hard, compact ground or just plowed or harrowed fields. The scent would be baked off the ground.
5. Plant temperature is controlled by the width and density of the foliage as well as the type of plant. This in turn affects the rate of evaporation of water from the plant as well as the track scent.
6. Scent laid in a tree area will cling to the leeward (opposite side from which the wind is blowing). The dog may become confused in these areas.
7. Leaves that are more numerous and complex in design (wider) will collect more scent and hold it longer. A good example of this is hay fields in full bloom compared to a new field with short vegetation.

HUMAN:

There are many ways that we may influence the scent and affect the dog's ability to find the track. Not only are the natural elements working against the dog, but we sometimes do too.

1. We wear shoes for style and forget to use shoes that help our feet to breathe. This also lets out the foot odor so our dogs can follow it. We sometimes put water repellent material on shoes to protect them from water. This will frequently prevent the shoes from emitting odor, and the chemicals may restrict the dog's olfactory sense.
2. Wearing excessive amounts of perfume will turn off not only the dog but your tracking friends as well.
3. Your body might be under stress when you are taking medication, and you may not be emitting the normal amount of body odor.
4. Walking different speeds will increase or decrease the body particles dropped on the ground. Part of the track may be heavily scented and other areas may be only lightly scented.

What does all the above mean to you and your tracking? After arriving at your track area and before the track is laid, you should think about two things. First, think about what you are trying to achieve for the day with your dog and then think about the vegetation, climate, terrain and human factors present on the site and how they could affect this success. A few minutes spent thinking about some of these factors may help you to anticipate problems and make it easier for you to accomplish your tracking goals.

TIDBITS



GINA DeALAMEDA and her Rottie **Toro** went to Brigham Quebec and came home with a new Canadian TD title. They drew the first track and ran it in under 4 minutes.

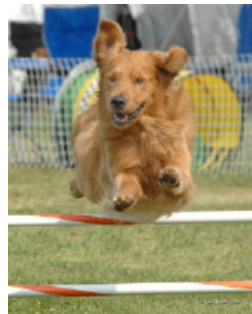


JANET DOERER reports that her Malinois **Chase** turned 6 on Aug 27, and the weekend before he collected the last points for his OM1 (Obedience Master) title, this is a new title from AKC. It is like the old *Front and Finish* scoring. You get points for scores over 190 in Open and Utility. They are still working towards that elusive OTCH.

Grady, CHERYL MATTHEWS' Lab, earned his first leg in AKC Novice B on August 23 - he was third place with a 196. Then at Morris Hills he got the second leg with a 4th place.



SUSAN PALIUS, **Jerry** and **Rico** enjoyed their annual New Hampshire vacation, which they scheduled around the Yankee Golden Retriever Club VST test. This is the third year that Susan has been a tracklayer. Unlike in previous summers when none of the dogs were able to get past the first corner, this time there was a pass! When they're not



tracking, Susan and her boys are busy in other venues. Golden Retriever Jerry completed his agility

MX and XF in July. Spinone Rico made his debut in the rally ring, earning his RN in 3 shows with a 98 and 99. He also earned his second major at Hunterdon Hills in the pouring rain.



LILLIAN PULCALSKI writes: Just wanted to let you know that "TIRNANOG LARLILL WILD ONE- RN HIC CGC TDI" my smooth Blue Merle Collie and I went to the Newton shows this weekend. Friday she had a 191 and a second place. On Saturday she had a 192 and a third place. That finished her CD title. Guess the old lady and her did not do too badly. I was very proud of her. Everyone said she should go on to Open work but I shook my head and said "No I think so she will be much happier going back to her Tracking that was what I had promised her." That will be our next goal. Hope to be able to get to some of the Lenape events.

MARILN TRAURIG reports: We sent a dog to the UK about 18 months ago, Landaracurl Royal Warrant, aka Myles. He finished 2nd Junior Dog at Crufts 2009. Myles was bred to a Tia, a Finish Champion and we have imported a puppy from that litter. We call him **Milo**. He arrived last Friday, I picked him up at the airport and when we got him home, he bounced out of crate and in the true curly temperament fit right into the family.

Next deadline: December 1
deerhill.tracking@gmail.com

TRACKLAYER CERTIFICATION – AUGUST 8, 2009

Why

Way back in 1991, Lenape was having a training day and ran into a situation where the then president's dog decided not to track. His owner, who was already a bit frustrated, asked her tracklayer for assistance. The tracklayer came out onto the field, looked left and right and kind of shrugged her shoulders as if to say, "I don't have a clue where the track is."

The president, who always spoke her mind, was extremely upset. After tempers had cooled somewhat, we discussed the situation rationally and decided that it would be beneficial to have a tracklayer certification program so that this would be less likely to happen to an exhibitor at a match or a test.

In August of that year, five LTC members got together and did a round-robin version to test the concept and certify each other. A minor problem occurred when one tracklayer was sure of her corners, but couldn't seem to locate one poker chip. After about 45 frustrating minutes, she decided to go on, pulled up a stem of grass to mark the spot so she could come back later to try to get the chip out of the field - and lo and behold, beneath that clump of grass was the poker chip. She had apparently walked exactly to the corner and stepped on the chip in the process! The next weekend these five members held a certification for eleven more members.

The program has been tweaked over the years, but it is essentially the same as was designed way back when. We must be doing something right, because judges consistently compliment our tracklayers.

How

The program is a condensed version of how test plotting and tracklaying works. On "Day One" students learn about map making, counting pace, and general tracklayer protocol. They then go out into the field and pair off and plot two shortened tracks per team - trading off "track owner" status and discussing landmarks and how they are going to find the corners again.

On "Day Two" each entrant puts a \$1 deposit on each of 5 rawhide chips. He/she then re-walks his/her track, and replaces all the corner flags and drop flag with the chips.

Then it is time for lunch and an open book test on the portion of the AKC rules most likely to affect tracklayers.

Finally they go back out into the fields, maps in hand. Their mission is to bring back all the rawhide chips. They have a stake in being successful: each rawhide chip could be cashed in for an Eisenhower Silver Dollar.

(The original plan had been to mark the corners with the real coins, but since this was a public park, we modified the concept).

This year's program was conducted by club president John Etchells. Eight members have joined the ranks of Lenape Certified Tracklayers and are now eligible to share their stinky feet at Lenape events.

Congratulations to:

Jim Bunderla
Sandy Hambrecht
Nancy Grove
George Laubach
Rose Mary Laubach
Joan Luckhardt
Cheryl Matthews
Judy Todd

Besides being glad that they didn't lose any money, the students commented that they felt a lot more confident about their ability to be a tracklayer. We hope to see many of them at our match and tests this fall.

Reported by Pat Etchells



Judy, John, Sandy, Cheryl, George, Rose Mary, Nancy, Jim
(not pictured: Joan)

CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP – SEPTEMBER 20



Chase

After more than a decade of holding matches and tests at the Heide's home, Lenape had to look for substitute fields when Mollie and Peter's health issues made it too difficult for them to host this year's events. We put out a plea for members to come up with alternative sites. Janet and Joe Doerer are active in ballooning at Solberg Airport and were able to use their connections to get us permission to use the fields adjacent to the airport.

Richard Knapp flew up from Florida to do the judging duties, assisted by Susan Palus as an apprentice. They and tracklayers John & Pat Etchells, Peg Forte and Joan Luckhardt spent Saturday learning the ins and outs of the new fields – and we managed to plot 8 great tracks.

On Sunday early comers to the match were treated to a real treat: half a dozen or so balloons ascending as we started to lay the tracks.

(Thanks to Joe Doerer's coordination, they didn't park on our plotted fields, and we didn't interfere with airport operations)



Then it was down to tracking. After the first five dogs decided that this was not the day they were going to certify, Janet Doerer's Malinois Chase broke the string and did a near perfect track. Of course, he did give us a "what the ????" moment when he indicated an article on the last leg – and Janet picked up and waved a leather sandal about the size of a glove. When he saw it, the judge suggested that Janet put Chase back on the

track, and a few yards further, he found the right article: a real glove. How we all missed seeing a shoe on the track during plotting and laying the track???

Then Martha Windisch's Golden Retriever Clue led her to the glove on the next track. Unfortunately, the string of passing dogs stopped there.

Like true trackers, everyone present stopped bemoaning the fact that we didn't have a 100% pass rate – and got on to the tracking tradition of dining with friends. Rose Mary and George Laubach brought their motor home to the site so they could serve up a feast.

Also coming out to work at the match were Jim Bunderla with his cameras and Anna Burbank who made the airport run with our judge. Thanks everyone!

Reported by Pat Etchells
Photos by Jim Bunderla



Clue

