



# Common Scents

November/December, 2009

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## IN MEMORY OF PETER HEIDE

Peter Heide passed away of pancreatic cancer on November 7 at the age of 71.

Although he never put a tracking title on a dog, he and Mollie were ardent supporters of the Club. "Hotel Heide" was legendary. Peter and Mollie opened up their home to the Club for its TD tests and matches for many years. They housed the judges; prepared gourmet meals for the workers, exhibitors and gallery; found local fields; and handled the test paperwork. Peter was on the Board for many years and served as Treasurer.

Peter's other dog groups included St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center; the Mid-Atlantic Flat-Coated Retriever Club; and Plainfield Kennel Club.

The Heides got started in Flat-Coated Retrievers in 1982, when he met Valerie Bernhardt (a breeder of Flat-Coats and English Cockers) at a cocker match at the home of the late Barbara O'Brien, who used to be a Lenape member. Captain was purchased as a pet, but Peter finished him, then acquired a "show" dog, Pepper, who went on to win the breed at Westminster. Peter brought in Flat-Coats from England and developed a winning breeding program under the HiHill prefix. In the early 2000s they also added Irish Red and White Setters to their household.



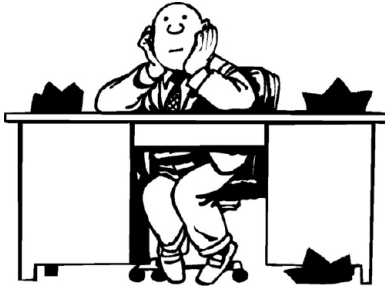
Peter provided hundreds of hours of pet therapy at local hospitals and nursing homes. Colin, one of their Flat-Coated Retrievers, was the New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association Hall of Fame 2006 Therapy Dog Award Winner, and Inka was a 2008 AKC ACE Award nominee in the therapy category.

Peter will be greatly missed.

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**President** – John Etchells \* **Vice President** – Anna Burbank  
**Secretary** – Carol Shields \* **Treasurer** – Pat Etchells  
**Board Members** – Alice Crans – Gina DeAlmeida – Janet Doerer – Peg Forte – Joan Luckhardt  
**Editor** - Pat Etchells, [deerhill.tracking@gmail.com](mailto:deerhill.tracking@gmail.com)

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This is a bittersweet president's message for me. Peter Heide's passing was a great loss to the club and to me personally. Peter was one of those unsung club members who opened his house and heart to the club and never asked for anything in return except for the good sportsmanship of all those who ran their dogs and the camaraderie of the Club members. Personally, I will always cherish memories of standing next to Peter's Suburban on a nice fall day, talking with him about the test, and sharing our interesting observations about the participants, judges and club members before we both took off to our assigned tasks of the moment. Peter was always able to put the moment in perspective on a positive note. Peter, both the Club and I miss you. Until we meet again.

On a happier note, we completed two successful tests since the last report. What a fall for tracking! As we approached the TD test, it appeared that almost every dog entered in any TD passed. Since our test was late in the year, I worried that we would have to cancel due to the lack of entries. Boy, was I wrong. As it turned out, we had 12 entries for 8 slots plus the alternate. In keeping with this year's tradition, we had 7 dogs pass out of 9. That may be the highest rate in Lenape's history! For the TDX, we had a total of 17 entries for 3 tracks plus an alternate. Although no one passed, one team came very close.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Now for new business. We are looking for a few good people to serve on a Website advisory committee this winter. If you have looked at Lenape's Website recently, you will notice that some aspects of it have been brought up to date; however, the entire website needs updating/overhauling. Therefore, the Board has set up a committee to address the website. From the Board, we have asked Joan Luckhardt and Pat Etchells to co-chair the committee along with Frank Shields. If you would like to serve on this committee, please let me know at <jetchells.att.net>. HTML coding experience is not required. At this point we are looking for recommendations for the overall look the website should have: what content should be included and how it should be arranged. This committee plans to meet in early January so that it can get back to the Board with its recommendations quickly.

Peter had resigned as Treasurer in October, when he realized his health was deteriorating rapidly. At its meeting following the TDX test, the Board voted to have Pat Etchells fill out the remainder of his term.

Hope you and your family enjoy a very happy holiday season and a joyous and prosperous New Year! Until next time, keep on looking for that glove.

*John*



## DATES TO REMEMBER

### Nominations Meeting

.....Saturday, February 13

### TED

.....Saturday, April 10  
Follow-ups

.....Saturday, April 24

.....Sunday, May 2

.....Saturday, May 15

### Certification Match

.....Sunday, September 26

.....Sue Ammerman

### TD Test

.....Sunday, November 7

### TDX Test

.....Sunday, November 14

## 2009 AWARDS

Information Needed by January 15, 2010

Send to  
PegForte@Comcast.net

- Date of Tracking Test where your dog passed in 2009
- Tracking Title earned
- Name of the Club holding the test.
- Your dog's breed and color – send a photo
- Color of the dog's tracking harness
- If your dog passed a TDX test the articles they found on the track

## MEET THE BOARD



*In the beginning...*

My parents came from a tradition of farm dogs, and a "pet" kept outside during the day behind a fence (or, on occasion, tied on). Walking the dog and feeding the dog were "chores". During high school years we were dog-free - I had my violin so that was caressed instead, leaving no time for other essentials. But all that was BC (before collies and corgis and other Dogs of Breed.) After marriage while waiting for the birth of child # 1, we decided to buy into the Lassie tradition and get a collie. And do it right. So obedience was the first step, purchasing property with some acreage just for him was the second. Sutherland's First Sabre (Bongo for short) was a blessing and taught us a lot - but he was short lived. Then on

to corgis to golden retrievers (Wayne was impressed by President Ford's "Liberty"). Wayne's second golden was his hunting companion, and his "heart dog". Unfortunately, Misty was also relatively short lived, even as goldens go.

Three sons and about twenty five years later (never without a hairy resident) we decided to "travel". No more dogs. Except that my son's golden had had a litter, and one of the pups tested for extreme independence - plus was very smart. Bad combo. He offered her to us (we had given him his bitch), but we declined. However, the family scheduled to take her needed two weeks before they could take delivery, so Scott asked me to puppy sit. That I could do. And did, for eleven years. We had bonded the first night, and Topaz became my connection to the world. She was quite possibly the best marking dog we'd ever seen; and in spite of my field training the best hunting dog we ever shot over, crazy for bumpers, Frisbees, and she adored people. Topi got me into the golden retriever club (which suckered me into running their WC/WCX for ten years) the Lenape Tracking Club (which got me in over my head as well running the TED and then being President) and TheraPet, Inc., which still has a rather vital hold on my extra time. (Well, I certainly did not want to spend retirement doing nothing!) Topaz also, quite by accident led me to the Red Cross, animal

rescue, and becoming a hunter safety and rifle instructor. Topaz was inducted into the NJ Hall of Fame by the NJ Medical Veterinary Association as the therapy Dog of the Year in 1997 (the first dog so honored in the Therapy category). Then she, too, left this world much too early.

Now, there is Sunflower's Wind in the Willow. She has indicated to us she is in no way related to her predecessors. Willow is as small as Topaz was large, as dependent as Topi was independent, as vocal as Topi was quiet, and with an undercoat and overcoat that would choke a horse. Quite definitely her own dog. While we thought Topaz understood a lot of human language, Willow practically speaks it. She is a better tracking dog - a nose down, stronger pull golden. Bumpers do not excite her - although the neighbors' chickens do. And, the Wee One has her very own accolades. She is still the only nationally accredited crisis response dog (AACR) in the state of NJ. In addition to helping me with the housework, Willi works at Runnells Specialized Hospital in Berkley Heights, and is assisting veterans recently diagnosed with PTSD.

Guess we have to keep the property a bit longer, and consider retirement a thing of the far future. After we get her tracking title.

Alice Crans

## WHAT MAKES TRACKING FUN

That's an easy one!

It's fun because it's MAGIC.

Humans' sense of smell is so under-utilized that we have trouble believing that it really can be done.

Also, here in the USA (and the UK and some other countries, I assume) dogs are child substitutes. What parent can resist saying "my kid is smarter than your kid!" Unlike real kids, dogs continue to want to associate and work/play with

you beyond the infant and puppy stages.

Mainly, though, it just Magic.

Bud Rogers  
From Tracking\_Dog. Reprinted with permission.



## 2009 TD TEST

One of Lenape's most successful TD tests in terms of passes will also go down in history as one of the most interesting from a logistical standpoint.

The saga started when Peter & Mollie Heide's health deteriorated to the point where they could no longer host the TD test and Peter could no longer be test secretary. So besides losing an opportunity to share the day with the Heides, we also had to look for a new test site.



**Janet Doerer** had found us fields at the Solberg Airport, which we test drove at the match, and **Anna Burbank** agreed to be test secretary. But despite being notified in September of the change in venue and show secretary, AKC didn't change its records or the website until after the test had closed. Peter collected the entries that came to his house and Anna was able to bring them to the draw.

Things were basically under control until the Thursday morning before the test, when we visited the airport with Janet to find out exactly which fields were going to be available to us at the test. At that point we learned that the airport was restricting the land we could use to fields which could accommodate, at most, 6 tracks. And we had offered 8 and hoped to plot the alternate because we had 12 entries.

This eleventh hour snafu didn't give us a lot of time to consider options. Our first thought was to figure out which of our previous locations might supply us with the remaining 3 tracks. The fields at the Heides' neighbors were a half hour away and we knew that many of them had been planted in crops other than hay. Furthermore we didn't have the landowners' phone numbers, and we knew that one of those landowners required a certificate of insurance, which there was really no time to get. The other possible option was fields in Califon (half an hour in the other direction) which Peg had just gotten permission for us to use for the TDX the next weekend. Fortunately they were in hay, and Peg was able to make a couple phone calls to get permission for the TD also.

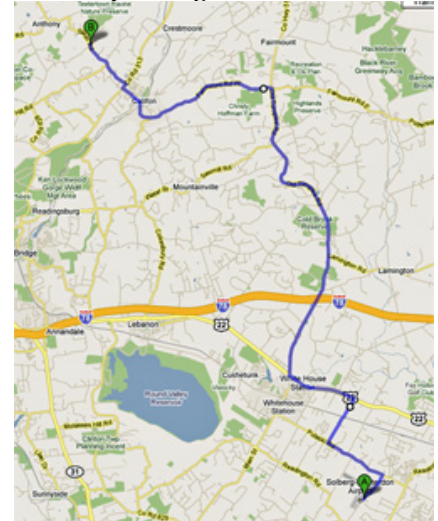
The upshot was that we ended up putting tracks 1 through 5 at the airport, driving about 20 miles up to the fields in Califon for tracks 6 through 8, and coming back to the airport for the alternate. Tracklayers **Gina DeAlmeida, John & Pat Etchells, Carol Shields,** and **Gail Thompson** had their work cut out for them – trying to be at two places at the same time and getting the tracks in so they aged correctly!

On test day, the first two dogs at the airport failed. Then our luck changed. Three passed at the airport; the three dogs who drew the Califon fields all passed (so nobody complained about the drive); and the alternate passed. That's 7 out of 9 passes!!!

This test would not have been possible without the help of many members in many capacities. **Joyce Miller** organized Coffee & Carbs for



everyone waiting in anticipation of the draw. **George and Rosemary Laubach** brought their motor home to the airport, which not only enabled them to prepare a wonderful hot lunch, but it gave early exhibitors a place to get out of the cold and watch the football game while they waited for the Califon portion of the test to run. **Nancy Grove** helped Ro with hospitality, and **Jim Bunderla** took hundreds of pictures of the exhibitors. Besides getting us the extra fields, **Peg Forte** led the caravan so that nobody got lost on the winding roads en route to Califon. **Martha Windisch** took the judge back to the airport. And **Frank Shields** and Joe Doerer were in charge of helping exhibitors and the gallery find places to park along the road – and to pull cars out of the mud when they didn't follow parking instructions.





I don't know whether it was because so many people passed, or our judges Stephanie Crawford and Jacob Kay gave off such positive vibes, the exhibitors appreciated the efforts we had made to get the land, or our hospitality committee kept everyone well fed, but this test brought out the most agreeable group of exhibitors we've had in a long time – and nobody complained about the split venue!

The icing on the cake is that three Lenape members acquired new TD titles – and their stories are elsewhere in this newsletter.

The dogs who passed are:

Zoonie of Turkey Hill  
CD/OA/AXJ/NF German Shepherd Dog. Owner: Grazyna Gross.

**Goldenways On The Road Again CD/RN. Golden Retriever. Owner: Rose Mary Laubach & Leslie Lesser.**

Ch Rugby's Sam's Breydon OAJ.  
Norfolk Terrier. Owner: Linda Federici.

Ch A'Hylan Moon Wizard  
CD/RE/NJP/ME West Highland White Terrier. Owner: Rosalyn L. Rosenblatt & Patricia H. Marks.

**Alouette's Chase That Dream UDX/OM1/HT/MX/MXJ/NAP/NJP Belgian Malinois. Owner: Janet Doerer.**

**Harborwynd's The Riddle JH. Golden Retriever. Owner: Martha & Andy Windisch.**

A'Hylan Flirt'N With The Moon.  
West Highland White Terrier. Owner: Patricia Marks & Elizabeth Ho & Martha Skapof. (Agent: Elsie Vickery).

## 2009 TDX TEST



In comparison with the TD test, the land concerns for the TDX were minuscule. Peg had gotten the permits for us to use Tetertown Park in Califon. And we had the use of the farmer's fields we had used for the TD. We were really surprised to see on Google maps that the two properties abutted! Probably in the future we will be able to have a track incorporate both properties, but we need to check out the access at a time when contaminating the fields isn't an issue. We also had use of the fields at the Hagedorn Hospital – but possibly for the last time

as they are being overtaken with brush.

Although we had a marvelous couple of days weatherwise for our TDX test, the Tracking Gods did not look favorably upon us, and none of the four dogs passed. Peg Forte's Corgi Torrie came oh so close but was distracted yards from the glove by a neighbor banging plates for her dogs to come in. What a heartbreak.

But as usual the club members had a fun time with the test nonetheless. Chief Tracklayer **John Etchells** kept everyone on their toes and toted flags around for judges Mike Clemens and Art Twiss. Tracklayers **Jim Bunderla, Gina DeAlmeida, Janet Doerer,** and **Pat Losco** did their darndest to share their stinky feet and crosstracklayers **Carol Shields** and **Judy Todd** tried not to share theirs. And when he was not occupied with tracklayer duties, Jim

Bunderla was busy with his camera.

On the hospitality front, **Cheryl Matthews** organized a stupendous spread – with some much appreciated help from **Nancy Grove**. And without someone to handle the entries – test secretary **Anna Burbank** with help from **Pat Etchells** – the test would not have happened.

Test reports by Pat Etchells  
LTC pictures by Jim Bunderla





## CONQUERING CANADIAN TD



This past September, Toro & I decided to set out on a road trip to Canada in search of the elusive Can TD. Although we had been told that it's hard to find a TD amongst all the snow, we were one of the few brave souls willing to trek up north &

give it a shot. Our journey began with a 7.5 hr drive on Sat, an overnight stay & a 6am wake-up call Sun morning. The day was cold, rainy & overcast. Typical Canada weather in the fall. We all met for the draw, caravanned up to the site, got into our rain gear & prepared to set out on our journey. The fields were rough & very wet - they actually looked more like it would be a TDX adventure. As we were led to our start flag, the rain stopped just long enough for us to gather our thoughts & breath! No start article for the Canada TD, just lots of wet grass!! Toro's head went down at the start flag & it never came back up..... :) He proved to be the wonderful tracker that I trust, by hitting his turns accurately & never stepping more than a

few feet off line for the entire track. The glove was easy prey, it was found in under 3 minutes. We showed those Canadian hunters that an American boy can find a glove in what ever country we track in!! We all then returned to the base camp to socialize, shmooze, dry off & eat a lovely spread provided for us. Toro received his ribbon along with lots of well wishes for our long trip back that evening. As we headed back to the land of NJ, the hunter rested & snored (loudly) dreaming of his Canadian TDX adventure coming next year.....

Gina DeAlmedia

## THE DAY I GOT MY TD

November 1, 2009

The day dawned cool and wet; the perfect conditions for tracking. It had been raining off and on for a few days but the forecast was for early morning showers followed by clearing. I took the dogs out to potty and hopped in the shower thinking "I sure hope my track layer didn't take a shower, 'stinky feet' work best". The time change was last night so even though it was only 8 AM it felt like 9 AM and I was ready to go. I decided to leave early and when I arrived at the tracking site I was very surprise to see most everyone was there already, walking their dogs and hanging out. You could feel the nervousness in the group, but we were all there to support each other. The judges and track layers were already out laying the first few tracks.

When everyone got back and it was time for the draw. To keep it fair they have you draw a number for the track you will be testing on. We had 8 tracks set along with one alternate. For the draw most clubs insert your track number in some type of container or object so you have a token of your efforts for the day. Lenape put the track numbers in a very bright orange pot holder mitten, with a very pretty fall picture on the back of it. Sure wish we could use that as the ending glove, you could really see that a mile away. All the mittens were randomly placed in a big cast iron pot to be drawn by the handlers in the order in which they were listed in the catalog. I picked out my mitt, reached down into it, and picked out the paper that had track number three. I was very



happy; I wouldn't have to wait too long.

I had my harness on Chase and he was ready. It's important that you have a routine, and you do it each time you go out tracking. Our routine was leaving him in the car until we were just about ready. Just before his track I take him out, let him go potty, and then put his harness on. I keep his collar on and his 6 foot leash attached to his collar. I usually ask the



judge if my dog can meet the track layer; usually they say OK. Today I walked Chase over to the track layer and told him, "this is Carol, you need to find Carol's glove, Ok Chase". I let her pet him and I let Chase sniff her. Then off we walked toward the start flag. I stopped about ten feet from the first flag in a straight line with the two flags. At that point I attached his long line to his harness, took his leash off, and tied it around my waist. I knelt down and spoke some quiet comforting words; partly for him but mostly for me. I finished with "Ok, let's go track!"

We followed our routine to a "T" and I could tell he was ready. He pulled me to the start flag where he stopped and laid down. I again told him what a great dog he was, I let him pick up the "stinky sock" in his mouth remembering that dogs also have scent glands in their mouths and we were going to need all the scents we could get. I put the sock in my apron and told him, "Go find more". Off we went. As he passed the second flag he was really moving. I held him back just a little to slow his pace to make sure we didn't miss any turns. After about sixty-five yards he turned right with such certainty I knew the track went to the right. Then he went about five yards, stopped, turned around and made a big circle on the corner. Not to worry, this is one of those things Chase does; he likes to double check his first corner to be sure he's right. This is where reading your dog is really helpful. I let him do his

checking and when he got back to the track off he went again. Nose to the ground he went fifty yards and made a left. No double checking this time, just an "I'm on it mom" pull! He headed one hundred yards straight toward the end of the field and turned right. No question the track goes this way. We walked another fifty-five yards to where we were now in the far corner of the field. "Where's the track Chase?" I'm hoping there's a glove here, there could be, we had three turns. I doubt we went far enough but heck, you can hope you're at the end. He went around and around while I asked "where's your glove Chase, where's your track?" Ok, time to regroup. I stopped and offered him some water; he didn't want any. I pulled out the 'stinky' sock and I let him smell it again. You always want to take the start article with you for this purpose. I think it really helped. He went around one more time and then shot off to the right, OK, I think we got it. I'm not hearing any whistle so off we go.

With his nose back on the ground we go another eighty yards and take a slight turn to the right. I'm starting to second guess him. Never second guess your dog! He seems like he's on it, he's pulling real hard, and I must trust my dog! Sure enough down this last leg we go another seventy-five yards and I think we both saw it at the same time. Yes, that wonderful, beautiful, leather GLOVE! He practically drags me to it, picks it up in his mouth and then gives me a

beautiful down. No doubt about that indication. I ran up to him with tears of joy in my eyes and told him he really is the best and greatest dog, and thanked him so much for a job well done.

I held the glove up over my head and waved it to the gallery who all cheered in delight. The judges and track layer came up and congratulated me and showed me the track on paper. WOW that's what I just did! Five minutes later I barely remember anything they said. But luckily Joe came running up with the video camera and continued taping all the congratulations. Only after looking at the video did it all come back to me. It was a great track and we really DID IT!

I want to thank Lenape tracking club for putting on a great test. I want to also thank Stephanie Crawford and Jacob Kay for plotting and judging a very nice track. I want to thank Carol Shields for her 'stinky feet' and laying such a great track. And last but not least, thank you to Joe my husband for being so supportive in all the things I do with Chase and always being there to tape and congratulate me on all of my accomplishments.



Janet Doerer and U-CDX  
Alouette's Chase That Dream  
UDX, OM1, MX, MXJ, VCD2,  
TD, NAC, HT, use to be TDI



## GEORGE AND WILLIE STORY



Twas the day of the tracking, where all through  
the field  
The deer were all stirring, not about to yield.  
The oven mitts were all lined on the table with  
care,  
In prep for the draw that soon would be there.

The trackers were all nestled with coffee and cake  
With visions of tracks with the number they'd  
take.

When out on the street we heard all the chatter,  
Was time for the draw, the number would matter.  
The pick was second for Willie and me,  
The number was five for us to see.

The sun was not bright, on the morning dew,  
But enough of a sparkle for all to view.  
The old guys were ready, that's Willie and me,  
He is seventy in dog years, the same goes for thee.

Now Dasher and Prancer had finished their play,  
Cross tracking the path that John did lay.  
Twas now up to Willie, to not go astray,  
With faith in my dog, he'd show me the way.

Was time for track 5, Judge Jacob did call,  
"Ignore extra flags that may appear in the Fall".  
So up on the hill, the course we flew,  
With his "tell-tale" tracking, I knew Willie knew.

And then in a twinkling, he made a left turn,  
With his prancing and pawing, I had no concern.  
We descended the hill, his nose to the ground,  
And holding a tight line, a right turn he found.

His fur was all wet, from his head to his toe,  
But the scent of the track he continued to go.  
His harness was tight, flung high on his back,  
He looked like a sled dog, leading the pack.

His eyes how they twinkled,  
Into a left turn he'd hurry.  
And on his next leg,  
He continued to scurry.

Down into a valley, where crosswinds abound,  
He ran into ruts; finally turned around.  
Time to re-scent, to renew his drive,  
Then onward, but backward, we continued to  
strive.

Looked over my shoulder and what did appear,  
Judges Jacob and Steph  
and tracklayer John,  
not too near.

Willie barked not a sound, but went straight to his  
work,  
He circled around, tilting his head with a jerk.  
Found an open turn, not needing a shove,  
He continued his stride, to that beautiful glove.

I sprang to his side, not hearing a whistle,  
Then on came the judges and John, through the  
thistle.  
And I heard them proclaim as they came into  
sight,  
"Congratulations to Willie, you guys did alright!"

Submitted by George Laubach





## DENNIS PASSES HIS TD



Traeloch's Looking For Trouble TD (Dennis) earned his TD at the Berks County Dog Training Club trial held at beautiful Blue Marsh Lake in Central Pennsylvania. Sue Ammerman and Salle Richards were the judges. The location is spectacular---with rolling hills leading to a huge and scenic lake. The cover ranged from mowed timothy fields to calf high alfalfa fields. Dennis was catalogue number 2 and we drew the second track of 5 tracks (the sixth became the alternate's track). The morning was fall-like with calm winds. The fields were wet.

Dennis had a good start, laid into his alfalfa field, went up a slope, and at the first corner, went toward a gravel road down a slope, but I let out line

for him to test the corner, he returned to the corner and went up another slope to the right. After 4 turns, a visit to four of seven ground hog holes, and 455 yards, he stood proudly over a tan shearling lined leather glove, and turned and looked at me, wagging his tail--(he was smiling broadly). The gallery cheered as I held up the glove. We continued to cheer on the other teams as they ALL successfully earned their TDs that day. All save one were seasoned handlers--some were judges--and others trained tracking. As Salle Richards said, it was due to the well trained dogs and handling skills of the handlers. I was quite impressed with the handling in each of the teams.

We all returned to the pavilion very happy to a spread of home cooked treats---from barbeque to hotdogs and sauerkraut to homemade soup. There were brownies, pumpkin bundt cake, and cookies as well as drinks.

Then there were the group photos and individual photos with the tracklayer and judges. We all held up our gloves signed by the judges as

well as our inscribed wooden plaque (each had a place for a photo, which they send later) and our track map. The photos were with the lake in the background--very impressive location.

Well, Dennis is on to his TDX--although it will have to be Teryl that takes him in as my leg probably can't go that distance or bend enough to go over large logs.

Joan Luckhardt



## CLUE'S TRACKING TEST PASS



On November 1st, my Golden Retriever, Clue's AKC name had a TD (tracking dog) title added to it. He is now Harborwynd's The Riddle WC JH TD. He earned the tracking dog title at Lenape Tracking Club's test. By passing the test, Clue actually solved "the riddle" just as his name suggests!! Here's our story.

On the morning of November 1st, we woke up early and drove to Solberg Airport in Whitehorse Station, NJ. We had to be there by 8:30 since at 8:45 they were going to draw for the order of the tracks. Out of the 8 dog/handler teams entered, I was number 7 in the catalog, meaning I was second from the last to draw. Just



before the draw, I heard that the club had a bit of a worry in that they could not use all the airport property they had initially planned and had to put the last three tracks on a farm near Califon, NJ – about 40 minutes to the north. The draw consisted of picking a cute fall-themed oven mitt from a basket. Inside the mitt was a card with a track number on it. By the time it was my turn to draw there was only track number 1 and track number 8 remaining (the first and last tracks). I did eeny-meeny-miney-mo and was hoping to pick track number 1 to run early and be at the airport property. Of course, I drew number 8 instead – that was fine, but meant I had to wait for my turn and try not to get nervous as I watched the other teams run their tracks. When the first two dogs had trouble on their tracks, I started to get nervous; but then dogs on tracks 3 to 5 passed and it was time to drive up north for the last three tracks.

I watched the dog on track number 6 pass and then needed to walk towards the start of my track, to the back of the fields, as track number 7 was being run. I waited with Clue on a small gravel road trying to keep him calm and not barking. I did not want him to disturb the dog that was running the track. We waited and waited and then heard cheering. Every dog/handler team that passes gets tons of cheering by the spectators. The judges then called on us to walk further up

the road and through a break in the hedge row to the flag marking the start of our track. Clue's first thought seemed to be that we were at a hunt test since at hunt tests two judges call you from a waiting spot to the starting line. Clue was really hoping to retrieve some ducks or pheasants – he was overly excited. I spoke softly to try to calm him down – I was actually explaining that this was a track not a retrieve, but I don't think he really got it. So he started his track in a pretty excited manner and seemed to take a bit of time to get into tracking mode. Fortunately in beginning tracking there are two flags so that the second flag at 30 yards out gives you the direction of the first leg.

So, by the time Clue reached the second flag, he was getting into his usual tracking mode. Very lucky for us since as he continued to sniff down the first leg of the track, I noticed a dark "bump" of something sticking up in the grass to the right of the track. I took another glance and realized that there was a large dead deer in the field. Fortunately for us there were no turkey vultures with it! Clue did not notice the dead deer until several yards later when he started circling. I thought, "Oh no! He has winded the deer" as he glanced over at it. I told him to track and fortunately he started tracking again, making a beautiful left turn away from the smelly carcass.

After getting past the start and the first turn, he tracked like he had studied the tracking text books. He continued 110 yards, circled once then made a right turn, tracked 95 yards, made a perfect right turn and then it felt to me that he zig-zagged to the left since the next turn was an open turn after a short leg

of the track. After that "zig-zag" Clue gained speed to find the tan leather glove lying in the grass. I praised Clue in celebration and he happily carried his newly found glove so show the judges. All in all, our track was 440 yards long with 4 turns – 3 of the turns were 90 degrees and the fourth turn was around 135 degrees. It took Clue 8 minutes to complete his track – thus, we were moving at a good clip. The surface that we tracked on was a farm hay field with medium/low (scruffy) cover – the ground was damp which helped with the scenting conditions.

Clue got a new tracking glove, a title after his name (which does not matter to him) and a bunch of treats when we got back to my van. I got a title after my dog's name, a ribbon and a certificate (in the mail from AKC) and we all had a tasty lunch, scrumptious dessert and great camaraderie back at the airport.

Martha Windisch





## SCENT IS EVERYTHING TO A SENIOR DOG



Photo by Robert Socha Photography

Lacey's ASCA TDX 11/22/09 at The Garden State Australian Shepherd Association's TDX/TD trial at Hopewind Farm in Lafayette NJ.

I took Lacey out of the car and walked her for about 10 minutes to warm up her muscles and loosen up her stride. Next I brushed her for additional stimulation and increased circulation for her mind and soul. I showed her the little red igloo cooler which always contains the end of the track bounty. I then harnessed her and she started cooing. The Judges asked if we were ready and if I wanted to drive or walk. I chose to walk favoring the idea of more gallery acclimation time for Lacey. Surely her tracklayer was among us I thought and that could only help to inspire my girl. Lacey casually swung out on her leash to inspect the dozen knees there as we awaited further direction. Lacey began to jog, scenting the earth as she went up the side of the road leading the group. Excited ears perked up. Head and shoulders popping up as she scented something in the field of brown vegetation we were passing on our left. Clearly, Lacey had connected something in the knee-reading to a tracking article in the

midst out there. Just as abruptly her head dropped to the shoulder of the road and she followed the scent there intently. Moments later the judge steered us across the road up into the field and said "Any Questions? There's your start flag." I straddled Lacey talking in her ear about 30 feet from the flag. Crooning to her, she started talking back and thus signaling her readiness to track. I stood up and slowly let the line slide through my fingers as she tried to run to the flag. Head dropped, nose deep in cover she started working.

Ambitiously, Lacey worked and worked the first two legs of that track. The field was steep and it was windy. After the first turn Lacey gave me her standard head pop in 3 directions. Lacey's head pops generally indicate where an article lays if you drew a straight line out from where Lacey's nose is pointing. She knows where they all are from the start flag. A collector by nature she stores this information away for future use. One of Lacey's greatest strengths is her ability to focus her attention single-mindedly on the task. As in the past, even though it was cool, Lacey asked for water repeatedly in the dry grass. A few yards past the part of the track where she pointed the articles out Lacey discovered her cross tracks. She spent less than a minute on each side and then headed up the main track again. Moments later we were negotiating a turn into the woods while struggling with the milkweed pods that clung to and dragged down the line.

Up the sharp, sharp bank into the cliff side of the woods she wound around barberries, rosebushes and giant rocks. I backed down the hill at times determinedly, she recommitted

to her track. Multiple times, we veered to the right, ankle deep in leaves, only to back up in the rocks. When she appeared to run out of scent, she would flow back to me and then suddenly, become adamant the scent went to the left. She then would haul me through the trees in that direction. Adaptable and resourceful she seems to use practical analysis for every piece of information from the track.

Sometime later in the thick woods on the side hill she came across the hat. Twinkle in her eye, big smile on her face Lacey flipped the black lid up in the air for me to notice. Taking a break with her at the article, I danced and bestowed a paragraph of praise on her. "You're the best dog ever!" Watered and re-scented she happily strolled away from me to return to her track. Several turns, in and out of the gullies and through the thicket she struggled to get what she wanted. Boldly in pursuit of her third article, she leaned into the harness and dragged me down into another gully. There it was her third article. We took another break. Excitedly I danced for her again. Jazzed by the praise and attention she sprung forward climbing over the vines on the forest floor. We came up to the stream and she went right, I asked her again and she went left. I studied her and waited for her to tell me again. I began to follow her cautiously and with applied effort she convinced me. I followed her into the grass clearing. She made a turn into another grass corridor to the left but lost scent so we backed up again. Persistently she worked the three openings. Resourceful, she found something along the same line she took into the field earlier. I



thought she looked like she was investigating an animal presence so I questioned her. Moving on she delved deeper into the deeper grass in the right side of the field. A minute later I added some tension to the line and she hopped back to where she scented the animal. She marked there. Standing tall and regal for a second she suddenly gave me the tell all head pop! We were close to the final article! Following the line off her nose we embraced her

final article the black glove twenty yards past.

I couldn't be more proud of my senior girl's accomplishments. While earning the five Tracking titles to her name Lacey and I have learned a lot. We have learned to listen to each other; I have learned how to care for her emotionally and physically. Throughout her life I have sought to understand what appeals to her and to include those things as

rewards. Scent is everything to a senior dog. For the senior dog, daily mental stimulation and memory exercises are key. I am grateful for the awareness and sensitivity to scent that I have acquired since my first TED day with Lenape in 1995. Lacey and I discover new places for our nose work and gentle exercise. Lacey still enjoys my dancing at the articles she finds but I am not so sure about the public.

Lisa Pattison

## TIDBITS



CHERYL MATTHEWS reports that her Lab **Grady** finished his AKC CD in 3 consecutive shows with 3 placements. His third leg was at the MJLRC Specialty where he also won the "Highest Scoring Dog with a Tracking Title" award. At the specialty Grady was also entered in Rally Advanced both days and he earned his first two legs towards his RA too!

LILIAN PUCHALSKI's **Dyna**, a smooth collie, has just earned 2 more performance titles. LARLILL TIRNANOG WILD ONE CD, RN, CGC, TDI, HIC, BPD CD-H has just received her Back Packing Dog title from the American Working Collie Assoc. She did over 12 miles of hard surface (city) carrying a backpack containing a certain amount of weight. It was done in three and one half mile trips. Everything had to be documented with maps,

witnesses and pictures. One trip had to be with an organized walk or parade so we did the "BARK for LIFE" cancer walk. When she finished it she received a minister's blessing. This past weekend she received her CD-H title from St. Huberts Companion Dog Program. She competed in 4 trials placing 3rd or 4th at each trial. It took 3 legs to get the title so she has one extra leg. We are still working on Tracking but with the hunting season now we had to put it on hold.



SUSAN PALIUS' Spinone **Rico** finished his championship at Gloucester by going BOB. Amateur owner handler Susan handled him to all his points, which included two 4-point majors over different dogs each time. He was also

recently certified by Carol Parkinson.

MARILYN TRAUIG writes that Landaracurl Princess Royal at Krisos aka Sara, won 2nd in a strong Open class on Saturday, November 14, 2009 in the Gundog Breeds of Scotland Championship show. Sara is owned by Marianne and Tony Dunne, and was bred by Marilyn & Michael Traurig of Landaracurl Curly Coated Retrievers. There were 6 in Sara's class. This gives Sara a stud book number. The Kennel Club awards a special registration number to its top winning dogs. Having a stud book number qualifies the dog for Cruft's for life. Sara will be the first AKC and IR Ch to get her stud book number. Landaracurl Royal Warrant, aka Myles won his last green star to earn his Irish Championship at the Banbridge & District Canine Club in North Ireland. He is now International Champion, AKC CH IR CH Landaracurl Royal Warrant. Myles was handled by Lyn Hunter, he's owned by the Hunter's and Traurigs. Myles' litter sister Sara is the first curly with an American Championship to also hold an Irish Champion, Myles is now the second.