



Common Scents

July/August, 2011

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

What a treat for me to be able to announce that Lenape has a CT dog! Gina and Toro achieved this honor on July 31 – and their story is on Page 3.

Our Tracklayer Certification is now scheduled for August 13th followed by our VST test on August 21, our Certification Match on Oct 9, our TD Test on November 6 and TDX Test on November 13. As with all our events, we will be looking to club members to volunteer their efforts as tracklayers, hospitality, and a spare set of hands to help with various tasks to make our events the

successes we have come to expect of Lenape.

As many of you know, this will be my last President's message as Pat and I will be moving to Oregon later this month. I plan to resign as President at the General Meeting after the VST test on August 21st. At that time Peg Forte will taking over for the remainder of my term. Pat will also be resigning as Treasurer. A new Treasurer will be named at the Board Meeting after the draw on August 11th. Pat will continue supporting the newsletter and website. Even though we will be on the "other coast", we will be looking at ourselves as "the West Coast Chapter of Lenape".

Looking back at the last two plus years of my tenure President, I think we have accomplished a lot as a club. We have added a VST test into our test cycle. A number of club members have certified at our matches and earned titles at our tests. We have improved communications within the club and general public with expanded use of our newsletter, yahoo list and revised website. We have a number of club members now coming out to



work at events and helping to plan new events to keep Lenape on sound financial footing and for the benefit of the tracking community.

Finally, I feel we are leaving the club in good hands with Peg Forte as President. In addition to being one of the founding members of Lenape, she also served as Lenape's first President. I also know this is at least her third stint as President. I hope you all give Peg the support that you have given to me over the years. I

DATES TO REMEMBER

VST Draw & BOD Meeting
.....Thursday, August 11
Tracklayer Certification
.....Saturday, August 13
VST Test & Meeting
.....Sunday, August 21
Certification Workshop & Meeting.....Sunday, October 9
TD Test & Meeting.....
.....Sunday, November 6
TDX Test & BOD Meeting
.....Sunday, November 13

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President – John Etchells * **Vice President** – Peg Forte

Secretary – Janet Doerer * **Treasurer** – Pat Etchells

Board Members Anna Burbank– Jim Bunderla – Gina DeAlmeida – Rose Laubach – Joan Luckhardt

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

would also like to thank the Board for all their support they gave me during this term in office. They made it an enjoyable two years for me. And to all the club members, we will

miss you. We will follow Lenape's events and cheer from afar.

Hope to see you at the VST Test and meeting but if not, "until

we meet again, keep on tracking."

John

MEET THE EARLY MEMBERS

Barbara Greenfield – Joined 1991



My involvement with the Lenape Tracking Club has so far extended over a 17-year period. During those years I created some of the fondest memories that I have had with my four-legged friends.

I was 57 years old when I attended my first dog training lesson. I had just bought a beautiful long-legged Golden Retriever puppy named Star, and we were both eager to find an outlet for all her pent-up puppy energy. It would be fair to say that after my first day with my new "star", I fell in love with dog training. Commands came quickly to Star, and it was exciting to see how these simple classes improved our relationship. I started going to the Morris Hills Dog Training Club where I met Pat Etchells. It was at that time I was bitten by the obedience training bug.

Two years later I decided to

breed Star. That is where this story starts. After placing the rest of the litter in fine homes, we were left with the little runt with peach colored yarn around her neck. We decided to name her Holly. At a very young age it was apparent that Holly was destined for tracking. My granddaughter would come over to the yard and after scurrying around with the dogs for a while, she would be called in for dinner and run home. After I would stand at the fence to make sure that she got to her door safely, I would turn around to see Holly tracking Bethany's footprints with her nose. She never missed a step. I immediately sought to get her involved with the Lenape Tracking Club. Holly, like her mother, learned quickly and had an incredibly sharp nose. By the time that Tracking Experience Day in the spring of 1994 came around, Holly had successfully learned the commands and skills of tracking. Every opportunity we could find, my friend and I would take our dogs out to the fields and lay tracks. When Lenape's test came along, I felt fairly confident in Holly's ability to pass the test. We entered the trial and failed. While the failure was disappointing, it was a great learning experience. When the next trial came along, we were better prepared and left the tracks that day with a glove, our own trophy of sorts.

I made a lot of friends at the

Lenape Tracking Club and I became a member. I worked at TED and became a certified tracklayer. After a few years of membership I became the Vice President of the club, which required that I run the Tracking Experience Day. The following year, I was elected President of the club. All the while Holly and I would recreationally track, but her days of competitive tracking were drawing to an end.

Holly became very ill and would bloat every time she would eat. After many veterinary visits and multiple surgeries to correct the problem, we began to joke that the dog needed to have a zipper installed. Unfortunately, due to the discomfort that she was constantly in, Holly's temperament had changed. She became very nasty and after a few incidents we were forced to put her down. Holly was such a pretty and smart dog, it was sad that it had to end like that.

While Holly's career as a tracker was unfortunately short, I have so many fond memories of my tracking experience with my friends from the Lenape Tracking Club. It was a wonderful experience and a lovely way to not only bond with one's animal but to bond with friends who had a similar love for their dogs.

Happy Tracking.

QUEST FOR THE HOLY GRAIL

By Gina DeAlmeida



This weekend quest started out with a long drive up the coast to Waterville, Maine. This was to be our fourth try at finding the elusive "Holy Grail" in the sport of tracking - VST!!

The seven hours of driving brought us up to Maine on Saturday evening, just in time for a late diner at 10 p.m. We checked in at our hotel and settled in for a few hours of rest (five to be exact). We were up at 4 a.m. and out to the trial site for the 4:45 draw. We picked Track 4 – and so the quest began!!!!

After watching the first two

dogs fail at their attempts in finding the fourth article, I decided to head back to my boy so we could review our game plan. We both decided that "slow and steady" was the strategy we would follow that day. As we waited for our escort to our track, the sun began to heat up the morning. The cart arrived with both judges yelling to us that dog Number 3 had passed. At that moment their statement to us was, "Now the pressure is on!"

Off we went on our quest.... As we arrived at our track, we started our routine, and tried to put everything else out of our minds other than the

quest at hand. The gallery was silent, the judges stayed far away from us, and the flag was the only thing we were focusing on. We were ready for this!!!! Let's Go!!!!

Our track started out with a very long first leg (275 yards). That's always enough to rattle your confidence, thinking that, "It can't be going on this long; I must have missed that first turn. Oh how embarrassing this will be at this level of tracking...." But right at that moment, Toro took a hard left and crossed over the main road that circled the college. Ah yes, we were on track!!!! Over a crosswalk, up a hill, through some mulch, onto a driveway behind one of the main buildings. He then turned right onto a manicured lawn heading towards a second building. Wait!!! He stopped at a big rock pushing its way out of the lawn... ARTICLE!!!! We took a second to water, rest, have a pep talk, re-scent... We were off again toward the front of this second building; he stepped onto the main walkway and proceeded. He passed two students sitting on a bench (stopping to say "Hello"), headed up the main stairs to the front of the building. He stopped, backed up, and changed his mind, headed back down the steps. Back to the two students (said hello again), back to the main walkway and back to work. He then decided to turn right again and headed down two flights of stairs. Wait!!!! He stopped on the second flight of stairs.... ARTICLE!!!! As I was giving Toro water, I then noticed that these stairs were on the opposite side of the first building we had passed. We

were heading towards the main campus parking lot.

OMG - Possible moment of truth turn!!!! ARG!!
BREATHE, Gina,
BREATHE.....

As we proceeded down the stairs, we crossed over the main road again and directly into a parking lot the size of two football fields. I quickly scanned the lot for items that I thought might look like an article... I SAW NOTHING!!!! Toro took me out at least 75 yards into the middle of the lot, he then stopped and looked back at me.

I FROZE....

I started adjusting my line a bit...

I looked back. Judges and gallery were still on the other side of the road....

Were we in the wrong parking lot???

Was Toro changing his mind???

Had we gone to far???

Did we miss a turn at the road???

On no. There was another lot next to this one....

It was getting HOT...

In my head, I screamed, "Stop over thinking and TRUST YOUR DOG....."

After a few minutes of thought and a little exploring as to proper direction, Toro had made his mind up. He then informed me that the way we needed to go was left. So I followed! Another 45 yards and there it was.....

ARTICLE #4!!!!!! = "THE HOLY GRAIL"

I SCREAMED OUT LOUD THIS TIME!!!!

TORO jumped up on me and everyone ran out to celebrate with us!!!! What a feeling!!!

I just want to say that this was a goal we had set the day that I took this "little boy" home from our wonderful breeder, Norma Dikeman. We have worked so very hard to achieve this accomplishment with so many to thank....

My tracking partners Teryl, Siobhan and Raquel

My club – Lenape Tracking and all the support from our fellow members

My family – for putting up with my crazy traveling around the east coast.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You..... Thank You All

Gina and Toro
AKC/UKC CH CT Nordikes
Nothing But The Best CD, RE,
Can/ASCA TDX, AD, BH, TT,
HIC, CGC, TDI



TIDBITS



MARY CHRISTIE's Border Terrier **Alex** (Greywoode Nightjar) finished his AKC Championship at 10 months of age at Longshore-Southport KC, handled by Mary's sister Jayne. Alex has been tracking with Judy Todd and has passed his AKC Puppy All-Stars program.

HOWARD CUSTER's Chessies have taken up dock diving! At the Furry Fun Days Keystone Dock Dogs on June 4, **Ginger** (Custer's Commander Ginger CD, RN, Therapy Dog) had a first jump of 12 feet, a second jump of 13' 9" (third place), a third jump of 14' 6" (first place). At the Big Air Junior Finals the next day, she had 13' 6" for fifth place.

Chase, JANET DOERER's Belgian Malinois, finished his OTCh at the Huntingdon Valley KC show on June 4. He will be going to the National Invitational in Florida, and he is the Number 2 Malinois in the country.



PEG FORTE's **Torrie** (Pembroke Welsh Corgi) was the highest scoring veteran in obedience at the Mayflower Corgi specialty in MA in early June from the Beginner Novice class with a score of 193.5. At the banquet she was given the clubs' VPAX (Versatile Performance Excellence award). To earn this award she had to have 18 points from at least three of the five performance areas. She had points from all the performance areas: Obedience, Rally, Agility, Herding, Tracking and also had credit for her CGC and 40 hours of therapy dog work. On July 2 she earned her ASCA Rally Novice title with a score of 193 and a bumper leg with a score of 193 and fourth place.

Steeler (Wynbrook Apogee Ironclad Oath), JANET KELLY's Bloodhound, had a great May. Owner-handled, at 11 months he earned his Mantrailer Intermediate title, was WD for 5 points at Peoria, Grand Sweepstakes Winner at the ABC Regional Specialty in Illinois and Best in Sweeps at the supported entry the next day. Then in July he was WD/BW at Upper Marlboro for another 5 points.



ROSE MARY LAUBACH's Golden **Hope** finished her ASCA RNX title (she had three scores above 195). She had a 198 and a 199 on June 26 for a second place at the second show. Also on June 26, **Phoenix** showed in the same classes and had third and fourth places.



MARILYN TRAURIG's **Tara** (Ch Landaracurl Forever My Girl) won a major on 7/9/11 at the Farmington Valley KC to complete her requirement for a Championship title. **Nora** (CH Landaracurl Royal Crown Princess CGC RN BN) earned her CD title, with legs at Naugatuck Valley KC and Bloomsburg, PA. **Dina** (Springcurl Royal Doulton at Landaracurl) was named the 2008 top Curly Coated Retriever Brood Bitch with four Champions of Record from her first litter. With Tara completing her Championship that makes five AKC Champions of Record and one UKC Champion of Record to her credit.

TRACKLAYER CERTIFICATION

Saturday, August 13 -
9:00 - 3:00ish
Municipal Building.

Cost - \$5

E-mail John if you want
to participate:

Jetchells.tracking@
gmail.com

THE PICNIC

Lenape held its annual picnic on Saturday, June 25 at the Etchells' home. The forecast had us worried for a while, but when the day arrived, Mother Nature cooperated. Unfortunately there were a number of conflicting events on that date, so the turn-out was not as great as we would have hoped, but everyone who came had a good time.

Nancy Grove, Judy Todd and **Mary Christie** put together a great collection of games: some of the most popular from last year and some new ones, and Nancy kept busy with her camera.

Jim Bunderla manned the grill, and **John & Pat Etchells** coordinated the food.

And of course, thanks go to all the members who came and socialized.

Additional pictures are up on the website:

<http://www.lenapetrackingclub.org/Gal2011Picnic.html>



TANI AND GAIL THOMPSON ARE NOW A CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM



Tani now besides being a breed Champion with a UD, RA and a TDX has been a Delta therapy dog for six years (hence the invite to join a crisis response team), a R.E.A.D. "dog", has been my service dog for about two years, and we now are also a certified HOPE Animal Assisted Crisis Response team. I haven't given up on getting a VST, but now the CR work will have priority.

In crisis response we are "on call" to respond to disasters and our job is to comfort, encourage and give hope to the victims. We also emotionally support the first responders.

I am sure that since he's been my Service Dog that helped him adjust to just about anything. I've even taken him flying to Baltimore on a nine-passenger prop plane to give him flight time. At the training we went to an amusement park (crowds and strange loud noises), to the Erie Airport where we went thru the screening, but we didn't have time to get the fire engine ride. But he got on a Continental plane to "learn" strange stairs, he "met" fire and security personnel in uniform, and rode on a Coast

Guard boat onto Lake Erie. Getting on the boat was difficult for both of us as the ramp was open metal grating about 100 ft long with projections for traction (Tani went

gingerly across) but some dogs refused to cross altogether. On the last day we had a practice crisis response drill on the beach of Lake Erie with the Life Guards. However the rest of the time we were in class. I took two days both ways for the drive to Erie and training was three full days.

In the second picture, I am being helped off the Coast Guard boat as my balance is poor now, and Tani is still wearing his life jacket.

I am going back up to Erie in August (dread the drive again) for a full drill with a simulated plane crash with fire, police, Red Cross and all the other organizations that respond to disasters. There will be a lot of chaos and people 'injured' which is what a real disaster will be like.

Dogs can reduce blood pressure as well as heart rate up to 50%. (I didn't realize it was that magnitude!) A dog just being in a classroom,

without any interaction with anyone, can bring about the kids being more attentive, have better demeanor, better grades, etc! And did you know that a dog allowed to sniff whatever for two 20-minute sessions per day will reduce stress in a dog! When I told my new vet here that we would be doing CR work, his immediate response was that it is very hard on dogs. This week I went with Tani to a camp - Operation Purple - where the kids have a parent in the military that is deployed overseas. Though not a crisis situation, we were there to comfort and encourage.

Learning what to say and not to say to "victims" and recognizing stress in your dog as well as yourself is critical. No matter what, you and your dog come first.

Alice Crans was there as a screening "helper" in March. Though I was too involved to recognize her, she did recognize me. Thanks Alice.





When we first got Scully, she was supposed to be “just a pet”, but ended up being so much more. As inexperienced owners, we felt that taking an obedience class would be a good idea, and while searching for options came across Princeton Dog Training Club, where we fell in love with competition obedience, but much as she enjoyed that, it was tracking that she enjoyed the most.

When Scully was young, probably about a year old or so, we had taken her over to the field behind our local elementary school to play – the field had not been mowed in quite some time, so the grass was quite long. We were about to leave, when Jeff realized he had lost the cover to his pager. We searched for a bit, with no luck, when out of desperation, he showed the pager to Scully, and told her to “find it”. Now, she did know what “find it” meant in relation to toys in the yard, but this was a whole new concept. Nevertheless, she put her nose to the ground and started back tracking over where we had been, eventually finding and retrieving the lost cover. We couldn’t believe our eyes, and about a week later, when I realized I had evidently dropped my sunglasses in the park, I had no hesitation in telling her to “find it” and she again, back tracked our path

A TRIBUTE TO SCULLY

By Annette Pierce

and found the lost item. We were so amazed with our pup, that we couldn’t help sharing this story with some friends at the next meeting of the Mid-Jersey Lab Club. Among them was the late Mimi Ruch, who immediately suggested that we might enjoy tracking as an activity. She introduced us to Lenape, and we signed up for the next TED, which began our adventures with tracking.

We decided that since I was handling her in obedience, Jeff would get the pleasure of handling her for tracking, while I would lay the tracks. Scully took to tracking from the beginning ... after all, what could be more fun for a Lab than hunting hot dogs in a field? We knew she was truly enjoying herself when she soon became so intense on following the track that she would ignore the hot dog.

She easily earned her certification at the Lenape workshop that fall, and we entered and got into Lenape’s test. We went into it feeling pretty confident – after all, she’d been tracking beautifully all summer in tough conditions, and the test was in fairly lush fields. Alas, we were to be punished for our hubris as she did not pass. What happened was that she tracked wonderfully, but sniffed briefly at the glove and when Jeff, who didn’t recognize the object she sniffed at as a glove due to the longer grass, failed to acknowledge her, and she continued on tracking until, as John Etchells who had laid the track for her later told us, the point where he had gotten into his car and driven away.

We went home, taught her a

stronger indication (picking up the glove) and entered and got into Oriole’s trial in the spring. Despite tough windy conditions with furrowed, muddy, corn stubble laden fields, she persevered and earned her TD at that trial. We initially wanted to continue on and work on a TDX, and maybe even a VST, but unfortunately life, in the form of two children and job changes, got in the way, as well as difficulties in finding adequate training grounds, and we eventually gave up on tracking with her, to focus on obedience, which can be done with much less time and space. She retired due to increasingly arthritic elbows with 6 UDX legs, coming out of retirement a couple years later to earn her Rally Novice title. We still did occasional short tracks for fun with her, and one lasting effect of her tracking career was an obsession with gloves that never left her. Last winter, at only a few months short of 15, she was still occasionally stealing gloves out of our pockets or off our hands. Incidentally, the reason she never finished her UDX was that she just couldn’t resist picking up the first glove that caught her eye, even when it wasn’t necessarily the one she was sent for.

She was a wonderful dog, and we were blessed to have so many happy years with her. Because of her, we will always maintain an interest in tracking, and although our second dog Mulder, turned out not to have much aptitude for it, we are hoping to eventually teach his daughter, Chloe to track.

K-STATE VETERINARIAN'S RESEARCH FINDS THAT DOG OWNERS MORE LIKELY TO SHARE GERMS WITH PETS BY NOT WASHING HANDS THAN BY SLEEPING WITH DOG, GETTING LICKS ON THE FACE



MANHATTAN -- Dog owners who sleep with their pet or permit licks on the face are in good company. Surveys show that more than half of owners bond with their pets in these ways.

Research done by a veterinarian at Kansas State University found that these dog owners are no more likely to share the same strains of *E. coli* bacteria with their pets than are other dog owners.

Dr. Kate Stenske, a clinical assistant professor at K-State's College of Veterinary Medicine, studied this association as part of her doctoral research at the University of Tennessee. The research is scheduled to appear in an upcoming issue of the *American Journal of Veterinary Research*.

Stenske said the finding that these human-animal bonding behaviors aren't more likely to spread germs is good news because there are physical and psychological benefits of pet ownership.

"I became interested in the topic because there is such a strong bond between dogs and

their owners," Stenske said. "If you look at one study, 84 percent of people say their dog is like a child to them."

Stenske said surveys also show that nearly half of all dog owners share food with their dogs, and more than half allow the dog to sleep in the bed and lick them on the face.

"We also know diseases can be shared between dogs and people," Stenske said. "About 75 percent of emerging diseases are zoonotic, meaning they are transferrable between humans and other animals. With these two pieces of knowledge, I wanted to examine the public health aspects of such activities."

Stenske's study centered on *E. coli* bacteria, which is common in the gastrointestinal tracts of both dogs and humans.

"People have it, dogs have it, and it normally doesn't cause any problems," she said. "But it can acquire genes to make it antibiotic resistant."

The study examined fecal samples from dogs and their owners and looked at the bacteria's DNA fingerprints. Stenske found that 10 percent of dog-human pairs shared the same *E. coli* strains. She also found that the *E. coli* had more resistance to common antibiotics than expected, although the owners had more multiple-drug resistant strains than their pets.

"This make us think that dogs

are not likely to spread multiple drug-resistant *E. coli* to their owners, but perhaps owners may spread them to their dogs," Stenske said. "What we learn from this is that antibiotics really do affect the bacteria within our gastrointestinal tract, and we should only take them when we really need to -- and always finish the entire prescription as directed."

The research showed that bonding behaviors like sharing the bed or allowing licks on the face had no association to an increase in shared *E. coli*. However, Stenske said the research did show an association between antibiotic-resistant *E. coli* and owners who didn't wash their hands after petting their dogs or before cooking meals.

"We should use common sense and practice good general hygiene," she said.

Stenske said future research might focus on the relationship between shared *E. coli* and the behaviors of cat owners. Not only is cat ownership higher than dog ownership in the United States, but cats also interact with people in different ways than dogs, she said.

"We have a lot to learn," Stenske said. "In the meantime, we should continue to own and love our pets because they provide a source of companionship. We also need to make sure we are washing our hands often."