



Common Scents

September/October, 2012



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Joan Luckhardt has led a one-woman campaign to get lands around South Brunswick for our

TDX test. She has hundreds of acres lined up and has even gotten the township to mow the fields for us. When Joan talks, they listen! (Gina implied that they're afraid of her, but honestly, who could be afraid of Joan?) We're very excited about this new location and so thankful to Joan for all of her hard work to make this happen!

The Certification Match and TD will be at Tyler State Park in Newtown, PA, this year.

The board has been kicking around the idea of holding tracking classes next year, possibly during May and June. We still have some work to make this happen, but we have a small committee who is going to make it happen. Stay tuned.

If you're available on any of the upcoming test dates, please consider volunteering! It's fun. You learn a lot. Plus you get

worker credits which give you an advantage in getting into our tests. I can't think of anything else, but that's enough, isn't it? We can always use help, experienced or not.

Finally, we now have a second Champion Tracker in the club. Gina DeAlmeida was the first with Toro. Now I hear that Rose Mary Laubach and Hope just earned their VST and Champion Tracker title. For those that may not know, to become a Champion Tracker a dog needs to earn all three tracking titles: TD, TDX and VST. No small feat! Big congratulations to Ro and Hope!!!!

Anna Burbank

DATES TO REMEMBER

Certification Workshop
----- Sunday, October 14
TD Test
----- Sunday, November 4
TDX Test/General Meeting
----- Sunday, November 11
VST 2013
----- Sunday, March 17
TED 2013
- Saturday/Sunday, April 13/14
Certification Workshop 2013
----- Sunday, September 29
TD Test 2013
----- Sunday, October 13
TDX Test 2013
----- Sunday, November 10

WHAT'S INSIDE

Meet the Early Members.....2
VST Results.....3
Hope's Hunt "4" It.....4
Tidbits.....5
Camp Gone to the Dogs6
From the Left Coast.....7

President – Anna Burbank * **Vice President** – Judy Todd

Secretary – Janet Doerer * **Treasurer** – Joan Luckhardt

Board Members - Jim Bunderla – Gina DeAlmeida – Nancy Grove - George Laubach – Rose Mary Laubach

Past President– Peg Forte

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

MEET THE EARLY MEMBERS

Gail Thompson



Back in the late 50s and early 60s I did some tracking with my first male smooth collie, Jody. Back then not much was known about how to teach AKC tracking, and back tracking and walking over and over the same line in both directions was the common “how to” and extending the same line slightly each time. Milo Pearsall was my instructor and many of you who are up in age with me might remember him and his wife Margaret. Milo at that time was the undisputable the top dog trainer in the nation as far as I could ascertain. And back then there was only the TD title. Jody and I entered many tests to no avail.

One test was up in RI and I arrived early as there was a hurricane coming up the coast. If I remember correctly, I was the first to run - and the last. The track was 6 inches under water from a river on the edge of the field. And the tracklayer was up in a tree that was now in the middle of the river. After 19 tests, I gave up trying. Jody was the first collie of either variety to be a bench Champion with a UD back when collies were the number one breed in the states, so I consider that a unusual achievement.

In the intervening years between then and 2000 or thereabouts, I

did little tracking as I remember, even though I’ve never been without smooths since 1958, all going back to Jody. Apparently according to Lenape records, I joined Lenape in 2000 and did some tracking with, Mauka, who was Tani’s uncle literally, Tani’s dam being Mauka’s litter sister. When I was supposed to go to TED, the day before my back gave out and I had to ask a friend to go in my place. It wasn’t until a year or two later that I actually got to a TED day myself after Tani joined the household if I remember correctly.

Tani (“tah-knee”) came along in 2001, nine generations removed from Jody. While Tani was working on his obedience titles, I started doing some tracking with him, but not too seriously. One day a new emergency Vet practice opened up just south of Doylestown, PA, and I went to its open house celebration. The vet had a Navy dog demo at the open house, and while watching the demo, the lead trainer asked what I did with my collie. He said he would work with me in tracking if I was interested. Of course I was! Rudy was pretty busy then as the Iraq war was on the brink so I couldn’t go down to the base very often. Rudy is an incredible dog trainer. He said he wanted me to track every day, even if it was a short track, and never lay my own track. For over two years I never missed one day including holidays and regardless of the weather and didn’t lay my own track until after he got his TD on his first try. I twisted a few arms during that time to get anyone to lay track for me, including my vet, who did it twice. I graded Tani on his performance on each track and also recorded the weather

conditions at the time from the Internet from the closest airport. Before I moved to Lancaster in 2010, I had records of over 1000 tracks! One tracking judge said he had 1200 tracks before his dog became a CT!

Rudy is now retired from the Navy and lives down in Atlanta, GA, area, but we are still in touch. However, an Air Force person who laid track for Rudy and did other K-9 things with Rudy is now also retired, but he lives within 15 minutes of me and has come to lay track for me here. The retirement community I live in is very adaptable to plotting a good, if not excellent, VST track. His last name is Thompson also but is no relation!

For the weather I record wind direction and speed, temp, humidity, dew point, cloud conditions and the barometer and whether the pressure was rising, static or falling, during the dog’s time he was on the track. One of the first questions Rudy asks when we discuss a track is the weather information. I never saw a correlation between Tani’s scores and the weather, especially the barometer information. As far as performance goes, besides the time the track was laid, who the track layer was, track legs, age of track and directions and surfaces (in general - not like AKC judges sheets), I grade him A+ to F on his start, attention span, drive (at the start, middle and end of the track), if distracted by traffic, people or misc., how many times he marked (he’s a typical male!), turns, and article identification. At first I only put the month and date on each record, but as tracking is a multi-year

occupation, don't forget to put the year the track was done. You can add off track indications if your dog does indicate such or does (s)he plain lie to you and take you on a wild goose chase. Tani lies a lot especially at turns!

I don't grade him on his speed as he has learned to go slowly because I can't physically go fast.

When we tracked at the base, Rudy would send someone out to lay a track, and they would be at the end of the track until we found them several hours later. I don't know how he knows if there is someone vs. just an article at the end. If a person, his drive increases dramatically. In fact, he doesn't stop to indicate any articles on the way either,

which is otherwise one of his strong skills! And he is tracking, not air scenting at that point. It could be as much time lapse as with a person at the end as an article. In the military, when someone tells you to lay a track and stay at the end for up to 5 hours, you DO it! Rudy had a good supply of excellent track layers!

In the beginning Tani was air scenting, and when he caught the tracklayer's scent, he headed straight for him, but AKC tests don't allow air scenting, so we had to break him of that. So between Rudy and Lenape, Tani got his TD at Lackawanna and his TDX later (not on his first try) up in Vermont. Once he had his TD we entered every TDX

and VST test within 500+ miles. The closest he got to his VST title was up in NH when he completed 66% of the track and went the wrong way on the last turn on a hard surface (though not the MOT turn)! After I witnessed a GSD that is a SAR dog that finds people all the time, fail an AKC test on the first turn on grass up in Albany, I don't feel so bad about Tani not becoming a CT. Tani will be 11 years old on October 6th of this year. I have entered one more test this year in PA, and I am the first alternate.

I had always dreamed that Jody would become a UDT. Tani never was a UDT dog because he got his TDX before he finished his UD.

VST TEST SUNDAY, AUGUST 19

Another VST test at Ramapo College is history, and unfortunately no dogs went home with a new title – but they made a valiant effort.

A special thanks to the Lenape members who made this test possible:

Chief Tracklayer – **Peg Forte**

Tracklayers - **Gina DeAlmeida, Anna Burbank, Judy Todd, Joan Luckhardt**

Photography – **Jim Bunderla**
Food – **Nancy Grove**



HOPE'S HUNT "4" IT

AS RELATED BY GEORGE LAUBACH



The draw was at Nine and Ro had fourth pick,
Tracks 2,3 and 5 were pulled out quite quick.

Ro took a deep breath and was ready to draw.
She pulled out a pumpkin, Track 1 she saw.

She immediately left and took Hope to the flag,
The judge gave a nod and Hope's tail gave a wag.

With a street on her left and a hedge on her right,
They started out straight with a lamppost in sight.

They reached that point where Hope made her choice,
She crossed the street left though it was quite moist.

The clouds opened up and Ro could not see,
Her glasses needed wipers, she thought "woe is me".

Hope is well trained but not as a "seeing eye".
She accepted her new task and held her tail high.

Ro could visualize the tail, each wave that it made,
Hope took her along a narrow, green glade.

When they came to the end, a huge parking lot in
front,
Which way would Hope go to continue her hunt?

She casted awhile, then straight ahead she went,
Finding her next article which she did scent.

Following Hope's tail, who worked like a sleuth,
Unbeknownst to Ro, they made the "Moment of
Truth"

Ro followed Hope on with 2 things on her mind,
Article 3 and that coveted glove to find.

Down the sidewalk they went in a hurry,
So happy the rain was not a snow flurry.

Article 3 did appear, along the way,
Hope picked it up and Ro said "Hurray"!

They hurried along, to a courtyard they came,
A ninety degree turn was the name of the game.

So continuing on, to another parking lot they went,
Hope continued to track - as if she was sent.

She moved to her right with a lamppost in sight,
She circled the pole in sheer delight.

The judge raised his arms and started to run,
Ro picked up the glove like it was bright sun.

She turned the glove over, "Number 4" did appear.
The gallery ran out and gave a huge cheer!!

Hope danced all around, knowing it was about her,
With a handler like Ro, she is now a
"CHAMPION TRACKER"!!!



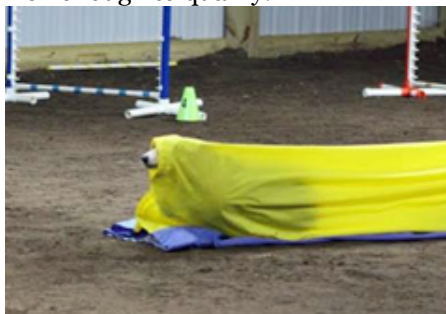
TIDBITS

Chessies **Fred** and **Ginger** have been doing HOWARD CUSTER proud. *Custer's Commander Ginger* got her RA title on September 22, 2011 and her

Senior Dock Dog title on April 28. *Custer's Major Fred* earned his RA title on March 31.

It's a boy! JANET DOERER just brought home a new Belgian Malinois puppy from Indiana, born on August 3. His name is *Burr Oak's Time to Dream Again, Dreamer*.

PEG FORTE reports that "*Jimanie's Golden Touch*" (**Torrie**) has tried Teacup Agility and has enjoyed the experience and has earned her TG1 title (Teacup Games Level 1). Teacup Dogs Agility Association (TDAA) provides and encourages competitive dog agility for dogs of small stature through a titling program. The equipment is shorter and the obstacles are closer together. As a veteran dog (she is 10 years old) she gets to jump 4" rather than 8". And surprisingly I have been able to run her myself (well maybe I should clarify that – I walk fast and do a lot of pointing). Torrie is still very fast and somehow we have managed to play the games well enough to qualify.



ROSE LAUBACH sends news about her Golden Retriever. "In April, with very limited trialing **Hope** completed her Open Agility Jumpers title, all 3 legs with first and second placements. In May she finished her GN title and earned her second Open obedience leg with a second place. On June 1 she completed her Novice Fast title in Agility, with 3 shows in a row - 2 firsts and a second place. On June 2, she finished her Open agility title - again all placements. Since Hope and I do not care for the summer heat, we took a break from showing. Sept 7, at the Tuxedo Park trial, Hope finished her CDX from the Open B class with another second place. I am so proud of my special girl who is truly living up to her name '*Goldenways Thanks for the Memories*.'" And in her spare time, she has taken up a new sport: kayaking!

And of course, as we saw on Page 4, Hope rounded out a fabulous season by passing the VST at the Basset Hound of America test in Connecticut on September 30 to earn her the coveted CT!

JUDY TODD's Border Terrier **Merlin** (Ch. Greywoode Merlin, ME, RE, OA, OAJ, NF, CG, T BAD") finished his CAT (Coursing Ability Test) title at Bayshore CDC test in September. His first two legs had been in June at the Valley Forge Rhodesian Ridgeback Club. His coursing is very good, following the lure closely, and very fast. He completed the 600 yard course in 60 seconds flat!



Nora (UKC CH AKC CH Landaracurl Royal Crown Princess CGC RN BN GN CD CDX), bred and owned by MARILYN and MICHAEL TRAURIG and shown by Marilyn, won the 2011 National Specality Obedience Award for the "Highest Scoring Novice A & B dog."



CAMP GONE TO THE DOGS

By Judy Todd



At the Fall 2 session of the 2012 Camp Gone To The Dogs in Stowe, VT, there were five Lenape Club members who took advantage of tracking training sessions with Mary Thompson. One member, Bill Hambrecht also started his Cocker Spaniel "Sugar" in the Beginner tracking classes with Doug and Cheryl Boese.

The members who tracked with Mary were: Jim Bunderla and Gus, Janet Doerer and Chase, Nancy Grove and Trooper, Sandy Hambrecht and Frankie and Judy Todd with Merlin.

Intermediate tracking started at 7:30 in the morning at beautiful mountain top hay fields about 7 miles from the host hotel. On most mornings the drive itself through Vermont farm country was worth the price.

Monday we ran back-to-back parallel tracks and then one 150-yard track with several articles to be indicated on the track.

Tuesday we really got into it with a game that Mary called 'Double Chaos'. In this game there were a total of 10 tracks: three sets of pairs of parallel tracks, back and forth, and two other tracks crossing all of the others in an "X" pattern. Each of the tracks



had an article. Now the chaos comes in when ALL the dogs are on course at the same time. Some starting on one of the parallel tracks and some starting on one of the "X" cross tracks. There were dogs everywhere. After we had thoroughly confused ourselves and our dogs, we did another set of tracks. These were three parallel tracks about 5 feet from each other, after 100 yards the left one turned left, the right one turned right and the center one continued on another 50 yards. The dogs had to keep on the one track that they started on.



Wednesday was easier. There were two squared "U" tracks, one with left turns and one with right turns. This was to train the handlers and dogs to be sure of a new direction before committing to a new leg of a track by asking, "Are you sure?" when the dog indicated a turn, asking the dog to recheck other directions before re-indicating the correct path.

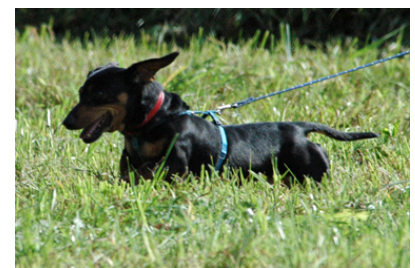
Thursday we had three tracks: one was mostly in the woods with articles and a turn, the second was about 1/3 field then 1/3 woods with articles and a turn and then 1/3 field, the third was a straight track in the field but with several fresh cross tracks put down about 20 minutes before starting. The woods tracks were to acquaint the dogs with tracking in wooded areas. (It turned out that some of the dogs really needed this drill, never having been in woods at all



according to their handlers.) Then to move into and out of woods, Mary mentioned that some dogs have difficulty moving into woods from fields, reluctant to cross into the wooded cover. The third set was to teach the dogs to continue on in spite of cross tracks or contamination. (On our field and woods track Merlin entered the woods readily, found both articles and dragged me around the turn and several trees and shrubs, sheesh. I was glad that I have a long line that slides easily we wound up only knocking down one tree. On emerging from the woods back into the field, he did get confused, running back and forth at the edge of the woods for several times before finding the rest of the track in the field.)

Friday was no real surprise; a regular track - a start flag, a directional flag, two blind turns and 4 articles plus the start and glove. Mary did put a flag past the glove to give us some indication on the last track.

I believe that we all have signed up for the Fall 2 Session of Camp Gone To The Dogs in 2013.



FROM THE LEFT COAST

BY JOHN ETHELLS

is a remote control loop that we let the kids of all ages run. I have had kids from age 3 to 65 run it. The park has many things that the kids can see, play and ride on, but this is the only attraction they actually can get their hands on and run. It is fun to see how the little kids' faces change from when I ask them if they want to run the train on tracks around Hogwarts Castle to when they are bringing it around to the station to park the train with a big smile of accomplishment.

In addition to running the trains, there is an awful lot of work maintaining the layouts. For example, if a mountain is the wrong place, we move it; or if we need a lake for the new logging line to dump the trees, we build it. And I am talking moving 20 yards of dirt at a time! Oh the muscles hurt on Friday night. I also picked up new skills like working with concrete and aluminum foil - similar to how HO modelers work with Plaster of Paris to make rock walls.



If you want to see pictures of the layouts and follow our projects, we will be putting up a Facebook page in a month or so about the club and its activities. The reason for the delay - we may be changing our name from Southwestern Oregon Large Scale Trains to Medford Garden Railroaders. Will the name change pass? Who knows? After all, this is a "Club".



As they use to say on Monty Python, "And now for something completely different!"

In addition to the availability of dog clubs, one of the reasons we selected Southwestern Oregon was that there was a Garden Railroad Club nearby. Early on I found my way to the Medford Rail Park, home of the Southwestern Oregon Large Scale Train Club, which I finally joined this last February. This is one of five clubs at the rail park: a model (HO scale) rail club, the National Rail Historical Society (refurbishing a steam engine), a telegraphy club, a Live Steamers (they are 1/15 scale & are used for train rides through the park),

and us. When the city of Medford upgraded and moved its sewage treatment plant, it decided to turn the old site into a park and allows the clubs to use it free of charge. The only stipulation is that we operate it two days a month - April through October - for the public for free.

The members of the club are primarily retired guys who are my age and normally we meet every Friday morning either to work on projects or get the layouts ready for run days.

We have three separate layouts. The first is the main layout that measures roughly 300+ feet by 150 feet. We are currently running three separate rail lines with at least four more planned. The next layout is our Thomas the Tank Engine layout for the smaller kids to watch. We have all the Thomas engines running through concrete mountains and over small water falls. It is a real hit with the small fry set. Lastly is the Harry Potter Line which is the one I am currently in charge of. This

