



Common Scents

January/February, 2012

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Fellow Trackers:

Most winters we are not able to get out and track with our dogs. I hope you are all taking advantage of this mild winter.

We still have lots of room for TED entries. So please go to the Lenape Yahoo e-mail group or to the Lenape Website and print out the TWO pages of the application and share with your dog clubs and dog friends. Date for TED is March 31st. The dates for the Follow-ups are on the application. Nancy Grove is looking for volunteers for TED.

Our February Annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 18th at The Arc of Hunterdon's

DATES TO REMEMBER

Nominations Meeting

.....Saturday, February 18

Awards Meeting

.....Sunday, March 18

TED 2012Saturday, March 31

TED Follow-ups

.....Sunday, April 15

...Saturday, April 28

...Sunday, May 20

Community Room at their offices located at 1465 State Route 31S, Annandale, NJ. The general meeting will start at 12:30. There will be a light lunch of soup and rolls – and of course dessert. The Board will meet at 11 a.m.

At the general meeting we will accept nominations from the floor for officers and board members. If the person you want to nominate is not at the meeting to accept the nomination, you will need to bring a statement signed by the person that they will accept the nomination. Snow date will be Feb. 25th. Complete info and directions will be posted in a file at the Yahoo e-mail group.

The Annual Meeting and Awards presentations will take place on Sunday, March 18th at The Arc's Community Room. This will be a dinner meeting with Italian food catered like last year. We will start dinner at 6 p.m. Following the presentation of awards, Susan Greenbaum, Barking Hills County Club, will speak about how to recognize signs of stress in your dog. Details and a reservation form will be available in the files section of the Yahoo e-mail group. Snow date is March 25th.



Speaking of awards – those of you who earned titles with your dogs need to send me the following by February 10th.

Call name of your dog
Titles earned
Test where they earned the title
Color of the dog's harness
Color photo of the dog

Please send to me
pegforte@comcast.net

May all your tracklayers have smelly feet and all your tracks be good ones.

Peg Forte

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President – Peg Forte * **Vice President** – Rose Mary Laubach

Secretary – Janet Doerer * **Treasurer** – Anna Burbank

Board Members Jim Bunderla – Gina DeAlmeida – George Laubach – Joan Luckhardt – Judy Todd

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MEET THE EARLY MEMBERS

Martha Windisch



I'm Martha Windisch and I've been told I'm an "early" member of Lenape Tracking Club - even though I don't like to get up early!

I cannot remember the year I joined Lenape but I know it was sometime after 1988 when I got my first golden retriever Tawny. I got Tawny to show in obedience and when training for obedience I heard about tracking. The people who told me about tracking said that to train a dog to track, you have to get up at the crack of dawn and train really early while the dew is still on the grass. They also said that you need a really huge field in order to lay a really long straight track (check out Glen Johnson's tracking "Bible" for how long this has to be) and you have to train with a partner and lay tracks for each other. So although tracking sounded interesting, as I mentioned before, I do NOT like to get up early (I cannot really think so well when it's early). Also, training really early with a partner is not so good since then my training buddy would have to deal with me (the un-morning person in the morning - probably not so much fun - and I wouldn't realize my un-fun-ness since I

would be half asleep). In fact, when I had to get up incredibly early to lay a VST track at Lenape's test, I cheated. I really did not get up early - I just stayed up all night so when I laid the track it just seemed to be really really LATE! (then I took a 2-hour nap in my van after I laid the track).

I cannot remember how I figured out that I could track without getting up really early, without a really long field, and without making a partner deal with me in the morning. I do remember attending one of Lenape's Tracking Experience Days. I also remember reading Glen Johnson's book and following most of the suggestions in the book (except for the really really long tracks - due to lack of a really really long field!).

My first golden Tawny earned her TD, and it seemed not that hard. Next, I started to train for TDX (it did seem hard). Tawny would get distracted at the drop of a hat. Her start was weak. Anytime she went through woods or a hedgerow and came out the other side, she would stop working and look around. With the help of many people and after 6 or 7 tries (and tons of test drawings that we didn't get into) Tawny earned her TDX. People that helped include Joyce Lindloff who taught me how to motivate Tawny's start by running away and hiding from her; my friend Cindy who was training her young German shepherd for search and rescue (she would lay 3 one-turn tracks for Tawny and while waiting for them to age, I'd hide in the woods so her dog Annie could search for me); and John Rice who taught me how to read Tawny and the fact that Tawny

could be quite unreadable on a track. Following are some of John's comments, "Tawny's hard to read and she gets worse the longer she has tracked" - meaning, anything past the middle of a TDX track - good luck reading her!, "She pays attention to your body language and if you take even one step forward when she has lost the track it will drive her in that direction" (especially if it's the wrong direction!), "Anytime I see you move hand-over-hand on the line (a jerky way of handling the line instead of a smooth way), you owe me a quarter!" (thus, I owed him dollars!), and finally, "You CAN get a TDX on her if you work hard at it and learn to read her subtle body language" (this means to try to pay particular attention to her breathing and heart rate from the end of a 30 foot line!)

As I mentioned before, we DID eventually pass - part of the secret was to compromise with Tawny. I allowed her to stop working and look around when she needed to - but I put a time limit on it - I counted in my head 15 seconds and then told her "TRACK". In training, I made sure she started when she heard "TRACK" by guiding her nose along the track for a distance - this conditioned her to restart quite well. In a test she would study the horizon and listen to the singing birds after coming through a hedgerow (by the way, there were tons of hedgerows at the Manassas Battlefield TDX track she passed) - I'd come out of each hedge row, Tawny would stop tracking and I'd count to 15 in my head and then say "TRACK" and Tawny would track. The TDX pass was a real gift from Tawny to me because the one thing she hated most on

a track was prickles - anything stabbing her sensitive Golden feet would make her quit. During the TDX test at Manassas Battlefield, the second to last leg was a field of prickles - she gingerly tip-toed through it - it did not even look like she was tracking - I followed basically because I had nothing else to do and no where else to go - but I didn't really think she was tracking. Then the prickles gave way to tall hay-like cover on the last leg and she tracked like a pro to the glove - that really got me hooked on tracking!

Since then I've had other goldens earn TDs. One earned his TDX on the second try. The same almost passed a VST (sadly I lost

him to a tick-borne disease prior to getting a chance for him to become a Champion Tracker).

Currently I'm tracking Spring (Spring's the crazy tracking dog - the experience of tracking Spring I have named "Mr. Toad's Wild Ride" - someday I hope Spring can pass a TD - she needs to keep more of her feet on the ground and also not get distracted by critter scent - Spring will NOT be moving on to TDX or VST); Clue (he's a brilliant tracking dog - his daddy is a drug searching dog - we are currently training for and trying to get in a TDX. VST will hopefully be on our agenda); Sobey (she's the next dog I need to get certified for TD - she's an okay tracker - just needs

confidence to keep looking for the track instead of looking to me for help); and, Ghetty my 1-year old who passed Lenape's TD last fall - he's working on obedience now, but will eventually be getting back to tracking. Fortunately, his tracking style differs from that of his Aunt Spring!

So that's my personal tracking history and no, I still don't like to get up early!

Martha Windisch

JACQUI GETS HER TD!

By Alyson Fuge

Jacqui – Cross Creek What's a Jacaranda - passed her TD in Virginia at Oatlands Plantation on a crispy Sunday morning in December.



She put her head down and took off as though she had been doing this all her life. A couple of turns I hesitated at because I didn't know at the time that the judges had decided to leave in the ground flags from Verizon – which looked just like the ones we train with. I wondered of course if the tracklayer had forgotten to pick up the marker flags.

She smelled them and carried on but I was more than confused. I couldn't see any track marks on the frozen ground so I just decided to trust my dog and she got straight to the glove without any more side tracking.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Rose Mary Laubach, has put forward the following slate:

President

Anna Burbank

Vice President

Judy Todd

Secretary

Janet Doerer

Treasurer

Joan Luckhardt

Board Members

Jim Bunderla

Gina De Almeida

Nancy Grove

George Laubach

Rose Mary Laubach

President Emeritus

Peg Forte

MERLIN'S NEW GIG

By Judy Todd



Merlin on teacup-size dog walk

On Sunday, January 8, 2012, Merlin (Ch. Greywoode Merlin, ME, OA, NAJ, RA, CG, ThD) was entered in the Teacup Dog Agility Association sanctioned trial at the Bella Vista Training Center in Lewisberry, Pennsylvania.

He has been trained for and run in agility for a few years by fellow LTC member Mary Christie. I have never seen him running a course because, being a momma's boy, he winds up off course and at my feet when I am at the agility site. Then, this past autumn, we went to Camp Gone To The Dogs and I played with Merlin in the agility classes there. I was encouraged to run him myself as he seemed to enjoy our partnership. The suggestion was to run in the CPE or TDAA venues as they tend to be more supportive and forgiving of novice handlers. On the TDAA website I found out that the association is for dogs that are 17" and under at the withers. The equipment is scaled down and the course times reflect the smaller dogs.

It turns out that there was a TDAA trial quite near to my home on a November weekend and they take day-of-trial entries.

I went to the site on the Saturday to see what would be involved. I wound up registering Merlin with TDAA, getting him measured for height and entering him in a Beginner class on that very day.

We did not qualify at this trial. No surprise as it was

my first attempt at handling an experienced dog in agility. We found another trial being held early in December in Pennsylvania. In order to not embarrass myself, or Merlin, any more than necessary, I took some coaching classes from Ann Marie Scripko at Clever K-9 Dog Training LLC after I entered the trial and before we went to Pennsylvania.

At the trial in December, again we did not qualify, but I could feel us getting more and more in sync with each other. Time to try again. We entered the one-day trial in January with some hopes of qualifying in the Beginner Standard Course. I was nowhere near ready to try any of the games that are offered by the club and the judge. The club was offering three Beginner level Standard Courses and two Games on Sunday.

With more confidence now, Merlin and I qualified in the first and second Beginner Standard Courses with scores of 100 and times of 24.2 and 20.7 seconds UNDER course time respectively. Both were good enough for second place rankings in the classes. One more 'leg' and he will have a new title, Teacup

Beginner Agility Dog. TBAD.

Feeling brave, I had entered a "Touch & Go" game on Sunday but we did not qualify. Nor did we qualify in the third Beginner Standard Course that day. We had a great time working together and all of the mistakes were mine, not his.

Having a dog that is well trained and being able to run him in agility is a lot of fun. All the credit goes to Mary Christie for training Merlin to this level.

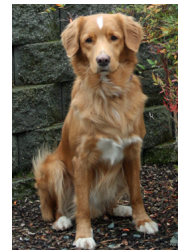
I am looking forward to March 3rd and 4th and our next trial in Newark, Delaware.



TIDBITS

HOWARD CUSTER's Chessie **Ginger** (Custer's Commander Ginger, RA/CD) finished her CD title at K-9 of Essex County on January 15.

Diggs, the ETCHELLS' Duck Toller finished his RE title in California at San Mateo Dog Training Club on January 14.



MARILYN TRAUIG's Curly Coated Retriever **Myles** (AM CH IR SH CH LandaraCurl Royal Warrant Shcm) went BOB and Group 2 at the Oakengates Open show in the UK on December 11. The breed win was the final point he needed to earn his Show Certificate of Merit.

FROM THE LEFT COAST

By Pat Etchells

Five months as Beaver State residents, and life is settling into a pattern.

We're halfway through what the natives consider an unusually cold winter. But as long as we haven't had to shovel, our attitude has been, "what's the problem?" When precipitation is forecast, you have to pay attention to the snow level, but it's usually only a problem if you need to travel over a pass to get to the outside world. And here in the Rogue Valley, we've been exposed to a phenomenon called freezing fog, which sometimes occurs with a high pressure system. It often burns off in the afternoon to reveal a brilliant, cloudless blue sky, but sometimes we stay socked in all day. Ironically, it's no more difficult to drive in than any other kind of fog. The trees get coated with a layer of hard rime – but this doesn't cause damage and as the day warms up, it drips to the unfrozen ground and waters the plants.



Tracking hasn't been very productive yet. We did get out and meet with some tracking folks, but because of lack of precipitation, the fields were still full of star thistle and foxtail. Recent rain may have remedied the situation, and we hope to get out before the next crop of noxious weeds becomes a problem (probably by April).



Work on the house is progressing nicely, and we're still optimistic that they will make their April completion date. The structure is pretty much done, and we are now facing many "finishing" decisions. This has been an interesting experience inasmuch as there are differences between Eastern and Western building styles. We've been trying to strike a balance, incorporating enough Western to make the house belong while bringing enough Eastern features to make it *feel* right. We already incorporated wooden sliders and double-hung windows. The next decision facing us is what texture we want on the wallboard. Like many East Coasters, the only thing we'd been exposed to were smooth walls – so the terminologies of "orange peel," "knockdown," "skip trowel" and "mud swirl" leave our head spinning.... (Pictured is our Great Room, sporting just tape and mud)



Frequent updates are on-line:
<http://homepage.mac.com/c103ontherise/>

We continue to participate in dog activities. We're members of two all-breed kennel clubs and are amazed by the fact that 20 to 30 members come out for monthly meetings on Wednesday evenings. There are often programs, usually put on by members, but refreshments are sporadic. (So much for "if you feed them they will come" theory)

One of the advantages of living in a state that has a veterinary college is the fact that their faculty sometimes does community outreach activities. We went to a seminar put on by two OSU vets on preventing injury in a sporting dog. There were lots of good suggestions about warming a dog up before going into the ring, including stretching and muscle-building routines. They also discussed studies linking the increased practice of juvenile spay and use of hardwood floors to the increase in the number of cruciate injuries. And they warned about the danger of rapid-stop games – such as fetching a tennis ball – and suggested playing a "hide the ball" game instead. Even though it would incorporate some tracking skills, Diggs says that the jury is still out on that substitution.

An advantage of living outside a small city is that cultural events are easy to get to, easy to park at, and relatively inexpensive to attend. We recently took advantage of the opportunity to see Judy Collins in concert in Medford. She's over 70 years old and still put on a very enjoyable performance. We felt quite at home among all the other baby boomers!