



Common Scents

March/April, 2013

Another VST is behind us and this year we had the pleasure of having TWO out of six dogs pass. A huge thank you to all of the volunteers who came out to help on that cold, windy weekend. I did not get to see many of the tracks, but did see the moment of truth turn for one of the dogs and watched on the edge of my seat as the dog worked the entire parking lot and checked out every possible direction before finally deciding, correctly, where the last leg went. The turn was in a parking lot between buildings and a hill and we had quite a bit of wind so I'm guessing that did interesting things to the scent. What I really enjoyed watching was this dog's ability to stick to the task, despite the obvious difficulty, and work out the problem. It took quite a while and if you didn't know the dog

was tracking it might have been hard to tell, but that dog never quit. Very interesting to watch.

The Awards Dinner was dominated by the sporting breeds this year. Chuck Shultz and his Lab, Cruiser, earned their ASCA TDX. Martha Windisch and her Golden, Spring, earned their TD. And last, but not least, we have a new Champion Tracker in the club - RoseMary Laubach and her Golden, Hope. Congratulations to all!

Tracking Experience day is fast approaching. This has been the traditional money generating event for the club, but I think we may be at the point where the abundance of choices in performance events may be edging us out. In the NJ/PA area it seems like I can go to any number of seminars pretty much any weekend of the year - agility, lure coursing, obedience, tricks, weight pulling, and it goes on and on. I think there is still a place for events like TED, but we do need another source of income so we can continue to hold tracking tests. I'm really thrilled to see

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



the tracking classes coming together and it looks like there is huge interest in the club for this. I think this is a great way to generate a little income for the club and also address some of the training needs of the membership. We have some great talent in the club to learn from and I'm sure the classes are going to be a great success.

Please don't forget to look at some of the upcoming club events and find a way to put one or two of them on your calendar. It takes a lot to pull off some of these events and help is always appreciated.

Happy Tracking,
Anna

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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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

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MEET THE EARLY MEMBERS

Kristine Conway - Joined 2002



Hi to all the Lenape Tracking Club members! My name is Kristine Conway DVM CCRT, and I joined the Lenape tracking Club eons ago...or so it seems, with nothing but the best of intentions. I am a German Shepherd aficionado, and they have been a part of my life for forty years. They were family dogs, but not your typical stay at home pets. I included them in all my activities and adventures. I was exposed to "obedience" training when I was a teenager at a night school course, and I filed it away in my brain for a sunny day. I grew up, went to college, then veterinary school where I got my first German shepherd that was all mine! No family input or influence. Maggie turned out to be my heart and soul dog! She could do no wrong and was the perfect dog. I so thought she would be the perfect "obedience" dog...if only I had the time. Graduating from 8 years of college leaves you scrambling for a job and paying off your student loans. Maggie passed on in 1997, and it took me 2 years before my sister shook me back to my senses to get another puppy and start anew. I flew to California in

1999 and sat for 8 hours a day for 4 days in the middle of a litter, wanting to come home with the perfect puppy to start my "working" career in obedience. I came home with 2! A brother and sister - Sagan and Seabreeze. I started my puppies in obedience school immediately. As life went along I started showing in UKC ASCA and AKC. It was showing in ASCA that I met Lisa Pattison and Jayne Lips, who encouraged and helped me with my training. They were the instrumental people to pique my interest in tracking and getting me to join Lenape Tracking Club. I dove in hook, line and sinker but found myself spread thin as I also took up agility for fun to give my dogs a release from the stresses of obedience. It wasn't long before I was also competing in agility. Reality set in! There are so many hours in a day - full time job, obedience trails, agility trials, practicing my tracking - ok, not working for me! I came to grips that tracking was great for the older dog. Sagan died unexpectedly at age 8 - so much for older dog tracking.

Not to be deterred, Seabreeze continued in obedience until 9 when her back started to bother her. I also had acquired another female that was to be Sagan's "bride" as I so wanted a puppy out of him as he had all the positive attributes of a GSD. Before I knew it, Seabreeze's back forced her to retire. Nuku was my higher than a kite working girl and her young son Tonga was coming into his own. Then silly me, on the urging of a client, went one sunny Sunday to meet with Beth and that lead me became involved in the sport of schutzhund. Nuku was in her element! Tracking, obedience and protection! As time progressed, agility was put on the back burner when Tonga had bilateral ACL surgery. After 18 months of complications I decided to nix agility and work on obedience and schutzhund. Kismet vom Patiala a.k.a. Nuku has her CGC CDX IPO 1 and Afatu Sagans Legacy a.k.a. Tonga has his BH, NAJ and leg 2 of his CDX...He'll get the UD before his mom (I'm a betting person :)) and Yaga vom Seabreeze a.k.a. Yaga is in training and showing great promise to go places in obedience and schutzhund.

The saving grace for me at this point in time is I do tracking for schutzhund and have nothing but the best intentions to carry it over to AKC tracking. As much as I am a member in absenteeism, I so enjoy reading our monthly newsletter and e-mails on the accomplishments of our members. I am the cheerleader that if you listen closely, you'll hear me yelling yeah! For our members and their feats! I am proud to be a member of Lenape Tracking Club!

VST – MARCH 17

Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey held their fourth VST test on March 17, 2013 at Ramapo College, Mahwah, NJ. Test Secretary was Anna Burbank and Chief Tracklayer was Peg Forte. Tracklayers included Tammy Snyder, Gina DeAlmeida, Judy Todd, Rose Mary Laubach, Anna Burbank and George Laubach. Driver was Peg Forte. Judges were Salle Richards and Joe Hamzy.

It was just getting light when the draw was held. The temperature was 30 degrees, the sky was overcast, humidity was high and the wind was 10 mph. Perfect tracking weather. Everyone motored to the Ramapo entrance where the first track began.

Track one went to a Border Collie bitch. The start was at the top of a plateau with the wind whistling. After a pause to check what the wind was carrying, the dog went down the first leg, made the first turn, climbed down off the plateau and arrived at a road and then a parking area. The dog crossed the road but would not commit to the double bay parking area. Whistle.

Track two went to a Golden Retriever bitch. The start was made between two dorm buildings and continued parallel to one of the buildings until passing between two buildings and entering a courtyard. The dog found an article in the courtyard. The exit from the courtyard was made extremely difficult by the wind and the dog could not find the track upon exiting. Whistle.

Track three went to Labrador Retriever bitch, Workmoor's Hopeful Lucy BN RETDX JH AX AXJ OF and handler Peter

Frykman. The start was along Route 202, a pretty busy road. The first leg was parallel to a large berm and continued past the berm's end and made a turn. The dog found an article along the second leg, made the second turn, crossed a road and entered a parking area. The college's spring break had just started and it appeared that several students, parked just past the moment of truth, were loading up to leave. The dog waited by the road until everyone left and proceeded to the MOT. Successful with the MOT the dog continued to a median where there was a turn. The dog worked the area for quite some time before proceeding down this leg to a turn onto pavement. The dog was a bit downwind of this leg but made its way back to the track and found an article. The leg continued out of the parking lot, crossed a road and made a turn at the base of a large hill. Saturday there were a ton of kids rolling down this hill. Heavens knows what they left behind but the dog seemed to want something up the hill. After a brief digression the dog continued along the grass to a sidewalk where it spotted an object in a small plaza across a street. After checking it out it continued along the walk to article four. Pass.



Track four went to a GSD dog. This track started near a two story parking garage. The dog made the start, made the first turn and proceeded into a courtyard. The dog failed to

make the next turn in the courtyard. Whistle.

Track five went to an Airedale Terrier bitch. The dog started in the wrong direction, got into goose poop and stopped working. Whistle.



Track six went to a Golden Retriever bitch, Gaylan's Dancing In The Wind TDX JH MX MXB MXJ MJB and handler Carol Stepczuk. The start was made up a small hill with the dog going off the leg onto pavement before coming back and making the first turn. Continuing down the second leg the dog found an article, crossed a road and entered a boulder forest - no trees, just rocks surrounded by grass. Proceeding around the rocks, the dog came to a walk that was fenced both sides with a choice of directions. Making an incorrect choice first, the dog turned around and started up a long flight of stairs where it found an article. At the top of the stairs there was a turn that the dog missed. After much searching for this difficult turn the dog picked up the leg, made its MOT and proceeded out of the parking area to an indication of the final article which was unreachable on the other side of a fence. Pass.

A very rewarding day to see two CTs. Hospitality was great. Many thanks to a wonderful club and especially to Rose Mary and George Laubach who hosted me at their house Friday night.

Joe Hamzy

Further comments from Chief Tracklayer, Peg Forte

Many thanks to Judge Joe Hamzy who wrote about Lenape's VST test and is allowing us to share it with the members. Joe and Sallie Richards spent Friday afternoon checking out the Ramapo campus. They spent all day Saturday plotting the 6 tracks that were run on Sunday. Our tracklayers, all named in Joe's article, did a fantastic job. They all made my job of Chief Tracklayer very easy. Just wish that all the dogs had passed.

Worker Credits:

Jim Bunderla
Anna Burbank
Gina DeAlmeida
Peg Forte
Nancy Grove
George Laubach
RoseMary Laubach
Joan Luckhardt
Judy Todd

AWARDS BANQUET

On March 24 A small group of members enjoyed a catered Italian meal at the Arc of Hunterdon's Community Room near Clinton NJ.

Prior to dining member Karin Damon gave us a demonstration of Nose Work with her Golden Retriever, Jig. Karin is a certified Nose Work instructor with the National Association of Canine Scent Work (NACSW). Nose Work has been growing rapidly across the country and there are now 8 certified instructors in NJ, three of whom are members of Lenape (Martha Windish and Lisa Pattison).

Jig, the first dog on the East Coast to earn the Nose Work 3

title, and Karin will be competing in the first National Invitational in Rialto, CA on June 1 and 2, 2013. Karin placed some hides in various places inside and outside the building and we watched Jig quickly find them. Then Karin explained about Nose Work and answered questions.

After dinner the awards for 2012 were presented. Unfortunately two of the members whose dogs earned a title in 2013 were not present. Gina DeAlmeida and her Rottweiler, **Toro**, earned the FH1, Shutzhund Tracking title. Gina was away apprenticing at a Tracking test, one of the requirements for applying to be a Tracking Judge.

Martha Windish's Golden Retriever **Spring** earned her TD in April.



Rose Mary Laubach and her Golden Retriever **Hope** earned the VST at a Bassett Hound test. Besides the award for the VST from Lenape, they received a cutting board with a photo of Hope on it, commemorating their accomplishment.

Chuck Schultz was also honored for **Cruiser's** ASCA TDX.

A short business meeting was held where the Secretary was instructed to cast one ballot for

the nominated slate of officers. There were no nominations from the floor at the February meeting so the Nominating Committee's slate was elected.

President - Anna Burbank
Vice President - Judy Todd
Secretary - Janet Doerer
Treasurer - Joan Luckhardt
Board Members - Jim Bunderla, Gina DeAlmeida, Nancy Grove, George Laubach, and Rose Mary Laubach

Peg

TIDBITS

Wyn, PEG FORTE's Flat-coat was BOB and Group 3 at Boardwalk on February 3, and BOS at Westminster. She was #10 Flat-Coat in 2012 and is currently #3.



JUDY TODD reports that on Wednesday, March 27, **Merlin** (Ch. Greywoode Merlin, ME, RE, OA, OAJ, NF, CA, TBAD, TG1, etc.) qualified in the BlackJack game in the Teacup Dog Agility Association trial held by Pawsable K9 events in Millstone Township, NJ. This was his third leg and completed his Teacup Dog Games 2 title. He is also only one leg short of his TIAD (Teacup Intermediate Agility Dog) title.



FROM THE LEFT COAST

If it's winter, it must be tracking season! This year we had enough rain and sn*w in December to knock down the foxtails early in the season. And then for several months Mother Nature sent all Her water elsewhere, so the fields didn't get an opportunity to develop ponds of knee-high standing water. This created ideal conditions for the Southern Oregon Kennel Club to hold its annual TD/TDX/VST test on March 31.

Lacking better judgment, John and I agreed to be test secretary and chief tracklayer respectively. With years of experience under our belts, it was no big deal to step into the positions on the other side of the country.

We made a conscious decision to not send out any premium lists but to just let people find us on the Events Calendar and the website. Obviously they did, because when entries closed, we had 4 entries for 2 TD shots, 16 entries for 3 TDX slots and 5 entries for 2 VST slots. We had entrants from California, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia, Canada.

The tracking community is very small, some of our group were at obedience, and two of our experienced tracklayers said they'd help if they didn't get in the TDX. Wanting to keep everything on the up-and-up, we devised a double-blind draw, where we had piles of cards for both the entrants and for the draw results, then we drew one of each and paired them. Our would-be tracklayers ended up TDX 1 and TDX 2 - and someone who had entered three dogs pulled TDXA7, TDX8, TDX9. Lady Luck has a sick sense of humor!

We did manage to find great tracklayers - some very enthusiastic novices and some old timers who just love the sport.



Table Rock



Mount McLoughlin

As you can see in the above pictures, it's a challenge to find good sight markers when the most distinctive landmarks can line up on your outstretched arms from almost anywhere on a leg! Fortunately there are enough objects closer to make locating yourself possible - and fortunately we didn't have valley fog during plotting and the test.

The judges commented that for years local judges would add Mount Hood to their maps (even though it is in Northern Oregon - some 300 miles away) - just to bug AKC. But when AKC cut its staff to the point where nobody looks at anything, they gave up the practice.

With terrain like this, the judges have to be creative. Most of the obstacles on the TDX tracks were "change of cover", when the tracks went from low grass to rough areas. They also considered a small pile of rocks an obstacle and walking along a section of cloth fencing an obstacle denied! You do what you have to do...

Plotting day was glorious - sunny and in the upper 70s! It was no hardship to walk one's track a couple of extra times, just to reinforce the landmarks and to tie mid-leg tape on grass stalks when you couldn't see the next flag because of the hilly terrain!

Sunday morning brought very different weather conditions. The temperature dropped by about 20 degrees, there were intermittent showers and a light breeze. Textbook perfect conditions for the dogs and endurable for the people. The actual test went well. All of the entrants who had made the original draw attended - as well as one alternate for each of the three tests. The TDX alternate had driven about 8 hours and stayed overnight in order to attend. She was going to leave after the draw, but the judges pointed out that if a dog went lame walking to its track, the track would be available - so she stayed for the day and planned on another night on the road. Test slots are that valuable!

At the end of the day, the two TD dogs had heard the "tweet, tweet, tweet" whistle which signified a pass, and the TDX and VST dogs are still in the pool of entrants.

Pat Etchells