



Common Scents

May/June, 2012

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I can't believe it's June already! This year's Tracking Experience day went very well, superbly organized by Nancy. There were some nice teams and we'll have a few new members from this event. We got great turnout from our membership to help out. It does take quite a few people to put on this seminar. Thanks to everyone who helped to make TED a success!

The down side - TED attendance has been down for the last few years. We used to get 25-30 people for TED and always had a wait list. This year I think we had 13, or something close to

that. This may be in part due to the economy, but probably more likely is due to the fact that there are more tracking training seminars than there used to be. I'm reasonably certain it's not due to the quality of the event as we continue to get very positive feedback and often have one or two teams qualify the same year.

The board is looking at things we can do to make TED a little more attractive. One idea kicked around was to run it as a weekend seminar and eliminate the follow-ups. This might make it more appealing to people who are travelling a distance and can't make the follow-ups. We kicked around the idea of combining the first few lessons into one weekend. We're in the brainstorming phase now. If any one has any ideas the board would love to hear them. This is our only money-making event, and travel expenses for judges are not getting any cheaper, so



it's important that we maximize our income from TED.

Our annual picnic is coming up in July and the VST is in August. We'll need help for both of those events and I'll be reaching out to the membership for that. Hope to see you all at the picnic!

Anna Burbank

DATES TO REMEMBER

Picnic
----- Saturday, July 21
VST Test
----- Sunday, August 19
Certification Workshop
----- Sunday, October 14
TD Test
----- Sunday, November 4
TDX Test
----- Sunday, November 11

WHAT'S INSIDE

Meet the Early Members ---- 2
Tidbits ----- 2
Spring's TD----- 3
Follow-up Credits ----- 4
Membership ----- 4
From the Left Coast ----- 5

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

PAT LOSCO



I joined Lenape Tracking Club in 1998 when I was working with Geordi, my first Australian Shepherd pup. I was living in Chester County, PA and working in King of Prussia. I had lots of

obedience and a little, not always successful, tracking experience with my former breed of Bernese Mountain Dogs. But due to job changes, moves, and my new interest in agility, I decided to downsize to Aussies. Geordi was beautiful, sound and sweet, but he had an “attention deficit disorder” personality that wreaked havoc with standard obedience training and he was too young for agility. While I was waiting for him to grow up and hopefully learn to focus, I discovered that he had a wonderful talent. When I took him for walks in the woods, he would lead the way home carefully backtracking my every

footstep around trees, over fields, etc. We progressed from short tracks in the back yard to long woodsy ones in the nearby state park. I was delighted to find an advertisement for a tracking club in NJ and so I signed up for the spring TED program and subsequently joined the club. It was a two hour drive to Jersey to attend meetings, but I enjoyed the monthly sessions where we practiced different tracking techniques. Geordi passed at the fall certification match in 90 degree heat and passed again at the Lenape, and Harrisburg TD tests when he was just past his first birthday.

TIDBITS



Fred,
HOWARD
CUSTER'S
Chesapeake Bay
Retriever,
earned his CD
title on March
31.

PEG FORTE's Flat-Coated Retriever **Wyn** (CH Stormwatch Whirlwynd) had a good weekend in Harrisburg. On Friday she was BOS; on Saturday, the day with the biggest entry, she was BOB; Sunday she was BOS. Since then she has had five more BOS placements and now has 41 Grand Championship points toward her Bronze level.

Meanwhile Peg's Light-foot's Texas Two Step (**Tex**) has been attending Nose Work Classes for about 14 weeks. On Saturday, May 29th he passed his ORT (Odor Recognition Test) on the first level scent - birch. He is now eligible to enter Nose Work Level 1 tests. It is interesting that much of what Peg has learned all these years tracking applies to the Nose Work. Even indoors, scent moves and pools like it does in the tracking fields.

ROSEMARY LAUBACH's Golden Retriever **Hope** earned her Graduate Novice title on May 4 at the Lenape GRC trial with a second place. She also earned her second CDX leg on May 6 at the Trenton KC show with a 2nd place and HS Golden in class.

On April 22, 2012, **Steeler** became Grand Champion Wynbrook Apogee Ironclad Oath MTX--at just under 22 months, earned his fifth title, all owner-handled by JANET KELLY. He was also #9 Bloodhound for the first quarter of 2012!



SPRING'S TD STORY

by Martha Windisch

Here's an excerpt from the last time I reported on Spring at Lenape's TD: *Spring is 7 years old and definitely knows how to track. However, she is very difficult to track – she thinks it's a timed event, her tracking and crittering body language look very similar, and she has the highest prey drive of any Golden I've owned. Because she tracks so fast with a minimal number of body parts touching the ground at any one time, I call her style, "Mr. Toad's Wild Ride!" ... This year she finally passed certification in record time – she zoomed through the track lightning fast. (At Lenape's TD test) there was dew/frost covering the ground when I started Spring. As soon as I started Spring, I knew that the frost was holding in too much critter scent and she was not going to pass. Her brain was chanting track-critter- track-critter- track-critter-critter-track-critter-critter-track-critter-critter-critter-critter... and we got the whistle at the second turn.*

This time Spring's TD story has a better ending!!! She earned a pretty light and dark green TD rosette. I entered the Gloucester County Kennel Club Tracking Test on Sunday, April 8, (Easter Sunday) because I did not want to enter Spring in an out-of-state test, since her tracking style makes passing unpredictable.

We stopped at Estelle Manor County Park early in the morning before the test and laid a short track to get the shenanigans out of her system. She tracked that short un-aged track in normal Spring fashion – getting to the end but also crittering along the way as she tracked. I just hoped we would get to the glove at the test.

We arrived at the test site for the draw. There were three plastic Easter eggs in a basket – green, orange and purple. I was first to draw. Spring wears a blue collar and tracking harness, but there was no blue egg. I figured purple was the closest and drew it. Inside the egg was a number 1 – so I got the first track.

Upon arriving at the field I noticed that the cover was relatively high. It was also very windy. This looked to be good conditions for Spring – unless a field mouse happened to run out of the cover – then all bets would be off. The judges had also warned us that these fields had ruts in them and that using an easy command was recommended. I laughed at this, and the judge asked me if I had taught an easy command, and I said, "Yes – but it does not work so well with Spring!" At the start I prayed that I could stay on my feet and not twist an ankle.

Spring started at the first flag, ran to the second flag and about five feet past the second flag took a sharp left onto an obvious deer (or other critter) path. She messed around for a short time (it seemed like an eternity to me) and after telling her to get back to work and track, she did – and did so very quickly. The rest of



the track is a big blur – she basically was off and running.

Looking at the map it was five turns (six legs) and she took eight minutes from start to finish (take away around one or two for the crittering at the second flag and she ran the 455 yards in six or seven minutes. She zig-zagged quite a bit, and I was quite confused at which places the turns were. When she reached the glove she lay down as if the ground went out from under her - and that ends Spring's TD story! (She got an extra good dinner that night!)

TED FOLLOW-UPS

Thanks to the Lenape members who came out to help:

FOLLOW-UP 1:

Jim Bunderla
Janet Doerer (lead)
Nancy Grove

FOLLOW-UP 2

Jim Bunderla
Janet Doerer
Nancy Grove
Joan Luckhardt (lead)
Judy Todd
Martha Windisch

FOLLOW-UP 3

Gina DeAlmeida



MEMBERSHIP

The following persons have submitted an application for membership. They will become members unless the secretary, Janet Doerer, 5 Woodland Way, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889, receives any letters of objection within 4 weeks of the mailing of this newsletter.

Nicholas LaRocca

22 Brian St.
 Lakewood, NJ 08701
 732-367-7169
 Larocca44@optonline.net
 Labrador Retriever: Buddy
 Sponsors: George Laubach,
 Rosemary Laubach
 Attended: TED, 2012; TED
 Follow-up 1



Linda Parry

180 Sorfass Lane
 Palmerton, PA 18071
 610-826-2586
 hc180@ptd.net
 Australian Shepherd: Ty
 Sponsors: George Laubach,
 Rosemary Laubach
 Attended: TED, 2012; TED
 Follow-up



Jean Petersen

329 Deep Hole Road
 Drums, PA 18222
 570-788-3699
 Vendela@PTD.net
 Bouvier: Jackson
 Sponsors: Jim Bunderla, Nancy
 Grove
 Attended: TED, 2012; TED
 Follow-up 1





We are in our new house! It's not 100 percent finished, but they're tending to the few remaining details around us! Now we're facing with all those decisions – where to put all the “stuff” we brought from New Jersey. I thought we brought only the essentials, but apparently I was wrong...

And we're dealing with converting dirt to lawn and planting beds, while letting Nature keep what was not disturbed (except that we are waging war on Poison Oak.) It's been somewhat of a challenge. In the undisturbed wooded areas, the topsoil is phenomenal. But where they bulldozed it to build the house, it changes from mud to concrete depending upon the moisture content, and runoff on unprotected soil is rampant. Mulch is our new best friend! We've been able to harvest quite a bit from our woodlands, where rotted trees are a goldmine. And, of course, purchased straw works well on expanses.

The tracking season is pretty much over until next winter, but the dog clubs are still busy. Rogue Valley Kennel Club was involved in a four-show cluster obedience trial, where we did Friday afternoon, a specialty club did Saturday morning, we did Saturday afternoon, and Sunday morning was the specialty again. One judge did all our obedience

and rally classes for both shows, and another judge did all the specialty club's classes. We ended up stewarding for almost all RVKC's events.

Boy, we were tired at the end of those days! It was especially challenging because with classes having only a couple of entrants, you never really got into a rhythm, and we were spending much of the time setting up the rings. But in a part of the country where there aren't too many shows, it was a great opportunity for people to attempt to title.

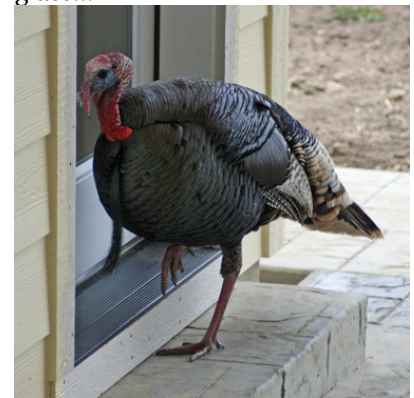
Another kennel club function had us working at a “Day for Dogs” held as a fundraiser for a canine service dog group. Since the public brought their dogs, the organizing group recruited club members to be on the lookout for situations that could get out of hand. Fortunately there were no serious incidents – and the dogs that needed the most watching were the “ankle biters”...!

But speaking of taking dogs places – a number of local stores are dog friendly! You're welcome to bring your dogs in with you, and they usually can collect a dog biscuit from the cashiers! It's really convenient since Home Depot is right across the street from where I train, so it's no problem to run in without worrying about leaving Diggs in a hot car. It's entertaining to drop him (i.e., down stay) when I am doing something else with both hands and have people stare open-mouthed. The dogs are

FROM THE LEFT COAST

BY PAT ETHELLS

really enjoying their fenced five acres. The first days we were here, however, Delta was so confused that she would repeatedly jump into my van and go to sleep in the crate! Now they're all much more comfortable – but tend to spend most of their time around the house. Diggs has made life sufficiently miserable for the local squirrels that they are leaving the bird feeders alone. And fortunately the turkeys have not visited since the dogs moved in. They were interesting to see, but made kind of a mess while attacking the turkey in the glass...



John is spending many hours with the garden railroad club at the train park in Medford helping to maintain their display. He's learning all kinds of valuable skills such as pond building, which is on his “honey do” list at the new house. Two Sundays a month the public is admitted to the park, and John spends the day supervising the kids who get to operate the trains via remote control.

Pictures of the new house will be on-line until June 30 at: <http://homepage.mac.com/c103ontherise/>