

# COMMON SCENTS

MAY/JUNE, 1994

Vol. 18., No. 3

## LENAPE TRACKING CLUB OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**TED Follow Up 1**  
Saturday, June 11, 1994

**TED Follow Up 2**  
Sunday, July 10, 1994

**TED Follow Up 3**  
Saturday, August 13, 1994

**Certification Workshop**  
Sunday, September 25, 1994

**Tracking Test**  
Sunday, November 6, 1994

<b>OFFICERS</b>		<b>WHO'S WHO</b>	
President		Martha Hamil	908-846-5333
Vice President		Anna Burbank	215-862-9833
Secretary		Pat Etchells	908-236-2423
Treasurer		Linda Riley	908-730-7717
<b>BOARD</b>			
		John Etchells	908-236-2423
		Peg Forte	908-832-7231
		Hope Meaker	908-995-9002
		Dot Vail	201-947-1835
		Fran Wilmeth	215-750-5588
<b>COMMITTEES</b>			
Tracking Experience Day	Linda Riley		
Tracking Test Secretary	Dot Vail		
Newsletter	Pat Etchells		

### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

Dear Lenape Member,

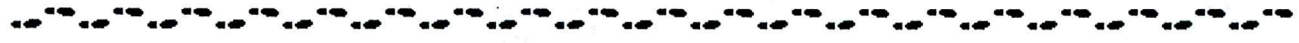
Our follow-up days for TED are fast approaching. We need all the help from members that we can get. So bear in mind the following dates - June 11, July 10 and August 13. I've always found follow up days to be fun and rewarding - watching a dog that was now tracking who had never seen a glove before the end of April. Even more rewarding is helping the tracking team work through problems.

As this is my first President's message to the Lenape members, I would like to assure you

that I will do everything in my power to live up to the trust you have given me. I will also do my best to emulate those who have preceded me. They brought vision, excitement, growth and camaraderie to the club. Our job is to perpetuate these elements and keep the club strong. Lenape is a class act, but we must work to keep it that way.

See you all on June 11, the first follow-up day!

Martha Hamil



**TED '94**  
by Linda Riley



Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks? Lenape took an old friend, TED, gave it a new act and produced something better than the original.

A survey of last year's participants showed the organizing committee that some changes were needed. As a result, this year we shortened the lecture segments inside and added the new dimension of outside stations. These stations gave all the participants an opportunity for demonstrations plus hands-on work in calculating pace, map making, lead handling and starting a dog in tracking. We retained our demonstration of an experienced tracking dog (this year very ably done by Skye MacKinnon) and our usual afternoon field work. The new format brought rave reviews from this year's participants.

We had a wonderful group of enthusiastic trackers and even with the added competition of several new tracking clinics, we were still able to fill all our available openings.

In this year, as in others, the success of TED rested on the great support we received from so many Lenape members. From the great cooks to the group workers to the speakers and sales people - everyone who helped has my heartfelt thanks for their aid. For those of you who were not able to help at TED, we still need help for our follow-ups in June, July and August. You can contact Pat Paulding at (908) 454-9520 and let her know at which one(s) that you want to help.

Thanks again to all the Lenape members who helped produce another profitable TED.



**NJFDC MEETING**

Dr. Sue Ann Lesser, a Canine Chiropractor, will be doing a presentation at the Federation's Annual Meeting. The program will be held at the Quality Inn at Exit 6 of I-287 in Somerset, NJ, and starts at 8:00 p.m. Guests are welcome.

BARBARA DRESSEL's Cocker **Skimmer** has 9 legs on her UDX title.

Doberman **Tracey** HAMIL was WB for two points at Delaware Water Gap. She also won a large open class at Trenton.

JOANNE MACKINNON's Golden **Skye** earned the first leg on his CD at Allentown, and he got the second a week later at Monmouth.

The Number One Obedience Flat Coated Retriever in Canada for 1993 was HOPE MEAKER's **Derby**. Back in the States, **Danny** took BOB at Chester Valley at 9 months - breeder/owner handled. And **Pega** is learning carting and loves it.

**Degen**, Dottie Seuter's GSD, earned his TD title at Hudson Valley's April test. (See his story on page 3)

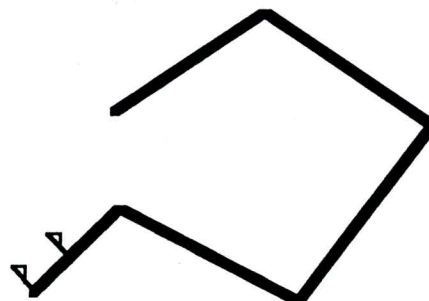


Send your news to Pat Etchells, PO Box 326, Lebanon, NJ 08833



**CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP**

Salle Crooks has agreed to join us again this September for an encore performance of our very successful certification "un-match". Since she will be discussing the tracks and offering tips to the handlers, we will limit the number to eight. Lenape members will be given preference, followed by TED participants. We will again make accommodations for members who want to avail themselves of the opportunity of being a tracklayer and running their dog.





## HINTS FOR TESTS

by Micki Conley

Extracted from Midwest Tracking Association May, 1994, News

Remember that medication of any kind - including heartworm preventative, Lyme's vaccine, antibiotics, or even aspirin - WILL affect your dog's sense of smell for at least 5 days after the last dose, or until it clears the system. If you're in a test the day AFTER you normally give heartworm, wait the extra day and give it after the test; it won't hurt the dog and it won't throw him a curve, either. Don't consciously set your dog up to fail.



Don't get creative the day of a test. If you know rain is a good possibility, air out the new raingear ahead of time and practice tracking in it so the dog won't be distracted by the sound or sight of it. If your dogs usually travel together, don't decide to leave a buddy home the day of the test. Make sure your harness and line are in good condition, or replace them well in advance of the test so you can break them in.

When you get to the test, don't change your routine. If you normally exercise your dog and put him back in the car until it's your turn to track (in practice), don't decide to socialize the dog or romp profusely with him the day of the test. Dogs are creatures of habit, so observe their normal routines as much as possible at the test site. There are enough unexpected variables in tracking without creating any more.

## PSSSST !!!!!

by Jan Wall

Reprinted from the *MTA News*, September, 1988

No, I'm not making rude sounds, but I did want to call your attention to something that can affect your dogs' tracking performance, namely, aerosol products.

Now that the fall tracking season is upon us we, as well as our dogs, definitely will be besieged with those pesky mosquitoes, gnats, fleas and ticks.

There are a great many products available today to help combat those annoying critters, but unless your dog has been exposed to them, they surely can screw up their noses. So take that into consideration during practice sessions. Get your dog used to being sprayed with insecticide before he is put on the track to let the product take effect and the residual fumes dissipate. Only spraying yourself could have the same effect on your dog's sense of smell. So don't decide the day before or day of the test to spray your dog and/or yourself. I doubt the results would be favorable.

I personally have an allergic reaction to any aerosol product. There is just something in the propellant that makes me sneeze and wheeze. Most products now come in the non-aerosol variety as well as roll on. A lot of dogs don't like the hissing noise of an aerosol, so the pump or trigger sprayers work the best. Just make sure your dog is used to the product, whether it is an aerosol or not, so as not to screw up your dog's scenting performance.

## BITS AND PIECES

Extracted from the *MTA News*, June, 1991

Now there is BIODEGRADABLE FLAGGING, made of all organic, non-toxic recycled cellulostic materials. It will COMPLETELY DISAPPEAR in one year and will NOT harm livestock, or wildlife if eaten. The color will last 3 months in direct sunlight. It comes in 5 colors. Order from Gemplers at 1-800-382-8473. (Kit #K357).

Ticks can go without food for up to 2 years. When the time is right, the female lays 3,000 eggs any place she decides.

Spraying a dog's feet with PAM will help keep the snow from sticking to the hair between the toes. PAM can also be used to remove Cockle burrs; spray and let set a few minutes, then slide out.

Few fleas ever die of starvation! They can survive up to 125 days without a host. They multiply very quickly: a single female can lay 100 eggs or more in just 30 days - 10 fleas can multiply to more than a quarter of a million in your house!!

## HELP YOUR DOG TO BE HEALTHY, TRIM AND FIT

by Dolores M. Holle, VMD

Reprinted with Permission from *The Seeing Eye Guide*, Winter 1994

Remember the TV commercial that scolded people who could "pinch more than an inch"? Your dog could have the same problem.

Obesity is the state of being overweight. It can result in significant health problems and a shortened lifespan.

One concern for dog guides is the development of joint and locomotion problems like arthritis and stress-induced knee injuries. Others are respiratory ailments, diabetes mellitus, increased surgical risk, and heat intolerance.

The primary cause is, simply, eating too much. The dog receives more energy in the form of food than he expends.

**You can actually feel if your dog is overweight.**

Stand over him and run your hands along either side, from just behind his shoulders to his hips. You should be able to feel his ribs beneath a *thin* layer of insulating fat. As you go from ribs to hips, you should feel a distinct waistline, just behind the ribcage. If you have to poke and prod to feel something that might be a rib, or if you feel no difference in width from shoulders to hips, your dog is obese.

If your dog hasn't seen his veterinarian within six months to a year, consider taking him for a complete physical exam to rule out abdominal fluid accumulation, masses or hormonal causes.

### Goal weight is important

The keys to weight reduction for a healthy dog, as for a healthy person, are dietary management and adequate exercise. Your veterinarian can help you determine a goal weight, but don't expect instant results. Depending on how obese he is, it could take from eight weeks to eight months to attain goal. Rapid weight loss isn't likely, nor is it desirable. A weight loss of two to three percent a week is realistic and healthy.

Feed your dog enough calories to sustain his goal, not his current weight. To achieve correct caloric intake, eliminate between-meal treats, reduce the amount of food in his regular diet, switch gradually to a reduced calorie diet, or try a combination of these suggestions. Since cutting back on his regular diet often increases scavenging, you might be more successful by using a quality, commercially-prepared reducing diet.

If dog treats are part of his daily routine and you feel guilty eliminating them, there are two options. Replace treats with pieces of diet kibble, or subtract the calorie content of the treat from the calorie content at feeding time.

As you may know from personal experience, it's difficult to lose weight without exercise. If your dog is sedentary and spends most of his hours snuggled asleep under your desk, try to extend your daily routes. The exercise will be good for both of you. Your dog might help you reach goal weight, too!

Dolores M. Holle, VMD, is Attending Veterinarian and Director of Canine Health Management at The Seeing Eye.

## POINT TO PONDER



If your dog (like this editor's) seems to have a hard time with starts, consider the possibility that you have a critter problem rather than a start problem. Most tracks start at the edge of a field. And many animals are likely to hang out at the edge of a field so they can dart for cover in the hedgerows. So it's logical that the most contaminated part is at the start of many tracks.

Try to work in an area where you know there's been a lot of animal activity, build up the dog's confidence and enthusiasm for the human track, and maybe your start problem will be solved.