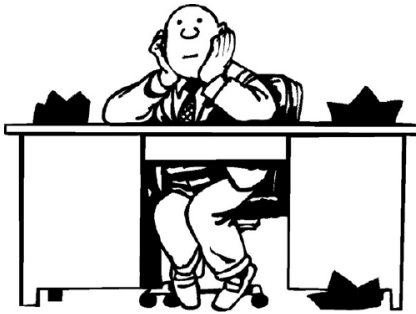




Common Scents

May/June, 2010



Here we are entering June already. This year seems to be flying by, both personally and for Lenape.

It has been a very busy spring for Lenape members as you

DATES TO REMEMBER

VST Test & Board MeetingSunday, June 20
Picnic & General MeetingSaturday, July 10
Tracklayer CertificationSaturday, August 7
Board MeetingAugust TBA
Certification Workshop & General MeetingSunday, September 26
Board MeetingOctober TBA
TD Test & General MeetingSunday, November 7
TDX Test & Board MeetingSunday, November 14

might be able to tell from the size of this newsletter. Part of this activity included members obtaining five new tracking titles!

Since the last newsletter we completed another successful TED. As in past years, many members showed up to help out and I want to thank all who helped make it a success. Between the lectures, stations and field work, it was another jam-packed session and all went home tired. The follow-up sessions were also well attended. One of things that impressed me about the follow-ups was the level of questions coming from the participants. To me, they showed that they listened, were reading and using the materials provided and developing a good foundation in tracking. Also as a result, we are picking up seven new members!

The Website Committee is putting the final touches on the new website, and it is on-line in Beta format. (URL in the footer). Joyce Miller has joined Pat and Joan on the Website Committee. She has been putting her proofreading skills to good use in helping

us improve the page. I believe we are still on schedule to move it to a new server with our domain name around the time of our picnic next month.

I would also like to congratulate Lisa Pattison on becoming an ASCA tracking judge last month.

Just a reminder. Our VST test is coming up on June 20th. As you may know, this is the first VST test in New Jersey. I hope to see you there.

Until next time, keep on tracking.

John

WHAT'S INSIDE

Meet the Board	2
TED Report.....	3
Follow-ups Report.....	4
Tidbits.....	5-6
Membership.....	7
Grady TDX.....	8
Cruiser TDX	10
Toro ASCA TD	11
Ideas.....	11
Hope TD	12
Torrie ASCA TD	13

President – John Etchells * **Vice President** – Anna Burbank

Secretary – Carol Shields * **Treasurer** – Pat Etchells

Board: Jim Bunderla • Gina DeAlmeida • Janet Doerer • Peg Forte • Joan Luckhardt

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

Beta Website: <http://web.me.com/lenapetrackingclub/LenapeBeta/Index.html>

MEET THE BOARD

An Unlikely Tracker

Joan Cook Luckhardt, Ph.D., was raised in a suburb of Pittsburgh during winters, and on a Ohio lake in the summers. Dragging cats and her cocker spaniel between homes as pets, none were well trained, but well loved. However, her experience with training animals came with training her Quarter horse, which also was ferried back and forth, until college intervened (Joan debated running away to the rodeo as a trick rider, but her mother would hear none of that). The long years as a scholar went mostly without pets as Joan finished at the University of Pittsburgh her BA in history, MEd (fine arts and history--all 72 credits of it), and then at Rutgers University went on to a Masters and Doctorate in Anthropology. Colleagues in Anthropology studied how dogs think--which opened new doors of understanding to Joan, a whole world she had not thought about. Joan studied legal systems, American Indians--and did field work for years; but Joan managed to find time for pets again--a Cocker Spaniel and a Flatcoat. They were wonderful dogs, and somehow learned manners. A huge Golden Retriever followed them. To pay for their food, Joan taught and studied from elementary to college level courses over the decades for research laboratories and Universities.

Married to a New Jersey-based environmental scientist, Joan did manage to learn about ecology, but not much about tracking--but loved GIS (Geographic Information Systems) which comes in handy with tracking and mapping technology. But Joan came late to tracking and dog training. Joan has

three Golden Retrievers. Belle is the oldest at nearly 10--and brought Joan to dog training because Belle was a very bad puppy. An independent thinker, Belle was not very obedient and drove the entire family into therapy with a private dog trainer (and two of four children still at home joined in as well). As Belle learned, Joan and the family learned. Belle is very, very bright and needs work--so we found she learned quickly, but is reluctant to go anywhere there is noise (like show rings). However, we managed to earn a number of obedience titles and currently are working on a tracking title (her agility work ended with the advancing of Joan's arthritis). Phlaire, a beautiful and talented Golden from Ohio, joined the family about five years ago, and opened the world of tracking to us all, earning not only obedience titles, but also her TD and TDX. Now she is working on her VST. Dennis (after Dennis the Menace), Phlaire's nephew, is three and last year finished his TD and is working on his TDX. But tracking was an unexpected passion.

We came to tracking because of the club--Alice Crans and Peg Forte gave a presentation about tracking to the Garden State Golden Retriever Club--and I thought--wonderful. My husband the ecologist who loves hiking in the wilds, would enjoy tracking. I didn't think I would like tracking, as I dislike getting up early, getting sopping wet in wetlands, or any possibility of getting muddy--but I'm all for family activities. I attended TED with my husband, who had a scheduling conflict at the last minute---and he



bowed out, while I plugged away at tracking. By this time, Phlaire was a passionate tracker, and Belle liked it fine. I took classes the club offered, and to my surprise found that I loved the quiet sunrises, occasional showers, and the small group of trackers who gathered to help each other. I also became fascinated by how dogs think, how they figure out and discern scent in time and location. Amazing. Dogs are truly brilliant--and trusting them has opened a new world to me. Keep on Tracking!!

Joan Luckhardt

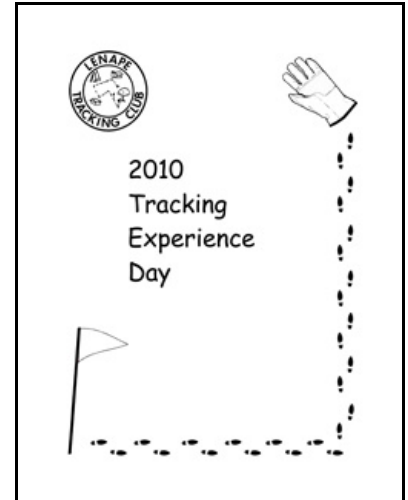
PICNIC

We're still on schedule for Saturday, July 10. A flier will be sent to all members as soon as we have the details worked out.

TED 2010

Lenape has again had another successful TED. Most of the drama around TED 2010 involved where we were going to hold it! The camp we had used in previous years was unavailable – and after checking out a number of other options, we went back to the Lebanon Town Hall.

This year we tried something new – having a yahoo list for the attendees – so they were able to introduce themselves beforehand and we could distribute some preliminary literature. As a result, many of the people came ready to track!



Another new thing we did this year was to create a workbook for the participants, where we printed out copies of all the slides so they could make notes as the day went along.

The participants gave us a lot of positive feedback, so we think we did a good job!

As usual, club members came out in force to help:

- Peter Acerra
- Anna Burbank
- James Bunderla
- Gina DeAlmeida
- Janet Doerer
- John Etchells
- Pat Etchells
- Peg Forte
- Alyson Fuge
- Nancy Grove
- Sandy Hambrech
- Gerry Harmer
- Lynn Kwiatkowski
- Ro Laubach
- Susan Palius
- Carol Shields
- Chuck Shultz
- Gail Thompson
- Martha Windisch
- Andrae Wood

TED & TED Follow-ups
 Reported by Pat Etchells
 Photos by Jim Bunderla & Nancy Grove

TED FOLLOW-UPS



The first follow-up was at Tetertown, with Peg leading the program on turns.



The next one took us to Deer Path Park, where Martha talked about lead handling.



The third follow-up turned out to be quite a logistical challenge. We couldn't get Tetertown because a camping group had reserved the entire park for the weekend. Deer Path had a fishing derby and a large picnic group on the day we wanted. Finally Peg got in touch with the school opposite the field we had used for TED, and they were fine having us park there and use the field. Rose had just started talking about article indication, and we look across the field and see someone (who was not part of our group) laying a track. The tracker did come over, introduce herself, and let us know what portion of the field she had used. But by then, we had decided to use the grassy strip by the road, since we were more interested in article indication than long tracks.

After having Toro demonstrate a passive indication, Gina went across the road and laid a track for Toro to run after we finished. As we were working the dogs by the school, we watched a mower approach and proceed to start cutting the field – chopping up Gina's flag and one of Toro's drops... (He still indicated the pieces!)

At about that point it seemed wise to just let the dogs socialize with everyone – while we members signed applications from attendees who actually want to be part of Lenape after all this!

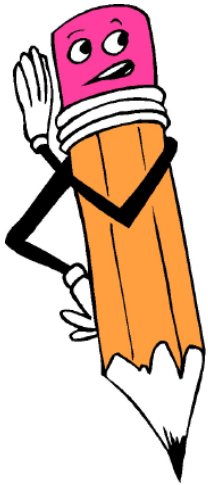
A big thanks go out to the LTC members who came out to work the follow-ups:

Peter Acerra
 Jim Bunderla
 Gina DeAlmeida
 John Etchells
 Pat Etchells

Peg Forte
 Nancy Grove
 Ro Laubach
 Judy Todd
 Martha Windisch



TIDBITS



JANET DOERER's Belgian Malinois **Chase** had a very good time at the Nationals. First he ran a successful TD track, then he Q'd in JWW one day and in Standard the next. He

got his first leg in Versatility and made the cut in Working Sweeps. Then at the GSD Obedience Trial the next day, he got first in Utility, second in Open and High Combined –which gave him his UDX2 and two more OTCH points (to bring his total up to 30).

Toro, GINA DeALMEIDA's Rottweiler, finished his AKC Championship at Bucks County Kennel Club with a 4-point major. He was awarded the American Rottweiler Club's Versatility and Versatility Excellent Awards.



The ETCHELLS' Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever **Diggs** got his first CD leg with a first place rosette at Trenton. He got the second leg a week later at Lancaster KC, and finished at Allentown. He is now Skylark Beachcombin' at Deerhill, CD/RN.

ROSE LAUBACH's Golden Retriever **Phoenix** got his CD with legs at Trenton, Staten Island and Monmouth.

NANCY GROVE writes that her Golden Retriever **Trooper** participates in the Penn Animal Blood Bank donor program and has donated his first gallon. Nancy has been participating with her dogs since 1988. In 1991 the U of P began a Bloodmobile program, which made it easier. Trooper follows some large paws and is doing an excellent job of it!



Grady, CHERYL MATTHEWS' Labrador Retriever, finished his UCDX title at PENNJY on 5/22/10, his third birthday, in two days of showing with three upper 190s scores and three first places. He is now UCDX Rocky Creek's Making the Grade CD RE TDX (AKC) TD (ASCA) CD-H NTS

The PIERCES' Labrador Retriever **Mulder** had a great day at Trenton. He got a first leg in Rally Advanced B with nine-year-old RACHEL handling him. Then ANNETTE took him into Versatility and got a first leg.



LILLIAN PUCHALSKI writes that **Dyna**, her Smooth Collie Larlill Tirnanog Wild One CD HIC RN BPD BH, got her second leg in Rally Excellent at Berks. "We tried for a leg at Allentown but she smelled something on the ground as soon as we walked into the ring. Could not get the nose off the ground. She finished the course but was so angry at me for telling her to get her nose off the ground she took the toys and balls and tossed them. So we NQed. Do not think I will do any more shows outside with her. One more to go then she can use her nose all she wants."

CHUCK SHULTZ's Labrador Retriever, **Retro** earned the first two legs of her AKC Rally Novice title at the Western Pennsylvania Kennel Association in March, and she finished at Trenton Kennel Club on May 9th, with three first place finishes and one perfect score of 100. At PENNJY Obedience Club on May 22 and 23, she earned her UKC CD title with one second place finish. At the Shore Classic in Freehold on Memorial Day weekend, she earned her AKC CD title, with one fourth place finish. Also at the Shore Classic, she earned her AKC Rally Advanced title, with one first and one second place finish. She is now U-CD Gullwing's Living in the Past, CD, RA, CGC

JUDY TODD reports that at the Saturday show of the Cherry Blossom cluster, **Merlin** (Ch. Greywoode Merlin, JE,TDI,CHIC) entered the Rally Novice competition and earned his second leg on the title. On Sunday he finished his title. Then at the Border Terrier Nationals, he got a second leg toward his JWW Agility title and placed in the Working Dog

conformation class. In agility over the Memorial Day weekend he placed first in Novice Standard on Saturday and on Sunday he placed second and earned his NA title and also finished his JWW title with a second place.



PEG FORTE had a great May! At the Pembroke Welsh Corgi specialty **Torrie** earned her fifth RAE leg, placing third in Excellent and second in Advanced. She also was third in Veteran's Bitch. At Plainfield she earned her sixth RAE leg with a fourth in Excellent. Then at Bucks, Flat-Coated Retriever **Tex** earned his second RA leg with a second. He also earned his UKC CD at the PENNJY trial, qualifying in three of the four trials. And in the breed ring, Flat-Coated Retriever **Wyn** was WB and BOS for a 3-point major. At Trenton she again won AmBred, and at Plainfield was WB and BOS for 1 point



Further news from JUDY TODD is that at the Cherry Blossom cluster, on April the 24th, **Raisin** (Ch. Stonecroft Raising A TallyHo, SE,RA,CGC,CG,WC,TDIA,VX,C HIC) placed first in her Rally Excellent class and earned her first leg towards the title. The next day she once again qualified and earned her second leg. In May she went to North Carolina for the Nationals and finished her RE title with a placement. Also at the Nationals she was awarded the Border Terrier Club of America's Versatility Excellent Title.



MEMBERSHIP

The following persons have submitted an application for membership. He/she will become a member unless the secretary, Carol Shields, 791 Palmer Avenue, Holmdel, NJ 07733, receives any letters of objection within 4 weeks of the mailing of this newsletter.



David Brown, 260 Howard Ave, Rochelle Park, NJ 07662-3421
(201) 906-8613 - <dbcb713@verizon.net>
St. Bernard – Suzie; Bloodhound - Miley
Sponsors – John Etchells, Pat Etchells
Attended – TED, Follow-ups 1, 2 & 3



Melanie Dubberley, 526 Sycamore St., Rahway, NJ 07065-2524
(732) 340-0570 - <tracknzdog@yahoo.com>
Mudi - Zenta
Sponsors – Jim Bunderla, Nancy Grove
Attended – TED, Follow-up 2

Cynthia Fellows, 49 East Madison Ave, Florham Park, NJ 07932-2632
(903) 224-1101 - <cwfellows@optonline.net>
Mix - Pearl
Sponsors – John Etchells, Pat Etchells
Attended – TED, Follow-ups 1 & 3



Christine Macchione, 4 Kuzyk Road, Cream Ridge, NJ 08514-2440
(609) 758-1752 - <cymacc@comcast.net>
Doberman - Red
Sponsors – Rose Mary Laubach & Lisa Pattison
Attended – TED, Follow-up 3



Kathy Schleeauf, 28 Summit Drive, Tabernacle, NJ 08088-9146
(609) 268-3359 - <kschleeauf28@comcast.net>
Chesapeake Bay Retrievers – Carly, Izzie
Sponsors – Jim Bunderla, Nancy Grove
Attended – TED, Follow-ups 1 & 2



Sue Spachmann, 259 Sunnybrook Road, Barrington, NJ 08007-1455
(856) 310-0633 - <suespach@yahoo.com>
Chesapeake Bay Retrievers – Rafter, Thunder
Sponsors – Nancy Grove, Jim Bunderla
Attended – TED, Follow-ups 1 & 2



Carol Wyatt, 114 Hilltop Rd., Basking Ridge, NJ 07920-1321
(908) 510-3602 - <carol@wyattmail.com>
Pembroke Welsh Corgi – Eppy, Nugget
Sponsors – John Etchells, Pat Etchells
Attended – TED, Follow-ups 1 & 3

A GRADY TDX ;-)

Cheryl Matthews



April 18, 2010 – The day started right. It was cool, fairly cloudy, light breeze with highs expected in the upper 50s to 60 degrees; perfect weather for tracking. This particular spring started out very wet, but now had been mostly dry for several weeks. The unseasonably warm temperatures of the prior weeks had resulted in Mohunk Fields growing lush and green. As I looked at the fields that morning, I recalled the spring test two years earlier when I was an observer. That year the fields were still brown after winter's end; what a contrast. Regardless of the seemingly prime conditions, this handler had learned some lessons in her prior tests and was not going to be outdone by parting clouds and a hot, panting dog. Have you ever tried sniffing while panting? Prior to the drawing for tracks I exercised Grady and doused him with three gallons of water from home. I then dipped each of his paws into a bucket of water.

With my test entry I had applied two worker option slips towards the worker option track but did not get drawn in on the worker option. I was drawn entrant #6 of the six tracks. So

now, on test day, our track would be the one that was left after the first five entrants had drawn for tracks. We were lucky – it was track #2! I like to go early and get it over with; less time to stew and be nervous. The first track went to tracking Judge Ilene Morgan and her 18-month-old chocolate Lab bitch. They made it look easy and for the most part motored right on down the track to the finish. First track, first pass... I'm feeling good about this. I was also determined that pass or fail we were not going to repeat any of the errors of prior tests. My mind was re-playing a mantra – watch the transitions, remember to back-up if needed, ask him if he's sure if he's not appearing committed and so on. I re-wet down Grady and put him back in the car.

I elected to drive rather than walk the short distance to the track's start, which was in the field adjacent to Gate House Road. At the car, I put Grady's harness on, donned my fanny pack (complete with balled up spare tracking line and two bottles of water) and attached Grady's tracking line to his collar. I walked him over to about 10 feet from the start flag. After switching the lead attachment from collar to tracking harness, I knelt down to share a few words with my dog and released him to the start. Grady had a nice, clean start. He indicated the start article, a glove, with his usual pick-it-up-drop-it-and-sit indication. He proceeded with commitment as I played out 20 feet of line and was pulled to follow. I'm not sure how far into the first leg we were, I want to guess 50 yards perhaps, when from my left I could hear and

marginally see a guy with a large black dog walking across Gate House Road towards us. The dog's barking and lunging spooked Grady and he stopped to stare. I recalled words from my obedience instructor about not acknowledging distractions in other rings because then my dog would pay more attention to them too. I looked straight ahead in the direction we had been going and told Grady to get back to work. He shot forward a few paces in sort of a crouched down position as if he was afraid but unsure where to go. The other dog was still barking. I could hear the judges saying something behind me but couldn't make out what. Grady stopped again. He was trying to look back now to where the dog was as they were now behind us; I presume walking the other way. I heard the man say he was sorry. I told Grady to get back to work a second time and off we went.

We continued straight down the short grass part of the field and eventually entered taller cover. In the tall cover we made a right turn and crossed the far end of the tree-lined road where folks park when training at the fields. After crossing the road we continued straight another 45 yards before making a right out of the tall cover and into the shorter, green grass again. Grady tracked through the first set of cross-tracks without visible acknowledgement. He found his second article, a small coin purse. We continued straight, and then a left turn and now we were in the middle of the field. Grady was slowing down. He veered off our straight path to the right several feet and was expressing much interest in something there. Since I was the required 20 feet

back I could not see what it was but surmised that for this much interest it was either a dead something or a hole where a live something lived. After a reminder to "track, track, find it" he returned to work. As I passed, I gave a glance and saw some white things pressed into the dirt which may have been old bones. Grady was still moving slower than he had been. A few yards further. Now he was veering off to the left and the right in a meandering sort of way (as compared to how he was tracking previously). I wasn't certain if he was checking out a corner, goofing off, becoming hot or had found more cross-tracks. While he was panting a little, I was thinking perhaps he was goofing off after the veering off for the dead thing. I was kind of annoyed. I held my ground and reminded him to track and asked him, "Is that your track, are you sure?" each time he stopped to sniff a different patch of grass. In case he was thirsty, as I did at each article that day, I offered him some water. However throughout the track he wouldn't take any. After some more sniffing around he returned back to where he started and continued on straight ahead another 60 yards to a left, sort of open turn. The judges later told me he had been checking out the second set of cross-tracks.

After the left turn Grady spied his third article, a hat. We continued on after the article and soon entered the woods. In

the woods Grady indicated loss of scent. I backed up a few feet and watched him. His lead got a little tangled around the trees as he went round. It wasn't too bad. I did my best to keep my eyes on him and untangle it at the same time. This is a skill I am honing the more I do it. As soon as Grady determined it was a right turn he was off again. Then it was all I could do to keep up with him. When he found the final article in the woods, a glove, at first I thought perhaps it was an "extra" article, something the tracklayer had inadvertently dropped. I called out, "I have 4 articles, are we done?" When the judges said yes I couldn't believe we'd done it; I was so pleased! I haven't had a track end in the woods before so it was unexpected. Grady had completed his 930-yard track in 14 minutes.

In the end five out of six teams passed that day which must be some kind of record. I can tell you there was a great energy in the air and it was a thrill to have so many passes and so many ecstatic people. The conditions were right, the judges experienced, the tracks were well thought out and the handlers were not "newbies" to the test. Even though I am a member of HVTC, I have only tracked at Mohunk fields twice. The first time was 9/14/08, a week after Grady earned his TD. George Bennett laid us a TD track which Grady ran perfectly. We also did another short track that day with an obstacle and cover transition.

The second time we tracked Mohunk was on 11/2/08 when Paul D'Orenzio laid Grady a TDX-like track (except it did not have cross-tracks and was only around 600 to 650 yards). So while Grady hadn't been there in a year and a half, I knew he liked those fields.

I want to say thank you to everyone who participated as you ALL made it a great day. Thank you to HVTC for hosting the test, the land-owners for allowing us to use their property, judges Ray Desmarais and Stephanie Crawford for their knowledge and experience, my tracklayer for her detailed map and stinky feet, and George Bennett and Chuck Shultz for the beautiful pictures. I'd also like to thank everyone who helped along the way, either by laying tracks, offering advice or just listening while I vented LOL. Thank you to Karin Damon for our strong tracking foundation; without it we would not have been able to achieve this goal. Thank you to Martha Windisch, Susan Palius and Lisa Pattison for consistently laying tracks for us and always lending an ear. Thank you to Kristin Elmini for opening your property to fellow trackers. We've been exposed to the experience of many, many trackers who have more experience than us and are thankful for that.

Most of all I would like to thank my lovely dog, Grady. He is a very special, very sweet dog and not a day goes by that I do not remember that, I love him so! He will be three on May 22. With the right mix of training, opportunity and luck someday we hope to complete his VST, when he will earn his CT. This dog deserved this TDX because I knew he could do it - Go Grady!!! He is now.... UCD Rocky Creek's Making the Grade CD RE TDX TD(ASCA) CD-H.



CRUISER'S AKC TRACKING DOG EXCELLENT TITLING TRACK

By Chuck Shultz



On April 18, 2010, Cruiser successfully ran her track at *Hudson Valley Tracking Club's* TDX test. The conditions were almost perfect - 50°, cloudy, damp and almost no wind. The grass was just the right height-deep enough to hold the scent, but not too deep to slow us down. The day before saw some sleet in the area, which did a good job at soaking the ground.

We drew track number 5 of 6, 985 yards long with 7 legs. She diddled around just a bit at the start, which she always seems to do. Once she started tracking, she looked great. The first leg ran parallel and close to a row of trees. Had the wind been blowing, this can lead to the scent whirling around, but it wasn't a problem today.

The second leg was 200 yards long and went toward the road. A couple was walking their dog on the road, but Cruiser had her nose buried and probably never saw that (unintended) distraction.

She found the second article on the third leg, then continued on to a ditch stream. She jumped into it, investigated it, took a drink from the stream, then climbed out of it. She went left, then right to rule out those directions. I thought there was a cross-track there, but what I saw wasn't laid by the test personnel. It was probably an animal path. Once Cruiser

ruled out those directions, she jumped back into the stream, crossed it and continued on.

Legs 2 and 4 had the cross-tracks on them, but she blew right past those. The fifth leg had the third article, which she also got. At that point, the clouds opened up and the sun hit us. I started sweating, so I threw off my coat. I've never done that before on track, so Cruiser had to look over my coat to see what was going on. One command to get back to work and she headed for the woods.

The woods were short, only 25 yards. As soon as she lead me into them, we went over a small stone wall. We were going so fast, I don't even remember crossing it. Then, a small fork, with two options on where to cross the second stream. With no hesitation, she went for the left fork, which was correct. This stream had a lot less muck to it, but the water was deeper. She had practiced stream crossings and this one was no problem. She went right through it and into a field of high, thorny cover.

As soon as we exited the high cover, there was one last turn toward a horse corral. If the horses were out at the time, she again didn't notice, as she zipped the last 50 yards to the final article. She ran the course in 15 minutes, which is her usual speedy pace.

Perseverance
For those of you considering quitting tracking, let me tell you how long of a journey it has been for Cruiser's TDX. Keep in mind that I *never* had any doubt about either her ability

to do this or her enthusiasm. All of the problems we ran into were just dumb luck - wind, ground or weather conditions, her pulling off in some seemingly random direction, or sometimes it was me holding her back from going the right way. Over two and a half years, here's how it all added up:

- Fifteen tests - 12 AKC and 3 ASCA, covering 10 different venues across 5 states
- A total of \$1,490 in entry fees (for an average of \$99.33 per test)
- 6,406 miles of traveling
- 4 days, 17 hours and 58 minutes of travel time
- The longest single-day trip was to *Tidewater Tracking Club* in Yorktown, Virginia, 351 miles each way, just over 12 hours of driving
- My pick for the best food - *Golden Triangle Dog Training Club* in southwestern PA

Quality in Quantity
In an unprecedented show of tracking expertise, all four dogs running prior to Cruiser passed. Overall, five of the six that ran that day passed, which is almost unheard of in a TDX test. The dogs passing included two other Labradors. Together, the three represented all Labrador colors - black, yellow and chocolate.

4/18/2010 Passing TDX Test at Hudson Valley Tracking Club



TORO'S ASCA TD

By Gina DeAlmeida

April 11th, 2010, Toro and I headed out to try our luck at achieving our ASCA TD. He was the only Rottie attending, of course, and I tried to keep his composure around all the beautiful little Aussie puppies that were in attendance. He wanted so much to forget why we were there & play with all the fluffy babies, but after we had a heart-to-heart conversation, it was time to work! He put his thinking cap on and we headed out to his track.

The fields were beautiful, lush grass with rolling hills. Although it was a little windy that day, we started off heading directly up one of the hills. He fussed a little initially after the second flag, but decided that he would put his mind to it and get tracking. After two turns we headed down into a valley between two of the rolling hills. I couldn't see anything other than grass coming up around me on all four sides. He proceeded to walk down along the bottom of the hills for a while, then made a quick turn



up the steepest of the four grass walls around us. I had a difficult time keeping up with him as he quickly traversed up across the hill.

As we crested the hill he continued out of sight over the top. Luckily I had a 50 foot line on him, because it took me a few extra steps to catch up with him, and I ended up at the end of the line. I collected myself as he took the last turn and gathered up our line to the proper length. I was now ready to continue on, but he quickly sat down!!! We were at the glove already.

Wow, what a work out!!! This ASCA TD track was physically challenging and wonderfully rewarding. Thanks go out to our tracklayer, Lisa, for keeping us on our toes. :)



BRILLIANT IDEAS

Judy Todd just returned from her Nationals with a great suggestion for tracking flags and streamers: put notes on them so they're identifiable as training flags!



Prospective member Carol Wyatt has an innovative tracking bag!



A HOPE-FULL EASTER



It was Easter morning,
with fog on the pike.
We headed to Maryland,
with a TD in sight.

With "thanks for the memories,"
"Hope" snuggled in her crate,
Onward to Elkton
to learn of our fate.

Arrived at the welcome tent,
there was coffee and a bun.
As we waited for the draw
out came the sun.

My pick was third,
George said take the blue.
When I looked at my choice
it couldn't be true.

The track that I picked
was track number ten!!
I looked at poor Hope
laying quietly in her pen.

The wait seemed forever,
but our time did arrive.
I looked at the course
and hoped we'd survive.

There was a terrier to my right,
and horses on my left.
There was a marsh on leg one
and a hill with a cleft.

Hope wasn't too sure,
with all the activity around.
She finally decided to
to put her nose to the ground.

She had no problem,
as she went through the muck,
Unfortunately for me,
lost my shoes in mud-suck.

With my shoe in my left hand,
and line in my right,
I hoped and I prayed,
to keep Hope in my sight.

She melted into her first turn,
and onto leg two.
It was getting quite hot
without a cloud in sky blue.

I offered Hope water
as I got back in my shoe.
She guzzled it down
with energy renewed.

She tracked very well
on leg two and leg three
But on leg four
the horses she did see.

Onward she tracked,
the horses quite near
I told her they were friendly,
she had nothing to fear.

She continued to track,
keeping horses in sight.
She passed turn four,
but realized her plight.

We backed up until
she picked up the scent.
She made turn four
and away we went.

Hope continued on course,
indicated the glove.
I bounded to her
not needing a shove.

I hugged her and praised her
"we did it" I did scream.
The judges came running
saying she tracked like a dream.

Submitted by: Rose Mary Laubach 5/25/10

TORRIE EARNS ASCA TD

by Peg Forte



The GSASA held an ASCA Tracking test on Friday, May 28, 2010. It was a two-track test open to Australian Shepherds first and then to other breeds. In order for Torrie, my Pembroke Welsh Corgi, to enter she needed to be registered with the ASCA.

This test had two tracks. One track went to an Australian Shepherd and the other to Torrie. The alternate track went to an Australian Shepherd who was seeking certification.

The test was held at Hope Wind Farm in Lafayette, NJ. The judges were Deb St. Jacques, Argyle, NY, and provisional judge, Lisa Pattison (a longtime Lenape member), Port Murray, NJ.

When I arrived at the test site I learned that the tracks were plotted the previous afternoon with thunder and lightning happening all around the area, but the intrepid judges and tracklayers persevered.

The temperature was 58 degrees, the hayfields had grass that was up to two and a half feet tall and very wet from the previous days' rain. This made the conditions very favorable for the dogs.

We selected one of the soft hamburger toys and found the track #1 on the back of the tag. Then we drove a short way to the field. As soon as Torrie saw the harness and line she knew why we were there. She could barely contain herself while I sorted out the harness and put it on her.

We headed up a short slope to the start flag where we found a small gray sock. Torrie took a quick sniff and off she went. It was rough going for both of us – clumpy wet grass to walk on and tall grasses all around. Laurie Shuren tried to get photos of Torrie tracking but she couldn't see her in the grass. It took Torrie 20 minutes to reach the glove, with some stops along the way to eat the luscious grass. At

one spot on the top of a hill the grass was sparser and there she did check out several directions and then committed to the track by pulling strongly in the correct direction. After another turn she reached the glove.

The judges went on to the second track and Torrie and I worked our way back to the van.

The Judges sheet gave me the information that the track was an hour old when we started. With the great conditions Torrie tracked it as if it had just been laid.

Deb St. Jacques had a dog earn a TD at one of our tests in the mid 90s. This test completed Lisa's requirements and she is now an ASCA Tracking Judge. The second dog passed their track. The Aussie trying for certification was not successful.

As we were waiting for the second track to finish I commented that I was getting a little old to be tracking my dog. One of the people asked me if I knew how old the other handler was, and then they told me she was 75. So I guess I will have to continue tracking for awhile longer.

