

# UBT Trails & Tales

## Newsletter of the United Blood Trackers



January, 2018 Volume 1 Issue 1

### Welcome to UBT Trails & Tales!

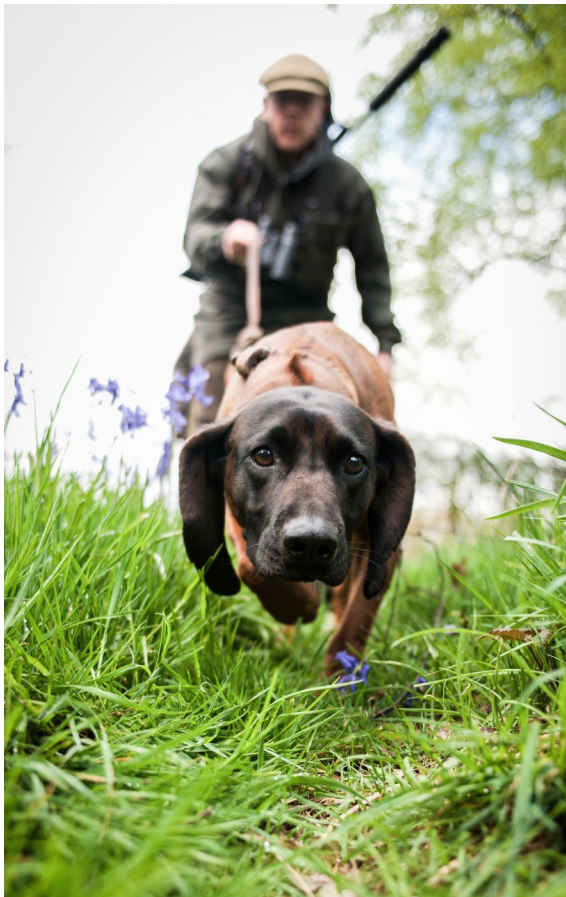
This is our very first newsletter ever published, and we could not be more excited.

We hope you will find this publication to be informative, and sometimes entertaining.

I hope to bring you news of events—both past and upcoming, as well as training tips and features about our membership.

The success of this publication will depend largely on submissions from members. Tracking stories, training articles and photos are welcome.

Above all, this is *your* newsletter and *your* forum for sharing ideas and news with fellow members. If there are articles or features you think could be included, please let us know.



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# A Message from the President

UBT Jan. 2018

Dear United Blood Trackers Members,

First, I would like to thank Linda Bennett for volunteering to be an editor of our new monthly newsletter. It is a big job and Linda has all the necessary qualifications, experience and passion for it. She will, of course, rely a great deal on contributions from our membership, but judging by the volume of posts, stories and pictures on our Facebook Group, she will have plenty of material to choose from.

I don't have numbers to prove it yet but it looks like during this 2017/18 tracking season there have been more trackers in the field helping hunters recover their big game than ever before. I believe that our organization has something to do with it, and we should take pride in this accomplishment. By the way, we would like you to submit your numbers of tracks taken and deer recovered through a survey on our website [www.unitedbloodtrackers.org](http://www.unitedbloodtrackers.org). The survey will be available by March 1, after all the tracking is completed. You can submit numbers only once, and we are afraid that by turning the survey on earlier, some trackers would be submitting incomplete results. Thank you for your patience! More information will be coming before March 1.

One of the huge success stories of this tracking season is Oklahoma. This is the first hunting season for tracking wounded game to be legal in this state, and there are already over 50 tracking teams signed up on the Oklahoma Deer Recovery Facebook Group. This number includes 11 UBT tested teams. Such a quick progress is only possible thanks to dynamic leadership shown by people who really care. A big thank you to Jerry Gregston, who is one of them!

Our Trackfest 2018 is going to take place in the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Educational Facility in Edmond, OK, on April 13-15, 2018. This is a wonderful facility that sits on 520 acres on the south side of Arcadia Lake in Edmond, on the edge of Oklahoma City. No doubt this event is going to help to educate

and recruit trackers in the state. Cliff Shrader, Alan Wade and Jerry Gregston are working hard on making this the best Trackfest ever.

Make sure that you take advantage on our new and improved Find-a-Tracker map. We owe a big thank you to Andy Bensing for volunteering for this project. The new map makes it possible for a hunter to find trackers in his area by entering his location. Now the hunter can enter his city and state or ZIP code and a pinned map comes up showing the closest trackers. It is accompanied by a list of trackers, sorted by distance. The old Find-a-Tracker map is still there and works like it always did doing a search by state. The new system has a feature that the old system did not. Now a UBT member can go into his or her profile and enter up to three different ZIP codes to customize their tracking territory. This is a feature that should be very helpful for trackers who are willing to travel long distances or spend different times of the tracking season in different locations.

On January 9, 2018, our Board of Directors had a meeting, and we agreed to form a UBT Legislative Committee. We receive a lot of inquiries from the states where tracking dogs are still illegal. The committee will be able to provide assistance, information and support to the individuals working towards making tracking dogs legal in their state or trying to improve their current laws. I think people who have gone through this experience themselves would be invaluable. So far we have John Jeanneney, Darren Doran and Jerry Gregston. Who else would like to serve on the committee?

When it comes to legislation, it looks like we are going to have a major cause for celebration. Our UBT member Darren Doran has been working on making tracking dogs

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There are some people so experienced in dog training, they just know what to do and when to do it. It's like the skills are second nature, and lo and behold, out of their efforts comes a spectacularly trained dog. Most of us aren't like that.

For the rest of us, especially if we have more than a good companion in mind when we come home with a pup, we need to have put a bit of thought into what we're going to do – and how we're going to do it. Creating a training plan can be a tricky business. You can have good intentions and a detailed plan, all laid out and shiny when the puppy comes home, and find it goes sideways within a month! Puppies don't always follow the plan. So flexibility is a must.

But generally, it's best to have a plan, whether you see it in your head, or on a chart on the wall to check off mastered skills.

### The Ultimate Goal

Saying, "I want a blood tracking dog" is the place to start, but it's not enough. You need to see the final



*Texas Blue Lacy*

product – that means you can close your eyes and literally watch the dog run the track, see the concentration on the work, notice how the dog solves problems, picture the deer at the end of the trail...

Knowing what you ultimately want is essential, or you're going to bounce around from this to that without any clue of where you'll wind up. Some folks are really good at "winging it," but when you have a big job for the dog, the journey there is long enough without wandering down squirrel trails – literally!

### Break the Goal into Parts

What do you need to train to get that reliable blood tracking dog? As an over simplified example, let's say you want to train a dog to track 1,000 yards with little or no blood after 24 hours.

### Break the Parts into Specifics

Distance, amount of blood, age of track. Extend the difficulty of each specific item, one at a time. Don't decrease the amount of blood in the same session you increase the age of the track. Set up a realistic training schedule for how often and for how long you will train each day – or week.

### Problem Solving

With any living creature comes communication and motivation issues. The best laid plans, of the most experienced trainers, will inevitably have a few kinks in the hose. A 12-week-old pup is not the same dog at eight months; they change as they develop.

Each dog will have their own ways of learning, and individual motivations that you'll have to take into account. You'll learn something from every new dog, which is part of the reward of training your own dog. It can be a frustrating, triumphant, hair pulling, life enriching journey. It's worth it!

## Upcoming Events

UBT Jan. 2018

### **Wausau Deer Classic & Hunting Expo**

**February 9–11, 2018**

**Booth**

**1010 Market Street, Rothschild, WI 54474**

### **Texas Lacy Game Dog Association—TLGDA Blood Trailing Seminar**

**February 24–25, 2018**

**Workshop & Testing**

**Covered Gate Ranch, Uvalde, TX**

**Contact: Kenny Wall 281-844-0969 [Kenneth.Wall60@yahoo.com](mailto:Kenneth.Wall60@yahoo.com)**

### **UBT Trackfest 2018**

**April 13–15, 2018**

**Seminar & Testing**

**Edmond, OK**

**Contact: Jerry Gregston [Jerry.Gregston@yahoo.com](mailto:Jerry.Gregston@yahoo.com)**

### **Jagdterrier Club**

**June 8–10, 2018**

**Seminar & Testing**

**Aberdeen, SD**

**Contact: Derek Efraimson 605-228-9294 [DEfraimson81@gmail.com](mailto:DEfraimson81@gmail.com)**

*If you have an event coming up, please let us know! We will be glad to promote any UBT sanctioned event.*

# President’s Message (cont.)

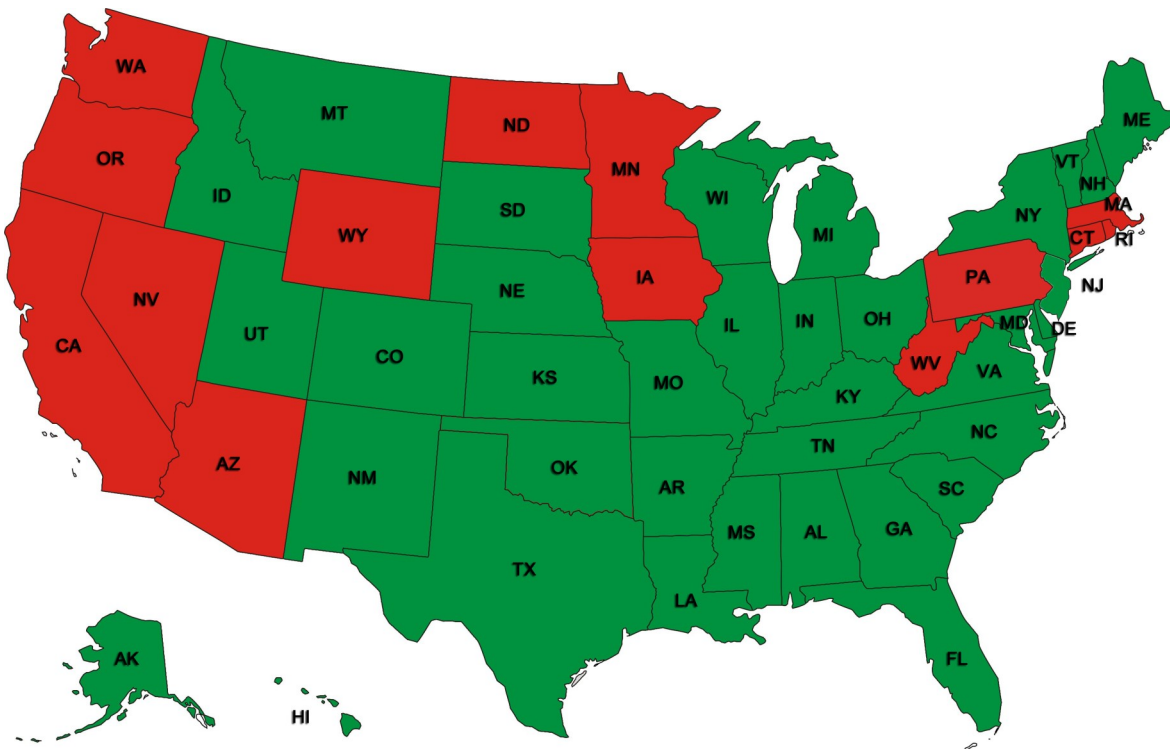
legal in New Jersey for many years. Just a few days ago New Jersey Assembly Bill A1616 was voted on and it has unanimously passed the State Assembly. The bill has now been signed by Governor Chris Christie, and has become law. We hope that Pennsylvania follows.

Some states where it is legal to use tracking dogs do not allow trackers to carry a weapon. On January 10, 2018, a new Virginia bill has been introduced in Virginia General Assembly, which authorizes a licensed tracker to have a weapon in his possession and to use it to humanely kill the tracked animal. Please go to <https://www.richmondsonlight.com/bill/2018/hb995/> and submit supportive comments. We thank Fadi Bakhouth, a UBT member from Huddleston, VA, on pushing for this improvement.

Things happen and progress is made when people care and get involved. Be one of them. Many of us got inspired by John Jeanneney, so I would like to leave you with his quote that I came across Facebook today. During a banquet at Trackfest 2017 in Berne, NY, John said: "The relationship between tracker and their dog is special; it is not one of command and obey. The dog is neither tool nor toy, you are partners giving each other advice. Each brings something to the work that the other doesn't have and cannot do alone."

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Green — Tracking allowed  
Red — No Tracking allowed

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*United Blood Trackers is dedicated to promoting resource conservation through the use of trained tracking dogs in the ethical recovery of big game. We support recovery efforts afield, the education of hunters, the training and testing of dog handlers and their dogs, and legislative efforts to promote blood tracking*

*UBT Trails and Tales is published on a monthly basis.*

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