

UBT Trails & Tales

Newsletter of the United Blood Trackers



February, 2018 Volume 1 Issue 2

From the Editor's Desk

For those of us in the northern states, tracking season ended a month or two ago. For those in the southern climes, the season has just ended. Welcome to the winter doldrums!

But cheer up... Training season and events are just gearing up. Who doesn't look forward to getting out with training partners and reconnecting with more distant friends at the various tracking events that are available to us? And I'm sure we all feel there are things we can brush up on over the summer months.

In this issue, you'll find information on Trackfest,

UBT's flagship event. This year, Trackfest will be held in Edmond, OK. UBT member Jerry Gregston and his helpers are all excited to be hosting this year, and have been working hard to make sure everything comes off without a hitch.

There are several other events and seminars coming up. You'll find some listed here; if you are planning an event, and would like to have it promoted here, please just send me the info!



Photo from the Texas Lacy Game Dog Association annual Tracking Seminar. The event was held at Covered Gate Ranch, Uvalde, TX.

Inside this issue:

Tracking Around the World	2
UBT Trackfest	3
Calendar	4
Promoting UBT	5
UBT Leaders	6

Tracking Around the World

Jerry Russell

UBT Feb. 2018

We often discuss the big differences in tracking laws and styles in the US and Canada. The differences are pretty big from region to region but if you travel around the world you will find that not only do styles differ greatly but also how dogs are deployed on tracks.

We have had the opportunity to use tracking dogs in Namibia Africa on numerous species from antelope species to dangerous game like leopards.

The number one breed of dog that is used is the Jack Russell terrier. It is quite a sight watching three to four bushmen trackers silently following a bow-shot animal, each of them with a Jack Russell tucked under their arm. If the animal is jumped, the trackers drop the pack of terriers and the animal is bayed in seconds.

It is amazing to see these tiny little dogs holding a 2,000 pound eland at bay or fighting a fierce warthog.

I did notice a disconnect between the professional hunters and the dogs in camp. I noticed during one

period that while the dogs are well cared for, they never touch the dogs.

I just had to ask why. It was explained to me that the dogs have a short life span due to being lost in fights with the various animals. The PH said it is as simple as they could not afford to get attached to the dogs emotionally.

It certainly tugged on the heart strings for me. Sadly, we witnessed this when one of the tracking dogs followed a big wounded warthog into a burrow and was mortally wounded. A bushman tracker and I stood together with the badly wounded dog lying between us. We didn't speak the same language but I will never forget the sadness we shared that night as the pup named Bullet passed on.

On a lighter note, they had no issues with us showing the dogs love so every night around the fire I would have 6-8 dogs wrestling for a spot in my lap. The nights would get chilly and we would find the entire dog pack in a tight wad trying to stay warm.



UBT TRACKFEST 2018

April 13-15, 2018, EDMOND, OK

United Blood Trackers is holding a three day **Blood Tracking Workshop on April 13-15, 2018**, at the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Building at Arcadia Lake in Edmond, OK, which is on the north edge of Oklahoma City. This workshop is for both beginning and advanced handlers, as well as anyone else interested in learning more about the use of tracking dogs for the recovery of wounded big game.

United Blood Trackers will offer evaluations of tracking dogs at UBT-I, UBT-II, and UBT-III levels on Friday, April 13, 2018. To sign up and for more information about evaluation requirements go to our website www.unitedbloodtrackers.org. If you would like to enter a dog in any of the offered tests, preregistration is required, and you can register online.

On Saturday, April 14, we will be holding the popular Hit Site Evaluation Seminar. This simulation, with the use of a roadkill deer, will focus on determining where you have hit the deer, reading sign at the hit site as well as reading sign along the trail in order to develop the proper strategy for tracking that particular animal with or without a dog.

On Sunday, April 15, we will have a presentation on Canine First Aid in the Field.

Other topics that will be covered in this seminar are:

- * How to interview hunters before taking the call
- * The nature of scent
- * European tracking techniques
- * On lead and off lead tracking
- * The handler's relationship with a tracking dog
- * Equipment- what is in my tracking bag?
- * Line handling
- * GPS use and Phone Apps
- * Early conditioning of tracking dogs
- * Addressing problems in training and tracking

Demonstrations in the field will be focused on reading a tracking dog and improving handling skills.

The workshop instructors will be UBT Judges Andy Bensing (PA), Cheri Faust (WI), Larry Gohlke (WI), Jerry Gregston (OK), Cliff Shrader (LA) and other experts in the field.

Keynote speakers will be UBT Judge JJ Scarborough (MS) and Marianne Jacobs(Luxembourg)

Canine First Aid topic will be presented by Dr. Bryan Wright (OK).

Upcoming Events

UBT Jan. 2018

UBT Trackfest 2018

April 13—15, 2018

Seminar & Testing

Edmond, OK

Contact: Jerry Gregston Jerry.Gregston@yahoo.com

3rd Annual Alabama Blood Trailing Seminar

Saturday, May 5, 2018 7:30 AM—4 PM

Farquhar Cattle Ranch, Greensboro, AL

Contact Paul Couget: PCouget@gmail.com

Jagdterrier Club

June 8—10, 2018

Seminar & Testing

Aberdeen, SD

Contact: Derek Efraimson 605-228-9294 DEfraimson81@gmail.com

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

UBT Jan. 2018

Promoting UBT



UBT was well represented at the Deer & Turkey Expo in Wausau, WI. Thanks to
Tori Freed
Dave Schafhauser
Shane Wiest
Mike & Holly Weatherwax
For helping man the booth!



If you are promoting UBT and tracking at an event, please send a photo!

UBT Leaders for 2018

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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

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