

The Blood Tracking Workshop on June 21 and 22 was a success surpassing all expectations. Duane and Ginny Bush hosted the affair at their hunting cabin and Hunting Revier at Clymer in western New York. Their hospitality contributed much to the atmosphere of the whole weekend. We were a long way from motels and everyone slept on site

There were 16 NATC members who attended as well as Bush family and friends who had become caught up in blood tracking. Rainer Gerngross from Colorado and Phil Bird from Texas flew in to give this workshop a record level of participation. Sian Kwa drove all the way from North Carolina and Larry Gohlke came with his daughter from Wisconsin. In total 28 dachshunds participated in the field activities.

On Saturday morning in the barn Duane presided over a discussion of blood tracking training and practice. In the afternoon puppies went to the field and worked training blood lines. We saw impressive puppy work.

On Saturday evening there was a lively meeting of the Spurlaut Committee which put final touches on the rules proposal before it dissolved into an extended session of conviviality moderated by former NATC President Jolanta Jeanneney.

Sunday there was a gun shyness test, and later the more mature, experienced dogs worked blood lines laid the day before. Certain dogs demonstrated their readiness for the formal NATC Blood Tracking Test, which will take place in September at the Zuchtschau. Puppy work continued.

Rip Urmann, a local Pennsylvania hunter, dachshund man and blood tracker recorded the events of the two-day workshop in an amusing and



Display of tracking leashes

educational video, which is well worth seeing even if you did attend the workshop

One of the highlights of the weekend was the human Schlaflaut* competition. Preliminaries were conducted in the Bush hunting cabin on Friday night. The finalists were relegated to the Bush barn for the following night.

NATC thanks the Bush family for providing the ingredients for NATC's best workshop ever. The workshop participants included (in alphabetical order): Terry and Amanda Ames, Phil Bird, Don Bonsteel, Duane, Ginny and Carl Bush, Rainer Gerngross, Larry Gohlke, Carrie Hamilton, John and Jolanta Jeanneney, Maryellen Jones, David Kawami, Anke Masters, Patt Nance, Rip Urmann, Kathleen and Michelle Vincent, Laurel Whistance-Smith.

* "Schlaflaut", a close cousin of "Spurlaut", is derived from the German words Schlaf (sleep) and laut (loud).



Patt Nance, Maryellen Jones, Don Bonsteel, Phil Bird and Carrie Hamilton.

NATC Blood Tracking Workshop—Feedback

I would like to thank Duane and all of his helpers for the absolutely fantastic workshop. Ginny and Duane's hospitality were wonderful. I truly enjoyed myself.

Carrie Hamilton

Carrie, I think that it was a wonderful weekend everyone seemed to enjoy. I want to thank you, David, Anke, John and Jolanta and especially Duane and Ginny for all your hard work to organize and conduct it so well. Our host and hostess certainly provided us with all the services of a five star hotel. I sincerely wish to thank them for their wonderful hospitality. I know it took them weeks of preparation. It was also wonderful to meet so many new people especially Rainer without whose help I would be still trying to put up my tent!! Good tracking to you all and hope to see everyone in Sept.

Kathy Vincent

I can whole heartedly agree with Kathy ... it was a GREAT weekend and I can't thank Duane and Ginny enough for opening their home to us and conducting such a great seminar. I would also like to thank their friends, who helped so tirelessly and also Carrie and everybody else who had a hand in this.

A BIG THANK YOU!!!

Thanks for everyone who came out and made this a big success!
Anke Masters

thank you!

Hi to All,

Let me also throw in a heart-felt thank you to all who worked, all who attended, and NATC as a body.

As a pioneer of AKC field events in the South, it has always given me great pleasure to watch my friends move out into the bigger "outdoor" world. Now, through NATC our dogs are getting to move much further forward toward real field work. Watching Val work the lines in New York was as thrilling as the day at our first field trial when Mick lifted his nose to the breeze, breathed deeply, and shuddered all over. I knew then and I know now that we are tapping into something primal and exceedingly satisfying to our precious kids.

Every bit as important is a heartfelt thank you to you of NATC for encouraging a spirit of friendship around our events. My personal prayer is that we will always be able to maintain it. The possibility of more competition and/or titles is not going to draw many people from the AKC world but the opportunity to allow our dogs to more fully develop in the midst of good-spirited friendship is a vision with immense appeal.

As a result of this weekend and through the efforts of John and Jolanta, the hyperactive, Texas NATCers are 1) in touch with the dachshund-blood tracking community in Central Texas, 2) are planning our first social get-together to view Rip's video and get to know each other, and 3) are talking about the possibility of having a similar workshop in Texas within the next year. Let me also point out that as, a result of the NATC influence over the past two years, we down here have been introduced to natural den work, flushing (with hawkers), and now game tracking. Also, I don't think that the recent high rankings of NATC related dachshunds in the DCA field champion performance standings is just coincidence.

Thanks to all,

Phil Bird

A personal PS, Patt, Laurel, and Anke, it was great getting to talk and to know each other better.

NATC Blood Tracking Workshop

Training sit-stay: Kathleen Vincent and Duane Bush



Gathering before Gun Shyness Test. From left: Laurel Whistance-Smith, David Kawami, Amanda Ames and Phil Bird



After a long day of work... Our gracious hosts: Ginny Bush, Terri and Amanda Ames, Carl Bush

Patt Nance taking her 13 year old FC Ilsa v Dorndorf L for a walk.

NATC Blood Tracking Workshop



Fun was had by all: Sian Kwa and Maryellen Jones



Larry Gohlke gave Amanda a lesson how to hand strip Amos.



Laurel Whistance-Smith with Schtomphe



In the field: John Jeanneney and Rip Urmann holding Chase

NATC Blood Tracking Workshop

Dogs were the real STARS!

Left: Phil Bird's Val

Below: Carrie Hamilton's Cayenne



Left: Laurel's Stanze

Below: Anke Masters' Netta

