



Scent Theory 101 continued **Cracks**



In 2010 we were asked if our dogs could find burials under asphalt. At that time we did not have much experience doing that kind of work but we said we would like to try. A blind test, with known burials, was set up to see if the dogs could detect ancient burials under asphalt.

Two years prior to us working the area they had removed several patches of asphalt to dig test pits, two intact burials were found, They were left in place, filled back with soil and the asphalt patched. The search area was a small 2

lane road with many patched areas and cracks approximately 40 yards long. We were not told about removing or replacing asphalt, what was found or where they found the burials. We were only asked to have the dogs work the area. Three teams worked it blind from each other, each dropping a flag where their dog alerted. Lynne observed the dogs working as she was not working a dog at that time,(she was also not given any information on where the burials were located or how many) she recorded and took pictures of each dog as they worked. All the dogs seemed to work the cracks and where the cracks intersected they would follow one of the paths that would bring them closer to the location of the burials. All the alerted on a crack near the known burials.



At this location, the patched asphalt was confirmed as containing an intact ancient burial. The colored flags were from different dogs' alerts. The wind increased through the day causing the scent to move around. The orange flags were from the first team working the problem and the blue flag is from the last team to work it several hours later.



Above Echo works scent along a crack in the asphalt. Our dogs each have high visibility vests that they wear if we are working a construction site or along roads.

We routinely work cracks now as they can give us information about direction and areas that might hold burials. New crack-free asphalt or concrete does not allow scent to pass through so we do not work areas like that. We also set up trainings that use cracks so the dogs learn to follow them.

~Adela~

Welcome Alyson and Bryn



Our newest team mate Bryn an English Shepherd owned by Alyson Hart has taken to historical searching very smoothly. Alyson is an experienced handler who has worked in Search and Rescue for many years. Because of her experience, they will get through the certification in no time and are already joining us in the field to gain real world experience.



Hazardous Duty?

There are times when you head out to a project blissfully unaware of what you are getting yourself into. June found us on a project in Minnesota that presented us with conditions we weren't really expecting ... and I certainly wasn't prepared for.

Searching in a "bog" was a first for us. Let me first tell you that rumor has it that the Minnesota state bird is the MOSQUITO. I put that in all caps to accentuate that fact that these suckers (pun intended) are seriously BIG, and come at you in hordes. Fortunately, Larry and Karen were prepared with their mosquito hoods. Personally, I had thought about taking mine, but sadly walked off without it. That will NEVER happen again. We worked close to three miles, with me swatting mosquitos and muttering under my breath. That was a long hour, and I will not be unprepared again.



Karen showing off her mosquito hood and the beautiful, lush bog.

Coming back from dinner the next night, we stopped to watch a massive storm in the distance. The “light show” was impressive. When the wind started up, Karen and I dashed for our rooms to get our dogs out before the rain started. Piper and I stopped to watch the storm as it came a bit closer ... when a 1/2-cup sized DROP of rain splattered at my feet, Piper and I headed in. Soon after, our cell phones went off. Really, they were automatically activated with an emergency alert that there was a **TORNADO WARNING**. That means there is one possibly headed right at you. I’m from California ... we have earthquakes, with no warning. So, a quick call to security at the casino ,where all the bells and whistles in their office were going off, and we were instructed to get down to the 1st floor (our rooms were already there) and to hunker down in the hallway. By this time the sky had opened up and was dumping a deluge onto the earth. Lightening and thunder like we had never heard before. Hail too! Security came through and sent us into a “break room” where we were safe from breaking windows. Pretty exciting stuff. Half an hour later we got the all-clear and the rest of the night was peaceful. The next morning, we learned that over 4” of rain had fallen in about 20 minutes. That is impressive ... and kind of fun.



We were asked if we would come back. Absolutely ... a little weather and hordes of giant mosquitos can't keep us away.

Lynne



Check out our past issues on
our website -
Please feel free to pass our
newsletter along to anyone who
might be interested.

[CLICK HERE](#)



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We are happy to talk with you about your project and

how our dogs might help locate human remains or burials.

Call, email, or check out our website.

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