

SSAR 2019 SPRING HRD SEMINAR INSTRUCTORS

Cynthia Avery

Cynthia has over 23 years in law enforcement, and is a retired detective from the Ann Arbor Police Department in Michigan. She holds a BA in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University. Cynthia has been involved with K9 Search and Rescue since 2006. As an Airscent and IPWDA HRD instructor she contributes her time instructing at seminars in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Mississippi, Virginia, Florida and North Carolina.

Cynthia has deployed through the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the KlaasKids Foundation, TBI and other law enforcement agencies from Michigan to Florida. Cynthia holds K-9 certifications with IPWDA, NASAR, NNCDS, and NAPWDA, in the disciplines of SAR Area Search (Air Scent), Article Search, and HRD (Advanced and Crime Scene HR Detection.) Cynthia's current certified Belgian Tervuren, Nesia is trying to fill the big paws of her retired K-9, Grace.

Cynthia is also an instructor in the field of safety service background investigations; teaching law enforcement agencies throughout the United States. Cynthia brings her skills of homicide investigation, the investigation of violent death, evidence preservation, crime scene training, search and rescue report writing and courtroom testimony to her search and rescue instruction. Cynthia also holds a certification in search management from the Illinois Search and Rescue Council of Search Management and Technical Search Planning as well as a NASAR SARTECH II certification. Cynthia is also a Master Falconer. She trains raptors and hunts with her Harris Hawk and Brittany in her spare time.

Kathryn Gordon, J.D., M.S.W., CCPDT-KA

Kathryn has trained dogs for search and rescue since 2011. She has trained search and rescue handlers and taught weekly obedience and scent detection classes since 2013—developing one of the first and most successful nose work programs in Michigan. She is currently the owner of OnScent L.L.C. a business that teaches scent detection and dog obedience. She also works with clients on resolving a variety of canine behavioral issues, especially canine reactivity. She has experience working with dogs in all of the search disciplines, personally training dogs in trailing and for human remains detection. She currently works with Hexi, a German shepherd, and Gus, a rescued border collie, both of whom are certified as human remains and crime scene detection dogs through the International Police Work Dog Association.

Kathryn, Hexi and Gus have participated in searches across Michigan and Indiana. She has also been called upon to provide independent evaluations for human remains detection K9 teams across the state. Kathryn stays abreast of scientific and legal literature related to scent work and attends numerous trainings and professional conferences on the subject, including the University of Pennsylvania clinic and veterinary conference, the K9 clinic at the Forensic Osteology Research Center in North Carolina, and the recent AKC US Detection Dog Conference. Kathryn has given numerous well-received talks and full and half-day seminars to groups in Michigan and Ohio on canine physiology related to olfaction, scent theory, search strategies, and handling skills. As a former social worker, Kathryn has training and experience dealing with people in crises situations, and with helping people to learn new skills. Kathryn is also a retired lawyer, who worked for a time as an analyst for the FBI. While at the FBI she provided geospatial analysis support to several search operations and acted as FBI liaison to the Department of Homeland Security's Operational Integration Center at Selfridge Airbase. Her background gives Kathryn a different perspective on issues pertaining to SAR, which she brings to her teaching. Kathryn has also successfully completed the National Association of Search and Rescue's SARTECH II training.

Luis Ledbetter

Luis has been a member of the PBSO K9 Unit since 2002 as the Kennel Master. During his tenure he has handled Patrol, Detection, and Trailing Dogs. In 2002, he was awarded the prestigious Trailing Dog Team of the Year award from the FDLE for his role in the recovery of a child that was almost abducted in suburban West Palm Beach. In 2012 he was awarded a Sheriff's Special Recognition Award from the Broward Sheriff's Office for his role the training of their Search and Rescue K9's.

Luis is currently assigned a Human Remains Detection K9 and he works cases all over the state of Florida for multiple local, state, and federal agencies. He has a true passion for dog work and a unique insight into the bond between dogs and humans and is enthusiastic about sharing his experiences. He has been the owner and operator of Tactical Dog Enterprises (TDEK9) for the past 15 years and he has been invited to teach all over the United States and in Europe for Search and Rescue, Military, Law Enforcement, and hobbyists alike.

Paul S. Martin, M.A.

Paul is an affiliate of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS), the Society of American Archaeology, the Society of Exploration Geophysicists, and is the past president of the National Network of Canine Detection Services. He is a member of the AAFS Standards Board Consensus Body for Dogs and Sensors. He is the cofounder of HRD Specialized K9 Training that was established in 2002. He earned his B.S. in Anthropology with a concentration in Forensic Anthropology at Western Carolina University in 2011 and his M.A. at the University of Mississippi in 2015. He is currently a Ph.D. student at the University of Memphis in the Department of Earth Sciences, where his dissertation research is "Traces of Death: Can Cadaver Dogs be Used to Detect Historic and Prehistoric Human Cemeteries on Archaeological Sites."

Since 1997, Paul has been involved with search and rescue, and has specialized in human remains recovery since 2000. He has worked cases and consulted for numerous agencies on the local, state, and national levels in regard to the recovery of human remains. He has presented research to American Academy of Forensic Sciences, the Society for American Archaeology, United South and Eastern Tribes, NSDA, Southeastern Section meeting of the Geological Society of America, NASAR, and the Mississippi Archaeology Association. In 2011, he helped to develop Cadaver Dog Training offered through the Forensic Osteology Research Station (FOREST) at Western Carolina University. This was the first university based program in the country where he served as the coordinating instructor for two different courses there. He was affiliate faculty to the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at WCU from 2012-2017 and has been an assistant instructor for the Field Recovery of Human Remains class from 2012-2015. His major research interests in forensic anthropology include taphonomy, cadaver dogs, geophysical survey methods, recovery, mapping, soil analysis, and theory. He is currently working with his fifth canine partner in the field of human remains detection.

Fred Mendiola

Deputy Mendiola has been with the Brevard County Sheriff's Office since 2000 and a K9 Deputy since 2001 as a Bloodhound K9 handler. Dep. Mendiola has been a Narcotics K9 handler since 2005. He has received several awards for service with the Brevard County Sheriff's Office to include: Law Enforcement's Medal of Valor, J. Edgar Hoover Award, Deputy of the Year for the State of Florida through the Florida Sheriff's Association. He is a member of NCMEC Team ADAM and Orlando Region FDLE CART.

Gregory Strickland

Gregory has worked in law enforcement as a sworn police officer since 1993. During this time, he has held positions in; Road Patrol, Traffic Homicide Unit, Motor Unit, DUI Task Force, Community Policing Unit, K-9 Unit (narcotics detection and search and rescue/recovery) and Detective assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). He has been deployed to hurricanes, plain crashes, Haiti earthquake and other state and local searches as a canine search specialist.

Gregory is a member of Florida Task Force 1 as a FEMA Canine Search Specialist. He is partnered with his FEMA certified live search canine, Indy, and his Human Remains Detection (HRD) canine, May. Gregory is currently a Canine Instructor, Evaluator (Live/HRD) and Mentor with FEMA, a Master Trainer with North American Police Working Dog Association (NAPWDA) Cadaver, an Evaluator with National Entomology Scent Detection Canine Association (NESDCA).