

THE FIRST WORD...

Well, the weather is getting warmer and summer is not too far away. Ol' Jones has gotten his annual letter from the Virginia Beach Chamber of Commerce, once again requesting he not wear a bathing suit or shorts on their local beaches, unless his legs and chest are covered. Seems they have not forgotten what a detrimental economic effect his "whiteness" had on the tourist trade, when he spent a week there during one 4th of July several years ago. Obviously, the Chamber has no sense of humor.

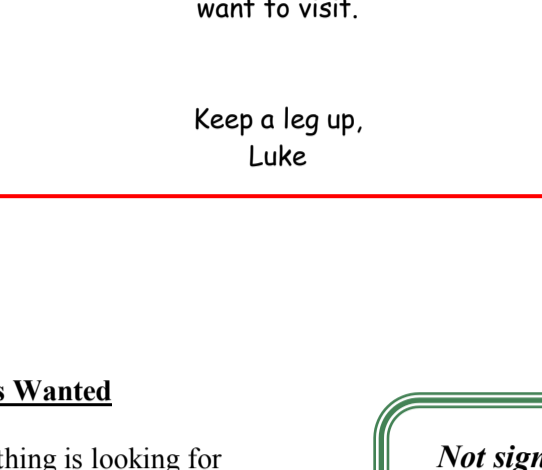


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I thought it rather amusing, watching Ol' Jones swell up like a blowfish, sucking his stomach in when a cute lady was approaching on the beach. Of course, all that air had to go somewhere and it went right to his face, making him look like a pale thermometer suddenly reaching 220 degrees. Also, Ol' Jones learned quickly that the reduction of mass in one area can have an equal affect of mass in another. A deep inhale may shrink the waist line, but gravity will come into play, causing a bathing suit to slip downward. Fortunately, Ol' Jones still has a few quick reflexes left and disaster was averted.

Keep a leg up,
Luke

LUKE'S FUN TIME



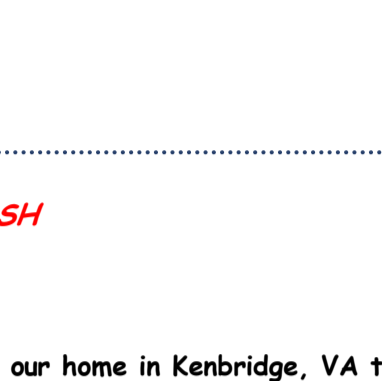
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Ol' Jones was working on a story about German Shorthaired Pointers up near Remington, VA, and decided to take me to see the small town of Culpeper. He stopped in to visit Monroe Baisden who, along with his wife Pat, owns **Chateau du Reaux** www.culpeperwines.com. If you are looking for wines which will impress, and are not found at most wine stores or supermarkets, this would be a place you would want to visit.

Keep a leg up,
Luke

Models Wanted

Really Wild Clothing is looking for "The Face of Really Wild 2008". Aspiring models can apply on line at www.reallywildclothing.co.uk. You must be at least 16 years of age and photos must be received by April 30, 2008.



OFF THE LEASH

Dear Luke,

My wife and I are getting ready to move from our home in Kenbridge, VA to Syracuse, NY. We have two dogs and want to know is there anything that would make the move easier. Any suggestions?

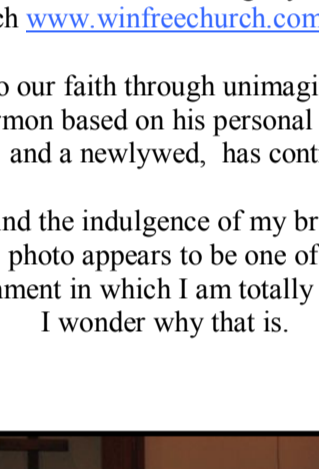
Sam J. Kenbridge, VA

Dear Sam,

Make sure you take their old blankets, toys, dog dishes and anything else that is familiar to your dogs along with you on the trip, and put them in the room or pen where they will be staying. Moving is stressful for everyone involved, but your wife will be the only one to share that with you. Once your pets get acclimated to the area (good luck with winter acclimation for all involved), you can throw the old stuff away and get new dog beds, bowls, etc. Feed your dogs the same food, and try to make things as they were back home. Once the dogs know food is being served at a new spot, and you and your bride appear settled in you new location and routine, you probably will not have any problems.

If you have a cat, you may want to keep it in the house for at least 3 weeks, maybe more, before letting it outside. My experience with cats is when it comes to moving, all bets are off.

Keep a leg up,
Luke



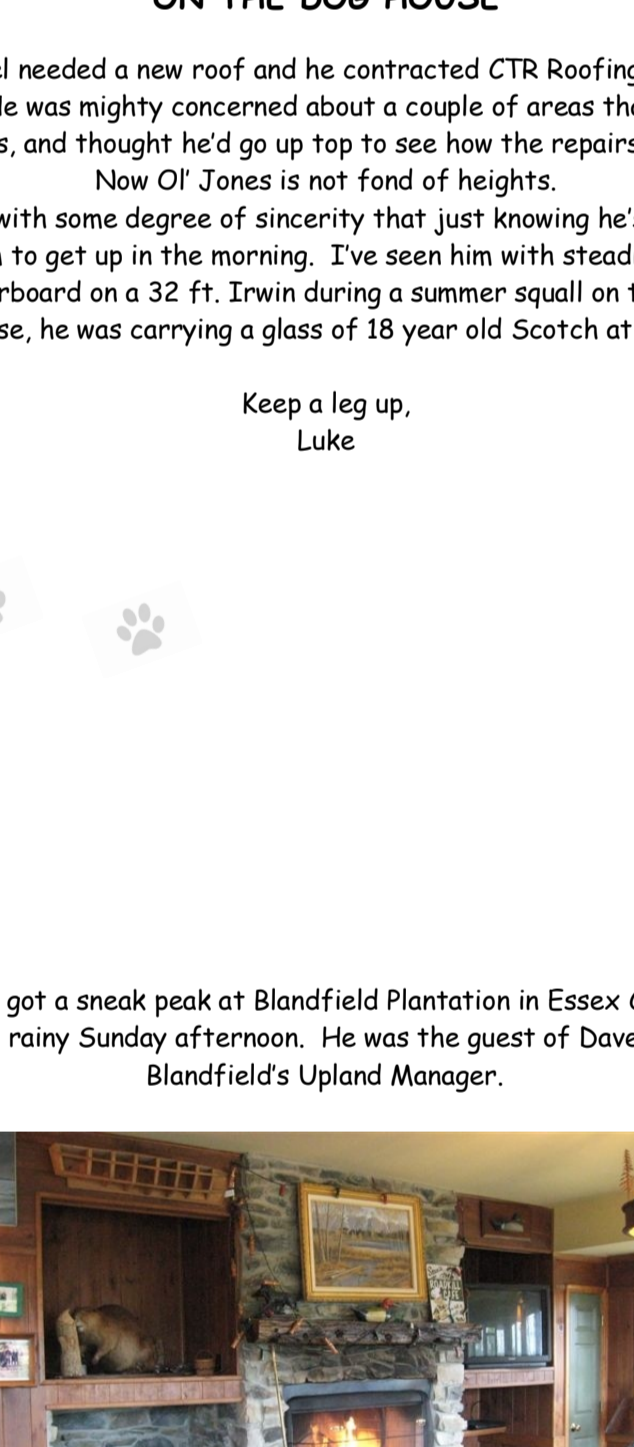
Brotherly Braggin'

About a month ago I had the good fortune of hearing my brother, Peppy, speak at Winfree Memorial Baptist Church www.winfreechurch.com in Midlothian, Virginia.

He talked about holding on to our faith through unimaginable adversity. It was a very moving and meaningful sermon based on his personal experiences of how his only daughter, age 23 and a newlywed, has contracted Leukemia.

I hope all of you will not mind the indulgence of my bragging on one of my younger brothers. His expression in this photo appears to be one of bewilderment as if seeing me in an environment in which I am totally unfamiliar.

I wonder why that is.



ON THE DOG HOUSE

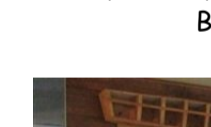
Ol' Jones' kennel needed a new roof and he contracted CTR Roofing in Richmond, VA to do the job. He was mighty concerned about a couple of areas that had been giving him problems, and thought he'd go up top to see how the repairs were coming.

Now Ol' Jones is not fond of heights.

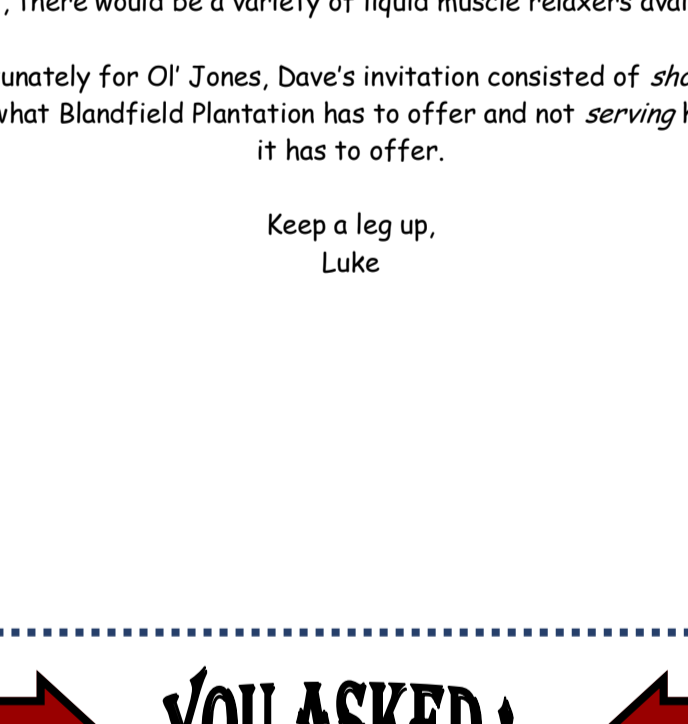
In fact, he says with some degree of sincerity that just knowing he's about 6'5" makes it hard for him to get up in the morning. I've seen him with steadier legs crossing from port to starboard on a 32 ft. Irwin during a summer squall on the Pamlico Sound.

Of course, he was carrying a keep of 18 year old Scotch at the time.

Keep a leg up,
Luke



Ol' Jones got a sneak peak at Blandfield Plantation in Essex County, VA on a cold rainy Sunday afternoon. He was the guest of Dave Pomfret, Blandfield's Upland Manager.

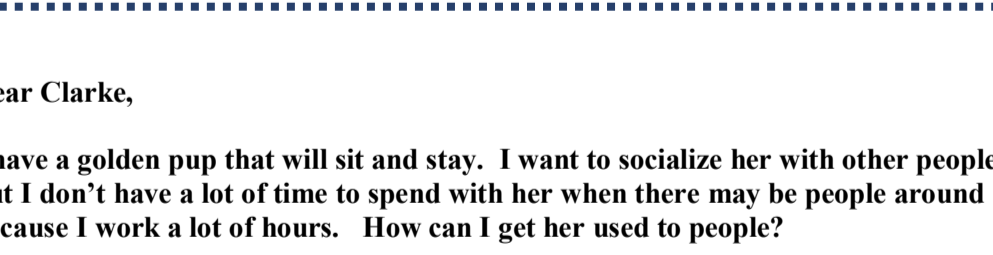


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Here is an interior shot of what it looks like in the guest lounge of the lodge. Dave related how the guests would be cared for as far as dinner and breakfast and cocktails. Seems that after a hard day's travel and hunt, there would be a variety of liquid muscle relaxers available.

Unfortunately for Ol' Jones, Dave's invitation consisted of *showing* Ol' Jones what Blandfield Plantation has to offer and not *servicing* him what it has to offer.

Keep a leg up,
Luke



Dear Clarke,

I have a golden pup that will sit and stay. I want to socialize her with other people but I don't have a lot of time to spend with her when there may be people around because I work a lot of hours. How can I get her used to people?

Harry B. Baltimore, MD

Dear Harry,

While the weather is still cool take your pup to the grocery store, when you have to do a little shopping. Station yourselves in sight of the foot traffic going into the store. Make sure you don't stand so close to the entrance to the store as to invite a crowd that will want to pet your pup. I say this because everyone likes a puppy and until you are certain your pup is comfortable with attention from different people you don't want it overwhelmed with unwanted hands coming at it from all directions. Have your pup sit at your side and stay on lead. If she barks or wants to go to them, correct her. Walk her on lead past the entrance a few times, and have her sit again. While she is behaving, give her a small treat now and then, so she associates sitting and behaving as fun. You will be working on socializing, and your sit and stay commands as well.

Go Well,
Clarke

Dear Clarke,

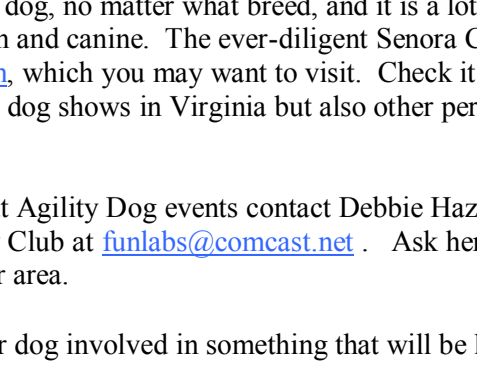
My lab pup (8 months) is very friendly, but sometimes he is hard to control and may pull me instead of walk with me. He also has a tendency to bolt before I am ready to let him out of the car. What should I do?

William P. North Garden, VA

Dear William,

There are several leads and harnesses on the market that restrict the dog's pulling and offer you greater control when walking your dog. However, your letter indicates you may have a bigger issue. Your pup may think he is the one that makes the rules, and I would work to correct this notion as soon as possible. Exuberance in a Lab can make them fun but, unless checked, it can get out of hand and may cause injury to you or your dog. Work on teaching your dog the "WAIT" command and enforce it every time you two go through a door together, walk down steps together, or when opening the car door to let him out. Your dog should learn it isn't going anywhere unless you say so. The sooner your pup learns it is you who controls things, the better off the both of you will be.

Go Well,
Clarke



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THE LAST WORD...

Now I realize that everyone does not have the desire to have their Retriever retrieve birds. And I realize that not everyone has a Retriever. What I didn't realize is there is another sport out there that adults and children can participate in and have a blast with their dog.

I took a trip with Dwight Dyke, nationally known calendar photographer, to Campbell Springs Farm and saw my first Agility Trial. Whether Pug or Mastiff, this is an event you can enter with your dog, no matter what breed, and it is a lot of fun for the participants, both human and canine. The ever-diligent Senora Corté della Queso found a site www.infodog.com, which you may want to visit. Check it out and you will be able to see not only about all dog shows in Virginia but also other pertinent dog show information.

To learn first hand about Agility Dog events contact Debbie Hazel, President of the Central Virginia Agility Club at funlabs@comcast.net. Ask her about other shows and dog agility clubs in your area.

So get yourself and your dog involved in something that will be healthy and enjoyable for the both of you.

Go well,
Clarke