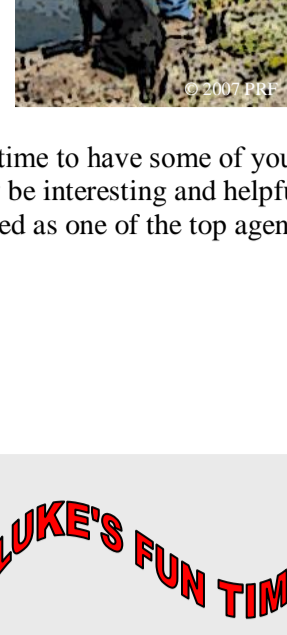


THE FIRST WORD...

There is nothing more gratifying than putting effort into an experiment and find that it was worth it. Thank you all for your positive responses to the first newsletter. It is extremely flattering that so many of you signed up to be placed on the e-mail list for future newsletters. On a sad note Luke and I had to say farewell to Sacamagawopoo, our Indian guide who was so helpful on our trip to Montana, the Dakotas, Wyoming and Idaho. But as Luke always says, "When one window closes another one opens, so watch where you put your fingers." I have been lucky enough to find some one who will take the position of Web Master. She has been living in the US for about ten years and comes from a remote farming community in Spain. Her family was royalty until Franco took over about 50 years ago. She graduated from Immaculata College with a degree in Economic Logic. In Spain she would be known as Senorita Corte Della Queso but Luke and I just call her, "Piernas".



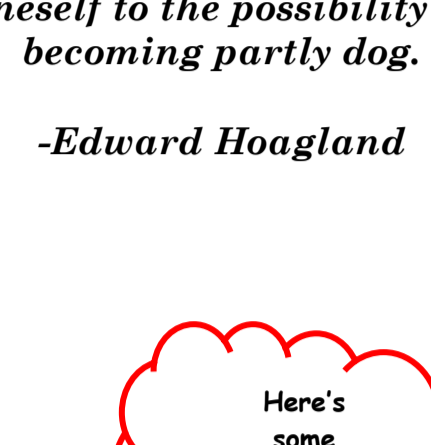
Also in this issue, we are fortunate to have well-known residential real estate agent and Vice-President of Napier Realtors, Lummie (rhymes with Yummy) Jones (no relation—too good looking to resemble anyone in our family) as our first guest writer. It is Luke's idea that from time to time to have some of you write opinions or advice from your particular field that may be interesting and helpful to the rest of our readers. Lummie Jones has been recognized as one of the top agents in the Richmond, Chesterfield, and Powhatan area.

Thank you,
Clarke

In order to really enjoy a dog, one doesn't merely try to train him to be semi-human.

The point of it is to open oneself to the possibility of becoming partly dog.

-Edward Hoagland

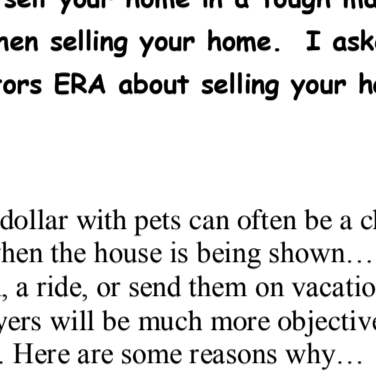


LUKE'S FUN TIME

While some of you went to the "Rivah" this past weekend to stand in line with 30,000 other humans to suck down a mollusk for a few dollars more than you would pay in a good restaurant in Richmond, Piernas and I went to the 73rd running of the Montpelier Hunt Races in Orange, Virginia at the home of James Madison. You can't ask for a more spectacular setting for a race with the fall colors peaking and the Blue Ridge Mountains in the background. Go to www.montpelierhuntraces.com and place your name on the mailing list for tickets to next year's race.

If you are from out of town make a weekend of it by not only seeing James Madison's home and the races but Charlottesville, Monticello and nearby vineyards as well. To really do it right call Scott Parkinson with Camryn Limo in Charlottesville or email them at lumo@camryn-limo.com.

Here's some fetching thoughts...



If you are trying to sell your home in a tough market you want to remove any possible hindrance when selling your home. I asked Lummie Jones, Vice President of Napier Realtors ERA about selling your home if you have pets.

Lummie says:

Selling a home for top dollar with pets can often be a challenge. The very best solution is to remove the pets when the house is being shown... *and all signs of the pets!* Take them out for a park run, a ride, or send them on vacation, or with friends or relatives ... they will love that! Buyers will be much more objective if they are not wondering about pets living in the home. Here are some reasons why...

***Nervous about being around pets.** Not all people are comfortable with furry friends.
***Fear.** It can be real or irrational. Dogs, snakes (*that always gets me*) and cats with all those wives tales and allergies make some buyers uncomfortable to even consider the home.

***Inexperience.** Remember pets can be unpredictable, especially when you are not with them and strangers are around.

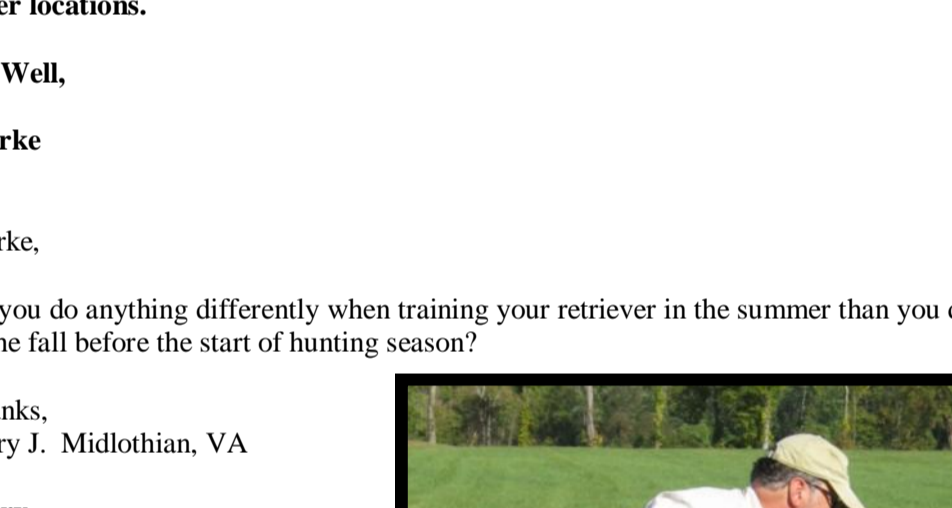
***Your pets aren't their pets.** It's your pet that bites, jumps, vomits, claws, spits-up hairballs, and is just plain hyper and bad!

When removing the pet is not an option be sure to keep litter boxes exceptionally clean and out of sight. Put dogs in carriers in garages or utility rooms with a note not to disturb them, or in fenced pens outside. Be sure all carpet and floors are cleaned of any pet stains. Stains on floors should be disclosed as they may cause you problems when the buyer finds them by closing. Make sure any pet odors are removed by cleaning. Candles to cover smells sometimes create other problems and if they see animals may wonder what you are covering up.

Good luck and pet your pup and kitty for me!

[Lummie Jones](#), Vice President
 Napier Realtors ERA
 804-598-7700

Not signed up yet?
 Click [here](#) to receive
 Clarke (and Luke's)
EXPEDITION



This past week I spent a couple of hours in the studio of professional photographer, Dwight Dyke, while he took photo of yellow lab puppies for an upcoming calendar. It is hard work to get 7 week old pups who only want to eat, sleep, poop and chew to pose with a couple of his brothers and sisters and have everyone looking at the camera the same time.

If you are planning on bringing a retriever puppy into your family it would be my recommendation to buy one from a reputable breeder/trainer. Ron & Marge Samuels in Amelia have been raising and training titled Labradors for years. Visit their web site at www.amberrun.com

Keep a leg up,
 LUKE

.....

YOU ASKED!

.....

Clarke,

My wife and I have tickets to see Oprah in Chicago and want to take our Boykin with us. Do you have any recommendations for dog friendly hotels?

Thank you,
 Ken C. Charleston, SC

Ken,

Are you going to be anywhere near Chicago my advice is to book a room at the new Westin Hotel in Lombard, Illinois. This hotel just opened in August of this year. It is clean and the staff really makes a sincere effort to make your dog comfortable. Check them out at the Westin Lombard [website](#). Email my web site for other locations.

Go Well,

Clarke

Clarke,

Do you do anything differently when training your retriever in the summer than you do in the fall before the start of hunting season?

Thanks,
 Terry J. Midlothian, VA

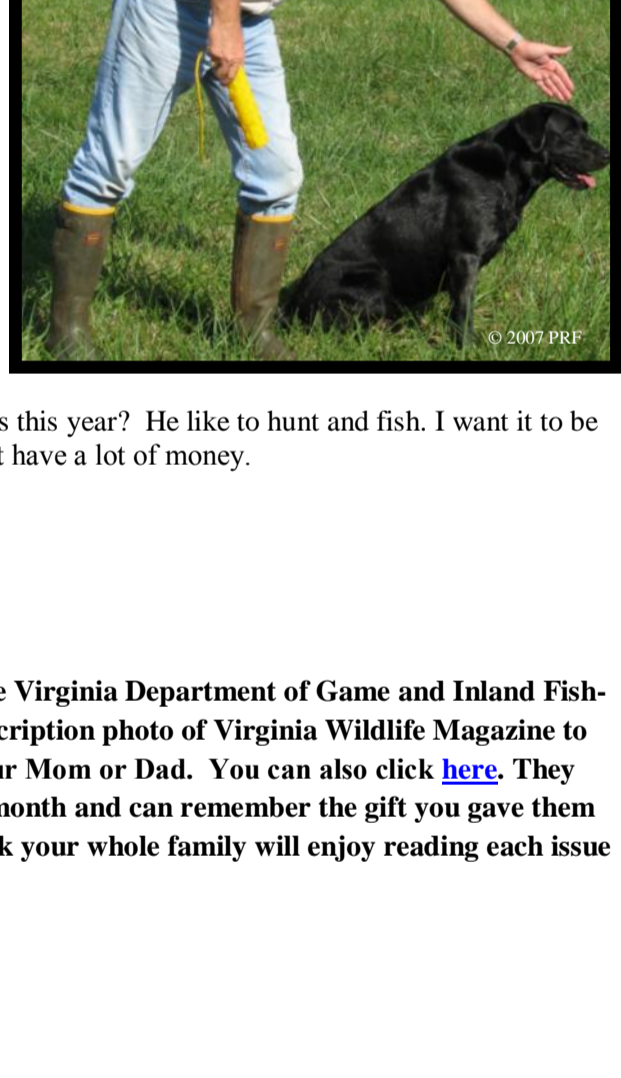
Terry,

Because dogs have such an inefficient way of cooling themselves, I am always concerned about overheating a dog during a training session. I get up earlier to train in the summer and quit earlier when it is hot. Also, I do more water work in the summer.

Go Well,

Clarke

Clarke,



What can I get my Dad for Christmas this year? He like to hunt and fish. I want it to be a surprise. I am 9 years old and don't have a lot of money.

Thank you,
 Ginny R. Lynchburg, VA

Ginny,

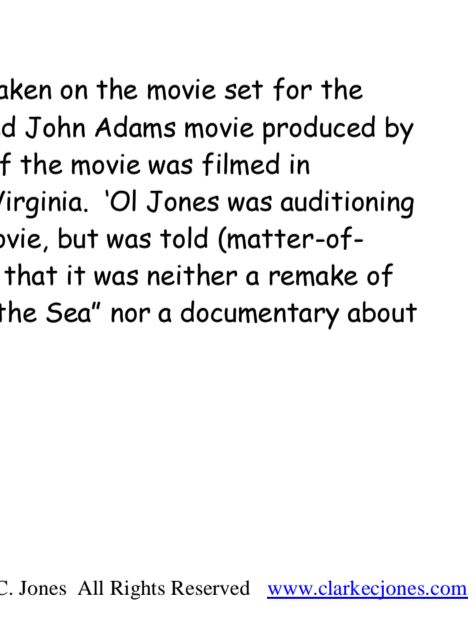
My suggestion is to go online to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries [website](#) and click on the subscription photo of Virginia Wildlife Magazine to order a year's subscription for your Mom or Dad. You can also click [here](#). They will get an issue the first of every month and can remember the gift you gave them for Christmas all year long. I think your whole family will enjoy reading each issue of Virginia Wildlife.

Go Well,

Clarke

THE LAST WORD...

A great many of us feel sometimes that we are just stumbling through life without any direction and though we get plenty of advice it is often conflicting or contradictory. We are told to look upward, inward, follow a path less traveled, follow our nose, follow our hearts, and listen to our gut. Each bit of advice has its own separate pitfalls. If you are always looking upward you are going to trip on those roots grabbing at your feet, not to mention all the loose change some one else has dropped. When you are looking down all the time, you miss so much around you. Following your nose creates the problem as a song says "Every time I turn my head, I change directions."



I haven't got all the answers and I have followed just about everything. But I can give you some advice that will help make whatever life's journey you are taking a little easier and that is try not to go the whole way by yourself. You see a little clearer with an extra set of eyes and your hearing is a little sharper with an extra set of ears. Of course there may be things you may not want to see or hear that you would miss if you were traveling alone. But I guess that is part of all the give and take we hear about. So if you are looking for a little company on your trip and can't seem to connect with what you think you are looking for maybe it's time to get a puppy.

Go Well,

Clarke

P.S. The photo above with 'ol Jones was taken on the movie set for the soon-to-be-released John Adams movie produced by Tom Hanks. Part of the movie was filmed in Powhatan County, Virginia. 'Ol Jones was auditioning for a role in the movie, but was told (matter-of-factly, I must say) that it was neither a remake of "The Old Man and the Sea" nor a documentary about Fidel Castro.



Keep a leg up,
 LUKE