

## Pigeonberry or Rougeplant, *Rivina humilis*

**"While suitable food for birds, such as Rio-grande turkeys and passerine birds, all parts of the plant are toxic to humans if ingested."**



Article and photos courtesy  
Joanne Fellows

*"The trees and plants show respect for each by the way they live in harmony."  
Masuru Emoto*



**T**his time of year these low plants with their shiny red berries decorate the forest floor. This perennial herb is a member of Phytolaccaceae (Pokeweed Family). Unlike the six feet tall Pokeweeds, this plant is only about one to three feet. The leaves are wavy and the flower/fruit spike makes up the top 3+ inches of the plant. The translucent red berries appear at the bottom of the flower spike while it is still blooming. Ignore the attractiveness of the berries. While suitable food for birds, such as Rio-grande turkeys and passerine birds, all parts of the plant are toxic to humans if ingested. You can use the juice of the berries as a dye or ink.





This help comes from the folks who have done it all and are eager to share what they know, show you how and answer any questions you have. Jim, CJ and Larry are extremely patient and always willing to let you take the next step along the way—when you are ready. Ken, who heads up the project, has been on the DL this season, but I hear he loves to share what he knows about birds, and it is a lot to share.



One thing I have been able to do is take pictures of these wonderful creatures that grace the sky. I feel that although I am not ready to take on all the steps involved in banding the birds I can share the pictures of these beautiful birds and tell you, that not only is it a Sparrow, but this one is a Chipping Sparrow.

We have netted everything from a Sharp-shinned Hawk to a Kinglet. I know why the Red-Bellied Woodpecker got it's name when the head is redder than it's belly. I can tell you the difference between a Black-Capped and Carolina Chickadee. I can show you how to help a small bird, like a Winter Wren, take flight when he doesn't want to leave your hand. I know the proper hold around a bird so both you and he are comfortable. I can tell you what to do to prevent the Cardinal from biting your finger, Blue Jays are very docile when netted...and so much more and there is so much more to learn.

Hopefully this time next year I will tell you I have banded my first bird and not only was it a Cardinal, which requires a special band since it can bend the other ones with its strong beak, but the Cardinal didn't bite me!

And please look for my Armadillo pin, it will be right next to my Dragonfly...

Happy Birding All.

Mary Morrow, class of 2014



## His Term Is Coming To a Close

By Bob Ross



Effective midnight, on the 31<sup>st</sup> of this month, Van Elliott will no longer be Chapter President of Elm Fork. His presidency will come to an end. It will be a sad day!

We will not see Van at the front of the meeting room running a General Meeting. We will miss out on watching him continuously employing his "J Force" (Judi Elliott, Jan Deatherage and Jeri Marold) to get through and complete a meeting.

We will miss seeing Van trying to get in the correct position in front of the members so his new toy, the robotic camera, will place him in the proper position for good lighting and focus. At times, he even uses this tactic to stand behind whoever else is giving a presentation in order that the camera catches all the action. Of course, that keeps Van in the frame also.

We will miss watching Van tell someone they have talked too much and too long. If you have been a speaker who has signed, prior to the meeting, to request time to showcase new information and you have gone more than a couple of minutes, well partner, you have stepped over the line. Van is not shy and he will speak up and vocally cut you off from continuing your speech. He will say something like, "Sorry to cut you off but we have a lot of important business to take care of today." Hmmm! Does that mean your business was not that important?

We will miss seeing Van giving out awards and constantly "mugging" in front of the camera when photos are being taken. We will no longer hear Van say, "Permission to hug?"

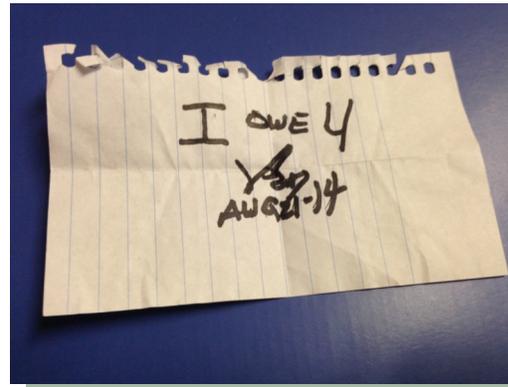
After the completion of this past Roundup, on August 21<sup>st</sup>, I was helping Van get all his equipment and gear into his car. When we finished Van said to me, "Thanks for the help." I jokingly responded by saying, "You owe me." Van immediately pulled out his field notepad and wrote me an I.O.U. As evidenced by the attached photograph Van dated and signed it before handing it to me. Well Van, do you think it is time for me to call in my I.O.U. chit?

On a personal note, I consider you to be, not an acquaintance, but a friend. You and I have had conversations that I would not have with just anyone. You are a great listener. You have always led me in the correct directions regarding projects, advanced training, or service hours I wanted to accomplish.

Our chapter would like to say, "THANK YOU." Thank you for everything you have done and accomplished. Thank you for leading us in a professional manner. Thank you for taking

on the duties of the presidency and promoting our chapter to be one of the envied chapters in the state. Thank you for being you. Just remember, WE ALL LOVE YOU!

Van's I.O.U.



It is **not time** for you to be paying anyone. I, along with all the EFC members, owe you for your dedication, strengths, time, effort, and leadership to the chapter. You have given of your time at general meetings, board meetings and in the field. I have never heard you complain about having to do anything pertaining to your duties as the chapter president. You possess the ability to see a potential obstacle and take measures to approach the obstacle with the intent to successfully wind your way through the maze. You have been a leader who has been forward in your thinking and compassionate dealing with the membership.



*"Average leaders inspire people to punch a time clock.*

*Great leaders inspire industry and passion." Joseph B. Wirthlin*

Our chapter would like to say, "THANK YOU." Thank you for everything you have done and accomplished.





And Who Do We Have This Month?

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Marilyn Blanton — class of 1999

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Joanne Fellows — class of 2008

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Mary Morrow — class of 2014



Newly graduated and putting it all together

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wanda odum — class of 2005

NATURALIST NEWS EDITOR--guilty finger prints here & there

Thanks to Alex Lieban, class of 2005, who is our feature "Field Notes in Focus". Alex named this segment and was the first one to appear there "way back when". (Photo promised and will be coming soon.)