

BromeliAdvisory

September 2013



Aechmea 'Del Mar'

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September 2013

WEBPAGE: <http://www.bssf-miami.org/>



http://www.facebook.com/groups/BromeliadSF/?bookmark_t=group



<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bromeliad-Society-of-South-Florida/84661684279>

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Raffle: Mike Michalski
Refreshments: Sandy Roth

What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

SEPTEMBER 17, 2013 7:30 PM

SPEAKER: Jay Thurrott

RAFFLE TABLE: Mike Michalski

FOOD: Josefa Leon, Doris Boiesen, Betty McQuayle, Maryanne LaRusso

Speaker

JAY THURROTT

"The other way of growing bromeliads – seed to seed." The "other way" meaning other than removing offsets. Jay has heard so much misinformation regarding growing bromeliads from seed that he thought he'd put together a program about some experiences in bromeliad seed growing. Combined successes and failures have made him seek to share photos of what bromeliad seed looks like and more. He'll also emphasize means of growing from seed are by no means "the best" way – it's simply the way he goes about it.

Miami-Dade County's Division of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) will be giving FREE trees to the community through its popular Adopt-a-Tree program. Come to our event this Saturday, September 14th, from 9:00 am -12 pm , at the Miami Springs Community Center, 1401 Westward Drive, Miami Springs . Residents eligible to adopt trees will be able to choose from Mango (only 1 per household), Longan, Sapodilla, Dahoon Holly, and Orange Geiger . However, tree quantities are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. For information on rules, eligibility, community service hours, and tree info check the Adopt-a-Tree webpage. <http://www.miamidade.gov/environment/adopt-a-tree.asp>

The meeting will be held in the Corbin A

President's Message

by Barbara Partagas

Is anyone having as much trouble with weeds as I am? I can't tell if they are creeping into the garden from the lawn or vice versa. Weeds seem to thrive on neglect even more than the bromeliads. I am sure I have every variety known to man growing in my garden and probably many not known to man, as well. I have always called Florida's St. Augustine grass a weed because it looks exactly like what we pulled out of our yards up North. I have tolerated the weeds in the grass because they are green and look like grass if you don't get right up on them and see them for what they are. One must still respect the mighty weed. Do not mistake one for another or one might end up in the ER having mistaken a stinging nettle for a thistle.

One's hand can swell up a lot bigger than one can imagine, sort of like blowing air into a rubber glove. No worries. It only takes six or seven months to get the feeling back in the hand. Why is it that the spiniest of bromeliads are the ones that have the most weeds around them? It would have been great if Pandora could have closed that box before the weeds (and pestilence and intolerance, by the way) got out.

Barbara Partagas

Put on Thinking Caps

The board would like to propose a once a year field trip, on a minibus (a 25-30 passenger vehicle that someone at the board meeting thought you are familiar with). This is for a day trip only. They seek to poll the membership at meeting for suggestions of places to visit. You are hereby being given the opportunity to think about it for a couple of days in advance of meeting. Put on your thinking caps.

In Case You Missed It

by Robert Meyer

Don Beadle came to our meeting with the typical Beadle charm and panache.

A Louisiana born native, he had to move on. "Not a Cajun," he self-describes.

He entered the military and left after becoming an engineer who sought greater worlds than oil fields. So, began the world of hobbies. One day, he received a bromeliad. It did not grow well. A friend advised that he try an *Aechmea* "Black Jack." It lasted. That friend was John Anderson – an eventually renowned cultivator of *Aechmea*.

Soon, Don wanted to own every variety of every species of the bromeliad world. But, a finite pocket and accompanying wallet made such an urge become more of an afflicting itch, than a despondent dream.

He wanted to enter the world of hybridizing. *Neoregelia* were already dumfoundingly addressed in the bromeliad charts. *Billbergia* were the ignored – the stepchildren of the bromeliad world of hybridizing. That simple fact is why the Beadle world entered the world of *billbergia*.

Billbergia's unusually short life span made preservation of pollen a chore. He tried bagging the stuff in plastic. It went bad. Then bagged the pollen and froze the contents. That worked. From there the pollenization of cultivars with different time periods began.

Today's *billbergia* are commonly speckled – giving the great effect of stained glass luminescence. This all started with Don's receipt of Bob Whiteman's "Domingos Martins." He crossed that spotty plant with "Ed

McWilliams" which produced "Hallelujah" – often the crowd favorite for decades to follow.

As space became a valuable commodity, he met surfer dudes in Corpus Christi, Texas who worked as carpenters during the off season. They built Don a two-story home, from which his second floor master bedroom walked out to a shade house, beneath which was more growing space with the Beadle extra comforts – including a hot tub from which the neighbors' boys peeped over and to whom "he never disappointed them."



Don's photography passion and bromeliad passion merge in this artistic rendering.

Photographing was another passion and thousands of slides of the hybrids were shot and kept in the Texas facility.

One year, he packed his truck and took his loyal miniature dog for a ride to see buddies Harry Luther and Wally Berg. To his dismay, they had gone south of the border for a bromeliad excursion. Don liked the surroundings and called a local realtor asking for a home with “a ski lift to the back door, beach front, and space for green houses.” She had just the thing.

In a phone call that same day, the property was bought and Don moved to Florida in 1986 to become el jefe de Los Milagros.

The years of hybridizing increased as he fitted the facility with more shade houses, and other amenities. His engineering background made such home improvement projects less stressful – and in fact were his joy. In 2000, Don sold his nursery to Michael Kiehl, got a boat and made the boat another engineering/repairing venture for his fix-it skills.

After selling that boat and moving back to the land, Don enjoys his time with another boat project and occasionally working at Kiehl’s where he can work without being paid.

As stated on the FCBS page, “Don’s passion for bromeliads led to ground breaking Billbergia cultivars that made this genus one of the most popular; his ground breaking bromeliad photography set the standard for bromeliad pictures; his passion for knowledge led to the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry; his vision for an accurate registry accessible and available to one and all took him beyond his peers and now serves the entire world.”

For more on Don, go to:
[http://fcbs.org/articles/Don Beadle Bio.htm](http://fcbs.org/articles/Don_Beadle_Bio.htm)

An Accelerated Schedule for Show Preparation

by Alan Herndon

Since the 2014 show comes up so quickly next year (27 February through 2 March), we have to start serious

preparations before the holiday season overtakes us. Our first step, as always, is to call for volunteers to head up the committees that actually run the show.

The list below is the listing of these operating committees, along with a brief synopsis of duties for some committees and the names of committee chairs already on the job. All of the committees need people to help the chairs with their duties. Jobs are available at all skill levels. There are inside jobs and outside jobs _ jobs to fit any schedule. If one of the committees is of particular interest, you should contact the listed chair the particulars. If no chair is listed for the committee of interest, contact the general show chair.

Some committees, such as Advertising, Awards sponsors and Show booklet finish their work before the show begins. Others, such as Classification, Placement and Staging have some hours of frantic activity on a single day (Thursday) and are then done. Some of the most important committees, including Information Table and Member Sales require some preparation in advance of the show and run full time during the show. The Art Show and Catering stand apart in the amount of preparation needed before the show starts, and the sustained effort needed during the show.

Advertising Selling advertisements in the Show Book

to help pay for printing.

Art Show Sharon Biddex-Maessen - coordinate participation of public school students in the show, negotiate with Fairchild for use of equipment to display art, stage art show, be available when show is open to the public to answer questions.

Auction (About 1 hour each on Saturday and Sunday) gather plants donated by commercial vendors for Saturday auctions, act as auctioneer, keep track of plants and bids during auction, arrange auctioned plants in groups for easy retrieval by bidders after the auction

Awards sponsors Solicit donations to underwrite the cost of the awards (particularly the engraved crystal pieces we give out during the show).

Awards Barbara Sparling - maintain inventory or ribbons and crystal, buying enough to cover show needs, setting up major award winners on the head table after judging is concluded, breaking down the



Billbergia zebrina
D. Bilderbeck-Frost

head table at the end of the show to ensure that the proper crystal piece(s) end up with each plant.

Catering Sandy Roth - duties far to numerous to list. Help Sandy, learn the entire picture.

Classification Nat DeLeon & Karl Green

Commercial Sales

Entries On Thursday enter data as each show entry is brought in, on Friday, enter the results of ribbon judging for each entry, generate lists of AM ribbon winners in all sections and make available to Judge's Clerk chair

Hospitality Information Table Recruit volunteers to ensure someone is at the table throughout the show, maintain inventory of handouts, be prepared to assist visitors with questions, be prepared to sign up new members.

Judges Recruit judges for show, submit list of judges for approval

Judge's Clerks Jeri Parrish

Member Sales Coordinate activity at the member sales table, assign vendor numbers for each member, solicit plant donations for sale directly by BSSF, provide a central cashier for the table, be prepared to answer cultural questions from customers.

Photography

Placement

Plant Holding

Publicity Generate publicity for the show through any available media, we could especially use a greater presence on social media

Schedule Pepe Donayre & Dean Fairchild

Show booklet Modify portions of Show Book that change from year to year. Select printer and set deadline for advertising so the book can be printed in time for the public opening of the show.

Staging Thursday morning. Set up tables and other fixtures needed for the show, the plant show and art show have different needs, so they are generally set up separately.

If you feel ready to increase your participation, but don't feel confident to take on chair duties, please consider volunteering to serve as a committee co-chair. Every one of the committee chairs could use help, and you could learn much more about what makes the show run.

We try to provide some perks for our volunteers. One is free entry into Fairchild during the period of the show (if you are not already a Fairchild Member.) Another is an invitation to the Judges and volunteer dinner/party hosted by Sandy Roth on Friday evening after the judging is completed. We hope to see you there.

About the Speaker

By Lenny Goldstein

Jay Thurrott is a retired environmental chemist and worked in the public service sector for over 30 years. He grows over 700 varieties of bromeliads at his home in Port Orange, Florida and been growing bromeliads since the 70's. A lifetime member of the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society (FECBS), Jay is their newsletter editor and has served as secretary, vice president and president of that organization.

Jay has served as his club's representative to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS) for many years and is a past-Chairman of that organization. Also active in local garden club activities, he is a past president of the Halifax Council of Garden Clubs (a consortium of 7 garden clubs in the Daytona Beach area). He is currently President of the Bromeliad Society International (BSI) after having e HeHserved as a director and vice-president of the organization. Jay is also a BSI accredited judge and has judged bromeliad shows in and out of the USA.

Garden Notes - August 2013

by Alan Herndon

Our summer has continued the pattern of extremes throughout August: days-long periods when it seems like the rain will never stop are separated by equally long periods when there is no rain to be found.

Aechmea chantinii seems to have passed its summer peak. Fewer new inflorescences are showing up as the weeks go by. This month it was joined in bloom by its near relative *Aechmea retusa*. Most plants of *Aechmea retusa* had already flowered earlier, but this plant came in late for unknown reasons. Two species in *Aechmea* subgenus *Ortgiesia*, rather unexpectedly, also came into bloom. Usually, members of this subgenus flower between late fall and late spring, but growing in an enriched environment seems to have overcome seasonal fidelity. In any case, *Aechmea winkleri*, *Aechmea caudata* and *Aechmea caudata eipperi* all flowersd.

The last two, despite belonging to the same species look very different. *Aechmea caudata* has an inflorescence that is branched throughout and bright yellow flowers that are widely separated from one another. *Aechmea caudata eipperi* has an inflorescence with a few branches at the base, but the majority of rather dull off-white flowers are closely packed around the inflorescence axis above

the branches.. *Aechmea miniata* and *Aechmea andersoniana* also bloomed during the month. *Aechmea aquilega* a member of the complex previously referred to the genus *Gravisia* also came into bloom. Finally, *Aechmea phanerophlebia* was seen _ briefly _ in flower.

Our blooming *Alcantarea glaziouana* produced the last few flowers tiwards the beginning of the month.

In another example of off-season flowering, *Billbergia nana* and *Billbergia amoena carnea* bloomed during August. Here, the plants were both repotted earlier in the year and the improved growth rate that ensued seemed to trigger flowering

Another rosette of *Canistropsis billbergioides* (the clone with pink bracts) bloomed this month. It probably seems like this plant has bloomed for months, but a single inflorescence barely lasts two weeks. Flowers on this species keep appearing in monthly reports due to successive generations of pups reaching blooming size.

Canistrum auratum ‘Vania’ (the clone with dark leaves), *Canistrum seidelii* and *Canistrum fosterianum* all flowered this month.

Although I am not usually noting the flowering of *Hohenbergia* species, I have to mention *Hohenbergia rosea*, currently in flower. This is one of the large *Hohenbergia* species with wide, red leaves and bright rose floral bracts in the inflorescence. Alas, on my plant, the floral bracts quickly loose their color once the corresponding flower has opened. The cones end up with bright pink tips but rather dirty bases.

Flowering was brisk among the species of *Neoreglia*. Among the smaller species *Neoreglia ampullacea*, *Neoreglia smithii* and *Neoreglia punctatissima* have been seen frequently on our monthly lists. This month, *Neoreglia wilsoniana* also continued to flower, although it was a new group of plants in flower. These seem to be plants that were slightly too small to bloom during July. *Neoreglia guttata* is a species that can flower at a small size, or grow into a mid-size plant before flowering. It is mainly the smaller plants that are blooming now. *Neoreglia magdalena* continued to bloom through the early days of the month, but was

long past by the end. A less common sighting was the presence of open flowers on *Neoreglia kautskyi*. This species was a big hit when it became available in some numbers during the late 1970's. The dark yellow leaves with a strong tendency to develop irregular, dark brown patches was unlike any species common in cultivation at the time.. Many hybrids were created with *Neoreglia kautskyi* as a parent, but the species itself proved less desirable in cultivation. Only a single clone was every introduced, so there was no way to grow the plants from seed. Furthermore, the species turned out to be slower to reach flowering size than many others. Unfortunately,

this was a species that did not begin to produce pups until it flowered so shy blooming meant slow propagation potential. Ultimately, it was displaced from most collections by species that offered a quicker reward to growers. *Neoreglia angustifolia* also continued to flower. One of the green-leaf forms of *Neoreglia cruenta* started to flower near the end of the month.



Puya plaxa

Finally, two members of the less frequently grown *Neoreglia* subgenus

Hylaeaicum also bloomed in August. *Neoreglia brevifolia* (formerly called *Neoreglia pendula* var *brevifolia*) and *Neoreglia rosea*. Both have flowers with white petals. *Neoreglia rosea* is most notable for the wicked assortment of spines along its leaf margin. *Neoreglia brevifolia* is a much smaller plant with much reduced marginal leaf spines, but it produces incredibly long, narrow stolons (specialized stems that terminate in offsets) that produce a strikingly elegant hanging basket when well grown.

Two species of *Nidularium* were seen in flower during August. One of the many clones of *Nidularium procerum* and the single clone of *Nidularium ataliensis* I know in cultivation.

My previous belief that *Orthophytum* species were showing less blooming activity was undoubtedly the result of faulty observation. I recently realized that a small group of rather isolated pots were not being checked on a regular basis. This group included flowering plants of species dropped from the flowering list months ago. Of course, they appear to have been in flower the whole time. In any case, *Orthophytum lymaniana*, *Orthophytum sucrei*, *Orthophytum rubiginosum*, *Orthophytum*

alvimii, *Orthophytum maracense*, *Orthophytum gurkenii*, *Orthophytum zanonii*, *Orthophytum benzingii*, *Orthophytum horridum* and *Orthophytum harleyi* were flowering in August, and with the exception of *Orthophytum benzingii*, seem to have been in flower throughout the entire summer. Neither *Orthophytum roseum* nor *Orthophytum ophiuroides* was seen in flower during the month, but some blooming-size plants were showing the color change that typically precedes inflorescence development.

One of the two *Puya* species that can be grown in southern Florida – *Puya laxa* was in bloom during August. Like many species of *Puya*, this has flowers with petals tending towards blue.

I undoubtedly miss many of the *Tillandsia* species in bloom every month since the plants are widely scattered throughout the nursery, but a good number still appear in August. *Tillandsia flexuosa*, a species that can be found growing wild in Florida was in flower most of the month. The flowers on this species are widely separated from each other, but they are relatively large and have red petals. A single plant of *Tillandsia vernicosa* was also blooming. Starting to flower again after a few months off the list, *Tillandsia klausii* made an appearance towards the end of the month. *Tillandsia rhodocephala*, *Tillandsia flabellata* and *Tillandsia narthecoides* were also in flower.

Two accessions of what appear to be identical clones began to produce open flowers in *Vriesea* this month. One clone from the Wally Berg collection was labeled *Vriesea scalaris* with additional notes pointing out the red leaves and long inflorescence. The second plant was labeled *Vriesea* ‘Seaborn’s Red’. Also in bloom this month were *Vriesea correia-araujoi*, *Vriesea inflata*, *Vriesea colnagoi*, *Vriesea incurvata*, *Vriesea rodigasiana*, *Vriesea carinata*, *Vriesea pinottii*, *Vriesea pauperrima* and *Vriesea triligulata*

A great surprise this month was the flowering of *Wittrockia superba*. Although many species of *Wittrockia* (as currently circumscribed) grow well down here, they don’t bloom. The sole exception is *Wittrockia cyathiformis* (formerly known as *Canistrum cyathiformis*) that blooms perhaps every 6 years. When it does bloom, it blooms in collections throughout southern Florida. To be fair, the flowering *Wittrockia superba* came down here from the collection of Al Muzzell in Gainesville about two years ago. Its



flowering might have more to do with its Gainesville heritage than the conditions it has been exposed to down here.

Dr. Grayson Dies

Long time member, Dr. Robert Grayson, died August 4, 2013 at the age of 94. The long time Surfside resident pediatrician has been very kind



Dr. Grayson with background of his backyard’s plant gallery.

to this society with gracious open houses for members to come and take plants to which his garden had tendered gentle care for more than three decades. Many of the varieties are rarely seen in the 21st century market, and his growing skills

maintained plants which Dade County residents saw commonly in the pre-Miami Vice era. We shall miss this great character. Full obit can be read at:

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/09/05/3608197/dr-robert-grayson-longtime-pediatrician.html>

Badges are In

Notices: Badges are in. Anyone who doesn't have a badge, please check with Maureen Adelman at the meeting.

Garage Sale II

Garage Sale: We are scheduling a garage sale for November. In order to go forward, we need commitments from members for donations. Please contact your president if you have a donation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 14, 2013

9:30-12PM – Adopt-A-Tree
Miami Springs Community Center
1401 Westward Drive

September 21st, 2013

Bromeliad Extravaganza – Hosted by the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society
Indian Rocks Beach, Clearwater
401 2nd Street, Indian Rocks Beach 33785.
Phone 727-595-948

Holiday Inn Harborside. Free parking!
Contact Judy Lund at 727/439-7782
glund@Tampabay.rr.com

September 27-29

Sarasota Bromeliad Society Show and Sale
Selby Gardens Activities Building
<http://sarasotabromeliadsociety.org/pages/shows.php/#2013>

October 4 - October 6

Tropiflora's 14th Annual Fall Festival
3530 Tallevast Road, Sarasota, FL 34243
<http://www.tropiflora.com/events.cfm>

October 5

Members' Day Plant Sale
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden – 9:00-1:00
<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events/?date=10-2013&eventID=750>

October 19

Boktoberfest!
Central Florida's most unique Oktoberfest celebration
Bok Tower Gardens
1151 Tower Blvd
Lake Wales FL 33853
<http://www.boktoberfest.com/>

November 8-10

Fairchild Ramble
FTBG
10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, FL 33156
Phone: 305.667.1651
<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events/?date=11-2013&eventID=827>

November 15-17

American Orchid Society Fall
Orchid Show
FTBG
10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, FL 33156
Phone: 305.667.1651

December 6th - 8th

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Show and Sale
Terrie Park
3451 Marion Street, Fort Myers

MURDER IN CORBIN A

© by Robert Meyer

PREVIOUS CHAPTERS MAY BE SEEN IN
<http://www.bssf-miami.org/>

79.

After digesting Rodriguez's text messages and Cyber's information on Susie Gort, the Captain called Boss and Marlene into his office. "Have a seat."

"Marlene, I am going to ask you outright a question. So, if you have a long answer, save it. I want it short and either 'yes' or 'no' – capiche? Are you Ready?" She nodded. "Do you know this Susie Gort girl?" Marlene, who had braced for a much more personal and much more problematic question, exhaled in relief when uttering the word "no."

"Good. And, does she by any chance know anyone who knows you?" Captain asked.

"Not that I know of. I know her father from the Bromeliad Society of South Florida, but no one else seems to have crossed our lives."

"Okay. Let me ask it again. Other than some tree-hugging eccentrics who visit the Fairchild Garden each month to look at red and green and purple and whatever colored plants they grow, do your lives have any reason to cross or have acquaintances?" Again she responded in the negative.

"Good. Then what I am going to ask of you can work, if you think you can handle it. I want you to go undercover again. I have read the reports on the most recent corpse, Stitch. She has something in common with this Susie Gort. They are both lesbians – did you know that? " She nodded in the negative. "Well, now you do. And I have good reason to believe that they knew one another. They are both young, and very beautiful. They are about your age. And . . . you are easy on the eyes. And, like them, you don't appear butch or dikey like the stereotypical lesbo.

You are what I hear them call girly. If I can get you out of the slacks and into a dress, and into one of their bars in South Beach, I think you will find Susie, or better yet, she may come looking for you. I have a good feeling about this one. Do you think you can pretend to be a lesbian?"

Timing was everything, and this was a response which had to be timed perfectly. After a beautifully taken dramatic pause, Marlene looked at Captain and said, "I don't know, but I will try."

"Good," Captain had commenced every response with this word and it was beginning to sound trite. "I'll have



My bromeliad's pup was a kitten. Photo by Desiree Meyer

Jenkins from patrol come on over. She is an out-of-the-closet lesbian who will try to give you a few tips. She will decide what kind of dress you should wear to the Beach. And, if it is okay with you, she will join you and be the 'butch' mama who will enter the club or clubs with you, thereby giving others a sense that even if you are not so obvious, your companion is. Okay. Be available at three when Jenkins comes."

When Boss and Marlene left, she turned to the little Lieutenant and said, "I had no problem walking in as undercover for the society. And, heck, it was fun. But now I am going into bars with lesbians, looking to play a swinger and will be accompanied by a biker chick with a bad haircut. What is going on in this case?"

Boss understood her position. He sure as hell would not like going to gay bars. But, being four feet tall and about as inconspicuous as Andre the Giant, he was never asked to be undercover. And, therefore the true angst felt by the others was not something he had personally experienced. "I hear you." And, as he finished, he went into the Captain's office and pointed his eyes toward Marlene and then put his index finger across his throat as explanation that Marlene was not in on the lesbian undercover operation. Captain nodded, and said, "Don't worry. Jenkins can probably do this on her own. So long as Gort likes the tough ones – which I do not think she does."

After Boss gave Captain a thumbs up thank you, he walked to Marlene and told her about how the lesbian bar commitment was rescinded. She thanked him and hugged him, acts which delivered more strenuous proof of her heterosexuality to those in the precinct. Marlene had played this part perfectly, and had to thank the Captain for providing her with a perfect script. How she loved to work undercover under her terms.

80.

One person who slept through the night's storm was Joshua. Having been elated to drive Susie Gort home, he was more than pleased to be invited in. After being seated on a couch in what he thought was her home, he accepted the offer of a drink. Placed in an ornately cut crystal high ball glass, he sipped the drink very deliberately, trying not to look nervous or apprehensive – two things which he was. He so desperately wanted to make this event "happen." Too many times he had failed. Unlike those downloads he had watched on his home computer's monitor, he was never able to find the young woman who giggled and then tore off clothes to some geek or other ordinary guy. But, this event may be just like those videos – this event may "happen."

And, as he was about to make his first comment and deliver his line that he had recited in his head no less than 50 times, he felt a whirling sensation in his head. The noises about him suddenly seemed to fall back 10 feet, then 20 feet. A mild ringing in his ears began to suddenly increase in volume. He felt his body involuntarily lift and then he moved to his left and before he could realize what, if anything was happening to his body, he fell to the floor. Totally limp and without any consciousness, his hands did not feather the fall. As his body lay prostrate on the ground, Susie went over to check to see if he broke his nose, or if other serious injuries were incurred. It appeared to be none. But, he was twitching. His legs, his

arms, and even his mouth. Foam came gushing out and his eyes rolled like B-movie innocents do when invaded by body snatchers. She could not hold him down, so she tied him up, by cuffing his ankles and wrists.

Susie, not a licensed pharmacologist. She did not know that although he fell without serious damage, his body's interior was shut down. She had overdosed her guest by delivering more pharmaceuticals than his body could withstand. The lifting and falling were not merely responses to the mickey she slipped, but were a seizure he experienced from the poisons. His other response was deep sleep. He was unconscious for 36 hours, and when he awoke, he saw moisture in his pants, and cuffs on his ankles and wrists. His body was not only sore, but was muscle tight from strenuous activity – he hoped from a work out with Susie, but actually suffered the aches from muscles being contracted for minutes when seizing.

He looked at his arms and legs, the usually large and exposed veins on each were not noticeable. But, his vision was blurred, and his head ached like it had not since he had a terrible fall as a child. His mouth hurt too. And the cotton mouth he experienced was something which demanded a call out for water. But, as he uttered his first words, he realized his tongue was swollen. Only on the left side. But, the enormous swelling frightened him. He felt around his mouth with his swollen tongue. Everything felt strange and totally wrong. He cared not about the legs and arms being tied. Instead, he wanted to pay immediate attention to the tongue and headache. He cried out for help. And then Susie came into his line of vision.

"How do you feel this morning?" she asked kindly and very quietly.

"Horrible."

"Let me take these cuffs off, and let you go to the bathroom. You were quite a scare. I had to hold your limbs with the cuffs. I was really frightened. Do you always have seizures?" She asked in all honesty.

"What seizures? Never. What are you talking about?" But, he knew from his mouth that something like a seizure had happened. When she released the cuffs, he stood up and suddenly fell down again. His legs were weak from a lack of blood flow, and his head went dizzy from the sudden rise. "Maybe, I should sit a while before I stand."

She nodded. And, while he sat, she went to the kitchen and came back with a glass of water. He gratefully accepted her generous offer. "Thank you. We only met yesterday, but now you know more about me than many people who have known me for years."

"Yes and no", she said. "Yes, I know more than people who have known you longer. No, we did not meet yesterday. We met two days ago." When hearing this last sentence, Joshua dropped his glass and it broke on the tiled floor. He could not believe that his consecutive-days-at-work streak had come to an end.