Message from the President

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and is eager for the exciting programs we have planned for the new year.

First, I would like to thank everyone who made our holiday party so successful:

Emalyl, as always, for managing our party food; Marnie, for her beautiful table decorations, and everyone who contributed dishes and stayed to help clean up and put away after the party.

This month we have an exciting speaker: Dr. Alan Meerow, who will discuss his travels in Brazil searching for Amaryllis species. I hope you will all join us for this occasion. This month, we also do not have a nursery providing material for the raffle table so please search your own collections for a plant or two that you are willing to donate to the raffle table.

If possible, please let Ralph know what you will be bringing at 786-261-4856 so we don’t end up with too many of the same thing.

Looking forward to seeing you Monday, January 25, 2016 at 7:00 pm at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.
Tropical Fern and Exotic Plant Society meeting notes:

Date: December 18, 2015
Topic: Annual Holiday Dinner
Treasurer’s Report: Balance - N/A
Hospitality: Emalyl and so many others

While this Secretary was unable to attend the annual Holiday Dinner, holiday food and dessert fest, it is one of the many high points of being a member of TFEPS, and worth the price of membership just for this event! Having been a member of a number of societies, the TFEPS Holiday event is the best, with amazing food and great camaraderie all around. Served at Fairchild Garden this year, the festivity so often seen is one of the reasons the society has such good retention of its members.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Morell, C.P.A
Certified Plant Addict

Save-the-Date!

Don’t forget to calendar the Exotic Plant Show and Sale scheduled for

Saturday, May 21/Sunday, May 22, 2016, 9:30 - 4:30 p.m.

at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.

There will be further information at a later date.
Escargot
By John Banta

Eating snails is not a widespread affliction among humans but snails are on the menu for a several organisms. A recent introduction from New Guinea is a flatworm that poses a serious threat to our snail population. I realize that most gardeners would be happy to see all of their snails eaten but there are many good snails that demand protection. Our rare and beautiful native Liguus tree snails and the carnivorous snail, *Euglandina rosea*, that eats most of the snails that eat our wonderful plants.

This flatworm, *Platydemus manokwari*, has infested the Miami area. For all our best interests I urge you to view the following short video clip of this nasty invader:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qxA2B0rFFAQ

![Platydemus manokwari](image1.jpg)  ![Euglandina rosea](image2.jpg)

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