**President’s Message February 2012**

The 2012 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention is now history. As I review the notes I took and conversations I had with people, I realize how valuable the time was. Although many power points are available at shaponline.org, presenters invariably throw out extra advice, often in response to questions from the audience. The program was packed with leaders in the research field and growers, thanks to Dr. Rob Crassweller, who somehow pulls it together each year as the Program Chairman.

There are many people to thank for the inner workings of the convention, but I can’t imagine the scrambling that would need to go on if Maureen Irvin, SHAP’s executive secretary, called in sick. She puts it together like a well-oiled machine. Her working relationships with the Hershey Lodge help in many ways and she is the solution to every problem (“Maureen will know what to do”). While the convention is fresh in your memory, please feel free to contact us with comments or suggestions.

Every two years the presidency of SHAP is passed on-more about that naïve individual another time (me). Now however, I want to thank Ed Weaver for his many years of service to the SHAP board. Ed, his son Justin, and their family’s farm in Berks county, have quite a diversified and progressive operation. Fortunately Ed saw the value in leaving the farm several days a year to attend SHAP meetings in Biglerville and various other functions. A thoughtful individual, his insights would come after carefully listening to ideas around the table. Persuasive and respectful, he provided excellent leadership and there were always a few pictures of family he has the right to be proud of! Thanks, Ed, for your time, imagination, foresight and dedication to preserving and growing the fruit industry.

A brief note of introduction of Tad Kuntz and Ben Keim, SHAP’s newest board members-more about them in a later issue! Replacements were needed for both Ed and Tom Haas- a Lancaster county grower who served for many years. Tom is a relentless supporter of research-even volunteering to be one of the orchards hit hardest with the BMSB two years ago! He has taken the time to work closely with lead researchers to tell the story of those in charge of dispersing research dollars. Thanks, Tom, for your time commitment to SHAP and your ongoing efforts for horticulture research.

Wishing you all a productive month- it looks to be another good year to ‘talk about the weather’!

 Respectfully,

 **Carolyn McQuiston**