

## Presidents Message

Happy New Year! Let's hope this one not only starts well but, more importantly, finishes well.

As we move into January, I hope all of you are preparing to join us at the Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention in Hershey. This year's program looks excellent, as always. You can start out Tuesday morning with "*Effective Groundhog Control*" and finish Thursday with Social Media "*Tricks of the Trade*". If that doesn't demonstrate how wide ranging the available subject matter is, I don't know what would.

Don't forget to thank Rob Crassweller when you see him there. While many people are involved in putting together the program, Rob is responsible for organizing the tree fruit and stone fruit programs. He does a great job for our organization and deserves many thanks.

In addition to the convention, there will be educational opportunities on Monday. Again, from Social Media to Food Safety to Apple Thinning, there's something there for everyone. There's a Pre-convention Farm Market Bus Tour as well, for those of you who like to get out and see how other folks do things. The bus tour and workshops scheduled for Monday, January 28th, all require pre-registration. Please check the back of this newsletter for details.

Many hours of preparation are required of many people each year to make the MAFVC the success that it is. I can't begin to name all those involved, but I can say that the leadership provided by Maureen Irvin, on our behalf, has been outstanding. Make sure you take the time to thank her for a job well done while you are at the convention.

Given the weather we've had, most likely your tractors have all been serviced, your tools inventoried, you may have even gotten the corners of your shop swept. Let's hope and pray for clear days that allow us to get this winter work done, a mild "normal" Spring and a favorable growing season.

Looking forward to seeing you in Hershey,

Chris Baugher  
SHAP President