**Editorial Views**

By Dr. Rob Crassweller

**Thank You**

Last month at the Mid Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention Grower’s Banquet, it was quite a shock to hear my name called as the recipient of the SHAP Distinguished Service Award. I am truly honored to receive the award. It was a total surprise to me as was the presence of my wife, Sherry, at the banquet. I almost spoiled the surprise when I went over to where Maureen was sitting to ask her a question. Sherry was sitting just across the table from her. However, my single minded purpose prevented me from seeing her; that, along with the help of Dave and Ben Wenk. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the

industry these past 31 years. With the YGA group, I am now working with my third generation of growers. Over the years there have been many positive changes and the industry has evolved in a dynamic fashion. I look forward to continue working to make the industry and the State Horticultural Association better.

This winter’s weather has been one of the more difficult periods I can remember in a long time. Last year we had a few cold days but nothing like this year. January saw one day below zero, but so far in February we have had 7 days below zero in central Pennsylvania. The minimum temperature at Rock Springs occurred on the 16th at -10.7. Worse weather showed up in Erie where they had three straight days with minimum temperatures of -15 to -21, and during that period two days when the high was

below -7F! The one advantage we have had is the lack of a typical January/February thaw. Since temperatures have stayed consistently cold, the flower buds are capable of deep supercooling and may escape extensive damage. It might be a good idea, however, to cut some stone fruit shoots off and bring them into the house to warm up and see if there is any damage.

With the completion of the Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention last month, it is time to start

planning for next year’s meeting. We will be having our initial educational program planning meeting in April. If you have any ideas for topics or speakers, drop me a note at rmc7@psu.edu. You can also corner me at the remaining winter meetings or during the spring twilight meetings. Speaking of which, the meeting dates have been posted on our Tree Fruit Web Site extension.psu.edu/plants/tree-fruit.

This issue contains the annual research reports on projects funded by the SHAP research committee. The funds provided by you are vitally important to helping solve industry research problems. I, along with all of the other scientists, are appreciative of the funding received and it allows us to bring to the industry new findings on tree fruit production systems. I hope you take the time to read all of the reports in this issue.