

# *President's Message*

For being considered the “down time” of the year, it’s amazing how much work still needs to be accomplished during the winter months. Thankfully, the weather has been in our favor so far, allowing us to get a great jump start on our pruning. I’m hoping that the ground will soon freeze though, because it is much nicer chopping brush on frozen ground than through thawed out slop. Then there is the annual maintenance work for the tractors, sprayers, and all other equipment. Once all of that is completed, there is the never-ending amount of office work that needs to be dealt with. But I have to admit, the office work is kind of nice on those very cold and blustery days.

Another important item which occurs this time of year is the Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention in Hershey, PA. Our convention is one of the premier industry events in the country, and this year we will be returning to an in-person format. There have been many questions regarding safety measures for exhibitors and registrants at the convention, and face masks are highly recommended. Later in this issue you will be able to view the schedule for the many educational sessions and any pesticide credits that may be available for certain presentations.

This will be my final President’s Message to all of you, as my term will be ending during this year’s convention. Serving on the board as President these past two years has been a wonderful experience and a tremendous honor. I have been able to work with many talented people to strengthen our association and industry as a whole. While it would be almost impossible to acknowledge them all individually; I would like to thank the past and present board members, committee chairs, Farm Show volunteers, and Extension personnel. Most importantly, I would deeply like to thank our Executive Secretary, Maureen Irvin, for her countless hours of work and dedication. She is truly what allows our association to function as smoothly as it does. If you see her at the registration desk during the convention, be sure to take a moment and thank her as well.

Hope to see many of you at the convention.

Ben Keim  
SHAP President