President’s Message

As I sit down to write this message, we are entering the home stretch of the 2023 harvest season. While it still feels like a long way to go as I drive through the orchard looking at all the apples we still have on the trees, there are only three varieties we haven’t started picking yet. Fuji and Pink Lady are always the varieties I look forward to because that means we’ve hit the end, and it is now time to get them in a bin. Overall, I have been happy with the crop we have produced so far this year, but as always there is room for improvement. For example, codling moth caused some issues right around Honeycrisp time, fruit finish on a few varieties could have been better, and crop response to thinners was rough this year. That’s what makes this job interesting though; there is always something new to work on.

Planning is well underway for the Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention. The Tree Fruit Program is being finalized and is shaping up to be a strong program. We will also be hosting the North American Strawberry Growers Association this year and will have a program geared towards them. The bus tour and pre-convention workshops are in the process of being planned. For those interested in staying at the Hershey Lodge, I would suggest booking your rooms early as rooms will likely go fast this year with outside organizations also attending.

Hopefully next month I will have a little more time to put into this message, but for now its back to finishing up the 2023 harvest.

Andrew Schwalm
SHAP President