

Letter from the Chair

Here we are in the month of November, and Christmas will be upon us before we know it! Since this is the month of our Thanksgiving holiday, I wanted to share some Thanks to some important people for giving of their time and effort toward Masters diving.

First of all, a very special thanks to those who were at the FIRST Masters meet in San Angelo, Texas, which happens to be very close to where I live. In fact, I took my high school divers to a meet in that very pool last week. The magnificent seven, Nate Holt, Tom Hairabedian, Dennis Taylor, John Deininger, Charles Teas, Bill McAlister, and Judith Coble. You were the trailblazers who started what we now take for granted. I am especially thankful for those who are still diving with us from that group, Tom, John, and Nate. You guys are amazing, and an inspiration to us all!

Secondly, a huge thanks to all those who have served in leadership positions over the years in Masters diving. I don't want to name everyone, because I'm afraid that I will leave someone out. But I do want to thank all of you for all your hard work, and hopefully I will take the best from each of you and use that to be the best Masters Chairman that I can be. I especially want to thank Ed Richmond and Alex Lapidus for all of their work these past few years, and for getting us up to speed with the information age. Also, for those who serve just because they love the sport of diving, Ted Witte, our fabulous web master, and Fred Fox, who does an amazing job in keeping our history documents up to date, I say a very special thank you. Both of you have served for many years, and put in many hours, and you are appreciated.

Last, but certainly not least, I am thankful for each diver, coach, spouse, significant other, who come to our masters meets. Each of you makes up the fabric of this wonderful family of ours, and each of you bless my life by being there. Whether you are first or last, or the only one in your age group, you are always welcome, and your presence makes the experience better for each of us. We all have so much to learn from each other, to share with each other, and in more ways than just diving. Those of you who come to the meets as "cheerleaders" are so very important to us as well! Your support and encouragement is second to none, and I am thankful for all of you.

I want to say a special thank you to my own family, Paul and Stephen, for allowing me to come and "play" with my diving friends twice a year, and for their love and support. May each of you be blessed with family at this time of year. Happy Thanksgiving!

Jennifer Mangum