



President's Message



Dear Colleagues in Horticultural Therapy,

Welcome to the New Year and to AHTA's celebration of **50 years** of service to the professionalism of horticultural therapy! As history has it, in 1973 twenty people came together to form the National Council for Therapy and Rehabilitation through Horticulture. This was the foundation of AHTA, as in later years NCTRH became known as AHTA. This collective energy of the 20 people created the beginnings of the practice of horticultural therapy to enhance the well-being of individuals through this modality for therapeutic, rehabilitative, and vocational benefits. This year we will continue to honor the achievements of the founding members and the history of AHTA, as we continue our movement forward with changes needed to achieve AHTA's sustainability and inclusion of all who practice horticultural therapy and therapeutic horticulture.

Times have changed since 1973. Fifty years ago: The Beatles were still a band, there were no cell phones, as we had rotary phones, the internet was not a thing, there were no dating apps or no ATMs, gas was 39 cents a gallon, the environment was still an afterthought (as the EPA was just created in 1970), no one cared about bottled water, and Earth Day was brand new.

Yes, times have changed. I look forward to celebrating AHTA's past this year while focusing on the changes AHTA needs to make for the future.

Get involved with the movement forward! [Join AHTA](#) as a member, a volunteer for our work teams, or as a board member. "WE" can create the change for AHTA.

Yours in AHTA,
Lana Dreyfuss, LPCC, LCADC, SEP, HTR
Gratefully, AHTA President

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

The AHTA membership work team would like to encourage members to celebrate MLK Day and honor Dr. King's legacy through performing acts of service the week of **January 16, 2023**. Through horticultural therapy and therapeutic horticulture, we have the power to bring communities together, help others, build bridges, and heal divides. Let us collectively plant seeds of change to celebrate MLK Day. Whether hosting a garden cleanup, volunteering to facilitate an activity at a local organization, reaching out to mentor a future horticultural therapy professional, or simply engaging in a dialogue to explore ways to challenge inequity, foster inclusion, and improve access within our profession. Any act of service, big or small, can help unite and break down barriers.

Share your MLK Day experience! Please remember to share photos, videos, and write posts about your service using the hashtag **#AHTAMLKDay** and tag AHTA social media pages when posting!

Share Your Experience

News and Events

Share AHTA's New Promotional Video

[Check out our latest video.](#) The American Horticultural Therapy Association is premiering its second official video promoting Horticultural Therapy and the Association. This shorter video will be used to promote higher engagement with audiences that prefer shorter content expanding the awareness, knowledge, and understanding of the AHTA and Horticulture Therapy. Please watch, tag, and post this video to social media and be sure to like, comment, share, and subscribe to the [AHTA YouTube Channel](#).

Watch Video

Charles A. Lewis Excellence in Research Award

Nominations for the Charles A. Lewis Excellence in Research are now open. [Submit a nomination today!](#) The award is given to research scientists who have published outstanding horticultural therapy research in a horticultural or medical journal. The award seeks to recognize contributions to evidence-based research that demonstrates the effectiveness of horticultural therapy. It also serves to increase awareness of research-based findings supporting the health benefits offered through horticulture.

Charles A. Lewis was a pioneer in the field of people-plant interaction and innovative horticultural programs in various community settings. Mr. Lewis worked as a horticulturist and administrator and a research fellow at the Morton Arboretum. Additionally, he was a plant breeder, grower, and author. His book "Green Nature Human Nature" presents an evolutionary basis for the human attraction to plants. People-plant interactions, he wrote, are presented from the perspective of participatory and observational. Lewis clearly presented research into the plant-human interaction and how green nature is intertwined with the human psyche

To nominate an article for the award, please complete the nomination form. Nominations will be accepted until **March 22, 2023**.

[Submit A Nomination](#)

January Community Meeting

Join us for the January Community Meeting! [Register now!](#) Our bi-monthly community meeting will be held **January 26, 2023** at 7:30 PM ET / 4:30 PM PT. Come and speak directly with AHTA leaders, network with other members, and learn more about the activities that are being planned for the upcoming year. We all play an important part in the process of reimagining and revitalizing the profession and practice of horticultural therapy. Join us as we continue to cultivate the American Horticultural Therapy Association's "renaissance in bloom".

[Register Today](#)

Nominations

Nominations for the [Board of Directors](#) will open in **March 2023**. Our Immediate Past President has a short announcement about serving on the Board of Directors. If you have any questions, please contact info@ahta.org.

[View Announcement](#)

New AHTA HTR Database Search Option

This year, the AHTA board voted on a recommendation to add a public search feature on our website to allow companies or the general public to search for HTRs near them. **Any HTR member will have the opportunity to *opt-in* or *opt-out* of the database.** We request that HTR members update their profile with this indication. Once the member data-base is populated, we will publish and advertise this feature on the website and newsletter.

To update:

1. Log into the [Member Center](#)
2. Select "My Profile"
3. Select "Edit Profile"
4. Check "Opt-in" or "Opt-out"

We would like to use this as a reminder for all members to update their profiles with any updates as well.

[Visit the Member Center](#)

AHTA Job Board

Looking for a Job? Find your next job using [AHTA's job board](#). To access the job board, you must be an AHTA member. If you are currently a member of AHTA, please log in to your account and navigate to the Job Opportunities under the Member Center tab.

Interested in posting a Job? Both AHTA members and non-members may post relevant jobs on the AHTA Job Board. Members of AHTA may [post to the job board](#) for free and there is a \$50 fee for non-members to post. Postings remain active for 60 days unless AHTA is notified otherwise. Please allow the office 1 to 3 business days to post your job to the AHTA website.

[View Job Opportunities](#)

[Post a Job Opening](#)

Become A Member

Not a member of AHTA? [Join today!](#) AHTA membership is comprised of individuals who are passionate about the unique benefits of horticultural therapy as a therapeutic modality. Members are committed to the growth of the profession. Membership in the AHTA will keep you up to date on the latest in horticultural therapy news, as well as give you access to outstanding educational and networking opportunities.

[Join Today](#)



American Horticultural Therapy Association

info@ahta.org
(206) 209-5296
www.ahta.org

