



President's Message



Dear Colleagues in Horticultural Therapy,

Welcome to the August edition of AHTA's newsletter, where we share updates and information from AHTA and the profession of horticultural therapy.

August is here! A month with time to sit and enjoy flowers, friends, and family. Our gardens are in full bloom, our programs and participants are expanding, and gratitude grows. Having gratitude for AHTA and the 50 awesome years of rich history is noticed as we continue to celebrate our "Golden Jubilee." Gratitude for our past, present, and future revitalizes our connection with and curiosity for the growth of AHTA and the profession of horticultural therapy.

At the June Board of Directors meeting, we continued the discussion of the exam development for the HT-BC. This discussion will continue at our August meeting as we consider the benefits and risks of all the parts for exam development and sustainability. Our process for pre-approval of coursework is near completion. The board is also finalizing the approval for another category of professional registration, the Therapeutic Horticulture Practitioner, THP, as a professional entry-level to the HTR. Hope to have more news on this exciting development in the next months. Thank you to the credentialing work team for the work they have done in this effort!

Share your gratitude for AHTA by becoming a member, joining a work team, or the Board of Directors! We can collectively take AHTA into the future! Grow the connection to horticultural therapy and AHTA through social media, webinars, community meetings, and the coming virtual conference. Take time to check out

the upcoming conference schedule, it looks amazing! See you at “[AHTA 2023: 50 Years of Cultivating Horticultural Therapy.](#)”

May you have gratitude for all.

Gracefully submitted,

Lana Dreyfuss LPCC, LCADC, SEP, HTR, President of AHTA

News and Events



AHTA 2023: 50 Years of Cultivating Horticultural Therapy

The [AHTA 2023: 50 Years of Cultivating Horticultural Therapy](#) will be virtual on **October 20–21, 2023!** “Going virtual” will allow our association’s conference to reach a wider audience, all at different stages in their career. Attendees will have access to the event recordings 60 days post-conference. [Register today](#) to secure the lowest prices before the early-bird window closes on **September 1, 2023**. Right now, students can register for just \$25!

Register Now

The conference will feature a diverse array of speakers from more than 10 different countries. One of those presenters is Andrew Zeiger, a horticultural therapy student and medical student at Sidney Kimmel Medical College. You can [watch the short film](#) that he created, titled "Bloom," on YouTube.

Meet the 2023 Conference Keynote Speakers



Roots, Growth, and Interconnections

Rebecca Haller, HTM, directs the [Horticultural Therapy Institute](#) in Denver, Colorado, is an affiliate faculty member for Colorado State University, writes curricula, and teaches horticultural therapy classes at sites across the U.S. She wrote for and co-edited two major textbooks: *Horticultural Therapy Methods: Connecting People and Plants in Health Care, Human Services, and Therapeutic Programs* and *The Profession and Practice of Horticultural Therapy* – both used extensively in the U.S. and around the world.

[Read More >](#)



Nature Rx: Prescribing Nature to Promote Human and Planetary Health

Dr. Robert Zarr, MD, MPH is a physician researcher and public health pediatrician based at [Unity Health Care, Inc.](#) and [Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario](#). He is the Founder & Medical Director of Park Rx America, a non-profit organization whose mission is to decrease the burden of chronic disease, increase health and happiness, and foster environmental stewardship, by virtue of prescribing Nature during the routine delivery of healthcare by a diverse group of health care professionals.

[Read More >](#)

2023 AHTA Sponsorship Opportunities

Are you interested in receiving valuable exposure for your organization's brand? Consider taking advantage of AHTA's [sponsorship opportunities](#) for 2023. By partnering with AHTA in 2023, you can build your network with horticultural professionals, and promote educational programs or products and services through the AHTA website, targeted emails, social media, AHTA magazine, and the annual conference.

Through our diverse and expanding professional network (5,500 Community Outreach, 500+ International Organization Members), horticultural therapists continue to increase their reach. Your sponsorship is an excellent way to connect your company, services, and products to our allied professionals. Also, it supports the growth and well-being of the populations we serve,

including healthcare organizations, older adult communities, wellness groups, psychology & human services, veterans, educational institutions, vocational programs, and more!

To learn more about AHTA and our initiatives, resources, and benefits, please [explore our website](#) and view our [2023 sponsorship opportunities](#).

[Learn More](#)

September Community Meeting

Register today for the [September Community Meeting](#) during which we will discuss the book, "Braiding Sweetgrass." Have you read the book? Are you finished, halfway through, put it down, or still deciding if you want to read it or not? Come join our community meeting on **September 28, 2023, at 7:30 PM ET** and participate in an exciting discussion about this best-seller!

[Learn More & Register](#)

UCLA Granted Individual Coursework Accreditation

The [UCLA Horticultural Extension](#) was granted AHTA individual coursework accreditation for "Foundations of Horticultural Therapy" in July 2023. The accreditation committee is looking forward to reviewing future coursework from UCLA.

[Learn More](#)

New AHTA HTR Database Search Option

The [Horticultural Therapist-Registered \(HTR\) Directory](#) feature on our website is now live! This feature allows companies or the general public to search for HTRs near them. The benefits for HTRs may include employment, consultation work, presentation/information sharing opportunities, advocacy for the profession of horticultural therapy and more! **Any HTR member has the opportunity to *opt-in or opt-out* of the database.** We request that HTR members update their profile with this indication.

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 refresh their profiles with any other updates as well.

[Visit the Member Center](#)

AHTA Job Board

Looking for a job or interested in posting a job? Find your next job using [AHTA's Job Board](#). To access the job board, you must be an AHTA member.

[Visit Job Board](#)

Become a Member

Not a member of AHTA? [Join today!](#) AHTA's 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@ahata.org

(206) 209-5296

www.ahata.org

