



President's Message



Dear Colleagues in Horticultural Therapy,

Welcome to the July edition of AHTA's newsletter, where we share the latest information from AHTA!

Summer is a season of growth and color in our gardens that we create for our horticultural therapy programs. We see this growth and connection in the participants we serve. Creativity rises as the horticultural therapist creates new activities designed for the individual objectives of the participants. Perhaps it is the expanding of an already established program, or the start of a brand new program that motivates us to connect deeper to horticultural therapy.

Thank you all for the wonderful work you do to promote horticultural therapy. Please continue these efforts by posting on social media and tagging AHTA. I also invite you to [share your success story](#) to be featured in one of the next editions of this newsletter!

AHTA continues to celebrate 50 years of service to the profession of horticultural therapy. We can all keep AHTA growing into the next 50 years! Take time to [learn more about horticultural therapy and AHTA](#).

To keep moving forward with the changes of growth we have been working on, the AHTA Board of Directors has agreed to have monthly meetings. We continue to look at the questions of how will this support membership. How can AHTA be more inclusive and diverse? At the board meeting on June 26, 2023, we discussed exam development, which will be continued. In

addition, AHTA is working on other options of eligibility for the HTR status. I invite you to [share your thoughts](#) to help in these conversations and let me know your passion for AHTA!

May you continue to flourish this summer season!

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

News and Events



AHTA 2023: 50 Years of Cultivating Horticultural Therapy

The [Annual AHTA Conference](#) will be virtual on **October 20-21, 2023!** The virtual format for AHTA 2023 will certainly be different, but it creates the opportunity to reach a more expansive group of horticultural therapists from around the world. “Going Virtual” also will allow our association’s conference to reach a wider audience to match the diverse needs of professionals at all stages in their career. We look forward to supporting continuing education and development, and facilitating networking opportunities at this year’s conference. [Register today](#) to take advantage of our early-bird registration rates! The early-bird registration window ends on **September 15**.

Register Now

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, to support 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

AHTA Welcomes Our New Directors

Each year, AHTA offers a nomination process for members to join our board as a Director-at-Large. This year we presented the members with four potential board members. The votes have been counted and we would like to introduce you to our 2023–2026 Directors-at-Large:

- **April Ellis, LSCW, HTR**
- **Linda Brown-Kuhn, HTR**
- **Charley Jordan**
- **Kelly Warnick, JD**

The 2023–2026 Directors-at-Large will begin their term this fall at our Annual Membership Meeting. If you are interested in serving on the board or joining a work team in the future, please [contact the office](#) to learn more.

July Community Meeting

Register today for the [July Community Meeting](#) being held on **July 27, 2023, at 7:30 PM ET**. Join us as we grow our cultural competency by celebrating and learning more about diversity. AHTA will host a discussion on the way other cultures use and view plants for healing. At this meeting, we will delve into diverse perspectives on horticultural therapy outside of Eurocentric/Western hegemony, to better understand how therapeutic horticulture has been incorporated into communities, languages, and cultures. If you or someone you know would like to join our panel, please contact R. Nicole Magor at ms.magor@gmail.com.

Learn More & Register

AHTA Announces New Accredited Program

Oregon State University (OSU) recently received accreditation status with the AHTA. The [OSU AHTA accredited program](#) provides a foundation in the theory and application of horticultural therapy for diverse populations. The classes are offered via Ecampus and the first cohort has started in Summer 2023. Melissa Bierman, MS, HTR is the instructor and Anne Gearhart is the academic advisor. Please [contact Anne Gearhart](#) for further assistance in learning how to enroll at Oregon State University.

Learn More

Disability Pride Month

Disability Pride Month is celebrated each year in July. Disability Pride initially started as a day of celebration in 1990—the year that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law. That same year, Boston held the first Disability Pride Day. The first official celebration of Disability Pride Month occurred in July 2015, which also marked the 25th anniversary of the ADA. Since then, cities across the country have celebrated disability pride month with parades and other festivities. Check out the ["Become A Disability A.L.L.Y."](#) article to learn more about how to show your support.

Read the Article

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](#)



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