



President's Message



Dear Colleagues in Horticultural Therapy,

Welcome to the June newsletter! AHTA welcomes all to read our monthly updates, announcements, and information. As we approach the Summer Solstice, representing a time of strength and balance, we can give gratitude for all we do in the world of horticultural therapy and therapeutic horticulture. We are all connected through horticulture and the healing powers of plants that we share with our diverse programs. Programs served by horticultural therapy may include helping youth at risk, those with mental health concerns to include trauma, PTSD, substance abuse issues, those hospitalized or incarcerated, those with physical disabilities, developmental disabilities, geriatrics, and more. Want to learn more about horticultural therapy? Take a look at AHTA's [accredited programs for horticultural therapy](#).

As AHTA continues to celebrate its 50 years of service to the profession of horticultural therapy, I am reflecting on the seeds planted in 1973 to make AHTA what it is today. There is such a rich history to the organization, the leaders in the field, and the evolution of the profession. Our past and present allow for AHTA to be what it is today. Our future depends on new members, HTRs, and students! For more on the past, present, and future of AHTA, check out the [Spring 2023 Edition](#) of the AHTA Magazine. This edition is available for all to embrace the history and future of our organization. Thanks to the magazine work team for putting together this wonderful, historical document on AHTA!

Join us today and [become a member!](#)

Gratefully, and Happy Summer!

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. **Registration for the conference will be opening next week!**

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 US 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 >](#)

Happy Pride & LGBTQ+ Awareness Month

The American Horticultural Therapy Association wishes everyone a very Happy Pride and LGBTQ+ awareness month. In celebration, we'd like to share an article from Psychology Today on [Horticultural Therapy and the LGBTQ+ community](#).

[Read the Article](#)

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.

The National Garden Bureau Is Now Accepting 2023 Garden Grant Applications

Each year, the [National Garden Bureau's](#) judging committee selects five therapeutic gardens to be the recipients of a grant that will help the organization expand or perpetuate their initiatives.

Those chosen will then compete via a social media voting contest by submitting a one minute video featuring the gardens' operations for First Place, Second Place, and three runner up financial prizes. They will also be featured on National Garden Bureau's website for national exposure.

[Learn more](#) about the application process and [apply today!](#) The deadline to submit an application is **July 1, 2023**.

Submit an Application

Coursework Pre-Approval Update

In March, the board of directors approved a coursework pre-approval process. The creation of the online form and set-up is near completion. Once the system is updated, Derrick Stowell will lead a free information session on Zoom to discuss the program and process. This session will also be recorded and made available for members' reference. **Stay tuned for more information.**

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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