



## President's Message



Dear Colleagues in Horticultural Therapy,

As AHTA celebrates 50 years of service to the professionalism of horticultural therapy, let's take time to notice that during this time AHTA has hosted 49 conferences and has registered 724 individuals since the registration process began in 1974 for the profession of horticultural therapy! 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.

AHTA would like to express our gratitude for all who have contributed to the field of horticultural therapy. This year as we look at the past, present and future of AHTA I would like to invite you to 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**

## News and Events

### Celebrating Black History

AHTA 2022 conference keynote speaker, Abra Lee, said in a Q&A interview with the Jacksonville Florida Times, ***“The truth is there no horticultural history of the United States without honoring Native Americans and including contributions of the enslaved Black Americans and their descendants that worked the land for free and built this economy. Black people were brought here in bondage because we were exceptional agrarians and cultivators of the soil.”***

The AHTA wants to honor those Americans and celebrate black history through encouraging our members learn more about the horticultural contributions of enslaved Black Americans and their descendants.

**To learn more, check out one of these books:**

- *Conquer the Soil* by Abra Lee
- *Farming While Black: Soul Fire Farm’s Practical Guide to Liberation on the Land* by Leah Penniman
- *Rooted in the Earth: Reclaiming the African American Environmental Heritage* by Diane Glave
- *The Good Food Revolution: Growing Healthy Food, People, and Communities* by Will Allen
- *The Color of Food* by Natasha Bowen

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**Save the Date for AHTA 2023 on October 20–21, 2023**

**AHTA 2023: 50 Years of Cultivating Horticultural Therapy** will be virtual this year! 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. The conference format will use technology that has worked well for other recent online conferences to emphasize virtual discussion during the conference event, including small-group engagement for poster presentations.

“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!

**Important upcoming dates:**

- Speaker RFPs Open: **February 17, 2023**
- Sponsor and Exhibitor Sales Open: **February 24, 2023**

Save the Date

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## National Horticultural Therapy Week

**Let's celebrate!** [National Horticultural Therapy Week](#) is **March 19–25, 2023**. Each year, the American Horticultural Therapy Association (AHTA) coordinates the efforts of regional networking groups, affiliated horticultural therapy programs, and AHTA members to collaborate in celebrating the profession on a national and local level.

Learn More

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## National Horticultural Therapy Week Gift Exchange

Let us celebrate [National Horticultural Therapy Week](#) and AHTA's fifty-year anniversary by giving and receiving horticultural-themed gifts. To sign up for the gift exchange, email [ms.magor@gmail.com](mailto:ms.magor@gmail.com) with AHTA Gift Exchange in the subject line and you will receive an Elfster.com invite to participate in the fun. Gifts are not to exceed \$25.

Participate in the Gift Exchange

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## Webinar: Using Hydroponics In Your Therapeutic Practice

**When you think of horticultural therapy, do you envision using soil?** Hydroponics, or soil-less cultivation is growing in popularity and is very versatile and mobile. Hydroponic garden systems can be as large or as small as you prefer, easily fitting spaces like classrooms, therapy offices, kitchens, and lounge areas. Join us for the webinar, [Using Hydroponics In Your Therapeutic Practice](#), on **March 14, 2023 7:30–9 PM ET** to learn more about hydroponics with Kerrin Massarueh, Matt Janson, and Eric Oberlechner.

Register for the Webinar

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## March Community Meeting & Book Discussion

***"A Well Gardened Mind"* by Dr. Sue Stuart-Smith**

Have you read the book? Are you finished; halfway through; put it down;

still deciding if you want to read it or not? Join our [March Community Meeting](#) on **March 30, 2023 7:30–8:30 PM ET** and participate in an exciting discussion about this best-seller!

Newsflash! Author Dr. Sue Stuart-Smith will be on tour March 1-13, the [Spring Tour](#) will begin on March 1, 2023 and will take place in five U.S. cities.

Register for the March Meeting

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## Thank You to Our Members

Thank you and welcome to all of our new members! AHTA would also like to thank our Lifetime Members for their contributions to AHTA over the years.

Lifetime members include:

- **Earl Copus**
- **Elizabeth Diehl**
- **Clare Marcus**
- **Paula Diane Relf**
- **Leigh Anne Starling**
- **Roger Ulrich**

We appreciate your support of the horticultural therapy profession.

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## AHTA Annual Awards

Don't forget to submit nominations for the [Charles A. Lewis Excellence in Research Award](#). To nominate an article for the award, please complete the [nomination form](#). Nominations will be accepted until **March 22, 2023**.

Recently, AHTA has approved changes to the Ann Lane Mavromatis Scholarship. The dollar amount of the scholarship has been increased to \$1000.00 for those taking coursework in horticultural therapy, including coursework required for professional registration! Learn more about the [AHTA Annual Awards](#) and [submit your nominations](#).

Submit a Nomination



## Nominations for AHTA Board of Directors Are Now Open

The AHTA is a member driven organization and we need you. Your support as a volunteer is critical to the advancement of the profession of horticultural therapy. We value your service as a AHTA member, work team member, and board member. The [nomination form](#) to serve on the AHTA Board of Directors is open now through **March 30, 2023**. Help shape the future of AHTA and the future of the horticultural profession by volunteering as a board member at-large. Learn more about the [2023 nomination process](#) by watching the video above.

[Complete Nomination Form](#)

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## 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](#)

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## 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.

[View Job Opportunities](#)

[Post a Job Opening](#)

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## Become A Member

**Not a member of AHTA?** AHTA membership is comprised of individuals who are passionate about the unique benefits of horticultural therapy as a therapeutic modality.

[Join Today](#)



**American Horticultural Therapy Association**

[info@ahtha.org](mailto:info@ahtha.org)

(206) 209-5296

[www.ahtha.org](http://www.ahtha.org)

