



## President's Message



Dear Colleagues in Horticultural Therapy,

Spring is arriving!

AHTA is celebrating 50 years! In looking at the history, present state, and future opportunities AHTA is acknowledging change. To quote Clarissa Pinkola Estes, American poet, post-trauma specialist, Jungian psychoanalyst, and author of *Women Who Run with the Wolves*, "When a great ship is in the harbor and moored, it is safe, there is no doubt. But that is not what great ships are for."

AHTA is that great ship, and we are now on the sea of change. At the March Board of Directors meeting held on **March 10-11, 2023**, the board planted those seeds of change. Here are the highlights:

- AHTA's virtual conference "[\*\*AHTA 2023: 50 years of Cultivating Horticultural Therapy\*\*](#)" will be held on **October 20-21, 2023**. The board approved reducing student rates to help in the inclusion of a younger audience.
- The board approved the revision of the student packet and is working on targeted outreach to young adults, LGBTQAI+, BIPOC, people with disabilities, and organizations representing these groups.
- We approved pre-approval for the coursework program.
- The board is considering stackable credentials for our HTR process.
- The requirements of internship supervisors have changed, dropping the requirement of one year of full-time work or 2000 hours of work experience.

- The grandfathering clause for coursework prior to 2013 was revisited and approved to continue.
- The board approved open access for our Journal of Therapeutic Horticulture.

**Please note these changes will take time to be implemented**, but the board is actively taking steps to put these changes in place. Stay tuned for updates in this newsletter and the upcoming board bulletin!

I invite you all to get involved with the spring forward season of change for AHTA. Post your event for [\*\*National Horticultural Therapy Week, become a member\*\*](#), and stand strong for the profession by joining the AHTA work teams, review boards, and board of directors to help in the growth of AHTA!

We can grow AHTA!

Yours in AHTA,

**Lana Dreyfuss LPCC, LCADC, SEP, HTR**  
**Gratefully, AHTA President**

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## News and Events

### Happy Women's History Month!

Let us celebrate the amazing contributions of women in horticultural history. Michelle Obama once said, "There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish." To honor this important month, we have created a short list of articles and pictorials that highlight the accomplishments of women in horticulture throughout history:

- [\*\*\*A horticulture school of their own: Meet the pioneering women who helped launched Temple Ambler\*\*\*](#)
- [\*\*\*Timeline of Women's History in American Gardens\*\*\*](#)
- [\*\*\*Eight Women to Know in Horticulture History\*\*\*](#)

Also, check out these two articles that discuss ways horticultural therapy is being used to change the lives of women both nationally and internationally:

- [\*\*\*Planting a Life—and a Future—After Prison\*\*\*](#)
- [\*\*\*Effects of Horticultural Therapy of Self-esteem and Depression of Battered Women at a Shelter in Korea\*\*\*](#)

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## AHTA 2023: 50 Years of Cultivating Horticultural Therapy

## October 20–21, 2023

The [AHTA 2023 Annual Conference](#) will be virtual this year. This virtual format 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.

In recognition of the 50 years of AHTA, we invite individuals from the horticultural therapy community and allied health professionals to [submit a proposal](#) for sessions (lecture, panel discussion, etc), workshops, and poster presentations on the growth of HT/TH in the context of its evolution:

- Where we were/Programs of the past.
- Where we are/Current Programs.
- Where we envision being/Programs of the future.

Presenters will be selected by a peer review panel. Please [submit your proposal](#) online by **April 21, 2023**. Notification of the selection decisions will be sent by **May 19, 2023**.

Submit a Proposal

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## Important AHTA Updates

The AHTA would like to share the latest information on **Internships**, **Telehealth**, **Coursework Pre-Approval**, and the **Grandfather Clause**. Please [read our latest news post](#) to learn more.

Learn More

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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!

Register for the March Meeting

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## National Horticultural Therapy Week

**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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## 20% Off New Member Discount for the Month of March

**Save on membership!** To further celebrate **National Horticultural Therapy Week** and support AHTA's growth, we are offering a 20% off discount to new members who join AHTA in the month of March. **Become a member** today and use the promo code **NEWMEMBER** to save! This is a one-time use code and will only provide a discount on your initial enrollment fee.

[Become an AHTA Member](#)



## Nominations for AHTA Board of Directors

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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## 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**.

The AHTA is also accepting nominations for the following [annual awards](#):

- [AHTA Therapeutic Garden Design Award](#)
- [Ann Lane Mavromatis Scholarship](#)
- [Alice Burlingame Humanitarian Service Award](#)
- [John Walker Community Service Award](#)
- [Rhea McCandliss Professional Service Award](#)

[Learn more](#) about the nomination process and submit a nomination today!

Submit a Nomination

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## 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. **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](#)

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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](#)



**American Horticultural Therapy Association**

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