



President's Message

Dear Colleagues in Horticultural Therapy,

Welcome to the September 2024 edition of the AHTA newsletter where we share information and updates from AHTA and the profession of horticultural therapy.

September is here! Celebrating the Autumn Equinox soon reminds us of the coming fall color in the trees, harvesting, preparing fall garden beds, and enjoying some relief from the past summer's heat. I would like to give a shout out to all the new HTRs and THPs who have achieved their status recently.

I appreciate the Professional Registration Review Board who has had a busy season keeping up with all the applications. I also want to give a shout out to the [AHTA Accredited Certificate Programs](#) who provide the coursework for those entering the world of horticultural therapy abiding by the professional standards of AHTA., and the coursework guided by the AHTA Job Task Analysis 2022.

The AHTA Annual Membership Meeting will be held on October 18, 2024, at the [2024 Annual Conference](#) "Collective Effervescence". The AHTA Annual Award recipients will be honored at this time as well! Due to time constraints at this meeting the AHTA Board of Directors will then invite all to a "Talking Circle with the AHTA Board of Directors" for information sharing and listening to the membership later that day. Hope to see you there!

Join us in harvesting the growth of AHTA by becoming a member or joining a work team. We look forward to connecting with you through social media, our upcoming webinars, and of course at the conference!

May the Autumn Season find you well!

Gratefully,

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

AHTA 2024

Collective Effervescence

Honoring Collaboration in Times of Change

OCTOBER 18-19, 2024 | RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

AHTA 2024 Annual Conference

The [AHTA Annual Conference](#) is fast approaching, and we are looking forward to gathering in Raleigh, NC. Join us as we experience *collective effervescence* on October 18th and 19th, with optional Pre-Conference Tours to six inspiring sites on October 17th.

On October 18th, we will hear from Keynote Speaker [Jazmin Albarran](#), Seed Your Future Executive Director. And on October 19th, another Keynote Speaker and renowned bestselling author and horticulturist, [Brie Arthur](#), will give a dynamic presentation with innovative gardening advice.

The Conference Work Team continues to strive for an outstanding event and is pleased to add networking & sharing opportunities, including a Q&A session for AHTA members to ask questions of the board, a special participatory activity on Thursday evening, an opportunity to suggest themes for next year's conference, and a drawing at the closing of Saturday's sessions to win a complimentary registration for the 2025 virtual conference.

We invite you to join us in collaboration during this time of change, at the 2024 AHTA Conference on **October 18th and 19th** with optional tours on **October 17th**. Registration closes on October 7th, 2024.

[Register Now](#)

We look forward to sharing enriching experiences through a HT/TH lens and growing together as people and professionals. See you in North Carolina!

HT Activity - Leaf Suncatcher

By Linda Brown-Kuhn, HTR

This is a wonderful, inexpensive fall activity that will work for a variety of populations. If possible, go outdoors with participants to pick leaves in combination with making leaf suncatchers or as a separate activity. Pressing leaves is also a good precursor to this activity although newly picked leaves can also be used.

Materials:

Fall-themed paper plates
Clear adhesive contact paper
Scissors and pencils
Leaves (fresh or pressed)
Single-hole punch
Yarn or ribbon

Steps:

1. Cut out the middle of the plate, leaving the rimmed edges. First two steps can be done by you before the group or by your participants if they are able.
2. With the cut-out circle, trace two slightly larger circles (about 1" larger) out of clear contact paper and cut them out.
3. Adhere one contact paper circle to the back of the plate with the sticky side facing out.
4. Arrange leaves on the contact paper. Keep in mind that once leaves touch the sticky surface they can't be moved. Participants may first want to plan out leaf positions on the cut-out middle of the plate.
5. Cover the leaves with the second piece of contact paper pressing the edges into the plate rim.
6. Make a hole for hanging at the top of the suncatcher with a hole punch in the rim of the paper plate.
7. Thread the yarn or ribbon through the hole and hang the suncatcher on a window with a piece of tape or on a hook or nail.

Discussion possibilities:

- Observe and talk about the differences in leaf size, shape and color. Why do leaves change color in the autumn?
- Changes the new season will bring to nature. What tools do individuals possess to help them to survive and thrive in times of change?



Announcing the THP, Therapeutic Horticulture Practitioner!

The American Horticultural Therapy Association recognizes the practice of Therapeutic Horticulture is becoming a widely accepted and important component in healthcare, rehabilitation, residential programs, and community settings. The AHTA is pleased to announce that the new professional credential - [Therapeutic Horticulture Practitioner, THP](#) - is now available for applications! The Therapeutic Horticulture Practitioner is intended for practitioners who provide services aligned with the AHTA definition of therapeutic horticulture. Visit the [THP webpage](#) to find out more information regarding eligibility and the process of applying.

[Learn More](#)

AHTA Summer 2024 Magazine Is Now Available

For your reading pleasure, **Volume 52 | Issue 2** of the AHTA Magazine is now available!

Issue Highlights

- HT in Addiction Recovery
- HTR Profile: Matt Janson
- AHTA Conference Updates
- Program Spotlight: Highlighting Tours in Raleigh
- AHTA Pays Tribute to an Icon
- Approaches to Leading HT in Hot Weather
- And More!

Thanks to the Magazine Work Team for their outstanding work on this issue!

[Available Here](#)

Work Teams

AHTA would like to invite you to join one of our [work teams](#) to help in giving back to AHTA and receiving the benefits of being involved in helping AHTA move forward and connecting for the purpose of promoting horticultural therapy! Please consider joining a work team to activate your passion and creativity! Consider writing and editing for the AHTA magazine, planning and implementing the annual conference, sharing your creative ways to market

AHTA, helping our membership grow, increasing our partners and sponsors, building our webinar library and more. Please check out all the work teams, share your expertise, and support the growth of AHTA! [Learn more](#) and send your interest to info@ahta.org.

Learn More

Survey: What Should AHTA do to Make Membership More Valuable to you?

If your not a member, we would love your feedback on how to make membership more appealing and valuable to you. Please take a minute and let us know your thoughts in our very brief [survey](#).

TWO QUESTION SURVEY

Supporting AHTA

Your generous support makes it possible for our organization to grow and thrive. Your contributions help keep us going, including helping with the expenses of our annual conference, increasing our ability to work toward credentialing, offsetting the cost of our journal and other outreach publications, and connecting to colleges and universities, facilities, prisons, hospitals, and agencies that [support the profession of horticultural therapy](#). Our [2024 Partnership Guide](#) is now available!

In keeping with the forward growth of AHTA, we have redesigned our [2024 Partnership Guide](#) to include new “à la carte” sponsorship opportunities! These options can be selected independently of AHTA sponsorship packages or added to enhance them. The goal is to offer sponsors greater flexibility in shaping their partnership opportunities to better align with their specific needs and objectives, resulting in a more tailored and impactful collaboration. [Sign up to become a sponsor](#) today! Your support fuels our mission to continue advancing the development of horticultural therapy and making an impact nationally and worldwide.

Ways to Support AHTA

View 2024 Partnership Guide

AHTA HTR Database Search Option

AHTA HTR Database Search Option AHTA has a Horticultural Therapist-Registered (HTR) Directory feature on our website. 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.

Testimonial from Rebecca Francis EdD, HTM

Our HTR public search feature has successfully connected us with two groups seeking to integrate horticulture therapy into their community initiatives. A startup focusing on aeroponic production systems sought our guidance to support veterans and food banks, leading to a fruitful collaboration in applying therapeutic horticulture principles. Additionally, a St. Louis community garden reached out for assistance in enhancing their services for veterans' well-being, highlighting the need for increased staffing and grant writing support. These interactions underscore the impact of our network and the shared commitment to fostering growth and healing through horticulture.

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.

American Horticultural Therapy Association

info@ahta.org
(702) 886-1546
www.ahta.org

