

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 witness 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 and nature. I do hope you take time to practice random acts of gardening this season to help others see the world through the wonderful eyes of Mother Earth. These acts can have a ripple effect to help embrace diversity, equity, inclusion and justice in ourselves, our communities, our programs and beyond.

AHTA is continuing our one-word resolution of GROWTH. The [Therapeutic Horticulture Practitioner \(THP\)](#) is now accepting applications, exam development is feasible, there are four nominations for the Board of Directors that will soon be voted on, and there have been five new volunteers to step up into our work teams. AHTA welcomes your participation in this growth. Take time to [become a member](#), join a [work team](#), and make plans to [attend our in-person conference](#) this year. WE can move AHTA into the next years of professionalism by the steps we take now.

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

News and Events



AHTA 2024 Annual Conference

The [2024 AHTA Annual Conference](#), Collective Effervescence: Honoring Collaboration in Times of Change, located in Raleigh/Durham, North Carolina, is quickly approaching. As such, exciting updates and information continue to be made available to attendees. The conference will take place **October 18-19, 2024**, and will include two Keynote Speakers, an array of 60 minute presentations, 90 minute workshops, roundtable discussions, poster presentations, and networking opportunities.

Additionally, [pre-conference tours](#) will take place Thursday, October 17. This month we would like to highlight two of the available tours: Transplanting Traditions, a Chapel Hill tour option; and Hawk's Nest Healing Garden, a Durham tour option.

[Transplanting Traditions](#) is a community farm supporting food sovereignty in the refugee community. Community food insecurity is addressed through access to land, education and other opportunities for refugee farmers.

[Hawk's Nest Healing Garden](#) views food sovereignty and self-determination as foundations of liberation. Through this, the healing of our bodies, land, and communities can occur.

Please consider attending the conference for our pre-tours and supporting these incredible farms and green spaces. Sign up for one of the tours when you [register for the conference](#).

[Learn More](#)

We are happy to announce that registration for the conference is officially open. Early bird registration ends on **Friday, August 9**. [Register](#) before the early bird deadline ends for the best deal!

[Register Now](#)

Lastly, AHTA has an amazing opportunity for Professionally Registered Horticultural Therapists on **Thursday, October 17**. We are honored to welcome the [Internship Supervisor Workshop](#). This six hour course will be facilitated by Leigh-Ann Starling, LCPC, CRC, HTR, and Gary Altman, CRC, CVE, HTR. This course is intended for HTRs who have been professionally registered for at least one year and have an interest in supervising Horticultural Therapy interns. Sign up for this workshop when you [register for the conference](#).

[Learn More](#)

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 - Waxed Flower

By Donna Hunt and Joanne Beckman, Master Gardener

Flower waxing is a fun and relatively easy project with certain precautions. Never forget it is hot wax and should never be left unattended. The best way and safest is to use a single burner hot plate to heat the wax. Keep the burner away from the edge of the table. With that said, let's wax!

Waxed flowers can be used in centerpieces, made into pins for wearing, are great to photograph and more. Note: The waxed flower should not be placed directly on a table, use a plate or coasters. The best flowers are larger blooms such as camellias, roses, mums, and azaleas. You may want to experiment with your favorite.

You will need:

- 5 lbs of household wax (such as Gulf Wax) and 1 1/2 pints of mineral oil
- Measuring cup
- Large pan (dish pan) for ice water
- Metal strainer to scoop out bits of wax and ice
- Medium size pot dedicated to wax (mine is non-stick, 9.5 inches across & 7.5 tall)
- 1 fork to remove debris when you finish or reheat your wax
- Hot plate with temperature controls and a low or warm setting
- Digital candy thermometer that will clip to the side of the pot
- Newspaper layers on which to place waxed blooms

[View Full Activity](#)

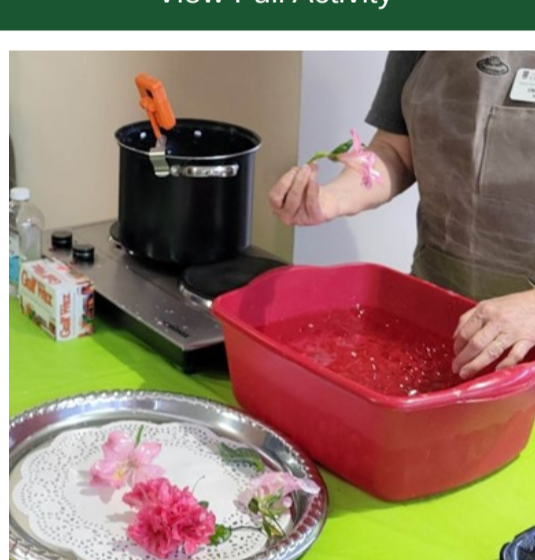


Photo courtesy of Donna Hunt.

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](#)

News from Binxia Xue PhD HTR, AHTA Board of Directors

The special May 2024 issue of [Landscape Architecture](#) on nature-based interventions has been published and distributed in China, receiving enthusiastic praise from readers. This issue has been very well received in the Chinese academic and professional areas of horticultural therapy and therapeutic horticulture. This demonstrates that the topic of nature-based interventions is becoming a hot topic in China. There are 8 papers in bilingual form from experts and scholars of different countries and several universities.

[Learn More](#)

International People Plant Symposium 2024

July 11-12, 2024 | Reading, UK

The [16th International People Plant Symposium](#) (IPPS 2024) will take place in Reading, UK, from **July 11-12, 2024**. This event emphasizes horticulture's role in health, bridging everyday life and professional practices. The symposium, hosting up to 200 delegates, promises extensive learning and networking opportunities within the emerging horticulture for health sector. It aims to highlight the sector's contributions to societal health and sustainable practices. The event, set in a scenic location near the River Thames, includes meals and encourages engagement and potential collaboration among attendees.

[Learn More](#)

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@ahata.org.

[Learn More](#)

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 reach 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 world of horticultural therapy and making an impact nationally and worldwide.

[Ways to Support AHTA](#)

[View 2024 Partnership Guide](#)

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](#)