

President's Message



Dear Colleagues in Horticultural Therapy,

Welcome to the October edition of AHTA's newsletter, which contains monthly updates to share the activities, announcements, and information from the AHTA Board of Directors, work teams, and review boards as they strive for growth and inclusion in our organization. October marks changes for AHTA. Traditionally it is the end of the business year for AHTA, and we celebrate our 50th year of service with many accomplishments, including our upcoming first [virtual conference](#)! AHTA has a lot to celebrate! Thanks to the work of the board of directors, work teams, and review boards, there have been many changes since last September.

Here are the highlights from our harvest this year:

- AHTA is celebrating its 50th year of service to horticultural therapy thanks to its founding members and all those who have collectively given their time to AHTA during the past 50 years.
- We began the year by promoting the 2022 Job Task Analysis and the promotional video [Horticultural Therapy and AHTA](#) for all to utilize.
- AHTA started a monthly newsletter for information sharing.
- We updated our course curriculum.
- Three new board members jumped aboard.
- We updated our Code of Ethics to include DEI language and education/teaching supervision.
- The Board approved the increase of the Ann Lane Mavromatis Scholarship to \$1,000 and changed the eligibility criteria.
- We launched the HTR search button for public use.
- The grandfather clause was introduced for those who took coursework prior to 2013.
- Webinars have begun and moving forward will cost \$35 for nonmembers and \$15 for members. These webinars will be recorded so that one can view them at any time.
- Free community meetings are still happening.
- Telehealth is now recognized as a direct form of contact hours.
- Internship supervisors are now only required to have been an HTR for one year and be approved by AHTA.
- There was a change in the online internship supervision in that certified or licensed professionals may be exempt from the requirement of having an onsite supervisor for their internship.
- We increased our social media presence.
- The board approved open access for our Journal of Therapeutic Horticulture. This will start in 2024. Members will have early access for 30 days, and no cost of publication.
- AHTA began planning our 50th conference in 50 years! This virtual conference will increase access, you will be able to view recordings for 60 days post-conference, and we lowered student rates. Thanks to Paula Diane Reif PhD who set up a scholarship for 20 students!
- National Horticultural Therapy Week was celebrated.
- Student packets and membership PowerPoint were updated.
- The membership work team is reaching out to diverse groups including youth and young adults, LGBTQIA+, BIPOC, and persons with disabilities.
- We began the process of pre-approval of coursework for those seeking the HTR credential, soon to be in place.
- A Sponsorship Task Force was created.
- Implicit bias training will now be required of the Board.
- The AHTA magazine will have published three exceptional magazines including one which spoke to the Past, Present, and Future of AHTA.
- AHTA joined our international community on World Therapeutic Horticulture Day on May 18, 2023.
- Oregon State University joined our AHTA Accredited Certificate Programs while UCLA Extension began its journey with AHTA Accredited Individual Coursework.
- Sixteen new Horticultural Therapist Registered were credentialed.
- The AHTA Annual Awards have four recipients, and we have a Charles A. Lewis Excellence in Research Award recipient.
- The board approved a new credential the Therapeutic Horticulture Practitioner (THP). This credential will go live in 2024.

I wanted to give a shout-out to all the board members, work team members, and review board members who worked hard in making these changes happen. We can do this collectively! I also want to give a shout-out to **Derrick Stowell Ph.D. CTRS HTR, PJ Snodgrass Ph.D. HTR, and Debra Edwards HTR** who will be leaving the board. Thank you for your exceptional service! Another shout out to our three new board members joining us in October - **Charles Jordan Jr., April Ellis LSW HTR, and Kelly Warnick**. Welcome aboard! Of course, another thank you to **Linda Brown-Kuhn HTR** for continuing her service to the AHTA Board of Directors, to **Matthew Janson CTRS HTR** for stepping up as President-Elect, and to **Nicole Giron MPH CTRS HTR** for stepping up as Secretary. Thank you all!

These changes, with more to come, serve AHTA's desire to increase our membership. I trust that in keeping change happening we will see the results of this incredible work. I look forward to continuing to serve as president of AHTA. A quote from Anais Nin, "And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom." AHTA is blossoming into the next 50 years!

Join our efforts by joining our board of directors, work teams, and review Boards. WE can do this! For more information check out [ahta.org](#) and remember to attend the [AHTA Annual Membership Meeting on October 24, 2023](#).

I trust you will have a great harvest,

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

News and Events



AHTA 2023: 50 Years of Cultivating Horticultural Therapy

The [AHTA 2023: 50 Years of Cultivating Horticultural Therapy](#) will be virtual on **October 20-21, 2023!** "Going virtual" will allow our association's conference to reach a wider audience, all at different stages in their career. Attendees will have access to the event recordings 60 days post-conference.

There are **only two days left to register for the conference!** Right now, students can register for just \$25! The deadline to register is **October 15, 2023**.

[Register Now](#)

Keynote Speakers



Conference Keynote Speaker
Rebecca Haller, HTM

[Learn More](#)



Conference Keynote Speaker
Dr. Robert Zarr, MPH

[Learn More](#)

Speaker Highlight



Marcus Bridgewater
Reconnecting People to Nature With Social Media

[View Session](#)



April Ellis, LCSW, HTR
April's Ambulant & Adaptable Therapeutic Gardens for Psychiatric Seniors

[View Session](#)

2023 AHTA Sponsorship Opportunities

Are you interested in receiving valuable exposure for your organization's brand? Consider taking advantage of AHTA's [2023 sponsorship opportunities](#). By partnering with AHTA in 2023, you can build your network with horticultural professionals and promote educational programs or products and services through the AHTA website, targeted emails, social media, AHTA magazine, and the annual conference. Please review our [2023 AHTA Partnership Guide](#) to decide which level sponsorship is the best fit for you!



[Learn More](#)

2023 AHTA Annual Meeting

[AHTA](#) invites you to attend the [2023 Annual Membership Virtual Meeting](#).

Join us to hear about:

- AHTA's progress this past year
- Future goals of AHTA
- Financials
- Membership
- and More!

[Register](#)

Internship Update

At our September 2023 board meeting, we revised our online internship supervision policy to allow for approved licensed or certified individuals to complete an online supervised internship without having an on-site internship coordinator. The updated policy can be found on the [AHTA Internship Handbook webpage](#) and you can now [download the updated internship application form](#). [Read the blog post](#) and learn more about why this update has been made.

[Learn More](#)

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](#)