

## MEMBERS' FORUM

### RUDBECKIA HARDINESS

On page 17 of the January/February 2009 issue, you list *Rudbeckia hirta* 'Cherry Brandy' as an "annual/biennial/tender perennial," yet indicate it is hardy to USDA Zone 3. Does this mean it is an annual? I guess a lot of *Rudbeckia hirta* reseed, as I have many that fill my garden.



*Diane Beaudoin,  
Andover, New Hampshire*

**Editor's response:** Cultivars of *Rudbeckia hirta* are usually short-lived and for the most part tend to be grown as annuals, but they may overwinter under certain conditions. Thus 'Cherry Brandy' is technically hardy to USDA Zone 3, but most people pull them out—or they die on their own—after one season.

### FLOWER SHOW COLLABORATION

As a member of the Springfest Flower & Garden Show Committee, I wanted to let you know we are excited to have the AHS presenting its Environmental Award to one of our Garden Exhibitors at this year's show. This partnership adds a great dimension to our show and allows our 8,000 visitors from the New York metropolitan area to become familiar with the AHS. Your top-notch magazine is familiar to me and many of the staff of our all-volunteer organization. We are all avid gardeners and produce this non-profit show from a garden lover's standpoint, with proceeds benefiting horticultural incentives and scholarships.

*Barbara Abita  
Branchville, New Jersey*

**Editor's note:** Through our partnership with the Springfest Flower & Garden Show, AHS members were also eligible for free admission to the show, held March 12 to 15 at the Sussex County Fairgrounds in Augusta, New Jersey.

### Member Services

We love to hear from our members! If you have questions about your American Horticultural Society membership, would like to become a member, renew your membership, give a gift of membership, or update your mailing or e-mail address with the AHS, please call (800) 777-7931 ext. 119 or e-mail us at [membership@ahs.org](mailto:membership@ahs.org).

### New Website Password

The members-only section of the AHS website, [www.ahs.org](http://www.ahs.org), provides convenient access to membership benefits as well as the contents of each issue of *The American Gardener* since 2001. To access the section, the user name is **ahs**. The password is **seeds**. The password is also listed on page 4 in each magazine issue. (Both the user name and password must be entered in lowercase letters.)

### NOMENCLATURE PROCESS CORRECTION

In the lively and informative article about plant nomenclature by John Friel, published in the January/February issue, the governing body that oversees the process for plant name changes is misidentified. According to the article, name change proposals "are reviewed by specialist groups under the umbrella of the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS)."

In fact, rules for botanical names (Latin names) are revised at Nomenclature Section meetings of the successive International Botanical Congresses and published as the International Code for Botanical Nomenclature (ICBN). A botanist may effectively publish a botanical name for a new species or a new combination (for example, transferring a species from one genus to another) "by distribution of printed material to the general public or at least to botanical institutions with libraries accessible to botanists generally."

The new name must, of course, comply with the rules of the ICBN and contain a description or diagnosis in Latin. There is no prior review or approval by ISHS, however. If others have problems with a name, they may submit a proposal for its conservation or rejection to the International Association of Plant Taxonomists General Committee for study by a specialist committee and recommendation to the Congress for disposition.

The 2006 edition of the ICBN states: "Like other international codes of nomenclature, the ICBN has no legal status and is dependent on the voluntary acceptance of its rules by authors, editors, and other users of plant names." For more information about the ICBN, visit <http://ibot.sav.sk/icbn/main.htm>.

*Donald H. Voss  
Vienna, Virginia*

### OCOTILLO MISDIRECTION

I just got my first issue of *The American Gardener* and love it. However, I think I found a plant origin mistake in the November/December 2008 issue. On page 28, in the chart for the "Striking Stems" article, it says that *Ocotillo* is from the southeastern United States, but it is actually native to the southwestern U.S.

*Alexandra J. Flynn  
Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina*

### CORRECTIONS

In the books section of the January/February 2009 issue, the price for *Gardening with Hardy Heathers* by David Small and Ella May T. Wulff was listed incorrectly. The correct price is \$39.95.

Also in the January/February issue, in the source box with the article about Fraser's sedge on page 62, the phone number for Enchanter's Garden nursery should have been (304) 466-3154.

**PLEASE WRITE US!** Address letters to Editor, *The American Gardener*, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308. Send e-mails to [editor@ahs.org](mailto:editor@ahs.org) (note Letter to Editor in subject line). Letters we print may be edited for length and clarity.