

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

**HENDERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

MEETING DATE: December 3, 2012

SUBJECT: Proclamation – American Ginseng Week in Henderson County
December 2nd through December 8th

PRESENTER: Jerry Page – NC Natural Products Association

ATTACHMENTS: YES

1. Proclamation
2. Request from NC Natural Products Association

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

On December 7th and 8th, 2012, Asheville, Hendersonville, and the North Carolina Natural Products Association will host an all-star gathering of experts from the sustainable agriculture field at the International American Ginseng Expo in Mills River, NC, to discuss the impact of American Ginseng on the economy, health, and culture of this region and the nation.

A request was made that the Board approves the attached proclamation proclaiming December 2nd through December 8th as American Ginseng Week in Henderson County.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommend that the Board of Commissioners adopt the attached proclamation as presented.

Suggested Motion:

I move the Board approves the attached proclamation proclaiming December 2nd through December 8th as American Ginseng Week in Henderson County.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, wild American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) is an economically and botanically valued agricultural commodity in North Carolina that has been harvested since the late 1700's; and

WHEREAS, of the seven states, mostly in the Appalachian region, which account for 82% of the wild American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) exported from the United States, North Carolina is the nation's premier exporter last year; and

WHEREAS, the wild American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) root is highly valued in Asia and is related to Asian ginseng (*Panax ginseng*), which has been used as a panacea in traditional Chinese medicine for over 5,000 years; and

WHEREAS, wild American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) is a profitable non-timber forest product with the potential to contribute to more sustainable forests in North Carolina by integrating the multiple ecological, social, and economic benefits of forests while maintaining a long-term, stable relationship between humans and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Natural Products economic sector is a significant agricultural sector in North Carolina's vibrant economy, with wild American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) accounting for over \$3 million in revenue per year; and

WHEREAS, wild American ginseng is native to Southern Appalachia but wild populations in western North Carolina are threatened by overharvesting and loss of habitat through land development; and wild simulated threatened by theft, and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Natural Products Association was formed in 2002 as a 501c(3) non-profit organization dedicated to conserving, cultivating, sustainably harvesting, and processing North Carolina grown medicinal plants; plus NCNPA's mission is to establish North Carolina as a key global supplier of premium-quality raw materials and plant-based value added products; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina Natural Products Association is bringing together a historical assembly of South Appalachian ginseng experts at the International American Ginseng Expo on December 7th & 8th, 2012 at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center in Mills River, North Carolina.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby PROCLAIMED that the week of December 2nd through December 8th be declared American Ginseng Week in Henderson County.

This the 3rd day of December, 2012.

Chairman, Henderson County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Teresa L. Wilson, Clerk to the Board