

to areas outside their original ranges. Although there are numerous records of natural long-distance migrations of plants (Lauen, 1988), usually humans are implicated in such long distance movement. Herds of pasture and crop land have long been associated with human activity. When Europeans settled North America, they brought their plants with them, both purposefully and inadvertently. Many of these North American introductions were not even native to the European countries of the colonists, but were brought in turn to England, France, the Netherlands and other colonizing countries from the Mediterranean region, Africa, the Near East and even the Far East. These plants have a long history following the movements and trade routes of humans. Examples of intended introductions historically have included food and orchard crops, livestock forage, fabric plants, spices and medicines. Colonists also brought favorite ornamental garden plants, although the wide scale movement of landscape structures

is not well documented. The introduction of plants is critical to increasing public awareness of the dangers of over-collecting medicinal plants such as ginseng and goldenseal in Kentucky. The last issue of the July 1999 was a first step toward defining such a role for the IACP.

Most of us are also aware that some of the plants introduced into our natural communities from Europe and Asia are rapidly displacing native species. Now again, the IACP can help bring this issue to the attention of the public. The issue of the newsletter is a start toward that goal.

In the meantime, the Executive Board is looking for members to serve on the Conservation and Special Projects Committee which will look into these issues and advise the Board on how the IACP should proceed. If you would be willing to help, please contact:

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