

B.1. Provide the rationale for proposing this course:

This one-week, 3-credit-hour course was offered very successfully in the summers of 2004 and 2005 as EEOB 694: Local Flora for Teachers. In its pilot years, students rated this course very highly: on a scale of 1-5, it earned an average 4.78 in both 2004 and 05.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, we initiated efforts to offer educational opportunities at Stone Laboratory to broaden our student audience. One-week introductory courses were developed for college freshman and sophomores and superior high school students. One-week courses to focus on curriculum development were also developed for educators and advanced education majors.

In surveys of teachers studying at the laboratory, "Local Flora for Teachers" is one of the one-week courses it was suggested that we develop. Plants are easy to find and obtain, and their biology is interesting to students of all ages. Therefore, some basic biological and ecological principals can be taught using local flora in any classroom at little, if any, cost and in a way that can make science more interesting and "real" for the students.

Stone Laboratory is an ideal location to offer this course because accessible plant assemblages and associated habitats are very diverse. The laboratory's hands-on approach to learning, with total immersion into the subject matter, is the best way to enhance retention of information: a requirement if teachers in turn are to be expected to effectively communicate the material to their own students.