

Sustaining the Natural and Cultural Resources of Kentucky's Bluegrass Region

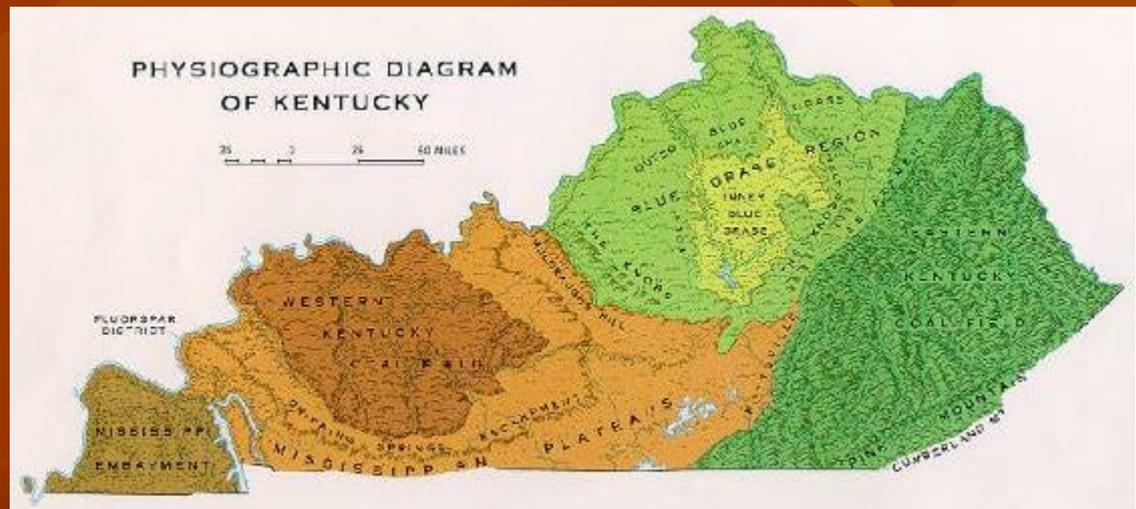
Amanda Abnee Gumbert and Carey Ruff
University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service and
Floracliff Nature Sanctuary

Mary E. Wharton

- Kentucky botanist, conservationist and author
- Bluegrass Land and Life, 1991
 - *“...instills a comprehension of the immense cultural and economic wealth at stake, and it should foster a determination both to preserve and to advance the Bluegrass tradition.” John O. Simonds*
- Mary Wharton scholars

Bluegrass Educators Workshops

- Two Workshops
 - 2004, 2005
- Give educators a clear understanding of the ecological, cultural, and historical parts of the region through hands-on field experiences and expert-facilitated tours and discussion



Program Outline

- First workshop (2004)
 - Content: Geology and soils, water quality, plants, introduction to land use
 - Curricula: Project Learning Tree, Leopold Education Project, Healthy Water Healthy People
 - 10 Bluegrass educators

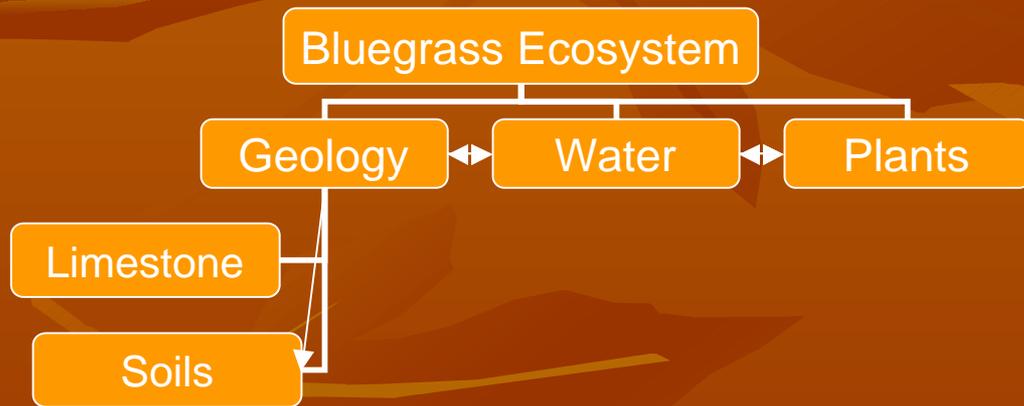


Workshop Structure

- 2 ½ days
- Consistent location (Floracliff)
- Hands-on instruction by local resource providers
- Group work
- Journaling each day
- Resource materials provided



Assessment



- Concept Maps
 - Content knowledge
 - Significant difference in pre- and post-workshop maps ($P < 0.05$).

Bringing It Together





Program Outline

- Second workshop (2005)
 - Content: Animals, agriculture, historical and current land use
 - Curricula: Project Food, Land, and People, and Leopold Education Project
 - 12 Bluegrass educators (two carry-overs)



Workshop Structure

- 4 days
- Rotating locations
- Field experiences lead by local experts
- Group discussion
- Journaling each day
- Resource materials distributed over time



Floracliff Nature Sanctuary



McConnell Springs



Elmwood Stock Farm



Keeneland Race Course



Labrot and Graham Distillery



Shaker Village

- Overnight
- Historical location for land use discussion
- Bluegrass Conservancy, Dry Stone Conservancy resources
- Unit of Study Development

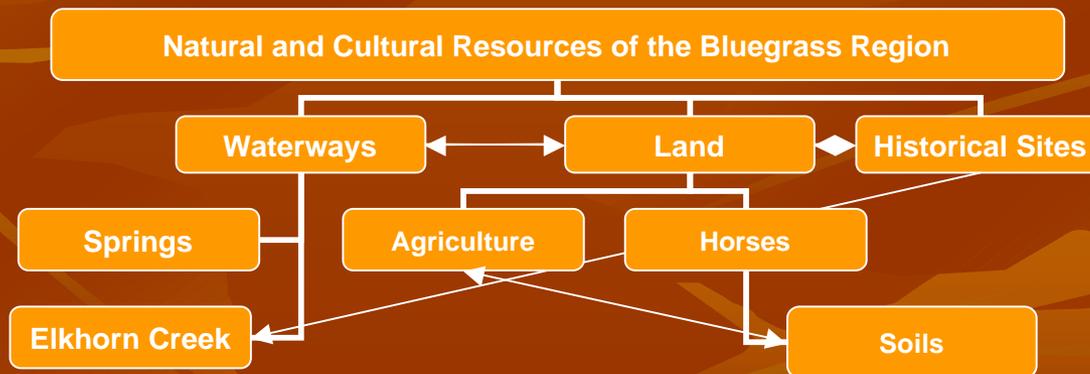


Shaker Village



Assessment

- Concept Maps
 - Significant difference in pre- and post-workshop maps ($P < 0.10$).



Thinking It Over...

- Resource materials distributed as units of study were completed increased assignments returned
- Lower concept map scores in second workshop contributed to apathy at end of workshop, wrong assessment tool?
- Low carryover from first to second workshop
- 2006 Workshop

Partners

- Mary E. Wharton Nature Sanctuary at Floracliff
- University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension
- USDA-NRCS
- Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
- Bluegrass PRIDE (grant funding)