

Brevard College Professor Authors Book on Natural History of the Southern Appalachians

PRESS RELEASE- Brevard College Associate Professor of Ecology and Environmental Studies and Executive Director of the Appalachian Center for Environmental Education Jennifer Frick-Ruppert has authored a book examining the diverse ecology of the Southern Appalachians.

Mountain Nature: A Seasonal Natural History of the Southern Appalachians, which was recently published by The University of North Carolina Press, is based on her popular Transylvania-Times column, Appalachian Almanac.

The 224-page book is a lively and engaging account of the ecology of the area's vibrant mountain region and explores the animals and plants of the southern Appalachians as well as the webs of interdependence that connect them. Stories of the animals and plants of the southern Appalachians are intertwined with descriptions of the seasons, giving readers

a glimpse into the interlinked rhythms of nature, from daily and yearly cycles to long-term geological changes.

"Biologically speaking, the Southern Appalachians are as significant as the Great Barrier Reef of Australia, but they are right here, surrounded by dozens of cities and millions of people," said Frick-Ruppert.

"Too often, we ignore the world right outside our door in favor of something more 'exotic.' I think that people should know their neighbors, and not just the human ones.

What native plants grow in your yard? What lives in the stream or river closest to you? If you live in or even visit the Southern Appalachians, this book should help you answer those questions."

Frick-Ruppert joined Brevard College's faculty in 1997. In addition to teaching, she leads the College's Appalachian Center for Environmental Education (ACEE). The ACEE has an environmental education

focus and includes undergraduate research opportunities, environmental research involving high school students and their teachers working together with college students and faculty, a variety of summer environmental programs, other similar activities and the Pisgah Forest Institute (PFI).

She earned her Ph.D. in Zoology from Clemson University and frequently gives lectures and presentations in the area that focus on natural history.

Mountain Nature: A Seasonal Natural History of the Southern Appalachians is available from online booksellers, in bookstores and directly from The University of North Carolina Press at www.uncpress.unc.edu. Frick-Ruppert will be signing books at several book stores in the area, including Highland Books in Brevard at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 24 and Malaprops Book Store in Asheville at 4 p.m. on Thursday, May 1.

Reactions to Myers parking lot closure

by John Climer and Travis Wireback
Managing Editor and Editor in Chief

Upon returning from spring break, you may have noticed that the vehicles around campus are packed in a little more tightly. This is due to the closure of the parking lot between Myers Dining Hall and Moore Science building.

This parking lot has been closed for the remainder of the semester and in May, the administration plans to ask the Board of Trustees to grant permission to make this closure permanent.

When talking to students around campus about what they thought of this closure, many students seemed to favor the change. Senior Travis Festa had this to say about the new parking arrangement: "I think it's awesome. I really like the new addition outside of the cafeteria; I like the way it's re-directed the flow of traffic around the campus." Also in support of the change was freshman Sarah Alexander, who said, "I like the idea of having a student quad right there and I'm glad that the administration is taking action to cut down traffic on campus."

However, several faculty members have expressed concern because half of the parking spots removed were faculty parking spots. On a campus which is already experiencing issues stemming from a lack of sufficient parking, losing those

spots has led some to question whether or not they will have parking spots when they arrive.

What do you think about the closing of this parking lot? E-mail responses to Clarion@brevard.edu.

The Clarion

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