Transylvania Times newspaper article

**Good Bugs in the Landscape – a presentation by Brevard College Professor, Dr. Maureen Drinkard**

The word ‘bugs’ often causes us to grimace when we think of creeping insects or stinging hornets. What on earth could be good about any bugs? But in reality we need insects to help us maintain biodiversity by combating habitat destruction and climate change. Many insects are considered beneficial to our habitats and it is important to attract “the good bugs” into our gardens to reduce the number of detrimental insects without having to use toxic pesticides. The talk by Dr. Maureen Drinkard of Brevard College will focus on helping attract and keep good bugs in our landscapes. This talk is sponsored by the Transylvania County Extension Master Gardeners and is part of the monthly program of talks and demonstrations that will interest Master Gardeners, amateur gardeners, and the public at large.

Maureen Drinkard will discuss what kinds of insects can be beneficial to our gardens in this area of Western North Carolina. How can we identify “good bugs”, how can these insects help us in the garden, how can we attract the right kinds of insects, and how can we keep them happy in our gardens. By following some key strategies to deal with unwanted pests we can develop a plan known as Integrated Pest Management. This is a common sense approach to pest control that uses environmentally friendly techniques to keep pests under control by encouraging “good bugs” and so reducing our dependence on chemicals and pesticides.

Maureen Drinkard, PhD, is trained as a Community Ecologist. Better known around Brevard College campus as "Dr. Mo", she is a student’s advocate above all. She has guided countless students on their environmental journey via courses, club advisor ship, internship programs, pursuing grants to fund programming, and mentorship. She works hard to help her students find a holistic, meaningful, and deeply personal environmental perspective. Dr. Mo is a tinkerer with a variety of interests including kid wrangling, chicken and beekeeping, making lots of stuff (food, beer, art, furniture, and fixtures), gardening, writing, sustainable living, natural building methods, and traveling abroad.

The talk is sponsored by the Transylvania County Extension Master Gardeners and will be on Tuesday September 10th, from 10:00 to about 11:00 am and will held in the Community Services Room at 106 East Morgan Street in Brevard. The public are most welcome and there is no charge. Refreshments will be served starting at 9:30 am giving you an opportunity to meet with other Master Gardeners. Telephone 828-884-3109 for any questions.

Janet Lute

Master Gardener