



For Release September 29, 2008

The first EcoEternity® Forest on the Peninsula

Interred in a natural forest setting

An alternative, ecologically friendly burial concept

New Kent County, Virginia, September 29, 2008

A contract was signed between EcoEternity LLC, and Makemie Woods Camp and Conference Center Owned by the Presbyterian League of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia, to implement a Green Burial Concept called EcoEternity Forest. The Consecration of the forest is scheduled for October 5, 2008.

An EcoEternity Forest is an alternative burial concept. The forest floor under mature forest trees are chosen as dedicated, final resting places for the cremated ashes of individuals, families, or friends. Memorial trees are usually selected by personally visiting an EcoEternity Forest and selecting a personal mature tree. Families may select a tree where they can be interred creating a **Family Reunion Tree**. Those who want to participate, but have a need for only one or two places under a tree, may acquire interment rights under a **Community Tree**. Special interest groups, like churches, fraternal orders, or friends who want to be interred together, may select exclusive interment rights under a **Friendship Tree**.

Selected trees are inventoried and marked by an arboretum tag allowing quick identification by family members and friends. In addition, a memorial plaque of 4 x 4 inch may be attached to the tree stating the family name and a personal message of the tree lessee. This natural grave site is protected for up to 99 years.

EcoEternity Forests are preserved in a natural state. They are not parks. Head stones, flowers, or ornaments are not allowed. The trails in an EcoEternity Forest are designed to protect the natural beauty of the forest. These forests are mixed stands of indigenous trees, bushes and wild flowers. People who want to enjoy a

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walk in an old growth EcoEternity Forest are encouraged to do so. The concept is a bonding with nature: the decision for a green burial place in an EcoEternity Forest will actively assist forest conservation and avoid clear cutting or development for at least 99 years. Camp Director Mike Burcher said: *“Makemie Woods has been a place set apart for over 45 years, where people of all ages have grown in faith and developed a greater appreciation for creation. In recent years we have emphasized environmental and global awareness. We are delighted to expand this ministry so the larger community can experience the joy and peace of this forest, and help to preserve it and the memories of their loved ones for another century to come.”*

The EcoEternity Forest concept originated in Europe

The Memorial Tree burial concept has its roots in Europe. In 1993, Ueli Sauter founded the first small FriedWald (German term for an EcoEternity Forest) in Switzerland. In 2000, Axel Baudach from Darmstadt, Germany, discovered Ueli Sauter’s work. He adapted the original idea to German culture and initiated the first EcoEternity Forest in Germany. By creating a Public-Private Partnership service model, he was able to help preserve some of the most prestigious natural forests in Germany like Reinhardswald, Lueneburger Heide, Odenwald, and even the island of Ruegen. Since the establishment of the first EcoEternity Forest in Germany in November 2001, over 150 similar Forest Burial Forests have been established leading to a significant change in German national burial culture. Baudach said: *“First I thought this idea would only apply to Germans because of our close relationship with forests and trees. However, over time I noticed that immigrants like Asians or Americans leased Memorial Trees in our forests. That is when I thought this may be a universal idea for people enjoying outdoor and nature. South Korea and the U.S. are my first ventures in this regard.”*

News Release
The Concept of EcoEternity® Forest



EcoEternity LLC, Virginia

In June 2006, Jack Lowe and Axel Baudach founded EcoEternity LLC. They adapted the European concept to U.S. culture and laws. EcoEternity, LLC partners with forest owners like municipalities, churches, or private forest owners that plan to preserve their forest property for extended periods. EcoEternity is responsible for the entire administration and the day to day contacts with people interested in pre-planning their interments. The EcoEternity Forest at Makemie Woods will be consecrated on October 5, 2008 in New Kent County, Virginia.

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