

June 1, 2008

## **New Forest Cemetery Concept in Pennsylvania**



**EcoEternity Forest, a new ecologically sensitive burial concept from Europe, preserves mature forests**

### **Valley Forge, PA, June 1, 2008**

On June 18, a new cemetery concept will be introduced at Pocono Plateau,. Trees, not cemetery plots, are the final resting place for the ashes of the deceased. All trees are part of a mature forest and the concept is a local Green Initiative. People may pre-select their trees, and when the time comes, their cremated remains will be buried in a biodegradable urn at the roots of their tree. This personal tree may serve as a resting place for a family, as a Family Reunion site, or for individuals, as a Friendship of Community site.

In 1993, the Memorial Tree burial concept was started in Switzerland. In 2000, Axel Baudach from Darmstadt, Germany, discovered the concept and adapted it to German culture. Axel recognized that many people over 50 were turned off by traditional burials at local cemeteries and preferred cremation for cost and ecological reasons. However, Germans had no meaningful alternatives to concrete vaults or columbarium's. Axel matched his family's experience of job mobility and family members being spread all over Europe to the idea of regional versus local cemetery affiliation. Thus his firm picks forests popular for hiking and offers forest owners the opportunity to protect their forests from clear cutting and land development by giving them an alternative source of income. Since the establishment of the first EcoEternity Forest in Germany in 2001, over 150 similar Forest Burial Grounds have been established leading to a significant change in German burial culture.

In June 2006, Jack Lowe and Axel Baudach founded EcoEternity LLC and adapted the European concept to U.S. culture and state laws. In Pennsylvania, EcoEternity entered into a partnership with the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church to open the second EcoEternity Forest in the U.S. The Methodist Church will implement an EcoEternity forest at each of their three main retreats: Pocono Plateau, Camp Innabah, and Greta Glen. The Rev. James Todd will headline the consecration ceremony on June 18, at 11 AM at Pocono Plateau standing in for Bishop Marcus Matthews.

For further information material and press photos visit [www.ecoeternity.com](http://www.ecoeternity.com) or Contact:

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