



For more information:

MUST-SEE 6-MIN PBS VIDEO Introducing Natural /Green Burials:

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/runtdown/dying-green-explores-conservation-through-natural-burial> AND

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KR3xK1VqsWM>

Funeral Consumers Association of Piedmont:

<http://www.fcapiedmont.org/index-books.html>

The Green Burial Council sets standards for green cemeteries:

<http://www.greenburialcouncil.org>

Memorial Ecosystems at Ramsey Creek Preserve, first green burial preserve:

<http://www.memorialecosystems.org>

Grave Matters: A Journey Through the Funeral Industry to a Natural Way of Burial by Mark Harris: <http://www.gravematters.com>

The **Funeral Consumers Alliance** acts as a legal watchdog and provides consumers with accurate information: <http://www.funerals.org>

The **National Home Funeral Alliance** supports family-directed after-death care in the home:

<http://www.homefuneralalliance.org>

End of Life Legal Questions and Answers for NC Residents by **Triangle J Area Agency on Aging**

<http://www.fullcirclecare.org/nc/endoflife.html>

The high cost of dying
(estimated average cost for consumer)

- modern funeral not including burial, plot, marker, flowers or other items+ \$8,343
- burial plots \$1,650—5,000
- cremains burial plots \$995
- green burial \$0—3,500
- home funeral \$0—1,500
- direct cremation \$200—1,600
- cremation with funeral home services \$2,400
- body donation \$0 (+cremation cost)



PICBUS is eager to speak about burial-related topics to churches, environmental groups, retirement homes, nursing homes, hospices, health agencies, schools, and others.

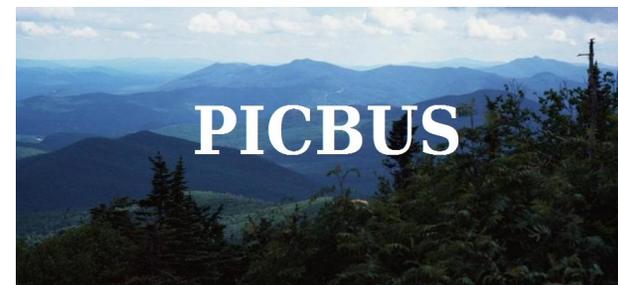
Contact us at:

Piedmont Interfaith Conservation Burial Society

PICBUS

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**Piedmont Interfaith
Conservation Burial
Society***



**advocating
eco-friendly,
noninvasive,
affordable,
conservation
burial practices**

***PICBUS** is the working name and acronym for the Society. We are incorporated in the state of North Carolina as a 501(c)3 organization. IRS non-profit, tax-deductible status applied for and expected within the year 2016

Conservation Burials: *the ultimate recycling effort*

As we become more conscious of human impact on the planet, we continue to discover new ways to reduce, recycle and reuse.

Yet we avoid thinking and planning for environmentally responsible disposition of our bodies.

Our culture combines our fear of (and obsession with) death with our belief that how much we spend signifies how much we love, resulting in expensive funeral decisions often made under duress.

If you have lived a life of growing and consuming organic foods, reducing your energy consumption, thoughtfully disposing of waste, and practicing good stewardship, you may wish to consider an organic return to the earth.



Each year, in 22,500 cemeteries in the US, we bury**:

- 4.3 million gallons of embalming fluid, which includes formaldehyde
- 20 million board feet of hardwoods, including rainforest woods
- 1,636,000 tons of reinforced concrete
- 17,000 tons of copper & bronze
- 60,000 tons of steel

Cremation, the rising alternative, has environmental drawbacks:

- uses fossil fuels to reach and maintain 1900-2100°F for 2-3 hours, equal to a 5,200 mile car ride
- emits mercury and other elements into the atmosphere
- cremations constitute (national average) 44.4% of all final body dispositions (2014)
- NC is ranked 27th in the nation – 42.9% of all dispositions in NC are by cremation‡
- 338 tons of American cremains are “wildcat” scattered worldwide annually



Requirements for home burial in NC:

[Please consult your attorney and local authorities for verification]

- 75 feet from known source of water
- 100 feet from dwelling, house, school, store or other business without permission
- must comply with local zoning ordinances
- must record in deed upon transfer
- must obtain and file a burial permit with local authorities within 7 days of burial
- wooden, stone or other fence around burial space preferable



Green burial preserves:

- reduce carbon footprint and contribute to the natural eco-cycle
- occupy lands with intrinsic ecological quality and meaningful social value
- are managed as municipal cemeteries, land trusts, conservation lands, and recreational preserves in perpetuity
- allow biodegradable caskets, shrouds, urns, often made with local resources by local craftspeople
- do not allow embalming fluids, vaults, herbicides or pesticides
- mark locations by GPS, native memorials such as fieldstone
- provide teaching and research opportunities
- create recreational, cultural and spiritual gathering venues and opportunities
- protect and restore wildlife habitat
- integrate sustainable native plant communities



PICBUS is working to establish an interfaith natural green burial ground in the Piedmont region of North Carolina. Our organization is in its first year. Our application for non-profit, tax-exempt status has been filed with IRS in January 2016.

Come. join us with a commitment of your time, talent, and financial resources to make this vision a reality. Drop a line to PiedmontGreenBurial@gmail.com for a Membership Application and/or information about our meetings. At this early stage we need volunteers with experience in public relations, media design, legal expertise and/or research experience, and government relations.

+National Funeral Directors Association, 2012

**Mary Woodsen, Green Burial Council 2014

‡CANA, 2014