Forever Green
Sustainable Burials
When you think cemetery....
Every Year in the US:

- 827,060 gallons of embalming fluid
- 104,272 ton of steels for caskets and vaults
- 5.4 million pounds of copper for lining caskets
- 30 million board feet of hard woods for caskets (including tropical)
- 1.6 million tons of reinforced concrete for burial vaults
What about cremation?

• About 20% done out of environmental concern

• However, for the amount of non-renewable fossil fuel for cremations in US in 1 year, you could drive to the moon and back....84 times!

• Can result in airborne toxins
Natural Burial

- Alternate method of burial
- Natural materials used for casket or shroud
- Natural grave markers
- GPS to locate
History

• Movement began in the UK
  – Carlisle Cemetery (1993)

• Popularity increasing in the US
  – Ramsey Creek Preserve, South Carolina (1998)

• Not really a new idea...
Green Burial Council

• Founded by Joe Sehee in 2005
• Approves sites and materials
• Tries to bring in the funeral industry, rather than compete with it
Green in more ways than one...

- Funeral industry – 11 billion annually
- Traditional funerals can range from $6,000 to $20,000. Natural burials are often much less expensive.

- Plus, money goes towards preserving a green space for the future
Locations

- There are no exclusive natural burial sites in Maryland
- There are at least three eastern shore locations that offer a designated space for natural burial
Other green options

• Eternal Reefs
• Artificial reefs cast from environmentally safe concrete and cremated remains
• Used to create new marine habitats for fish and other sea creatures