

In 1994, the Stone Family gave two acres of land adjacent to the Blankenship cemetery to the town of Marion for use as a public cemetery. These rolling woodlands mandated an unconventional approach to burial ground design and landscape designer Patty Wylde took inspiration from the distinctive landscape features and native flora to create an elegant woodland place of permanent repose.

### **POLICIES CONCERNING THE MEMORIAL FOREST**

The Point Road Memorial Forest (PRMF) is a Town Cemetery for the burial of cremated remains only. The Marion Cemetery Commissioners are the overseers of the Cemetery and the Marion Department of Works (DPW) has primary responsibility for its maintenance, for sales of burial plots, for records of burials and assistance for interments. The Advisory Committee of the PRMF reserves the right to make any and all landscaping decisions and therefore no individual plot landscaping is permitted. The Endowment Fund for Perpetual Care will be administered by the Advisory Committee and will derive its resources from the sale of gravestones. One or more of the Advisory Committee will be designated to serve as a liaison to the Cemetery Commission.

### **TYPES OF BURIAL**

Cremated remains may be buried in two manners:

The greater part of the PRMF will accommodate the burial of cremated remains either directly into the ground or in container (preferably biodegradable) in a specifically designated but unmarked plot along one of the forest paths. The family may select a burial plot within the grid system along the paths (see map). Burial plots measuring 2' X 2' have been surveyed and bound to a depth of 6' (i.e. 2 or 3 plots deep) within the grid system. Cremated remains may also be scattered. The names of the deceased may be memorialized on the Memorial Circle. The Memorial Circle and the grid system can accommodate over 600 persons.

There are 3 newly created sites for burial of up to 6 people under a pre-selected gravestone, 32 in all. Most of the original 56 sites are spoken for, however there is plenty of room in the grid areas for a single burials as well as commemoration on the wall. The limitation on these gravestones is due to the restrictions created by the irregular terrains as well as the desire to create a natural and spiritual place for commemoration.

### **COST OF BURIAL**

1. The burial of cremated remains in a designated but unmarked plot shall be \$300 per person for the plot. The Town of Marion will issue a deed for the plot upon receipt of \$300 for the plot. Interment charges, established by the Town, will be collected at the time of interment.
2. Commemoration of a person on the Memorial Circle with or without burial on site will be \$100 plus the cost of engraving. This would also apply to "pre-need" engraving on the Memorial Circle.
3. The burial of the cremated remains of six or fewer persons under or

around one gravestone shall cost \$4,000 for the gravestone plus \$300/person for the plot, and interment charges established by the Town. The Town of Marion will issue a deed for each plot upon receipt of \$4000 for the gravestone and \$300 for a plot.

4. All checks are to be made out to the "Town of Marion". For the purchase of a gravestone or commemoration on the Memorial Circle, the check should read "Town of Marion - PRMF Fund".

### **COMMEMORATION**

Commemoration on the Memorial Circle will be engraved in a uniform fashion. "Pre Need" engraving may be done to accommodate persons wishing to be listed adjacent to each other. The style of the engraving on the individual gravestones is left to the discretion of the owner. The DPW has the name of an engraver familiar with the policies of the cemetery. All engraving will be a direct transaction between the engraver and the owner of the plot.

### **PROCEDURE**

Visit the DPW at 50 Benson Brook Road, Marion. Phone 508 748-3540.

Request the PRMF brochure before visiting the cemetery which is located just beyond the water tower on Point Road. In addition to the map in the brochure, there is a large map at the DPW showing plots that have already been taken.

Tour the cemetery on the path system and using the map, select either a plot in the grid system or a gravestone and let the DPW know your choice. A member of the Advisory Committee will be happy to accompany you on your tour.

Make the appropriate financial arrangements with the DPW. A deed to each burial plot will be issued upon payment.

Arrange for burial with the DPW.

### **FOUNDERS OF THE POINT ROAD MEMORIAL FOREST**

Dick and Dana Anderson  
Jack and Nancy Braitmayer  
Cathy Browne  
Hod Kenney  
Tim and Nancy Putnam  
David B. Stone  
Anne Webb

### **ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Margie Baldwin  
Susannah Davis  
Tess Cederholm  
Tim Crowley  
Margaret Nash  
Cathy Stone

# **Point Road Memorial Forest**

**An inspired collaboration of a generous family,  
a talented landscape architect, energetic  
volunteers and the Town of Marion**



*Sketch by Peter Stone*

The Point Road Memorial Forest is a place  
of tranquil unspoiled beauty.  
The spirit of this enterprise is to return  
our physical selves to the earth  
with loving and natural commemoration.

