



Autumn News from Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery



Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery

Our mission is to promote natural burial practices in cemeteries that conserve land and reunite people with the environment.

The creation of Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery (PCCC) began in 2007 with the founding of Conservation Burial Inc. (CBI), a non profit organization.

Quarterly Newsletter

September, 2015

FIFTH ANNUAL MEMORIAL CELEBRATION

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2015
2:00 PM**

The 5th Annual Prairie Creek Conservation Memorial Celebration will honor loved ones who chose land conservation as an expression of their final wishes and who lay to rest within the natural environment of a Florida prairie.

The Memorial Celebration for families and friends will have as its starting point a Hospitality Tent, open at 1:00 pm in the cemetery.

CBI is the vision of citizens who advocate and support a natural green burial ground that contributes to land conservation.

The Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT) is an active partner with PCCC. ACT set aside 78 acres from the Prairie Creek Preserve for the cemetery. ACT and PCCC work together--ACT as the land manager and CBI as cemetery manager.

The work of CBI/PCCC is accomplished by the generous commitment of volunteers.

Join Our List

FALL CALENDAR

***Sunday, September 6th
1:00-2:30 pm**

Choices in After Death Care

**Tours after presentation
Freddie Johnson**

***Friday, October 16th
6:30 pm**

A Good Death~A Doctor's Perspective

**Monica Williams-Murphy
MD**

***Saturday, October 24th
9 am-Noon**

Advanced Directives Workshop

Eloise Harman, MD

The Remembrance Celebration will begin at 2:00 pm. Music will be provided by Murshida VA, Lost Safari Drummers, and other performers bringing high energy and joy to the celebration. The celebration speaker is Shelly Wilson, Senior Pastor of the United Church of Gainesville.

Refreshments and family activities are a part of the afternoon celebration. Parking is easily accessible. Closed toe shoes are recommended for prairie walking.

***Please join us for this special remembrance.
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2015-2:00 pm***

Outstanding Volunteer

Meet Angela Melidosian

by Mary Anne Wagner

If you have ever had doubts about the values and ethics of the "Millennial" generation, then meet Angela Melidosian. Any doubts will quickly disappear.

Both Allan Moynihan and Freddie Johnson strongly recommended Angela as "Outstanding Volunteer" of recent months at Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery, so it was my treat to spend some time interviewing this bright university student.

I met with Angela on a typical hot, humid summer morning at a fast food restaurant near the UF campus, a choice we made for convenience. As it turned out, both of us would rather have chosen a vegetarian or vegan establishment. Nevertheless, we made the best of that location, finding a quiet, corner space.

Jim Wagner PhD

***Sunday, October 25th
2:00 pm**

**5th Annual Memorial
Celebration at Cemetery**

***All programs at Prairie Creek
Lodge**

Sandhill Stage Events

*Sandndhill Stage events
bring live music to Prairie
Creek. Proceeds go to
Prairie Creek Conservation
Cemetery and to Alachua
Conservation Trust.*

**Saturday, Sept. 19th
Tracy Grammar @ 7:30 pm**

**Friday, Nov. 6th
The New 76ers @ 7:30
pm**

**Concerts are held
at Prairie Creek Lodge.
Map available and
additional information
available at
[www.conservationburialinc.
org](http://www.conservationburialinc.org)**

VOLUNTEERING

PCCC welcomes **Michael Daube** who is assuming the role of Volunteer Coordinator. Michael is looking forward to working



Angela is a small-framed young woman with short-cut raven hair, dark brown eyes and an easy, warm smile. Home is a small town just south of Tampa. As a junior in only her second year at UF, I knew she was a skilled student. Such an accomplishment can only occur for an accelerated student in high school, entering the university with a fistful of college credits.

I first asked about the origin of her last name and she responded, "Armenian and Gypsy," something she was especially proud to own. She spoke warmly of her parents- Paul, a tech guy, and Cheryl, an accountant and business manager. She declared that she was close to both of her parents with, once again, that beautiful smile.

I wondered how she had learned about PCCC, thinking a cemetery not something often discussed by college students, but that was a quick answer. Her college professor, Dr. Seaton Tarrant, had mentioned the PCCC in spring semester class on "Politics of Environmental Law," and Angela was curious. Perhaps this could be a place to volunteer and get some "practical" work in her major--sustainability.

As she learned more, the idea of volunteering there was fascinating, but a problem of transportation. Angela had no car, not even a bicycle. Once her parents learned of her wish to volunteer at such an interesting location, they were quick to deliver a new bicycle. Angela knew an automobile was not possible, but she was thrilled with the bike. It fit into her goals for personal fitness as well as transportation.

The round trip from the UF campus to PCCC and back was a mere 28 miles. Angela loved that ride, enjoying the peace and tranquility of the Hawthorne Trail on weekdays and treasuring the beauty of the aged live oaks draped in grey moss that lined her path. So, during the months of May-August, Angela pedaled her way out to Prairie Creek two or

with PCCC volunteers and is committed to "finding meaningful opportunities for each volunteer and providing opportunities for all to gather with staff to deepen our sense of community."

If you wish to volunteer or discuss volunteer opportunities, please contact

Michael Daube
352-208-4940

Monday-Friday, 9 am-5 pm
or via email
at daubed@gmail.com

Want To Become a Prairie Creek Partner?

[Financial donations](#) to Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery are always welcome. Donors automatically become a "Prairie Creek Partner" and will be recognized annually. The donor can designate the contribution in memory of someone and can specify how the funds should be used, either applied to General Funds or to specific items such as those listed below:

General Funds:

three times a week, doing whatever was needed in the office.

When asked about those duties, she clicked off her tasks as easily as she bikes:

- Learned and assisted in the organization of the office
- Assisted in communication among staff and others (community, volunteers, etc.)
- Assisted in preparations for a burial
- Reviewed data and information on burial preferences and PCCC "applications" for burial
- Learned the new data base system-CEMSITES-and completed input into the data base (begun by Star) on locations of all full body burials as well as cremation burials

Even clearer was her response when asked what personal value the experience had for her:

"Conservation Burial is totally congruent with my personal beliefs and college major in sustainability. In fact, anyone who believes in sustainability would find choosing conservation burial the easiest single way to truly make a contribution."

Well said and well done, Angela.

Did You Know? Notes From Freddie

There is a common misconception that state law requires persons who choose green/natural burial to be buried within 24 hours. **Not so, says Freddie.** Green or natural burial *may* be accomplished within 24 hours, *or* the family may decide to have the burial at a later date. In this second scenario, a family conducting a home funeral, or a funeral home, would provide refrigeration for the body until the burial was conducted.

A second misconception is that a wooden casket must be used.

Not so, says Freddie. Any container consisting of biodegradable material may be used, including, but not limited to a shroud, a natural wood container, even a woven wicker container. The main

- Land Purchase and Conservation
- Cemetery Restoration Project (trails removal of invasive plants, etc.)
- Cemsites Purchase and Annual Management Fees (GPS guide to gravesite)
- Indigent Burial Fund
- General Operating Budget

Special Immediate Needs:

- Umbrellas, shovels, garbage cans,
- Golf cart for transporting family members,
- Two or four-wheel cart adequate for transporting body to grave site,
- Pavilion providing for shelter during inclement weather,
- Truck for use on grounds only, not requiring licensure,
- Signage for cemetery,
- Storage shed for use in cemetery

If you can contribute these items, contact Freddie Johnson, (352) 317-7307.

criterion here is natural fabric or any biodegradable wood. (Plywood does not meet that requirement because of the glue used.)

Freddie adds that some of the most beautiful burials have a woven shroud covering the body, sometimes made by a family member. The same occurs with wooden caskets, which might be constructed or hand-carved by a family member.

**Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery
Conservation Burial, Inc.
Alachua Conservation Trust
7204 SE County Road ~ Gainesville, Florida 32641**

PCCC is operated by Conservation Burial Inc. as a conservation burial ground following the green burial certification standards of the Green Burial Council. Proceeds of burials at PCCC are used to *conserve, restore, and manage land and ecosystems for future generations.*

Freddie Johnson, Executive Director
Allan Moynihan, Board Chair, Conservation Burial, Inc.
Board of Directors: Diane Haines, Laurie Jennings, Greg Erdos, Robert Hutchinson, Susan Marynowski, Marianne Prince, Jim Wagner, and Eric Lindstrom.

Newsletter Editors: Sandy Hollinger and Mary Anne Wagner

