

Preapproved
8 hrs

CORONERS' EDUCATION BOARD
PROPOSAL FOR COURSE APPROVAL

To be ratified
9/23
2026-61

NAME OF COURSE:

BUGS, BONES AND BEYOND: A BIOLOGICAL
INVESTIGATION INTO CLANDESTINE GRAVE RECOVERY

TOTAL HOURS:

~~24~~ 8

COST:

\$595.00

LOCATION (ADDRESS):

SIRCHIE
100 HUNTER PLACE
YOUNGSVILLE, YOUNGSVILLE 27596

DATE(S) OF COURSE:

OCTOBER 20-22, 2026

PRESENTER:

DR. BRYAN BRANDLEY

ADDRESS:

100 HUNTER PLACE
YOUNGSVILLE, YOUNGSVILLE 27596

CONTACT PERSON TO ENROLL IN COURSE:

SIRCHIE

TELEPHONE NO OF CONTACT PERSON:

(919) 554-2244

SUBMITTED BY:

JORDAN CONNER

EMAIL ADDRESS:

JFCONNER@FRANKLINCOUNTYPA.GOV

TELEPHONE NO:

(717) 360-1899

DATE:

09/03/2026

Bugs, Bones and Beyond: A biological investigation into Clandestine Grave Recovery (Sirchie HQ) Oct 20-22, 2026

~~\$595.00~~

SKU
CGR200-261020

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This class will be held at Sirchie's Headquarters in Youngsville, NC. Oct 20-22, 2026.

Start time for this class is 8:30 am.

SIRCHIE is offering a 3-day training class on searching for and properly investigating and recovering remains from a clandestine grave site. This is a special edition of the class because it will also include DNA from the genealogy perspective

The legal term ***corpus delicti*** means no one can be charged of a crime if there is no evidence a crime has been committed. In a homicide, the key piece of evidence for the case is the body. Perpetrators will go to great lengths to conceal a body, dumping them in remote locations, hiding the body under cover, and many times burying the bodies to conceal the crime. This course will teach the various techniques for search and recovery of remains from clandestine graves. Principles of search and rescue, death investigation, forensic archaeology and anthropology, and entomology will be taught and used in hands-on exercises. Students will learn how to conduct effective searches, proper protection and documentation of discovered sites, and proper recovery methods and techniques for remains. Learn how DNA derived from the body and the evidence in the grave can be used to identify the body and the perpetrator through genealogical methods of using DNA.

The graves have already been prepared for this class. Due to the hands-on nature of this class, there is a limited number of openings available. Reserve your seat today!

What You Will Gain from this Course:

- The various techniques for search and recovery of remains from clandestine graves
- The principles of search and rescue, death investigation, forensic archaeology and anthropology, and entomology as well as how they are used in hands-on exercises.
- How to conduct effective searches, proper protection and documentation of discovered sites and proper recovery methods and techniques for remains.
- How DNA derived from the body and the evidence in the grave can be used to identify the body and the perpetrator through genealogical methods of using DNA.

Curriculum

Day 1 *Lecture / Hands-On Activity (8:00 am - 4:30 pm)*

- Registration / Introduction
- Fundamentals of Clandestine Activity
- Search methods
- Documentation
- Evidence recovery methods
- Hands-On Practical: Field Search Activity

Day 2 *Hands On Lesson / Activity (8.30 am - 4.30 pm)*

- Review of Student Field Recovery Kit
- Search and Discovery
- Setup, identification, documentation of grave
- Excavation and evidence collection of grave

Day 3 *Hands On / Report and Presentation (8.30 am - 4:30 pm)*

- Excavation and evidence collection continued
- Report Writing
- Preparation of Presentations
- Peer reviewed presentations



Your Instructor

Dr. Bryan Brendley is a Professor in the Forensic Science Program at Methodist University. Prior to coming to North Carolina he served as a sworn state conservation officer in Pennsylvania. Bryan teaches classes on Forensic Anthropology, Forensic Cell Biology/Histology, Cold Case Analysis, Bloodstain Patterns, Ballistic Trauma, and Drowning Investigations. He regularly guest lectures at both Campbell University School of Law on expert testimony and at Elon University School of Law on Crime Scene Analysis. He graduated from the College of William and Mary with degrees in biology and history, and holds an earned doctorate from The Pennsylvania State University. He is a member of the AAFS, NCIJ and the NCHIA. Bryan also has "served" as a US Navy spouse for over 21 years and volunteers his time regularly at the High Point Police Crime Lab.

OAG Coroners' Education Board Proposal For Course Approval Submission

From PA Office of Attorney General <no-reply@attorneygeneral.gov>

Date Thu 9/3/2026 4 26 PM

To Jury, Ali R <ajury@attorneygeneral.gov>

 2 attachments (716 KB)

2026-ceb-bugs-bones-and-beyond-a-biological-investigation-into-clandestine-grave-recovery-sirchie-bugs-bones-and-beyond.pdf, coroner-course-application-Conner.pdf,

Name of Course

Bugs, Bones and Beyond A biological investigation into Clandestine Grave Recovery

Total Hours

24

Cost

\$595.00

Address

Sirchie
100 Hunter Place
Youngsville, NC 27596
United States
[Map It](#)

Date(s) of Course

October 20-22, 2026

Presenter Name

Dr. Bryan Brandley

Address

100 Hunter Place
Youngsville, NC 27596
United States
[Map It](#)

Contact Person to enroll in course

Sirchie

Telephone Number of Contact Person

(919) 554-2244

Submitted by:

Jordan Conner

Email Address

JFconner@franklincountypa.gov

Date

09/03/2026

Telephone Number

(717) 360-1899