

Future of Brown Ash:

Weaving Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science to promote resilience amidst Emerald Ash Borer invasion

Dates: October 8-9, 2024

Location: UMaine Orono, Wells Conference Center

Zoom link: <https://maine.zoom.us/j/85113734242>

Purpose: To reconvene and widen the community of people who care for brown ash, and inform people about current knowledge about brown ash from both an Indigenous and Western Science perspective.

Who's invited: Basketmakers, Tribal Nation members and employees, APCAW participants, private forest landowners, researchers, state and federal employees, nonprofit partners, students, foresters, loggers, and Canadian partners.

Host: John Daigle, Ash Protection Across Wabanakik Lab and Professor of Forest Resources

Day 1: Current Black Ash Conditions, EAB Management, and the Future of Black Ash

Moderated by Nate Siegert, PhD (US Forest Service) in the morning, and by Allison Kanoti (Maine Forest Service) in the afternoon. Poster session all day.

7:30 am: Set up

8:30 am: Opening Prayer led by Richard Silliboy (Mi'kmaq Nation) and Opening Remarks

9:00 am: Deb McCollough, PhD "Black ash forest conditions across the Great Lakes region"

9:30 am: Nate Siegert, PhD "Forecasting EAB impact on black ash ecosystems and culture"

10:00 am: Break, poster sessions, snacks

10:30 am: Nate Siegert, PhD "Ash dynamics in aftermath forests"

10:45 am: Panel and Discussion on Ash Forest Silviculture

- Moderator: Nate Siegert, PhD (US Forest Service)
- Panelists: Anthony D'Amato, PhD (UVM), Tyler Everett (APCAW), and Angello Johnson (Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe)

11:30 am: River Mathieu, Master's Student, "Lessons from Michigan: How does black ash regeneration fare in the wake of emerald ash borer?"

12:00 pm: Lunch and poster session

1:00 pm: Anthony D'Amato speaks about ash preservation

1:30 pm: Panel and Discussion on ash seed collection

- Moderator: John Daigle, PhD
- Speakers: Les Benedict (St. Regis Mohawk Tribe), Darren Derbowka (National Tree Seed Centre of Canada), Nell Houde (Wild Seed Project), Ella McDonald (APCAW)

2:15 pm: Break, snacks, posters

2:30 pm: Gabe LeMay (Maine Forest Service) on regional tree injection strategies

2:45 pm: Theresa Murphy (APHIS) and Colleen Teerling (Maine Forest Service) on biocontrol

3:15 pm: Jennifer Koch (US Forest Service) and Jill Hamilton (Penn State) on ash genetics

3:45 pm: Wrap up

Travel to Indian Island (Old Town) via buses leaving from the Wells Center or personal vehicle

4:30-6 pm: Demonstrations on Indian Island outside of Sockalexis Arena

- Brown ash pounding demonstration
- Walk to a brown ash stand on Indian Island off the boardwalk and collect seed
- Seed processing for storage
- Trap tree peeling
- Tree injection

6-8 pm: Community dinner on Indian Island

- Featuring Burnurwurbskek Singers and storytelling
- Catered by Katahdin Kitchen and Smokey's BBQ
- Bartering session led by Tyler Everett

Day 2: Tribal Community Involvement in Ash Protection

Moderated by John Daigle, PhD. Poster session all day.

8:00 am: Wells opens with coffee

9:00 am: Richard Silliboy (Mi'kmaq Nation) leads a prayer to start second day

9:05 am: John Daigle, PhD, Tyler Everett, and Ella McDonald offer an APCA Research Update

10:00 am: Break, posters, snacks, vendors

10:30 am: Panel and Discussion on Tribal Community perspectives on ash and EAB

- Moderator: John Daigle, PhD

- Speakers: Suzanne Greenlaw, PhD (Houlton Band of Maliseets), Tony Sutton, PhD (Passamaquoddy Tribe), Edgar Blanchet (Ndakina Office of W8banaki), Les Benedict (St. Regis Mohawk Tribe), and Richard Silliboy (Mi'kmaq Nation)

11:45 am: Close and break for lunch

12:00 pm: Lunch

1:00 pm: Group meetings (concurrent sessions)

1. Group 1: Tribal Nation collaborations and prioritization of adaptive management strategies (For members and employees of Tribal Nations)
2. Group 2: Broadening a network and involvement of forest stewards implementing adaptive management strategies (For anyone)
3. Group 3: Youth breakout and report back (For students and young people)

2:00 pm: Report out from Group 1 and discussion

2:15 pm: Report out from Group 2 and discussion

2:30 pm: Report out from Group 3 and discussion

2:45 pm: Closing thoughts, wrap up by 3

3:30 pm: Optional ash seed growers' meet and greet/discussion about best practices for growing plants for ash ecosystems and developing public guidance for doing so.