Gloosekap came first of all into this country, into the land of the Wabanaki, next to sunrise. There were no Indians here then. . .And in this way he made men: He took his bow and arrows and shot at trees, the basket-trees, the Ash. Then Indians came out of the bark of the Ash-trees.

- Molly Sepsis (Passamaquoddy, 1884)

For generations, the weavers of the Maliseet, Mi'kmaq, Passamaquoddy and Penobscot tribes have created functional and beautiful baskets from brown ash – *wikepi,* the basket trees.

Basketmakers of the past, present and future

1, 3- photographer unknown
2- Basket and photo by Jennifer Neptune (Penobscot)
4- Master basketmaker Jeremy Frey (Passamaquoddy). Photo by Vanessa Whang.
5- Anna Keezer (Passamaquoddy). Photo by Theresa Secord.

Basket Trees

The basketmaking process:
from tree selection to pounding to weaving

Structurally, ash is unique for weaving. No other material has the properties of ash, and it cannot be replaced. Spiritually, ash is just as important. If we lose the ash trees and I make my baskets from some other material, I lose a part of my heritage.

-master basketmaker Jeremy Frey (Passamaquoddy)

Emerald Ash Borer

The emerald ash borer threatens the ancient tradition of basketmaking. This recently introduced exotic insect is killing ash trees throughout the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic and is rapidly moving east.

6- Richard Silliboy inspects an ash tree. Photo by Cedric Chatterly
7, 8- Pounding ash. Photos by Martin Neptune
9- Photo by Greg Miller

Signs and Symptoms of EAB

serpentine galleries under the bark

bark splitting

D-shaped exit holes

crown decline

epicormic growth (abnormal branching from trunk)

A Few Facts

-EAB attacks all species of ash

-EAB kills **all** trees it attacks – there is no resistance

-EAB has killed over 25 million trees between 2002 and 2007

-Over **75%** of new outbreaks are caused by people moving infested firewood

What Does EAB Look Like?

larvae

adults

What Are We Doing About EAB?

Prevention – raising awareness of the dangers of transporting firewood
– quarantining the movement of ash wood products from affected areas

Monitoring – using purple sticky traps to monitor for EAB
–using a native wasp to provide early detection of EAB

Research – working on new pesticides for protection of high-value trees
– evaluating and releasing parasites to help control EAB in forests

What Can **YOU** Do To Help?

Don't move firewood! – most new outbreaks are caused by infested firewood

Alert others to the dangers of transporting firewood

Report suspected EAB symptoms to your local Dept. of Agriculture or Forestry

This display was produced cooperatively by the Maine Forest Service and the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance