



The Big Green Monster

Akwasasne Emerald Ash Borer Response Plan

Now that we have your attention, you ought to be informed that Akwasasne is soon to be invaded by a Green Monster, although not big. It is a tiny insect but has been responsible for BIG destruction of ash trees in North America. The Emerald Ash Borer, *Agrilus planipennis*, was introduced into North America from Asia in the late 1990's but wasn't discovered until the early 2000's after it had spread and destroyed millions of ash trees in the Detroit Michigan area. The community of Akwasasne is obviously concerned because black ash is used in the baskets we make. The loss of black ash has serious consequences for the future of basket making and will affect the entire community in many ways that have already affected many of the Michigan Native American basket makers. The outlook isn't very good.

However, we invite the community to attend a meeting to overview a community Emerald Ash Borer Response Plan to learn about how we can manage the effects of EAB. The plan was developed in association with the Akwasasne Cultural Center and Museum, Akwasasne Task Force on the Environment, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe - Pesticides and Forestry programs, USDA - APHIS and the US Forest Service. Representatives from USDA-APHIS and USFS will be on hand to answer questions. Topics of discussion:

History and Biology

USDA and USFS efforts to manage EAB

Current locations

Overview of EAB Response Plan

Impacts to Native American Communities

Community Feedback

Date: Ahsénhaton/Wednesday, Seskéha/August 12, 2015

Location: Saint Regis Recreation Center, Kanatakon

Time: Starts 9:00 a.m.

Displays, basket making demonstrations and information throughout the day with staff and experts available to answer questions.

10:00 - 10:30 - Emerald Ash Borer

What it is and what is the threat?

Noon - 12:30 - Lunch Presentation

Impacts to Native Communities

2:00 - 2:30 - Community adaptation and alternative materials

3:00 - 3:30 - Response Planning?

4:40 - 5:30 - The Akwasasne EAB Response Plan!

5:30 - 6:00 - Questions and Answers

Who should attend: Basket makers, black ash log harvesters, natural resource program managers, anyone concerned about the future of Native basketry and ash trees.

Light refreshments served: Corn Soup, fried biscuits, fruit and beverages.

Note: Portions of this event will be photographed and videoed for educational purposes. Please let us know at the event if you wish not to be photographed or videoed.