

*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.

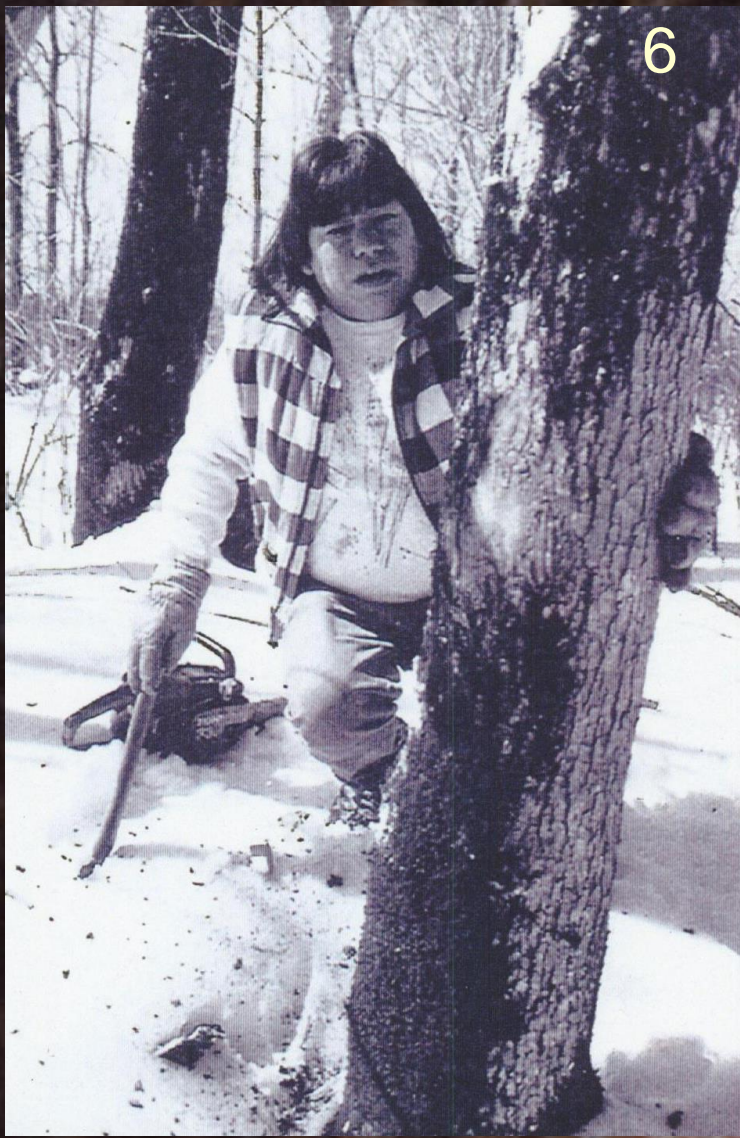


Basketmakers of the past, present and future

- 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 much of eastern North America.





# Signs and Symptoms of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)



serpentine galleries under the bark



bark splitting



D-shaped exit holes



crown decline



epicormic growth (abnormal branching from trunk)



Woodpecker feeding

## A Few Facts

- EAB attacks all species of ash
- Our native ash have little to no resistance to EAB
- EAB has killed tens of millions of trees between 2002 and 2010
- 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?

**Education** – raising awareness of 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 girdled trap trees 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

In Maine: [www.maine.gov/eab](http://www.maine.gov/eab)



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