

Agenda for Sustaining Ash Partners Network (SAP-Ne) Kick Off Webinar

October 2nd, 2024

9:30am-11:00am

Webinar Purpose To: (1) Introduce SAP-Ne and establish connections between ash stewards across the Northeastern region, (2) provide context to western scientific and Indigenous perspectives on the significance of sustaining ash, (3) share experiences to inspire and engage forest stewards in ash preservation, (4) identify gaps in training and resources region wide, and (5) serve as a call to action for land managers, conservationists, municipalities to join the effort and mobilize to address the impacts of EAB.

Introduction (10 min)

- **9:30am-** Welcome - Matt Piccarello, Eastern Deputy Director, Forest Stewards Guild
 - Attendees (quick intros: name, location, & organization) in chat- Matt Piccarello, Guild
- **9:32am-** Meeting purpose - Rachel Swanwick, Northeast Program Manager, Forest Stewards Guild
 - Project overview
 - Agenda overview

Background/Context (30 min)-Introduction to Sustaining Ash: Scientific Frameworks and Indigenous Perspectives and Values

- **9:40am-** Speaker Introduction (1 min), Rachel Swanwick, Guild
- **9:41am-** *A Framework for Preserving Ash to Sustain Diverse Values* (10 min), Tony D'Amato, Professor and Forestry Program Director, University of Vermont
 - Overview of the pressing threats to ash
 - Ash preservation adaptation framework
- **9:51am-** Speaker Introduction (1 min), Rachel Swanwick, Guild
- **9:52am-** *The Cultural Importance of Ash among Wabanaki People and the Basketmaking Tradition* (10 min), Richard Silliboy, Basketmaker and Vice Chief, Mi'kmaq Nation
 - Cultural importance of sustaining ash in the Northeast
 - Importance of ash to the Wabanaki People
 - Ash tree role in Wabanaki creation story
 - Basket making tradition and economic value
- **10:02am-** Q&A (~8 min)

Case Studies Across the Northeast (15 min)

- **10:10am-** Introduction of speakers (1 min), Rachel Swanwick, Guild
- **10:12am-** *Creating a network of ash preservation patches in Vermont (5 min)*, Caitlin Cusack, Forester, Vermont Land Trust
- **10:17am-** *Talk title TBD (5 min)*, Les Benedict, Assistant Director Environmental Division, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
- **10:22-** Q & A (~4 min)

Transition to breakouts by state (NY, NH, ME, VT, MA) facilitated by SAP-Ne partners (20 min)

10:25am-10:45am

- Guiding Questions for Breakouts
 - What (if any) ash management/treatment are you doing? (Share case studies/work to preserve ash)
 - What resources do you use?
 - What resources, information, and training are needed in the region?

Full group: Share summaries with time for Questions and Feedback (10 min- 2 min per state)

10:45am-10:55am

Meeting Closing and Call to Action (5 min)

- **10:55am-** Summarize meeting highlights, Rachel Swanwick, Guild
 - How you can engage
 - Outreach
 - Post meeting survey

Thank you