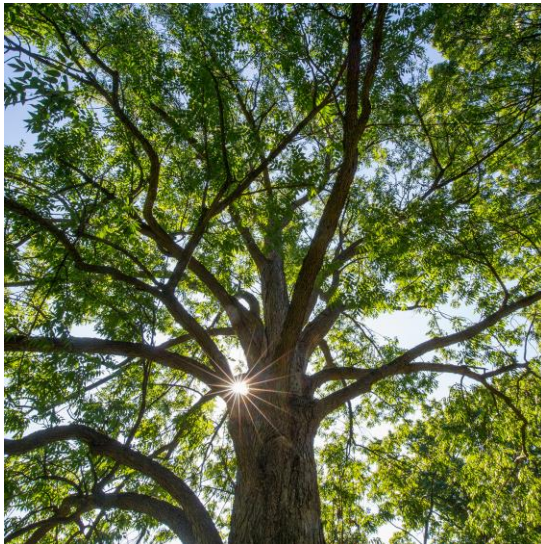


# NYBG

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## **Beloved but Endangered: The Status and Outlook for American Ash Trees Will Be The Focus of NYBG's *Saving the American Ash Summit* on October 13, 2017**

Leading Experts Will Examine the Natural and Cultural History of This Mainstay Of Northeastern Forests and the Deadly Peril It Faces from an Invasive Beetle



The state of American ash trees will be examined during NYBG's *Saving the American Ash Summit* on October 13, 2017. Shown: A white ash (*Fraxinus americana*)

**Bronx, NY**—From anchoring the ecosystems of many North American forests to providing the wood commonly used in baseball bats, the American ash tree is a majestic and important part of this continent's woodlands. Now, however, it faces a mortal crisis as an invasive beetle spreads from the Upper Midwest into the northeastern United States and Canada, leaving millions of dead ash trees in its wake.

On Friday, October 13, 2017, The New York Botanical Garden will bring together four experts to discuss the natural and cultural history of the ash and the peril it faces in ***Saving the American Ash Summit***. The summit will be held from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Ross Hall at the Botanical Garden.

In addition to examining the threats to the American ash, the summit will address how homeowners, nature enthusiasts, and stewards of natural areas can work to save these beloved trees.

The ash, whose various species make up the genus *Fraxinus*, is one of the largest groups of related tree species in the northeastern forest and is planted as a street tree across the continent. Many are keystone species, serving as the dominant plant life in an ecosystem. The wood is economically important for its role in furniture, baseball bats, and hockey sticks and is highly valued in traditional native American basketry.

The future of this iconic tree was thrown into doubt when the emerald ash borer (EAB), an invasive beetle, was discovered near Detroit in 2002. The beetle's larvae burrow under the bark of ashes, creating extensive tunnels that disrupt the flow of water and nutrients. Nearly 100 percent of ashes infested with ash borers die. The insect is spreading rapidly through New York, New England, and Canada. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature recently added six North American ash species to its list of threatened species. It declared five of the six critically endangered, a category that is one step from extinction.

The *Saving the American Ash Summit* will be moderated by Brian M. Boom, Ph.D., Vice President for Conservation Strategy at The New York Botanical Garden.

### **Topics and Speakers:**

- *Ash in North American Forest Ecosystems and The Threat of Emerald Ash Borer*  
Kathleen Knight, Ph.D., Research Ecologist, Northern Research Station, U.S. Forest Service
- *Sustaining Traditions: The Effects of EAB On Black Ash Basketry*  
Kelly Church, black ash basket weaver, Grand Traverse Band Ottawa and Chippewa and Gun Lake Band
- *Conserving Ash Trees in the Northeast: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach*  
Daniel Atha, Director of Conservation Outreach, The New York Botanical Garden
- *Monitoring and Managing Ash: A Protocol for Conservation and Mitigation*  
Jonathan Rosenthal, M.S., J.D., Director, Ecological Research Institute, Kingston, N.Y.

Registration is \$10 for Members, \$20 for Non-Members. To register, visit [nybg.org/adulted](http://nybg.org/adulted) or call 718.817.8747.

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*Saving the American Ash Summit is partially funded by the Sarah K. de Coizart Article TENTH Perpetual Charitable Trust.*

The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. It is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad, bus, or subway. The Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The best way to enjoy the Garden is with the *All-Garden Pass*, which includes admission to the grounds as well as to seasonal gardens, exhibitions, and attractions such as the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Everett Children's Adventure Garden, and Tram Tour. For ticket pricing, please check our Web site. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit [nybg.org](http://nybg.org)

The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458

The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

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