



Special CEHS Seminar

Sustainability Science and Indigenous Research Methods: Protecting Wabanaki Basketmaking Traditions from the Emerald Ash Borer

Darren J. Ranco, PhD
Chair of Native American Programs
Associate Professor of Anthropology
Coordinator of Native American Research
University of Maine



Wabanaki (Micmac, Maliseet, Passamaquoddy, Penobscot, and Abenaki) tribal basketmaking traditions use brown ash trees as their primary source material. This resource is threatened by the Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive pest from China, first found in North America near Detroit in 2002. In this talk, Dr. Darren Ranco will discuss his five year research project to work with basketmakers and other key stakeholders to prepare for the arrival of this pest in Maine. He will discuss how his team used both sustainability science and indigenous research methods to do research that were inclusive, relevant, impactful, and culturally appropriate for the research partners. He will emphasize the critical intersections between these seemingly very different research traditions, both of which emphasize personal and societal transformation and healing.

November 18, 2014
12:00PM
Building 56 Room 614

Host: Professor John Essigmann

Sponsored by the William R. (1956) and Betsy P. Leitch Endowment and the MIT CEHS