

# Ash Thicket and Invasives



The area here are the remains of an Ash tree thicket. White Ash trees are a common tree in forests east of the Mississippi. They grow tall and straight and have maple seed like seeds called “keys.” The wood is used for baseball bats and furniture. Tragically an invasive beetle, the Emerald Ash Borer is killing nearly all of this species as it is here. The Ash Borer lays its eggs in the crevices of a host tree, which hatch in about two weeks. The larva bore into the bark and into critical layers of the tree underneath the bark, leaving serpentine markings in the inside of the bark and killing the tree. The larva usually matures into an adult over the winter and emerges in the spring, leaving a “D” shaped hole. You can see the holes on the trunks of the dead ash trees here.