

Ginkgo biloba, I don't think I've ever met anyone that doesn't know what a Ginkgo tree is. I presume everyone's fascination with this plant started when they were in grade school and needed to collect leaves for a school project. Then they learned of the Ginkgos existing on earth for a 100 million years, even with the dinosaurs. At that point Ginkgos were embedded in everyone's memory forever. If that didn't do it, when they learned about the stench of the fruit, that does it for sure! While in college, at the University of Vermont, my friend(?) Rodbard collected some frozen Ginkgo fruit during a tree identification lab and placed them in my winter jacket's pocket. I didn't notice till the next morning, when I went to get that jacket out of the closet!

This first image is of the 110-year-old Ginkgo at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. I have been visiting this tree for over 40 years. In 1914, this tree had a 6" diameter trunk, so it is probably older than that.



The first special form of Ginkgo that I became aware of was a variegated form. I traveled to Verkade Nursery in New Jersey to try to secure one. I was told that variegated Ginkgos are unstable, so they rarely have them for sale. I was told to go out to the chain link fence at the back of the property to see for myself. There I saw a plant with mostly green leaves with a few variegated leaves, unphased I insisted, and they sold me a small plant that is still in my garden, with mostly green leaves and a few variegated ones. This is an image of a branch on that plant in June of 2020.



Now we are propagating this Ginkgo and calling it Ginkgo biloba 'Verkade's Variegated'. This is a photo of a crop of young grafts that were just potted up.



A Ginkgo Bonsai at the United States National Arboretum in Washington, DC



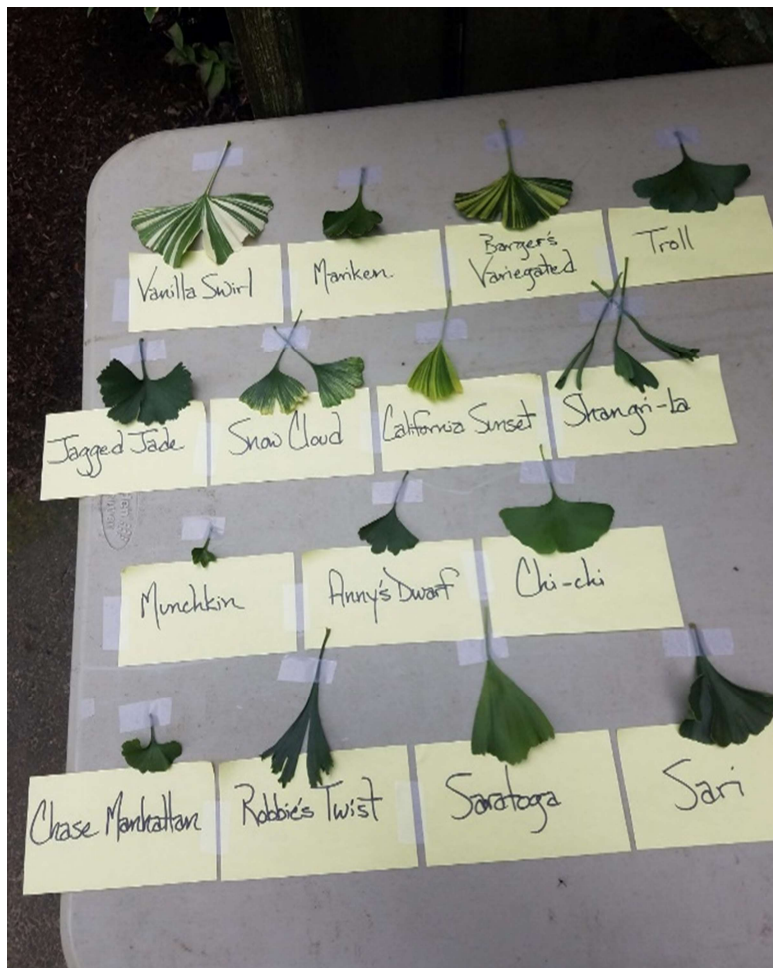
Over the years we were able to assemble a nice collection of Ginkgos, mostly from our friend Dennis Dodge of Bethlehem Nursery, in Bethlehem, Connecticut. Dennis was a master grafter who traded scionwood with plant collectors from all over the world. So, he often had plants before any other nurseries in the United States. I would visit him three or four times a year to see what goodies he might have to offer. This is a photo of *Ginkgo biloba* 'Chase Manhattan' that I purchased from Dennis nearly 20 years ago.



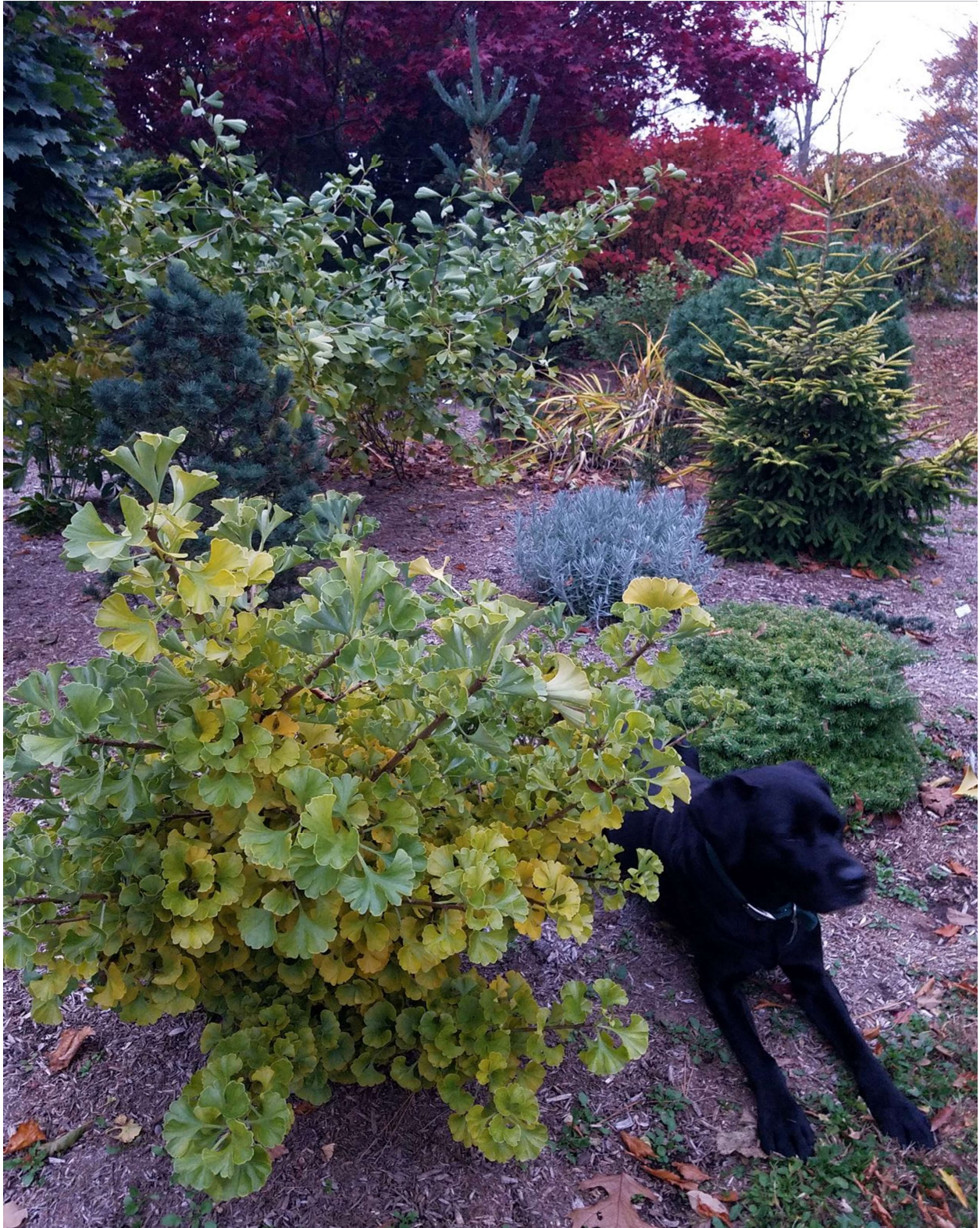
We were always on the lookout for different Ginkgos. We bought this selection of Ginkgo biloba 'Joe's Broom' at an American Conifer Society Silent Auction in Ohio. This plant was found as a witch's broom by Joe Stupka, who grafted it, named it, and donated it to the auction.



A display of the leaf variability we set up at the nursery last summer.



One of the newer, highly sought-after cultivars of Ginkgo was found by Kevin Fechke as a witch's broom in Nashua, New Hampshire. It is one of the smallest globe shaped forms, pictured here with Nolan, *Ginkgo biloba* 'Sari'. Notice *Ginkgo biloba* 'Nelleke' in the background, a weeping form of Ginkgo.



If you are interested in *Ginkgo biloba* plan a visit to O'Brien Nursery to see our collection of over 60 different cultivars of the Maidenhair Tree.

