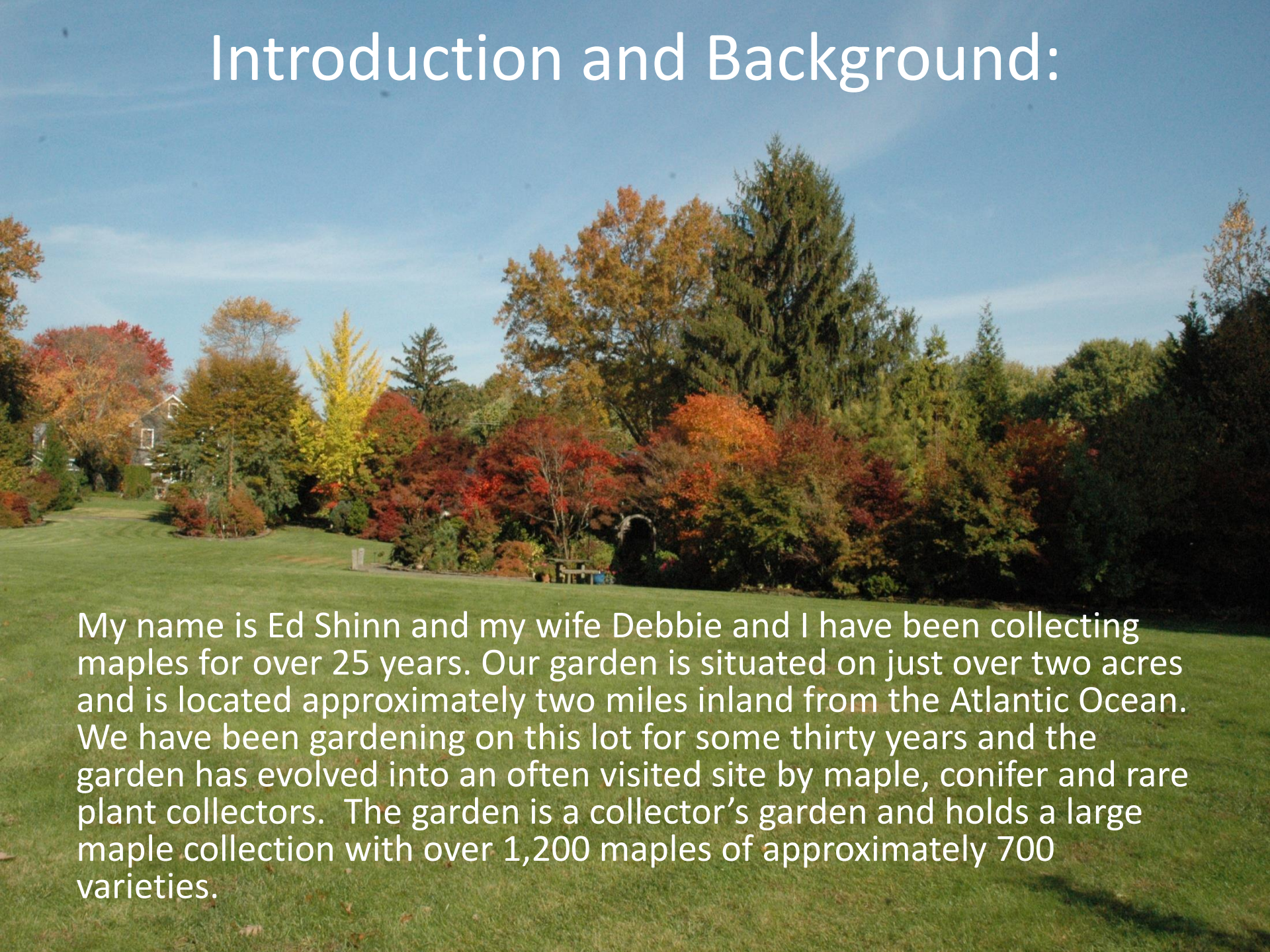


The Garden of Ed and Debbie Shinn

Zone 7b New Jersey



Introduction and Background:



My name is Ed Shinn and my wife Debbie and I have been collecting maples for over 25 years. Our garden is situated on just over two acres and is located approximately two miles inland from the Atlantic Ocean. We have been gardening on this lot for some thirty years and the garden has evolved into an often visited site by maple, conifer and rare plant collectors. The garden is a collector's garden and holds a large maple collection with over 1,200 maples of approximately 700 varieties.



Spring 2015



This is a collector's garden containing over 3,000 plants and in addition to the maple collection the garden has an extensive conifer collection with over 600 plants and hundreds of other varieties of trees and shrubs including collections of unusual Beech, Ginkgo and Sciadopitys. I guess you could call my approach to design a classic mixed border only I used maples and other woody plants instead of perennials.



Acer pictum 'Usugumo'



Acer japonicum 'Blushing Beauty'



Acer palmatum 'Snow Kitten'

A close-up photograph of the leaves of an Acer saccharum ssp. leucoderme 'Confederate Ghost' tree. The leaves are predominantly green with prominent reddish-pink or magenta variegation, especially along the veins and margins. The leaves are deeply lobed, with three to five main lobes per leaf. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting other foliage.

Acer saccharum ssp leucoderme
'Confederate Ghost'



Acer buergerianum 'Hana chiru sato'

The garden is designed with two different viewing perspectives. There are over 1,150 feet of bluestone paths, laid by Ed, to facilitate touring the property and to view the plants from a shaded enclosed approach.





Acer palmatum
'Hochi kiku'

Sarcocolla glabra
'Purple Leaf Form'

Syneilesis aconitifolia

Syneilesis aconitifolia

Acer palmatum
'Ogi nagashi'





The second way to view the garden is from the open grass area. This sunny viewpoint provides completely different colors of the plants and garden. Although Japanese maples are famous for Fall color. I feel the Spring color is the best time in the garden















As an extension of our living space most of our evenings are spent enjoying the night sky from our favorite room of the house...the back patio. Warmed by a raging fireplace and patio heaters for year-round use the space is completed with an outdoor kitchen and hot tub for soaking sore muscles after a day in the garden.









Stone and wooden benches are placed throughout the garden to provide a place to rest and enjoy the views. One area features a stone table made from a salvaged piece of sidewalk from the town we grew up in. Most of the plants have engraved botanical signs for ease of identification. There are many features in the garden including a bog garden, a rock garden, planters, troughs, greenhouses and hundreds of plants in pots. Many plants have been sent to the garden from major arboreta and specialist nurseries for trials in the NJ area.



The shaded retreat area is the home of many of the rarest and highly variegated plants and home to Debbie's glass garden ornament collection.





Acer pictum 'Akikaze Yutaka'



Acer rufinerve 'Sunshine'

The Japanese maples now completely enclose the area and it keeps this spot about 15 degrees cooler than the open area of the garden. This garden has been a favorite garden for prom pictures and wedding photo ops.



The garden has hosted six weddings as well as many Spring Maple gatherings and Fall Foliage gatherings. We even hosted a January wedding with a clear sided tent to enjoy the garden blanketed in snow.









Our grandchildren and numerous great nieces and nephews provide an ever-changing 'Fairyland'. This garden has hours of "kid time" spent collecting rocks and pieces of slate to add to the architectural layout. The mini neighborhoods change every year and every visitor is invited to contribute a hand decorated slat for the picket fence along the back.

