



Lucy and Nat Day on Jumbo, one of 21 topiaries the Days donated to BBG.
Photo by ChiChi Ubina

World-Class Topiary Garden Donated to BBG

We are honored to be the recipient of a world-class topiary garden donated by Lucy and Nat Day of Greenwich, CT. Considered one of the finest collections of topiaries in North America, it was transported to BBG in the fall and now finds its home between the Pond Garden and Martha Stewart Cottage Garden.

The collection includes 21 large, custom-designed topiaries in nine different vignettes. Among these living sculptures are cavorting frogs, a hunting dog and pheasant, a yew wing chair and boxwood easy chair, and Jumbo the Elephant, complete with a howdah with glass ball finials

and water-spouting trunk.

Over nearly two decades, the Days engaged the expertise of acclaimed topiarist and BBG board chairman Matt Larkin of Grant Larkin Design, Richmond, MA, and Steve Manning of Suffolk, UK. “The donation of this beautiful, established collection brings a wonderfully dynamic, sculptural element to the Garden,” said Matt, “and its relocation nearly 100 miles to Stockbridge is unprecedented. Topiary gardens of this scope are quite rare, and to pick one up and move it is unheard of.”

Moving a topiary garden of this size has required a team effort at

both locations. The topiary was hand dug by Dennis Gendron and his crew of ten from Twin Brooks Gardens of Millbrook, NY. All the pieces were removed with a massive crane operated by Thad Tomlinson of Berkshire Crane from Dalton, MA. Once loaded into trucks, the topiaries were transported over three hours to the Garden, where they have been planted in an area that will be enclosed within a purple beech hedge and centered around a pergola. “Lucy’s Garden” will officially open in the summer of 2019.