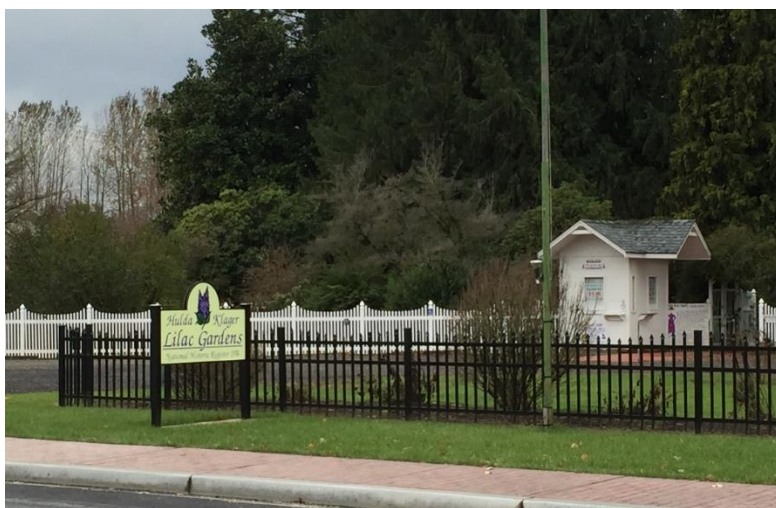


# Lilac Lines... July 2022

115 S. Pekin Road, PO Box 828, Woodland, Washington

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## A Time of Transition for the Lilac Gardens



### ...from our President

I have exciting news for you! A big development for the Garden is the addition of an Executive Director to streamline the operation and free your Board to focus on the kind of decisions that will carry the Garden forward. I'd like to introduce Mari Ripp who has agreed to join the Garden as our Executive Director. Please give her your support as she digs into our organization!

As many of you already know, Catherine and I are moving to Idaho. I have had the privilege of being involved with the Lilac Garden since about 1999. Little did I know when I first volunteered to help what it would grow into over the years. You have achieved wonderful progress for the Garden as we have navigated a changing world. Thank you for making it possible - it has been an amazing journey that I will never forget. What a blessing! I hope you all will continue your support of the Garden and preserve it for future generations.

Dwight Trahin  
HKLG President 2015-2022

## **Volunteer Appreciation Picnic July 26<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.**

We would like to thank this years Lilac Garden Volunteers and hope you will join us as we celebrate another successful year on Tuesday July 26 at 6 p.m. as we provide a picnic lunch on the front lawn of Hulda's Garden consisting of fried and baked chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, cookies, bottled water, and table ware. If you are on a special diet, we encourage you to supplement the above meal and join us.

***On behalf of the Hulda Klager Lilac Garden Board, I would like to extend our appreciation to those who volunteered during***

***2022 Lilac Days***



**At the Gate House:** Mary Boger, Janet Boon's family, Vikki Bunger, Debbie Caffall, Ria Danis, Debbie Elliott, Dianne and John Ernest, Linette Finstad, Erma Gettmann, Dr. Richard Graham, Joyce Hawkins, Pete Hazard, Billie Marxmiller, Marge Mace, Mose Meeker, Lauretta & Clara Johnston, Juanita MacMahon, Judith Peterson (Vancouver), Mari Ripp, Jean Savage, Barbara Stimmel, Marilyn Van Horn, Nancy White, Jeannette Winterroth, Judy (Board) and Stu Card.

**Plant Cashiers:** Lori Comstock, Debbie Elliott, Carol Owens, Mari Ripp, Gabby Sprenger and Louise Moir (Board)

**Gift Shop:** Patti Audette (Board), Aretia Moir and Sarah Schurman

**Plant Sales area:** Jeanne Richard, Rebecca Roberts, Cathy Seifert, Joan Fifer, Patti and Dave Audette and Catherine and Dwight (Board) Trahin

**Finances** at the end of each day: Judy Kroon (Board) and Ruth Wendt (Board)

**On call wherever needed:** Dave Audette and Dwight Trahin (Board)

We sincerely hope we did not miss mentioning any who gave of their time so others could enjoy "Lilac Days Open House". Judy Card, Newsletter Editor



## The Lilac Story of Charles & Dana Stegner

Dana's great-grandmother had a lilac tree in her yard that Dana's mother always enjoyed so she transplanted a start in her yard. Because Dana always loved the tree, when she moved out, she took a start and put it in a pot and placed it on the corner of her porch. She decided that she wasn't going to plant it in the ground until she was "planted" somewhere permanent.

She met her now husband Charles on a dating site. As she was telling him the story of her lilac, Chuck became very quiet. She asked him why he was so quiet and to her amazement he told her the story of the lilac that he had in a pot on his porch. His story was very similar to hers. Grandparent, father, and him. Fate??

They started dating and he asked her to marry him. They married in the Spring.

When Dana was having Chucks wedding band made, she had it engraved with the words "Lets plant Lilacs". After he saw the engraving it was so symbolic to him that he had Dana's ring engraved with the same words.

After they married, they rented a house but still just put the lilacs in the pots on their deck,

In 2012 they saw a house for sale that really piqued their interest so asked their real estate person to set up a viewing. It felt like home and guess what??? It had lilacs in the yard. They bought the house and finally planted the lilacs that they still had in their pots. They were finally "planted"

They have made several visits to the gardens through the years and bought several plants for themselves, friends, and family. The lilacs and the gardens have a special meaning to them, and they try to visit yearly

They are currently training their recently purchased lilac on a trellis that will grow-up to meet another lilac that will frame a gate in their backyard.

Just like the flower, a beautiful lilac story. See you in 2023!!

Charles & Dana Stegner  
3425 Tempa St.  
Eugene, Or. 97404



**Notes from the Board.... In 2015, as Dwight Trahin took over the reins of the Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens this was the announcement on the Newsletter**

***“Dwight tries out his new “gavel”!***

From the Board’s Word Smith, Ruth Wendt... Dwight would be the first to tell you that this garden is not the work of one person. Even Hulda had help. But Hulda didn’t have to deal with Covid (2019-2022). While many of us stood with mouths agape, Dwight was figuring out how to keep the garden going. There were many things we could not do, like open for tours, welcome big groups, open the farmhouse, open the gift shop, but Dwight could see this time as an opportunity to engage in projects that we simply were too busy to work on with the place full of people. So, he and his buddies went to work on remodeling and repairing the old barn. Even though we couldn’t sell gifts (but we did in 2021) or support the gardens with big gate fees, we could “Make Do”. Just to add a little frosting on our cake in 2022, the late snowstorm tried to destroy the garden after we had ordered plants to sell at the limited opening. We were committed enough that cancelling wasn’t really an option. Visitors confirmed the decision (to soldier on) was right, some even insisting they had never seen the garden so beautiful. It will take a mighty effort to do what we know needs to be done, to weed, plant, pound the nails, and keep Hulda’s Legacy alive, but Dwight thought of that as well as we introduce Mari Ripp as Executive Director of the Hulda Klager Lilac Society.



**Newsletter Article by Mari Ripp July 13, 2022**

Hello to the membership and Lilac enthusiasts! There is exciting news at the Gardens! My name is Mari Ripp and I will be starting a new part-time position at the Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens as your Executive Director. I am excited to learn more about the organization, get to know the membership and the Executive Board and assist with guiding the vision and direction of HKLG in the future. A little bit about myself. I have been a Woodland resident



since 1972 and went to school at Green Mountain and Woodland High School. I attended Clark College and studied floral design and business/accounting. I married my high school sweetheart Gary Ripp. Many of you know the Ripp family, which is big and are long time Woodland residents. We raised our 2 boys, Brian and Kevin in Woodland and we have 5 grandchildren. I started my career at Peacock Logging and then was hired by the City of Woodland in 1989. I retired as Clerk-Treasurer in 2021 after serving 32 years at the City. I get my love of gardening from my Grandmother Pauline Copenhefer. She had the most beautiful flower and vegetable gardens and we enjoyed talking “gardening”! My other passions are quilting, camping, traveling and spending time with family. Since retirement Gary and I have been traveling and we hope to continue our adventures! Some of the things that are upcoming for the Lilac Gardens are attending the upcoming membership picnic on July 26th in the garden, getting to know the organization, committees and the day-to-day operations, planning for Lilac Days 2023, applying for grants, marketing/advertising, expanding the display area to include the barn for 2023, looking at ways to re-open the gardens for visitors in the off-season, opening Hulda’s house for future tours and special events, general maintenance and landscaping, working with our membership and volunteers and expanding it, revamping the website and social media pages, and lots more. I recently toured the Gardens, Hulda’s house and the grounds. It had been a while since I had been inside the house and the barn, and I got to see all the nooks and crannies! It was so fascinating seeing all the history, photos, furnishings and of course the gardens and plants. It truly is a gem in our Woodland community. I hope you can join us soon for a visit and attend Lilac Days 2023. More info will be coming in the newsletter and the website, so stay tuned! Thank you for letting me serve as your Executive Director and I look forward to the future of the Gardens!



Mari Ripp  
Executive Director  
Hulda Klager Lilac Garden  
August 1, 2022

**2022 Hulda Klager Lilac Society Board of Directors**

**Patti Audette, Woodland**

**Lori Comstock, Vancouver**

**Louise Moir, Woodland**

**Fran Northcut, Woodland**

**Kirk Northcut, Woodland**

**Ruth Wendt, Woodland**

**Judy Kroon, Woodland**

**Judy Card, Vancouver**

**\$8.00 Annual Membership Application Form**

**Hulda Klager Garden Society**

**Attn: Judy Card, Membership Chr.**

**PO Box 828**

**Woodland, WA 98674**

**Name:**

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**Mailing Address:**

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**City, State, Zip and phone:**

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**Are you interested in volunteering: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No**

**Areas of interest: \_\_\_\_\_ House \_\_\_\_\_ Gate \_\_\_\_\_ Garden \_\_\_\_\_ Plant  
Sales**

**\_\_\_\_\_ Other**

**Email Address:**

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**Email address for notifications of meetings and sending Newsletter. If  
your email address has changed in the past year, please let us know.**

**Present your current membership card at the gate house for  
free entry to the Gardens**

Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens  
PO Box 828  
115 S. Pekin Road  
Woodland, WA 98674